

WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB MARCH 2025



WINE: WILLAJORY Pinot Noir

VARIETALS: Pinot Noir

Viticulture Area: Willamette Valley

Bottle Price: \$17.99

Case Price: \$194.29 plus tax



INTRODUCTION

2023

WillaJory Willamette Valley Pinot Noir

"WillaJory wine takes its name from the 50 million year old marine sedimentary Willakenzie and the 20 million year old volcanic Jory soils that are renowned in the Willamette Valley and are the foundation of the property. We began developing Erratic Oaks Vineyard almost twenty years ago, and I continue to be awe-struck each year: Beautiful acreage in the Mt. Pisgah sub-AVA of the Willamette Valley, just across the road from the esteemed Freedom Hill Vineyard, but with a slightly warmer Southwest-facing orientation." ~ Howard Rossbach, Owner

REGION:

One of the very best places in the world to grow premium Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wine grapes is in Northwestern Oregon's Willamette Valley. Over the past five decades, this region has earned an international reputation for the exceptional quality of its grapes and it now produces some of the most admired and coveted Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wines in the world.

Within this region, in the middle of the Willamette Valley's western side, nestled up against the eastern edge of Oregon's Coast Range, Erratic Oaks Vineyard was first planted in 2007 and has been producing grapes for us since 2009.

Three-quarters of the vineyard's total 200 acres of gently rolling, south and southwest facing hillside are planted to Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay and Riesling. This geographic orientation gives our grapes precious minutes of extra sunlight each day, as they grow to maturity.



Created and bottled by
Citation Wine,
Rickreall, Oregon

PRODUCER

Erratic Oaks Vineyard is fortunate to have all three major soil types for which the Willamette Valley is acclaimed: Marine Sedimentary, Volcanic and Missoula Flood Sedimentary. The granite erratics that we found attest to the youngest soils, as the closest out cropping of such rocks is in Northern Idaho and Montana about 500 miles away! Our vineyard is to our knowledge the only one in the Willamette Valley to have such erratics.

Erratic Oaks Vineyard is located 45 miles east from the Oregon Coast and the Pacific Ocean. Between the coast and Erratic Oaks, the Coastal Range of mountains abruptly rise 3,000 feet to shield the Willamette Valley and moderate the cooling influence of the coast's maritime climate, allowing for ample summertime warmth in the critical growing and fruit maturation seasons.

The finest blocks of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay will become Citation wines, with the remaining sold to some of the most notable producers in Oregon. WillaJory Willamette Valley Pinot Noir, sourced entirely from our L.I.V.E certified sustainable Erratic Oaks Vineyard, fully reflects the qualities or terroir of our magnificent site. Sourced from select blocks, the grapes were destemmed then fermented and aged in stainless steel tanks. Only the most gentle techniques were used during the alcohol and ensuing malo-lactic fermentations.

"Our vineyard and winemaking practices meet or exceed industry standards for environmental stewardship." – Howard Rossbach

Tasting Notes:

The bright rich aromas of raspberry, blackberry, strawberry and cherry meld together and flow into their flavor counterparts on the palette. Soft, yet firm tannins frame the fruit with spices and vanilla into a balanced, lingering finish.

Food Suggestions:

Enjoy with salmon, pasta, pork, poultry and beef.

*Remember We Taste The Bad Ones
So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!*

Sources:

<https://www.citationwine.com/>

<https://www.citationwine.com/recipes/BBQ-Pulled-Pork>

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"Like so many others, I did not initially set out to have a career in wine. I feel fortunate that life quickly steered me in this direction." HMR

BBQ Pulled Pork



*Stephanie Hine
General Manager*



*Howard Rossbach
President / Founder*

WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB MARCH 2025

WINE: Aquamarine Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc

VARIETALS: 100% Sauvignon Blanc

Viticulture Area: Marlborough, New Zealand

Bottle Price: \$16.99

Case Price: \$183.49 plus tax



INTRODUCTION

Aquamarine Sauvignon Blanc celebrates the rich blues and verdant greens of New Zealand's endless coastline that hugely influences our vines. The wine is alive with fresh, grassy aromas over a palate that is equally dry, rich and vivid. Fruit for this wine is sourced from vineyards throughout Marlborough's Wairau Valley. From coastal vineyards in Rarangi (coastal pea gravels, sand and silt), up through the central region (old gravel riverbed with fertile top soil), and southern valley vineyards (clay loams over silt and gravel), to vineyards in the Rapaura area (stony river bed soils). The vines are grown on the VSP trellis system to give optimal cropping to gain maximum flavor during the growing season. Grapes are picked and immediately pressed to tanks for clarification. Then the fruit is gently pressed, cold settled, racked and cool fermented with selected yeast strains to enhance the unique aromatics and flavors. Each individual parcel was the racked, before being blended together to create this generous, full-textured style. The wine was then filtered and bottled to retain and capture its remarkable freshness.

