



Gold Plus!

# BELLACANA VINEYARDS

## 2016 'HILLSIDE SELECT' CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Alexander Valley, Sonoma County



This month's *Gold Plus Wine Club* feature comes from a rather unique new 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.'

With the help of winemaker Alfonso Alarcon (Kendall Jackson, Charles Krug, and Murphy Goode), 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.

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 *Gold Plus Wine Club* members. Enjoy!

### Accolades and Tasting Notes

#### 92 Points + Gold Medal — The Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

The Bellacana 2016 'Hillside Select' Cabernet Sauvignon comes from the winery's Hillside Vineyard overlooking the renowned Alexander Valley in Sonoma County. The grape yield may be low here, but the quality is of the highest level. Rich and dark in color, this Cabernet Sauvignon offers enticing aromas of black currant, cassis and a touch of coffee and vanilla. Flavors of chocolate, dark currants and brambleberries come through on the full-bodied yet softly textured palate and linger on the long finish. This wine should age gracefully for many years under proper cellaring care. Aged in French Oak. Enjoy!



**YOU SAVE 27%-39% off the winery retail price!**

#### Gold Medal Membership Rewards Pricing:\*

Membership Level	Retail Price at Winery	Number of Bottles Ordered:		
		2+	6+	12+
2-Btl. Members:	\$30.00	\$22.00	\$20.33	\$19.50
4-Btl. Members:		\$22.00	\$19.50	\$18.25

\*Effective per bottle prices after **Membership Rewards** discount is applied at checkout. Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included in above prices. **Membership Rewards** does not apply to Sale or Specials Wines.