



Garagiste SERIES

[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.

Dilécta Wines

Owner/Winemaker: Orion Stang

Location: Paso Robles

The story behind Dilécta Wines is a fascinating - if not a bit unusual - account that bears repeating. The principal is Orion (after the constellation) Stang, a native of Cambria (just off the Central Coast), who is the owner of this boutique winery. Stang, now in his mid thirties, came to this point in his life through an uncommon turn of events.

Around wines since he was an infant (his parents were avid wine drinkers), Stang developed a penchant for the grape around the age of sixteen. He had been dragged to wineries around the Paso Robles area for several years and suddenly found he possessed a real appreciation for wines and their various attributes. In 2005, he enrolled in a study abroad program in Italy and freely roamed the famed Tuscan hills and their plethora of fine wines and appealing foods. The experience left quite the impression on Stang and he suddenly realized that wine was something he needed to get further into.

Upon returning to the United States, Stang enrolled at the CIA (Culinary Institute of America) Greystone Campus in Napa Valley to become a certified Sommelier. Upon completion, he found work in a number of Southern California restaurants where he fine-tuned his love of wine and its pairing with fine cuisines. "The more I got into wine I realized I wanted to start making wine, not just selling it," Stang explained. "I developed a style of wine that I thoroughly enjoyed drinking and decided to see if I could produce it myself."

In 2007, he landed a job with Eric Jensen, the well-respected owner and winemaker of the Booker Winery and Vineyard. Here, Stang learned the ropes quickly and was soon named assistant winemaker to Jensen at the Paso Robles facility. Four years later, it was time to try it on his own and Stang began the development of Dilécta Wines. For the record, 'Dilécta' is derived from the Latin 'delictus' meaning 'lovely' or 'loved,' depending on the usage. From Stang's perspective, the name was the perfect way to introduce his own style of winemaking to the consumer.

He set about establishing his label in the highly competitive Central Coast Wine Region and chose the reliable Rhône varietal Syrah as the predominate grape in his winemaking. His first release came in 2011, a tiny 150 cases, and he has now grown to just under 1,000 cases. The fruit for Dilécta's wines is sourced from several of the Central Coast's premier vineyards and then blended to Stang's exacting standards.

The road from sommelier to winery owner/winemaker is not the usual route to success, but Orion Stang is not the usual owner/winemaker. His perseverance and marketing expertise has created a positive niche for the outstanding portfolio of Dilécta Wines. We know you will enjoy this Garagiste Wine Club selection.

Dilécta 2013 Syrah

165 cases produced

Bien Nacido Vineyard, Santa Barbara County

Dilécta's 2013 Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah is a solid example of the excellent quality of fruit coming out of this famous Central Coast vineyard and the impressive winemaking talents of Orion Stang. This cool-climate beauty shows savory spices, cranberry-orange marmalade, and cracked pepper on the nose. They follow through to the palate, but are accompanied by notes of raspberry, warm Provençal olives, and thyme. This wine can pair with just about anything, but simply hard cheeses and charcuterie will do the trick beautifully. Aged in oak. 100% Syrah. Enjoy now until 2023.

Gold Medal Wine Club Price: \$38.00 / bottle

To order, visit the Wine Store at 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.