REGION

The **Marlborough** region of **New Zealand** is world-renowned for its **Sauvignon Blanc**, producing vibrant, aromatic wines with intense citrus, tropical fruit, and distinctive grassy notes, thanks to its cool climate and abundant sunshine. Fruit for this wine is sourced from vineyards throughout Marlborough's Wairau Valley. From coastal vineyards in Rarangi (coastal pea gravels, sand and silt), up through the central region (old gravel riverbed with fertile top soil), and southern valley vineyards (clay loams over silt and gravel), to vineyards in the Rapaura area (stony river bed soils).

What does Wairau mean?

The name Wairau describes the rohe (tribal area) of Rangitāne, and is derived from the phrase 'ngā wai-rau o Ruatere' (the hundred waters of Ruatere), meaning the confluence of streams, rivers, wetlands, lakes and estuaries across the present-day Marlborough region.



PRODUCER

Winemaking Notes: The vines are trained to give maximum flavor during growing season. Grapes are picked and immediately gently pressed, and cool fermented to enhance the unique aromatics and flavors. The various parcels are then blended together to create this generous, full-textured style. The diverse soils impart a unique mineral character to this wine.



Aquamarine

Country of Origin:

New Zealand

Location:

Marlborough

People:

Made expressly
for Boutinot at
Heaphy Vineyard
Andy Nicole,
Winemaker



Tasting Notes:

Zippy! This is a classically bright and vibrant Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. Perfumed with ripe tropical fruits which are also evident on the palate along with citrus flavors and rich minerality. The wine is refreshing and delicious. Aquamarine jumps from the glass with generous aromas of white grapefruit and peach are accented by fresh cut grass. Flavors of passion fruit, guava, and grapefruit enliven your palate. This is a classically styled bright and vibrant New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. The prices of New Zealand Sauvignons have gone up a lot lately, so we were happy to discover this value. 90 Points Robert Parker

Food Suggestions:

An adaptable wine that is superb with an array of different dishes such as Thai fishcakes, Grilled Dover Sole to a Goat Cheese Salad. With these beautiful aromas and perfectly balanced acidity, our Aquamarine will accompany the freshest of summer dishes

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<https://www.boutinotwines.com/allwine>

<https://www.instagram.com/boutinotwines/>

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Grilled Dover Sole



Thai Fishcakes with Noodles

WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB MARCH 2025



WINE: Robert Biale Vineyards

Zinfandel Party Line

VARIETALS: 100% Zinfandel

Viticulture: Napa Valley

— ROBERT —
BIALE
VINEYARDS



Bottle Price: \$31.99 Case Price: \$345.49 plus tax

INTRODUCTION

Party Line Zinfandel: Party Line celebrates the tradition of Zinfandel when California's winegrowing families and shared phones called 'party lines' were common in rural areas. In old Napa, a teenaged egg-and-produce farmer named Aldo Biale employed the code name 'Black Chicken' on the party line phone to keep his bootleg jugs of home-grown and homemade Zinfandel a secret from meddling neighbors and authorities. Vibrant and versatile, Robert Biale Vineyards' Party Line is a fully legal classic Zinfandel from vineyards throughout California.

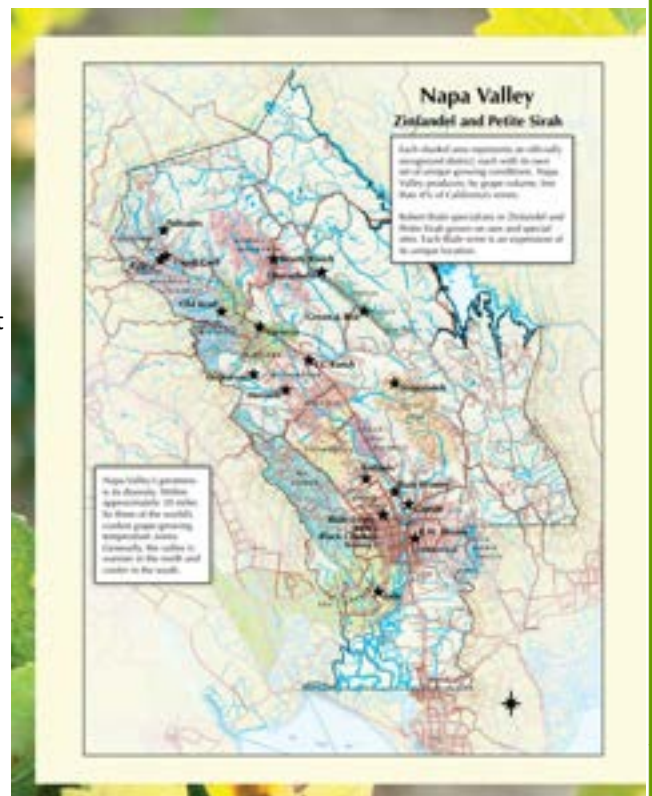


REGION



Napa Valley Zinfandel is known for its **bold, fruit-forward profile**, featuring ripe blackberry, plum, and spice notes with a touch of black pepper.

