



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 2020 Gamay Noir

130 cases produced

Martian Ranch Vineyard, Alisos Canyon, Los Alamos, California

Produced from the biodynamically-farmed Martian Ranch Vineyard in the Alisos Canyon (soon to be its own AVA) of Los Alamos, the Ann Albert 2020 Gamay Noir is a beautiful wine that shows off the terroir of this notable vineyard. Gamay Noir is similar in taste to Pinot Noir - in fact, this variety is a cousin of Pinot Noir and it grows primarily next to Burgundy, France in a region called Beaujolais. Ann Albert's 2020 Gamay Noir from Martian Ranch Vineyard offers a distinctive nose of blackberry, lavender, green peppercorn, pencil shavings, and wet earth, while the palate is soft and balanced with flavors of Bing cherry, pomegranate, black tea and asphalt. Aged 11 months in French oak. Enjoy!

Gold Medal Wine Club Price: \$35.00 / bottle

To order, visit the Wine Store at 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.

