



Platinum Wine Club

90+ Rated, Ultra Premium, Collectable Wines from California's Best Winemakers.

Amici Cellars | Napa Valley

Amici Cellars has been around for almost three decades and started in the wine business with a tiny release of around fifty cases. Located just above Calistoga in the Napa Valley, Amici Cellars is the handiwork of two friends whose desire was to produce truly fine wines.

The friends, John Harris and Bob Shepherd, planned their winery's future carefully and began collecting ultra-quality growers to provide the fruit necessary to fulfill their dreams.

"Whenever fruit from a true high quality vineyard became available, we jumped on it at once," offered Melissa Devore, Amici Cellars' President. "We now have a cadre of grower friends that must rank as among the best in California. The fruit we receive is just tremendous and that's what you need to be a top rung winery."

Amici Cellars has grown to around 15,000 cases per annum, a level the winery is completely happy with.

"But, whenever superior fruit becomes available, such as some recently in the Stag's Leap AVA, we quickly commit to adding to our portfolio. It's almost impossible not to buy really great fruit and turn it into masterful wines," she added. "A gem is a gem no matter what."

John Harris tends to the production side of the business and Bob Shepherd to the company's sales and marketing efforts. Both spend a good deal of their time on the road promoting Amici Cellars.

The entity is also extremely proud of their Reserve and vineyard designated programs that produce small lots of limited production wines, usually around the 150 case level. This month's Amici 2018 Charles Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay falls into that category and provides an excellent example of outsourced fruit from what Robert Parker calls "one of the great Grand Cru Chardonnay sites in California."

The Amici team has worked with Sonoma County's Charles Heintz Vineyard for over 11 years and they are always impressed by the depth and complexity of this Chardonnay. It is easy to see why it's one of their personal favorites.

The winemaking team at Amici Cellars is something quite unusual, given there are two

noted winemakers involved with the operation. Tony Biagi, the highly-credentialed Napa Valley winemaker (Clos Du Val, Paraduxx Winery, PlumpJack Winery, Sinegal Estate and CADE Estate) is considered the lead winemaker and handles most of the Napa Valley winemaking. Jesse Fox, another noted winemaker (Harlan Estate, Ram's Gate Winery) has also traveled abroad with stints in Argentina and New Zealand to his credit. He makes most of the additional AVA selections for Amici Cellars. Both employ different styles of winemaking and each has found great success. Biagi's wines tend to be big, bold examples of near-perfect Napa Valley fruit, while Fox's selections tend to be more methodical and statistical, which works well for the likes of the problematic Pinot Noir varietal. They have the privilege of making wines from legendary Northern California growers and together they have created an outstanding portfolio of elegant, balanced and expressive wines.

The name 'Amici,' by the way, means 'friends' in Italian and is a tribute to the friends who started the winery, as well as to their Italian heritage. What started as a small project between friends has now grown beyond their wildest imagination, and it is their greatest reward to share these wines with all of their Amici friends.

The Amici Cellars label is simplicity itself and speaks well of the winery's intent. "Since wine is the only beverage that is meant to be shared among friends, we intended that the label be about the place itself without any gimmicks. The wine business is all about terroir, at least at our winery's level," concluded Melissa Devore. "We believe we've honored that concept."

Amici Cellars is a prime example of a truly focused winery that has carved an important niche for itself in the incredibly competitive California wine market. Its wines score highly in industry periodicals and events and its following is large and faithful.

We are delighted to present this exceptional Amici 2018 Charles Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay to our Platinum Wine Club members. We know you will enjoy this exquisite wine!





95 POINTS

— Robert Parker's
The Wine Advocate

93 POINTS

— Antonio Galloni's *Vinous*

250 cases produced

Amici's 2018 Chardonnay comes from the stunning coastal site of Charles Heintz Vineyard in Sonoma's Russian River Valley, a renowned property that Robert Parker has named "one of the great Grand Cru Chardonnay sites in California." The vineyard sits upon a ridge top along the rocky Sonoma County coastline, where evening fog and cooler temperatures help produce wines of balance, full flavors, fresh acidity, and optimal ripeness. Amici's 2018 Charles Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay is a classic representation of this property. Aromas of luscious tropical fruit and white pineapple begin on the nose, while the palate is reminiscent of apple galette, with delicious baked Golden Delicious along with almond paste, brioche, and cinnamon stick flavors. The richness is perfectly balanced by the wine's long, refreshing finish that leaves your mouth watering for another sip. Aged 11 months in oak. 100% Chardonnay. Enjoy!

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**This month's Platinum Plus!
Featured Wine:**
**Fort Ross 2017 Pinot Noir,
Fort Ross-Seaview, Sonoma Coast**
92 Points - Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*
92 Points - Jeb Dunnuck
627 Cases Produced



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