

Pinot Noir Press



CARTE BLANCHE WINERY

If passion and persistence have anything to do with success, Nick Allen and Carte Blanche Winery are well on their way.



Nicholas Allen always felt destined to wind up in the wine business and continue his family's long-standing history with the world of wine. His great grandfather was none other than the late Clarence Dillon, a half-French American financier whose love for French wine led him to purchase France's oldest operating château, Château Haut-Brion, a Bordeaux masterpiece, in 1935. His family's company, Domaine Clarence Dillon, also purchased Château La Mission Haut-Brion in 1983. Growing up on a farm in Bedminster, New Jersey, home to five generations of his family, Nick loved hearing the legendary stories of his family's involvement in the French wine industry and from an early age it peaked his imagination.

After attending the University of Denver, Nick spent nearly ten years dabbling in real estate and starting a family, but the wine bug kept calling and he finally gave in. He had become fascinated by both the science and nature of great wines - the grand alliance between winemaker and nature, art and technology. Wine production became Nicks' professional passion and he was inspired to create his own boutique label in Napa Valley - Carte Blanche. With the help of his close friend, Luc Morlet, a noted French-born winemaker, Nicholas made his initial release in 2008.

Nicholas' vision with Carte Blanche is to respect the terroir in each wine

and honor what the Earth has given. He has selected specific vineyard sites, each with their own personality, to create wines of distinction, precision, and balance. Each bottling is made with a generations-old commitment to creating limited, hand-crafted wine through hands-on viticulture, vineyard management, and classical winemaking methods. For this bottling of 2016 Pinot Noir, Nicholas chose grapes from the Sun Chase Vineyard, one of the most highly sought-after vineyards in the Petaluma Gap region of the Sonoma Coast AVA. The hillsides sit at 1,400 feet above the valley floor, receiving ample sunlight and cool ocean breezes. Carte Blanche currently releases a Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and a handful of proprietary blends, all from premium sites in Napa Valley and Sonoma County.

Nick Allen's next project is to find a permanent location in Napa Valley for his Carte Blanche Winery. "I know what I am looking for," he finalized. "It must be a good location with decent traffic flow. I am not looking for anything grandiose, but I need a place large enough to put a small winery and an inviting tasting room. I want the people who visit to be really comfortable when tasting our wines and appreciate the quality and care that Carte Blanche has to offer. After all, it's all about the people, isn't it?"

continued on back...



...continued from front

Allen calls his wines “his babies” and is a unique winery owner. If passion and persistence have anything to do with success, then Nick Allen and Carte Blanche Winery are well on their way. It is our pleasure to introduce this exceptional wine to our *Pinot Noir Wine Club* members. Enjoy!



HELEN KEPLINGER, WINEMAKER

In 2014, Nicholas handed the winemaking reins to Helen Keplinger, a noted winemaker in her own right. A UC Davis graduate, Helen boasts stints with the likes of the iconic Heidi Barrett and also Kathy Joseph (Fiddlehead Cellars), Michel Rolland (Harland Estate, Calla Valle) and David Abreu (Kenzo Estate, Abreu Vineyards). She also has extensive international experience with the noted Cellars Melis of the Spanish Priorat growing region just outside Barcelona. Helen has become known for making distinctive wines, for having a keen understanding of specific vineyard sites, and knowing how to make wines expressive of their place. She has also been named ‘Winemaker of the Year’ by *Food & Wine* magazine.

CARTE BLANCHE 2016 PINOT NOIR

Sun Chase Vineyard, Sonoma Coast AVA

The Sun Chase Vineyard is an ideal location atop the Petaluma Gap, which true to its name, bathes the budding grapes in full sunshine at an impressive 900-1400 ft. elevation. Its coastal proximity also provides the much needed cool Pacific Ocean breezes that sweep through the unique topography. Not to mention the benefits of the gravelly, clay loam soil that provides great drainage while holding onto the vital nutrients the vines need to thrive. The 2016 vintage opens with a nose of bright Bing cherries, dried Provençal herbs, blood orange and sandalwood that are seamlessly layered. The palate supports the nose revealing notes of black cherry, boysenberry, black tea leaf and saffras, leading into a persistent finish. World-renowned wine critic, Jeb Dunnuck gives it a 95+ Point rating and describes it as a, “Layered, rich, yet impeccably balanced wine and offers lots of red and black fruits, savory herbs, and early, forest floor-like nuances.” The focused fruit and gentle acidity make this a beautiful Pinot Noir one to behold! 100% Pinot Noir. Aged 15 months in French Oak. 14.2% alcohol.

95 POINTS

– *Jeb Dunnuck*

94 POINTS

– *James Suckling*

91 POINTS

– *Robert Parker*



Instant! MEMBERSHIP REWARDS PRICING*

Winery Retail Price ~~\$65.00~~ 2+ btls. 6+ btls. 12+ btls.

YOU SAVE	2-Bottle Members:	\$49.00	\$47.33	\$46.50
25% - 34%	4-Bottle Members:	\$49.00	\$46.50	\$45.25
off Winery Retail	Charter Members:	\$46.55	\$44.18	\$42.99

RECIPE FOR PAIRING



BACON-WRAPPED SCALLOPS

Enjoy our extensive collection of recipes to pair with your favorite Gold Medal wines!

Find this recipe and many more online at:
GoldMedalWineClub.com/Recipes

ORDER ONLINE:

www.GoldMedalWineClub.com

CALL US:

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.