Thanks to **warm days and cool nights**, Napa's terroir allows Zinfandel to develop **rich concentration, balanced acidity, and smooth tannins**. These wines often exhibit **jammy flavors, vanilla from oak aging, and a long, velvety finish**, making them perfect for pairing with barbecue, grilled meats, and hearty dishes.



— ROBERT — BIALE VINEYARDS

Vintage Notes: The 2023 season was one of the coolest vintages in more than a decade that, as time progressed, showed all the markings of the spectacular vintage that ended up in the bottle. Several years of drought were erased in a single season as rains began just after the completion of the 2022 harvest and continued through the spring of 2023.



Ample ground water and cool temperatures delayed bud-break until April with flowering in mid-May. Moderate temperatures through the spring and summer allowed for balanced maturation across all vineyards - allowing us to pick at the perfect intersections of flavor, sugar, acid, and tannin maturity. Harvesting at Robert Biale began with earlier sites in September while moderate heat at the start of October accelerated picking that lasted through the end of the month.

Harvest Dates: September 8th to October 12th

Winemaking: Our winemaking begins in the vineyard with meticulous attention to detail and close monitoring by Bob Biale and winemaker David Natali. Fruit is hand-harvested, sorted in the field, and sorted again at the winery. Destemmed, the grapes are then fermented in open top tanks with punch downs gently carried out two to three times per day. Pressed, the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation in 100% French oak barrels, of which 10% was new. The 2023 Party Line is sourced from family growers, farming for multiple generations, in Solano, Contra Costa, Lake, and Sonoma Counties. Aged for 9 months in barrel. **Alcohol:** 14.8%

Tasting Notes:

Vibrant aromas of cranberry, raspberry, clove, and white pepper in the glass. Notes of strawberry, Bing cherry, and dried herbs on the palate are punctuated by high tones of pomegranate. Fresh acidity, supple tannins and a long, lingering finish complete the 2023 Party Line Zinfandel.

Food Suggestions:

Pairs best with **bold, flavorful dishes** that complement its ripe fruit, spice, and smooth tannins. Ideal pairings include:

Grilled & Barbecue Meats – Smoked ribs, pulled pork, burgers, or grilled sausages bring out the wine's juicy, smoky character.

Aged & Spicy Cheeses – Sharp cheddar, gouda, or pepper jack balance the wine's fruitiness and spice.

Hearty Pasta & Pizza – Tomato-based pasta dishes, lasagna, or wood-fired pizza enhance the wine's acidity and bold flavors.

Spiced & Smoky Dishes – BBQ chicken, lamb kebabs, Mexican cuisine like carnitas tacos pair well with its peppery, jammy notes.

This **versatile Zinfandel** shines with **savory, smoky, and slightly spicy** foods!

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Sources:
Biale.com

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WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB MARCH 2025



WINE: Ransom Albariño , Kraemer Farms

VARIETALS: Albariño

Viticulture Area: Willamette Valley, Oregon



Bottle Price: \$24.99 | Case Price: \$269.89 plus tax

INTRODUCTION

Handcrafted, Terroir-Driven Wines. Winemaker, Julia Cattrall

CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARM: In keeping with our commitment to sustainability and stewardship, Ransom Farms has been certified Organic since 2011.

NO ROBOTS: Our wines are hand-picked, destemmed and crafted by the loving hand of our winemaker, Julia Cattrall. All Ransom wines are produced in small lots, with minimal intervention and technology.

WINES WITH CHARACTER: Ransom wines exemplify true varietal character and express the individuality of our growers, vineyards, and vintages. Choosing vineyards with a commitment to quality and sustainability is always our first step, but they must always have pure expression of terroir and unique flavors.

Founded in 1997; Ransom Wines & Spirits celebrates 25 years of producing hand-crafted wine and spirits! Started by Tad Seestedt. Born and raised on a farm in the NY Finger Lakes, he later tried his hand at New York City living and corporate America and quickly realized that he missed the farm.

He ventured on the 2,000 mile journey west finding his way on the Oregon trail to a farm in Sheridan where he laid the foundation for a winery and distillery. Beginning in 1997, Tad started distilling and single-handedly revived the 19th century era 'Old Tom' Gin (aged in barrel). In the process, he maxed out his credit cards in order to fund his passion. With the bank holding him *ransom* to pay back his debt, he thought the name appropriate for his continued pursuit. In 1999, Ransom began the production of a number of small-batch fine wines using a hands-on approach based on human instinct and intuition, with minimal intervention and no robots. The wines exemplify true varietal character and express the individuality of our growers, vineyards, and vintages. Choosing vineyards with a commitment to quality and sustainability is always our first step, but they must also have pure expression of terroir and unique flavors. We seek out old vine, high elevation sites, many in the Eola-Amity Hills, which have the innate nerve and balanced acidity to make evocative, food-friendly wines naturally

REGION

Ransom consists of a forty-acre Organic Farm, vineyard and distillery outside of Sheridan, Oregon. Located in the famed Willamette Valley - in the foothills of the Coastal Mountain Range. Barley has been planted since 2008, and the first vines were planted in the spring of 2010. In keeping with Ransom's commitment to sustainability and stewardship, the farm has been certified Organic since 2011 and the distillery received organic certification in 2021. In 2020 Tad retired, entrusting his vision to The Great Oregon Wine Co. & Distillery based in Dundee, Oregon and his long-time right hand winemaker, and Oregon native, Julia Cattrall.

