



PLATINUM SERIES



Select, Ultra Premium, Collectable Wines from California's Best Winemakers

Located in southern Sonoma Valley near Los Carneros is Canihan Family Cellars, owned and operated by Bill Canihan who is proudly (and enthusiastically) carrying out his family dream, one award-winning wine at a time. Canihan's inspiration for the small winery is steeped in family history and pays homage to his grandfather who dreamed of one day owning his own winery.

The dream dates back to 1920 when a young man named August Siegrist came to America in search of a better life. Siegrist was Canihan's grandfather, and had grown up supporting his family in Switzerland by working the nearby vineyards. While farming the hillside plantings of Pinot Noir and other cool climate varietals, Siegrist developed a respect for nature and sustainable farming, along with a cultivated love of wine.

Siegrist came to America in 1920 and eventually made his way into California wine country. Unfortunately, his timing couldn't have been worse as the country was thrown with the onset of Prohibition and he was forced to set aside his love for wine and refocus his dreams. Siegrist never gave up on his passion for wine though, and through the years, passed his enthusiasm onto his family.

It wasn't until many years later (in 1975) that his dream began to be fulfilled. William Canihan, Sr. (Siegrist's son-in-law) purchased 20 acres of Basque farmland in Sonoma County with the intent of one day planting wine grapes. The land had been farmed organically for over 60 years and seemed to be an ideal setting for growing premium quality wine grapes. William's son, Bill Canihan, was only twelve years old at the time, but would grow to be the instrumental piece in jump-starting Canihan Family Cellars some 20 years down the road.

Bill Canihan was no stranger to wine growing up, and often enjoyed a glass at the dinner table with family (half wine, half water until he was old enough). While attending college at University of the Pacific (UOP), he shared his hobby with friend and roommate Jack Galante, who was planning to enter the winery business after graduation. Galante's family had land in Carmel Valley that would make a suitable

vineyard, and it got Canihan thinking too...what about his family's land in Sonoma? It was just the motivation Canihan needed.

It was 1998 and the Canihans sought out noted viticulturist Phil Coturri to direct the planting of the vineyard and winemaker Alexandra Romanini to assist them in producing the first wines. They wanted to maintain the organic practices to keep August Siegrist's vision alive, and of course chose to go with Pinot Noir as their primary varietal.

"I knew Pinot would grow best there because of the location," Canihan explained, "and we did a little Syrah too because I thought it would be the 'next big thing' – I still do. We also planted Cabernet Franc."

After producing just a couple barrels in 2002 and 2003, Canihan Family Cellars made their first commercial release in 2004 with 170 cases of Estate Syrah. The wine created quite the buzz, being awarded "Best of Show Red Wine" from over 4,300 wines at the prestigious 2007 *San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition* – the highest possible honor!

"I was really surprised," Canihan admitted, "but it opened up a lot of doors and it really validated what we were doing."

Canihan has found great success with his Pinots as well – they make up the large majority of Canihan Family Wines and have become the other varietal the winery is best known for. Working with consulting winemaker Alexandra Romanini, Canihan masters the "hands-off" minimalist approach, and in turn, his wines are true expressions of his family vineyard.

The Canihan family also utilizes certified organic and biodynamic farming practices as a way of paying homage to Bill's grandfather, August Siegrist. They're keeping his dream very much alive in every way they can.

Today, Canihan Family Cellars produces between 2,000 and 2,500 cases annually, a level that is quite comfortable and allows Canihan the ability to maintain his strict quality standards.

"We're really excited that each vintage seems to be better than the last," Canihan enthused. That's a good trend for this newcomer winery, one that can be validated with the consistent high scores and prominent reviews. What an awesome success story and tribute to this family dream.



The road to great wine begins at your door.

ADD A PLUS! BOTTLE

to your next wine delivery!

Plus! wines are all highly-rated, very small production wines with availability too limited for all regular club members to receive. Only *Plus!* Program participants receive these rare gems!

The *Plus!* Program automatically adds on a special wine to each regular scheduled wine delivery, or as often as you like!

Don't miss out on another shipment!
Join the *Plus!* Program today!
\$35-\$55 each delivery

This month's *Platinum Series* featured *Plus!* wine:

Beekeeper 2014 Zinfandel
96 POINTS – *Connoisseurs' Guide*
242 Cases Produced

Learn more at: www.GoldMedalWineClub.com/plus or Call 1-800-266-8888



CANIHAN FAMILY CELLARS
2164 EARTH ST. EAST, TEL: 415-929-8100
SILVADO, SONOMA, CA 94967 FAX: 415-929-8100
WWW.CANIHANWINE.COM

Exuberance
SONOMA VALLEY PINOT NOIR SYRAH

Dear *Platinum Series* Members,

Our 2012 Exuberance Syrah ranks among the finest wines we have produced. Only 300 cases were bottled, and only the finest grapes, consisting of less than two tons per acre, made this fabulous wine.

Our cool-climate, estate vineyard is meticulously farmed by hand, certified organic by CCOF, and located on the border of the Los Carneros and Sonoma Valley appellations. This is not your typical Syrah. Exuberance exudes elegance, with a refined, smooth finish.

Our inaugural Syrah, the 2004 Canihan Family won **Double Gold**, along with the highest award possible: "**Best Red Wine of Show**" in the 2007 *San Francisco International Wine Competition*. 47 judges agreed that our Syrah was the finest amongst 4,300 wines entered in the largest blind-tasting competition in the country. I am even more excited about the 2012 vintage as this Syrah benefited from perfect weather along with few grapes per cluster, resulting in perfect ripening.

Enjoy!

Bill Canihan
Founder & Proprietor



TASTING NOTES

93 POINTS
+ CELLAR SELECTION
+ GOLD MEDAL
-Beverage Testing Institute

GOLD MEDAL
-San Francisco International Wine Competition

300 Cases Produced

The Canihan 2012 Exuberance Syrah was produced from the Canihan estate vineyards, bordering the Sonoma Carneros and Sonoma Coast AVAs, which makes this cool-climate wine very reminiscent of the Northern Rhone. Dark ruby in color, the 2012 Exuberance Syrah opens with delicate, nutty, and fruity aromas of dark berry pie and macadamia gelato. The palate is soft and full-bodied with lush flavors of cherries, chocolate nuts, and roasted tomatoes, and it leads into a cedar finish with fine tannins and a touch of oak. One of Canihan's consistently praised wines vintage to vintage, the Exuberance Syrah promises to be a special addition to your cellar. Aged 18 months in French oak. 95% Syrah, 5% Viognier. Enjoy now until 2022.



REORDERS

Canihan 2012 Exuberance Syrah

Retail Price at the Winery: \$49.00

You Save 14% to 22% off the winery retail price!

Gold Medal Membership Rewards Pricing.*

# of Bottles Ordered:	2+	6+	12+
2-Btl. Members:	\$42.00	\$40.33	\$39.50
4-Btl. Members:	\$42.00	\$39.50	\$38.25

www.GoldMedalWineClub.com
1-800-266-8888

*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.