



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.

Bellacana Vineyards

Owners: Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

Winemaker: Leanna Lindsay

Location: Alexander Valley, Sonoma, California

This month's Garagiste feature comes from a rather unique venture, Bellacana vineyards, which was established by the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians. The Tribe's Pomo and Wappo ancestors occupied the Russian River and Dry Creek Valleys continuously and successfully for more than five thousand years. Their success was due to their sophisticated knowledge of the environment, refined arts and technologies, and participation in complex trade networks, with strong family and community bonds. Today's Dry Creek Rancheria has approximately 1,000 members and has successfully operated its River Rock Casino in Alexander Valley since 2002.



In 2011, the Dry Creek Rancheria purchased 310 acres of land surrounding their River Rock Casino property. The Alexander Valley land included 130 acres of premium vineyards, which the Tribe saw as a valuable asset to their organization. This purchase promptly made the Dry Creek Rancheria one of the largest vineyard owners in the Alexander Valley. They named the vineyard 'Bellacana,' which combines the Italian word for 'lovely' and the Pomo word for 'river.'

Bellacana Vineyards produced its first two wines, a Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, in 2012. The production was tiny (just 600 cases overall) and the wines were exclusively available at the Tribe's River Rock Casino. Since 2012, production has grown just slightly, and the large majority of Bellacana Vineyards' fruit continues to be sold to nearby wineries and other producers. Winemaking operations are currently overseen by Leanna Lindsay, who previously worked at Williams Selyem Winery.

The Dry Creek Rancheria hope to build Bellacana Vineyards' presence in relation to other Alexander Valley wineries, many of which are world-renowned brands with wines that are even exported to other countries. The Tribe knows this is an ambitious plan, but they are passionate about Bellacana Vineyards and they know the potential for greatness is there.

The goal at Bellacana Vineyards is to create the finest Sonoma County wines possible using the most sustainable and beneficial methods. They currently produce Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Cabernet Sauvignon, all of which are made in very limited quantities. We are happy to share this up-and-coming producer with our Garagiste Wine Club members. Enjoy!

Bellacana 2018 Pinot Noir

300 cases produced

Old Camp Vineyard, Russian River Valley, Sonoma California

Bellacana's first vineyard-designate Pinot Noir sourced from the Russian River Valley, the 2018 'Old Camp Vineyard' Pinot Noir is a fruit-driven, well-balanced wine that is made to be enjoyed with a wide array of foods. On the nose, this wine is brimming with rich Bing cherries, fresh pomegranate, and hints of Sandalwood. A silky, rich entry on the palate leads to structured, full-flavored blend of cherries, strawberries, and a hint of tea that compliment each other nicely. The lingering finish promises to leave you begging for more. Aged in oak. 100% Pinot Noir. Enjoy!



Gold Medal Wine Club Price: \$40.00 / 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.



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