In keeping with Ransom's commitment to sustainability and stewardship, the farm has been certified Organic since 2011. The distillery received organic certification in 2021.

PRODUCER

Earth-friendly farming | Low yields | Delicate handling | Minimal processing | Small handworked lots

Winemaking: The fruit was gently whole cluster pressed and the juice was settled and racked to neutral oak barrels, where it was fermented and aged sur lie, before being racked, blended, lightly bentonite fined, filtered, and bottled.

Vineyard Sites: 100% Kraemer Vineyards - Planted in 2019 in the Willamette Valley at 300 feet, the Albariño block looks East over the Willamette Valley. The vines are Albariño Clone 01.

Vintage Notes: The 2021 vintage began with a cool but dry spring, with bud break occurring right on schedule in April. After a fairly typical spring, bloom took place during an extended period in mixed weather in early June, leading to mixed fruit set. In late June, a record-breaking heat wave struck the West Coast, but the vines came through the heat in great shape and ripened evenly throughout the rest of a warm, dry summer. A cooling trend took place in early September, preserving fresh fruit flavors and natural acidity and allowing the harvest season for our vineyards to take place over a period of nearly two months. The fruit in 2021 was remarkable for its delicate flavors, perfect condition, and balanced acid and tannin profile; the young wines are compelling and easy to love.



Tasting Notes:

This dry Albariño displays a delicate straw color with brilliant clarity. Exotic aromas of tropical star fruit, kiwi and key limes mingle with floral jasmine and citrus blossom. The flavors add additional notes of lemon curd, pineapple and a suggestion of sweet herbs. This wine has vibrant, balanced acidity with an energetic texture. The long finish is complex, focusing on floral and mineral notes. Enjoy well-chilled.

Food Suggestions:

Seafood Dishes: Albariño traditionally pairs excellently with seafood, reflecting its origins from coastal regions. Dishes like mussels, clams, oysters, shrimp, and octopus are particularly suitable.

Grilled Fish: The wine's acidity and fruitiness enhance the flavors of grilled fish, such as sea bass or salmon. A preparation with citrus-based sauces or fresh herbs can further elevate the pairing.

Fresh Salads with Herbs: Salads featuring green herbs and citrus elements align well with the wine's aromatic profile. Ingredients like arugula, fennel, and citrus segments can create a harmonious match.

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Sources:

<https://ransomwines.com>



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WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB MARCH 2025



WINE: Brutocao Quadriga Red Blend

VARIETALS: *Quadriga, a “chariot carried by four horses”*

52% Primitivo, 25% Sangiovese, 18% Barbera, 5% Dolcetto



Viticulture: *Mendocino County, California*

Bottle Price: \$24.99 Case Price: \$269.89 plus tax



INTRODUCTION



Brutocao Family Vineyards: Premium Estate Wines from Mendocino County

Brutocao Family Vineyard Heritage is a tale of two families who combined their passion and expertise to establish one of Mendocino County's most notable wineries. In 1910, the Brutocao family brought with them a love for wine when they emigrated from Treviso, Italy (a small town near Venice). Len Brutocao met Martha Bliss while attending the University of California, Berkeley. Martha's father, Irv, had been farming in Mendocino since 1943. After Len and Martha married, the families joined forces and continued to sell their grapes to well-known Sonoma and Napa wineries for many years before starting to make their own wine in 1980. They selected the Lion of St. Mark as their symbol of family tradition and quality. The heart of that quality is in their land: over 400 acres of vineyards in Hopland and 12.5 acres of Pinot Noir in Anderson Valley.



REGION



Mendocino County, known for its **diverse microclimates and sustainable viticulture**, is home to several **Italian wine varieties** that thrive in its cooler coastal areas and warmer inland valleys. Some of the most notable **Italian grapes** grown in Mendocino include:

Primitivo's Mendocino Influence: Warmer regions enhance ripeness, creating bold, full-bodied wines.

- **Origin:** Southern Italy (related to Zinfandel)
- **Style:** Rich, jammy, and spicy with dark fruit flavors.

Sangiovese's Mendocino Influence: Retains acidity well in Mendocino's warm days and cool nights, producing fresh, food-friendly wines with soft tannins

- **Origin:** Tuscany, Italy
- **Style:** Medium-bodied with bright cherry, plum, and earthy spice flavors.

Barbera's Mendocino Influence: Warmer inland areas like Redwood Valley allow Barbera to ripen fully, developing richness while maintaining its signature acidity.

- **Origin:** Piedmont, Italy
- **Style:** High acidity, medium tannins, with notes of black cherry, plum, and spice.

Dolcetto's Mendocino Influence: Produces smooth, juicy wines with moderate tannins, often enjoyed young.

