



# Garagiste

## WINE CLUB

[gar-uh-zheest'] noun - A French term used to describe independent, artisan winemakers crafting small batches of wine in garage-type settings and not yet discovered by the mainstream.

## Ann Albert Wines

Owners: Cait Ann Johnson & Eric Albert Johnson

Winemaker: Eric Albert Johnson

Location: Santa Barbara County, California

Established in 2015 by husband and wife, Eric Albert Johnson and Cait Ann Johnson, Ann Albert Wines is a passion project producing limited amounts of Chardonnay and Gamay Noir from world-class vineyards in Santa Barbara County.

Eric Johnson grew up on a family farm in Los Banos, California and then fell in love with wine while a student at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. After earning his degrees in Wine and Viticulture and Agricultural Business Management, Eric worked as a harvest intern at Talley Vineyards (Arroyo Grande) in 2007. In 2010, he became the winemaker for Talley, which is a position he still holds to this day. Talley Vineyards has now become a well-established premier producer of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and other varieties. Eric also serves on the Board of Directors for the World of Pinot Noir and he is a member of Cal Poly's Wine and Viticulture Advisory Council.

Over the years, Eric has traveled around the globe, studying various winemaking techniques and styles that have helped him cultivate a singular yet international style. Having grown up on a farm, he also has a unique understanding of the role the land plays in determining wine quality, which is why he believes the world's greatest wines are defined by place, rather than by winemaking manipulation.

Eric Johnson has certainly made a name for himself at Talley Vineyards and has produced several award-winning wines during his tenure there. Like most winemakers though, Eric eventually got the itch to do something on his own, which is when plans began coming together for Ann Albert Wines (a combination of Cait's and his middle names). Although Talley Vineyards is located in the Arroyo Grande Valley (east of San Luis Obispo's Edna Valley), Eric was drawn to Santa Barbara County, and specifically to the renowned Bien Nacido (Santa Maria Valley) and Zotovich Vineyards (Sta. Rita Hills) for this Ann Albert Wines project.

The couple chose to initially focus on Chardonnay, made in a fresh, lively Chablis-style, and after a couple of years, added Gamay Noir to the portfolio. They source fruit from the esteemed Martian Ranch Vineyard in Los Alamos and Presqu'île Vineyard in Santa Maria

Valley for their vineyard-designate Gamay Noir offerings.

Looking to the future, they hope to find additional exciting vineyards to add to their portfolio and continue sharing their unique expressions of Chardonnay and Gamay Noir with the community.

## Ann Albert 2018 Chardonnay

89 cases produced

Zotovich Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills, California

Ann Albert's 2018 Zotovich Vineyard Chardonnay was crafted in a Chablis-inspired style which is bright, fresh, and lively. In the Chablis region of France, Chardonnay wines rarely use oak-aging, which results in a very different style and taste profile than other Chardonnays. It is because of Chablis' renowned reputation that the unoaked Chardonnay style is popular worldwide. Ann Albert's 2018 Zotovich Vineyard Chardonnay offers aromas of nectarine, wet stone, lemon zest, and rosemary, while the palate opens with bright red grapefruit notes, followed by hints of saline, citrus, toffee and snap pea. This Chardonnay was aged for 15 months in neutral French oak, which helps maintain the fruit qualities of the wine without imparting oak flavors. 100% Chardonnay. Enjoy!

Gold Medal Wine Club Price: \$35.00 / bottle

To order, visit the Wine Store at [www.GoldMedalWineClub.com](http://www.GoldMedalWineClub.com) or call 1-800-266-8888

\*2 bottle minimum per wine, per order. Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included. Call for details.

