



Diamond Series



Delectus Vineyard and Winery

When Linda Reisacher first came to Napa Valley in 1983, she chose to live in the Napa Valley town of St. Helena. At the time, she was fortunate to find a job in the wine industry selling bottles to wineries for California Glass. A mutual friend proposed a water skiing blind date who turned out to be a transplanted Austrian named Gerhard Reisacher.

Reisacher was an eighth generation winemaker who grew up in Austria's prime vineyard region just south of Vienna. He started helping his father in the vineyards at an early age to learn the fundamentals of the wine business. He had come to the United States at the age of 19 and was already a trained winemaker after attending Austria's premier winemaking school, Weinbauschule Klosterneuburg, where he earned the equivalent of four degrees. After a short time, the pair fell in love and were married. They each harbored a dream of one day starting a winery in Napa Valley that could be an outlet for their feelings and passion for wine.

Gerhard Reisacher developed an impressive resume with the likes of Corley Family Napa Valley Monticello Vineyards, Far Niente Winery, Pine Ridge Vineyards and iconic Clos du Val, where he worked as an assistant winemaker.

In 1995, the Reisachers began making extensive and significant red wines that carefully mirrored select vineyards and *terroirs* throughout Napa Valley. On a trip to Italy, Linda Reisacher was sufficiently moved by Michelangelo's masterpiece *David* to develop the name for the winery. *Delectus* in Latin means "ultimate choice," and seemed perfect for their new venture. For the next decade, their efforts accumulated numerous accolades as well as a fiercely loyal following.

In 2005, a 112-acre vineyard estate became available in nearby Knight's Valley, a sub-region of Sonoma County that was primarily known for growing Cabernet Sauvignon.

"It was certainly our dream come true," recalled Linda Reisacher. "There were 40 plantable acres that varied

in elevation. We now have vines from 1,200 to 2,200 feet that provide us with a number of variations in fruit that suits our wine portfolio quite well."

Reisacher also pointed out that owning the vineyard land and planting their own vines offered Delectus Vineyard & Winery a greater control over the fruit as well as a consistent source for their winery's production.

"When you have a great passion for wines like we do," she continued, "we take extraordinary steps with our farming practices to respect the natural beauty and history of the property by preserving the natural terrain."

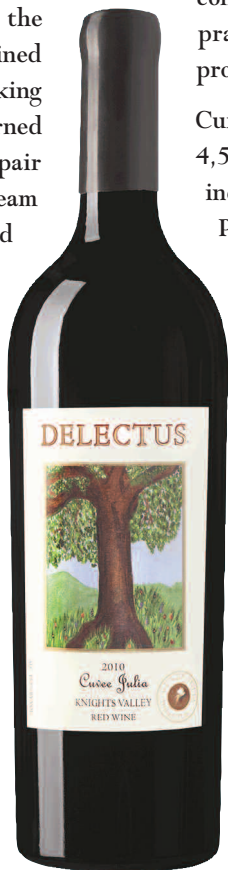
Currently, Delectus Vineyard and Winery produces around 4,500 cases annually. The entire production is red and includes Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Sirah, and Syrah.

"Gerhard left Austria because he didn't want to make Austrian wines," confessed Linda. "He tasted some big California Cabs and the rest was history. He firmly believes that California Cabernet Sauvignon ranks among the truly great wines around the world."

Delectus Vineyard and Winery is still a small, family-run business with only five employees. Gerhard handles the winemaking and vineyard management aspects and Linda handles about everything else.

"I was lucky to have had experience in sales and marketing. The fact is I quit my paying job to start a winery. Looking back, I'm not sure I had all my faculties," she said jokingly. "I run the financial side of the business and the nuts and bolts of everything else."

Delectus Vineyard and Winery operates a tasting facility in St. Helena that is open to the public. Linda Reisacher can be found there three days a week. "I firmly believe that the owner of a winery should be present in a tasting environment as much as possible. That allows me to gain valuable feedback from our customers as



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Gerhard & Linda
Reisacher
— Owners

well as develop lasting relationships. There are an amazing number of people who really love wine. We share a passion for the grape that goes beyond ordinary emotion.”

With Delectus Vineyard and Winery already labeled among Napa Valley’s elite establishments, the future seems even

rosier (er, redder) for the Reisachers. As an added feature, the winery also offers a unique experience for groups of six or more. A *Winemaker Experience Tasting* is a wonderful opportunity to see firsthand the complexities of growing and producing world class wines. Appointments must be made to enjoy this exclusive offering.

Daughter Julia (after whom this *Diamond Series* selection is named) is 16 and ambivalent about the wine business. Linda Reisacher still holds the hope that she will follow in her parent’s footsteps.

Accolades and Tasting Notes

Delectus 2010 ‘Cuvee Julia’ Red Wine

94-Points, Robert Parker’s *The Wine Advocate* — “The opaque purple-colored 2010 Cuvee Julia, the winery’s flagship offering, is named after the proprietor’s daughter. It reveals abundant notes of lead pencil shavings, vanilla, crème de cassis and blackberries as well as stunning richness, purity and texture. This full-bodied classic is the finest wine I have ever tasted from Delectus. Deep, rich and long, its tannins are sweet enough that it can be drunk now, but it should age easily for two decades. This stunning red is a great example of Knights Valley viticulture.”

Winery Notes — This addition to our beloved *Cuvee Julia* collection, the 2010 vintage is adorned by the label art called “Sally’s Tree,” which is named after a dear family friend and art mentor to Julia. Since this wine was introduced in 1999, each vintage reflects the character of that year and showcases Julia’s maturity as an artist. Like the others, the blend is a mystery to the rest of us — only Gerhard and Julia know exactly what goes into the *Cuvee Julia* wines.

Winemaker Notes — “One word... CASHMERE. This wine envelops you with a lush nose of crème de blackberry, vanilla, baking spices and ginger-molasses cookie dough. Cocoa, espresso and sandalwood turn into smoky and savory bacon fat. It is a potpourri of scents. All of this leads you to a massive palate with dark chocolate, oak and bold tannins.” 299 Cases Produced.

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— *Wine Enthusiast* magazine
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Delectus 2010 ‘Cuvee Julia’ Red Wine

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