- **Origin:** Piedmont, Italy
- **Style:** Fruit-forward with black cherry, licorice, and almond notes.

PRODUCER

FAMILY FARMED



FOUR GENERATIONS

In the early 90's, Len and Martha's three sons took on individual roles in the family business.

David, as Director of Winemaking Operations, ensures the family's vision is carried out. Len, as Director of Vineyard Operations, oversees the cultivation of the land from new plantings to grape harvest. Our vineyard plantings have reached nearly 400 acres, and through out that growth, we have implemented important sustainability practices to ensure healthy land and quality grapes. Their youngest brother, Steve, took over as CEO in 2010 after many years of experience in wine marketing and sales. Steve has helped grow Brutocao's presence in markets accross the country as well as internationally.

The three brothers carry on the values and traditions instilled in them through their family heritage to produce world class estate wines from their Mendocino ranches.

Fourth generation family, Kevin is now involved in carrying on the family's legacy. Kevin grew up working for his father, Len, in the vineyards. He manages the marketing of our family brands as well as runs our website and online store. Many other members of the family help out when and where needed, and they can be found at winery events as well as assisting with wine quality control.

Brutocao Family Cellars Quadriga, Hopland Ranches: This wine tells the story of our rich family history and three generations of growing premium grapes I southern Mendocino County.



Tasting Notes:

The nose is serenaded with a bouquet of raspberries, strawberries, and bright red fruits, complemented by gentle undertones of lavender, mocha, and sweet vanilla. As it graces the palate, this wine reveals deeper layers of cherry and dark plums. The mid-palate, bursting with blueberries and toasted hazelnuts, seamlessly transitions into a finish marked by fruit-forward notes and the indulgent allure of malted chocolate.

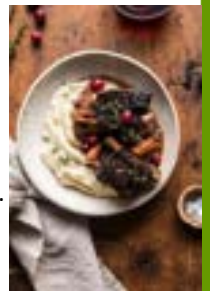
Food Suggestions:

Margherita Pizza – The acidity from Sangiovese and Barbera cuts through the richness of the cheese and tomato.

Lasagna or Bolognese Pasta – The wine's bold fruit and structure balance hearty tomato-based sauces and meats.

Grilled Steak or Lamb Chops – The tannins from Primitivo and Sangiovese stand up to red meat.

Osso Buco or Braised Short Ribs – Pairs beautifully with slow-cooked, savory dishes.



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Sources:

www.brutocaocellars.com

www.matchingfoodandwine.com

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WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB MARCH 2025



WINE: Flâneur Chardonnay
VARIETALS: 100% Chardonnay



VITICULTURE AREA: Willamette Valley, Oregon

Bottle Price: \$29.99 | Case Price: \$323.89 plus tax

INTRODUCTION

A flâneur is, quite simply, a leisurely wanderer, a worldly explorer, a connoisseur of life. The word, hailing from 19th-century France, captures the idea that the mind functions best at a slow pace, and that curiosity can uncover a life of significance. It is, as Charles Baudelaire wrote so eloquently, a life of juxtaposition: alone yet surrounded by bustle, slow yet continuously moving forward.

Our Willamette Valley Chardonnay is a harmonious blend from two distinct microclimates, sourced from our organic, dry-farmed estate vineyards: 75% La Belle Promenade in the Chehalem Mountains AVA and 25% Flâneur Vineyard in the Ribbon Ridge AVA.

This blend beautifully captures the essence of the greater Willamette Valley, telling a unique story with each vintage. Flâneur Wines employs organic farming practices, ensuring that their Chardonnay is not only varietally pure but also reflective of sustainable viticulture. 700 Cases | 31% New French Oak | Whole Cluster Pressed | Native Yeast Fermentation

The Flâneur originated in Paris in the 1840's to describe a curious stroller, a connoisseur of life, walking at a pace slow enough to be lead by a turtle...

