

# GOLD MEDAL WINE CLUB'S *Pinot Noir Press*



v09i09



## *LUCIE...by Bacio Divino Cellars*

One of California's most celebrated wine producers starts an exciting Pinot Noir focused brand called 'Lucie,' based in the Russian River Valley and featuring some of the region's most exciting vineyards.



By even the sophisticated standards of Napa Valley, Claus Janzen is a most unique asset to the valley's wine community. Born in Germany, and raised in Canada, Janzen brings a remarkable international spirit to his Bacio Divino family of wine brands (Janzen, Pazzo, Vagabond, Lucie, and Bacio Divino). Started in 1993, his wine portfolio has arguably become one of the most distinctive, and consistently highly rated, in California.

Janzen was first introduced to wine after college while working for a number of high caliber hotels in Switzerland. He developed an interest in premium wines, and in particular, the great Burgundies and Rhônes of France. He was especially enamoured with developments in Southeastern France where a close friend had produced the first Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah blend that astounded wine critics everywhere. He took this intriguing idea of crafting obscure wine blends with him to the Napa Valley, and with the help of Caymus Vineyards' owner Chuck Wagner, started his own winery in the early 1990's. Janzen named his winery *Bacio Divino*, literally "Divine Kiss" in Italian, acting as a synonym for the experience the blend of grapes had on the palate of anyone tasting the wine. The first release of 800 cases came in 1993.

Over the years, Claus Janzen expanded his Bacio Divino winery to

include a number of sister brands - Janzen (vineyard-designate, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons), Pazzo (Sangiovese-based red blends), Vagabond (small-lot, single varietal bottlings of Syrah and Petite Sirah), and Lucie (the newest brand to the portfolio, including Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from the Russian River Valley). The fruit for Janzen's wines come from his ten-acre estate vineyard in Henry Canyon, in addition to another fifteen or so vineyards dispersed throughout Napa Valley and Russian River Valley. This accessibility to a wide selection of grapes and differing soils and climates allows Janzen to pick and choose the fruit he wants to utilize for his wide range of wines.

This month's *Pinot Noir Series* feature comes from Janzen's 'Lucie' brand. Lucie is Janzen's wife Diane's middle name, and her love of Burgundies is what inspired the creation of this new label. Since 2009, Janzen has worked closely with winemaker Kirk Venge to source Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from the most exciting vineyard properties in the Russian River Valley, an appellation known for its world-class Burgundian-style wines.

Now celebrating their 26th year, the Janzens proudly carry a benchmark reputation and look forward to continued growth and success in the future. Cheers!

## ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



Master winemaker Kirk Venge is the winemaker behind Bacio Divino's award-winning portfolio of wines. Venge gravitated toward winemaking at an early age, following in the footsteps of his world-renowned winemaker father, Nils Venge. Kirk has proven to be as talented a winemaker as his father, acquiring full ownership of his family's Venge Vineyards and consulting for a number of top producers including Hunnicutt, Macauley Vineyard, Frazier, Bacio Divino, Igneous, and many more. Today, Kirk is building his own legacy in Napa Valley, crafting wines that are loved by the wine industry press and often praised with prestigious ratings and medals. His philosophy of "making wine in the vineyard" is present in every bottle.

## BACIO DIVINO 2013 LUCIE PINOT NOIR

Produced from the Dutton Ranch Widdoes Vineyard near Green Valley in the Russian River Valley AVA, the 2013 Lucie Pinot Noir is graceful, elegant, and perfectly representative of the RRV terroir. On the nose, aromas of rich cola, sweet red fruit, baking spice, and fresh flowers are immediately evident. The palate is rich and creamy while maintaining a fresh acidity with flavors of cherry colora, raspberry, and a hint of oak. Aged 17 months in oak. 100% Pinot Noir.

Cases Produced: 149

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**92 POINTS**

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**91 POINTS**

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### Bacio Divino 2013 Lucie Pinot Noir

Dutton Ranch Widdoes Vineyard, Russian River Valley

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