REGION

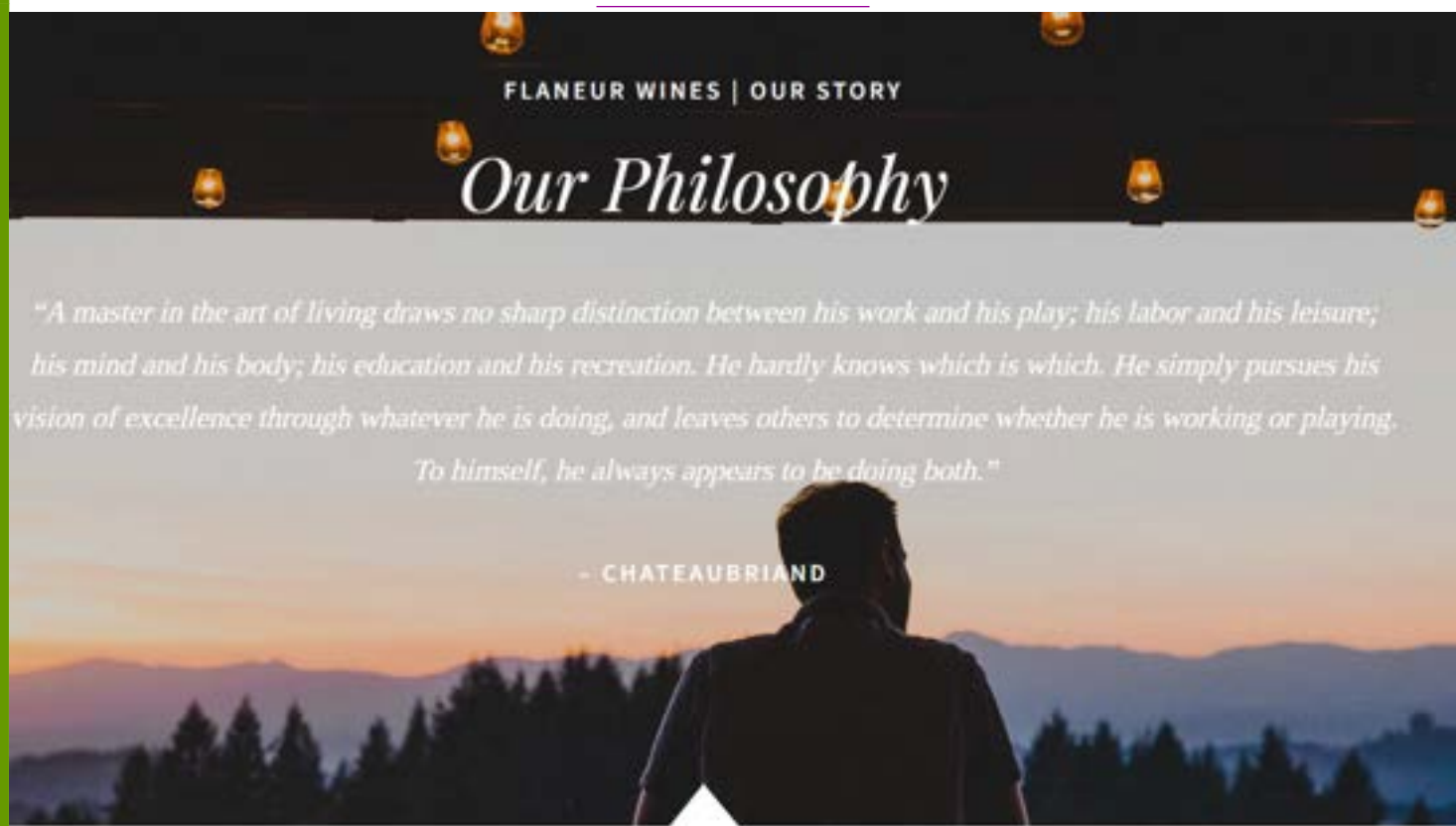
Flâneur Vineyard; French for "Aimless or Idly Wandering." Established in 2003, this 10-acre site sits at 250'–350' in elevation on the eastern slope of the Ribbon Ridge AVA. The east-to-west orientation of its rows maximizes sun exposure, promoting greater tannin structure in an already warmer microclimate. Despite this warmth, the site retains impressive acidity. Combined with its sedimentary soils, the terroir produces spicy and savory wines with structure, light red fruit character, and age-worthy potential. This site is dry farmed in house using organic farming practices.

La Belle Promenade Vineyard; French for "The Beautiful Walk" This 40-acre vineyard, established in 2014 on the western slope of the Chehalem Mountains AVA, is rooted in basalt-based volcanic soils with varying depths across the site.

The undulating terrain provides diverse sun exposure, enhancing each block's unique character. The soil's excellent water retention allows for dry-farming and balanced vine growth. Farmed in house using organic principles, the terroir rewards us with plush, floral wines grounded in vibrant acidity.



PRODUCER



Tasting Notes:

This fresh, zesty Chardonnay beautifully captures the essence of the 2023 vintage in the Willamette Valley. Its hallmark brightness shines through with lively citrus and orchard fruits, complemented by a subtle mineral edge. Aromas of golden apple, lemon curd, and white peach are elevated by a hint of petrichor and delicate notes of toast, thanks to 31% new French oak. On the palate, the wine is crisp, vibrant, and complex, leading to a long and elegant finish.

Food Suggestions:

Perfect for pairing with fresh seafood, creamy pasta, or a simple cheese plate, this Chardonnay enhances any dining experience.

Sources:

FlâneurWines.com



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WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB MARCH 2025



WINE: Robert Biale Vineyards Royal Punishers 2022 Petite Sirah

VARIETALS: Predominantly Petite Sirah*

Viticulture: Napa Valley *Limited Availability*

Bottle Price: \$54.99 Case Price: \$593.89 plus tax

— ROBERT —
BIALE
VINEYARDS



* Specific details regarding the exact percentage composition of Petite Sirah and any other varietals in the blend are not publicly disclosed.

INTRODUCTION

Royal Punishers Petite Sirah: Napa valley Petite Sirah was the most commonly planted grape in Napa Valley for nearly a century, and now we are witnessing a resurgence and new appreciation for this historic hero variety! Known for its dark color, firm structure, and deep blue and black fruit flavors, it is perfectly suited to Napa Valley's moderate and dry growing season. Petite Sirah was also a favorite grape among winemakers looking to pump up underpowered wines in need of deep fruit, color, and structure. Its natural versatility made it a great blending component to all red varieties including Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon. Royal Punishers is an anagram of the two parent grapes viticulturist François Durif cross pollinated in the 1860s: Syrah and Peloursin.

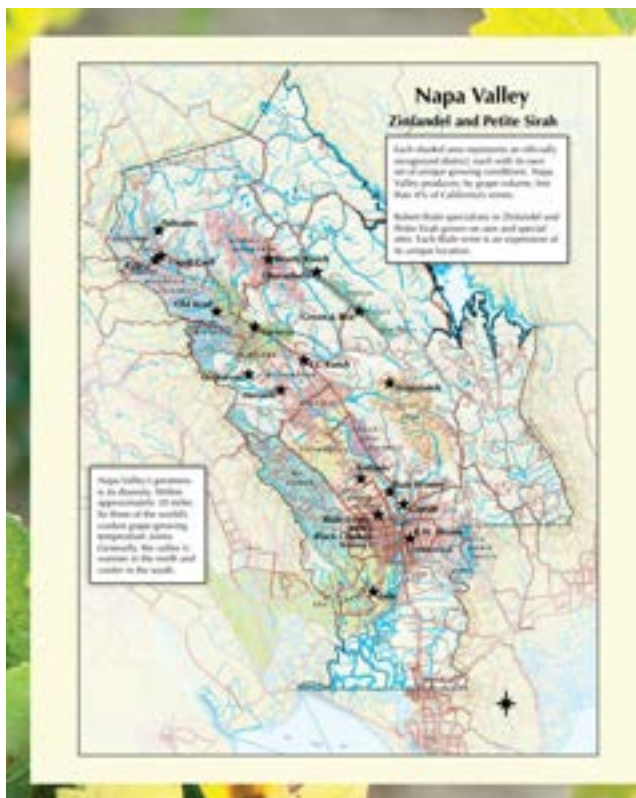
This black and blue wine reminds us why many Napa winemakers revere this rare and noble grape.

REGION



Napa Valley Zinfandel is known for its **bold, fruit-forward profile**, featuring ripe blackberry, plum, and spice notes with a touch of black pepper.

Thanks to **warm days and cool nights**, Napa's terroir allows Zinfandel to develop **rich concentration, balanced acidity, and smooth tannins**. These wines often exhibit **jammy flavors, vanilla from oak aging, and a long, velvety finish**, making them perfect for pairing with barbecue, grilled meats, and hearty dishes.



— ROBERT — BIALE VINEYARDS



Vintage Notes: The rainy season started off hopefully with several storms bringing much needed precipitation at the end of 2021. Dry conditions, however, returned in January with minimal rainfall through budbreak in mid-March. Cooler, breezy days during flowering in May caused minor shatter in some early flowering blocks, naturally limiting yield. In June a well-timed ½ inch of rain provided the vines with a much-needed drink. Idyllic growing and ripening conditions persisted through the summer. Moderate heat in the middle of August jump started an early harvest. Picking accelerated ahead of a five-day heat spike that began the first week of September, nearly driving harvest to completion. Harvest at Biale concluded exactly a month after it began, just before an early autumn rain. Concentrated and dense with delicate acidity, the 2022 vintage delivered stunning quality across the board.

Winemaking: Our winemaking begins in the vineyard with meticulous attention to detail and close monitoring by Bob Biale and winemaker David Natali. Fruit is hand-harvested, sorted in the field, and sorted again at the winery. Destemmed, the grapes are then fermented in open top tanks with punch downs gently carried out two to three times per day. Pressed, the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation in 100% French oak barrels, of which 35% is new. Aged for 17 months in barrel.

Robert Biale Vineyards produced
173 cases of their 2022 Royal Punishers Petite Sirah.



Tasting Notes:

Rich aromatics of black plum, mocha, tobacco leaf, dried fig, and blackberry on the nose. Round and supple on the palate with notes of nutmeg, cassis, clove, and leather on the palate. Elegant, fine-grained tannins frame this wonderfully complex Napa Valley Petite Sirah.

Food Suggestions:

Braised Short Ribs – The wine's dark fruit and tannins complement the deep, slow-cooked flavors.

Smoked Brisket – The bold, smoky flavors of brisket match the wine's intense profile.

Blackened Cajun Chicken – The spice level pairs well with the wine's deep fruit character.

Mole Poblano – The chocolate and spice notes in mole sauce blend well with Petite Sirah's richness.

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Sources:
Biale.com

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WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB MONTH 2025



Wine: Abbazia di Novacella Praepositus Riesling

VARIETALS: 100% Riesling

Viticulture Area: Alto Adige—Valle Isarco

* Limited Availability * Age-Worthy *

Bottle Price: \$49.99 / 6-pack Case Price: \$539.89 + tax

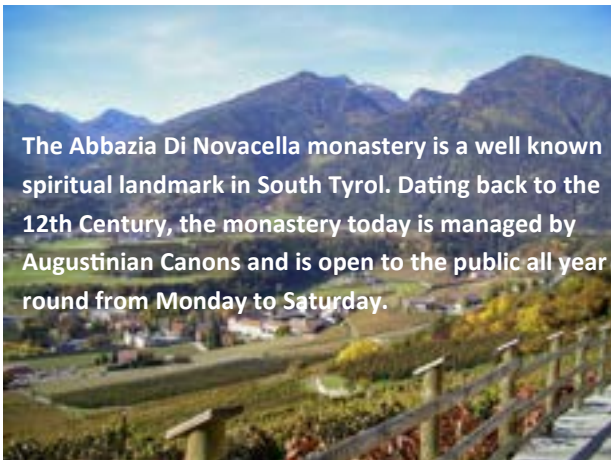


INTRODUCTION

Located in the town of Novacella in the Isarco River Valley, Abbazia was founded in 1142 by the Augustinian Order of Canons Regular. The Augustians are not monks in the sense that you may be familiar with: they have taken vows of poverty, chastity and obedience to their superiors; but they also work to support themselves as a part of their community. To this end, the Abbey not only grows grapes for winemaking, but also farms apples and vegetables, and there is a small school devoted primarily to studies of viticulture. The abbey's reputation as a winery is stellar and international. In 2009, Italy's influential Gambero Rosso named Celestino Lucin, the abbey's enologist, Winemaker of the Year.

Vineyard practices: While the daily tasks of running a monastery, school and world-famous winery have kept Abbazia from jumping through the bureaucratic hoops involved with Italy's organic certification, the centuries old estate is practicing organic.

REGION



The Abbazia Di Novacella monastery is a well known spiritual landmark in South Tyrol. Dating back to the 12th Century, the monastery today is managed by Augustinian Canons and is open to the public all year round from Monday to Saturday.



Cultivation zone: Bressanone valley basin

Elevation: 650 - 750 m

Soil type: Permeable moraine deposits composed of mica schist, para gneiss and quartzite

Aspect: South, south-west

Grape variety: Riesling renano (10% late harvest)

Training method: Guyot

Vines per hectare: 6.000

Yield per hectare: 55 hl



PRODUCER

The estate has long been known for producing world class white wines with a tremendous price/quality ratio. The white grape vineyards are in the town of Novacella, surrounding the abbey, while the red grapes grow further south. Schiava and Pinot Noir are planted near Lago di Caldaro, and Lagrein is planted near Bolzano. The production comes from a total of 80 hectares. The Abbey owns 6 hectares near the winery in Novacella, as well as 15 hectares at their Marklhof estate near Bolzano. For the rest of the production, they work with over 50 small growers in the region. The soil for the wines is mainly granitic schist, created by ancient glaciers, and the vineyards are quite steep. In the Isarco Valley, vines do not live much longer than 30 years, and the yields are minuscule naturally, producing wines that are aromatic, fresh, and rich. Though it is one of the oldest wineries in the world with over 850 years of winemaking experience, the cellar is entirely modern.

The lineup of wines is incredible! The range includes classics like Pinot Grigio, Sylvaner, and Kerner, as well as some lesser seen varieties like Moscato Rosa. While famous for their crisp, mineral-driven whites, the estate has also received acclaim for its “formidable reds.” Their sumptuous Pinot Nero is one of the best that Italy has to offer. The Praepositus line represents the absolute best expression of Abbazia’s vineyards. They are not single-vineyard wines, but selections of the best fruit from the best sites.

2022 began with an exceptionally dry winter and little snowfall. Due to the warm temperatures, bud break was very early and took place around April 20th. The summer was characterized by warm and dry weather, fortunately without any extreme weather events. The harvest began on September 7th, twenty days earlier than last year. During harvest the weather was consistently good however, due to the earlier start date, it was warmer than average. The harvest progressed very quickly and was already complete 20 days later. Due to the dry summer the grapes were very healthy with a fairly higher sugar content. 2022 is again an excellent vintage for white wines. The very high-quality grapes lead to full-bodied and structured wines.

Tasting Notes:



Sparkling golden-yellow. Powerful; Oranges, peaches, dried apricots, candied pineapple and honey. Fruity, juicy, with a fine melting quality and a soft sweetness. Age-worthy Dry white wine.

Food Suggestions:



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Spiced First Courses: The wine's freshness and aromatic complexity complement dishes rich in spices, such as flavorful pasta or risotto preparations.

Asian Cuisine: The balanced acidity and aromatic notes of the Riesling make it an excellent match for Asian dishes, including Thai green curry and Chinese sweet and sour recipes.

Seafood: Pairs well with seafood dishes, such as grilled fish or seafood pasta, enhancing the flavors without overpowering them.

*Remember We Taste The Bad Ones
So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!*

Sources:

<https://www.kloster-neustift.it/en/winery/wine/riesling-praepositus/>

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