



# Platinum Wine Club

90+ Rated, Ultra Premium, Collectable Wines from California's Best Winemakers.

## D.R. Stephens Estate | Napa Valley

For a number of years, real estate executive D.R. Stephens lived in the Napa Valley and made many friends. A number of these friends were in the wine business and conversations often included new releases and honors garnered by his friends' wines.

In 1995, Stephens decided it was time to venture into the wine business himself and purchased a 35-acre site that included an old olive orchard. He set about to grow his own grapes and produce his own wines. The company's first release of only 140 cases of Chardonnay occurred in 2001 and was immediately recognized as really top quality by both the wine industry and consumers alike.

Fast forward to today. The D.R. Stephens Estate is a proven entity with numerous accolades, a bevy of highly rated wines and top scores from the wine industry's assortment of periodicals. D.R. Stephens Estate has ascended into the rarefied air of the highest quality producers within Napa Valley.

"My father decided that he would do whatever was needed to make the best possible wines," informed Justin Stephens, the winery's proprietor and managing partner. "Everything we have done at D.R. Stephens Estate was planned with the long term in mind. We intended that our wines be able to compete with any wine in the entire world."

The younger Stephens has put together a world-class winery team to accomplish those ends. "Our management team is something of a cliché," Justin Stephens continued. "They do all the work, they really do. They provide us with great tools and the result is a fine portfolio of wines."

The team includes two Michaels. First, there is Winemaker Michael Hirby, an early associate of Les Behrens (Behrens and Hitchcock) and formerly winemaker at Realm Cellars. Also included is Michael Wolf, who serves as vineyard manager. Wolf's composite includes the likes of Bond Estates, Duckhorn Vineyards, Harlan Estate, Lewis Cellars, Vineyard 29 and Scarecrow Winery to name a few industry icons.

The original winery label was designed by D.R. Stephens and remains in use to this day. It is an old style label with the original Stephens home serving

as the background.

Over the years, D.R. Stephens became less active in the winery business and eventually left it in the hands of his son and employees. D.R. Stephens sadly passed away earlier this year (February of 2020), but his legacy certainly lives on.

"I worked with my father for several years until he was sure that his goals and mine were properly aligned," Justin Stephens added. "Once he was satisfied, he let me take care of the day to day details. I am proud to carry on the D.R. Stephens Estate tradition in his memory."

Justin Stephens also heads his own winery, the successful Hunnicutt Winery, which is located just five miles up the road on the Silverado Trail, just north of Saint Helena. The devastating Glass Fire that recently burned through Napa Valley (October of 2020) unfortunately reached the Hunnicutt property and caused significant structural damage. Once the smoke clears, the Stephens family looks forward to rebuilding and welcoming visitors back to the property to continue sharing their life's calling.

*Looking to the future, is there a chance of expansion for D.R. Stephens Estate?*

"I think we are both active and passive in that regard," responded Justin Stephens. "There are really few sweet deals available around Napa Valley, and the prices asked make the decision to buy very difficult. You simply cannot put money into property that will at best break even in the process."

Currently around 2,000 cases of wines are produced annually by D.R. Stephens Estate. In addition to the company's fabled Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Pinot Noir are a part of the estate's portfolio. The grapes are sourced from the winery's two estate vineyards, Moose Valley and Walther River Block, in addition to two special nearby sites, the Silver Eagle Vineyard in Green Valley and the Star Vineyard in Rutherford.

We are thrilled to feature D.R. Stephens Estate and their award-winning 2017 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon to our *Platinum Wine Club* members. We know this wine will remain within your memory for some time to come. Enjoy!





**93 POINTS**  
— *Wine Spectator*

**500 cases produced**

Sourced from the Stephens family's estate Moose Valley and Walther River Block vineyards in Napa Valley, the D.R. Stephens 2017 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon offers an exotically delicious personality with incredible complexity. On the nose, this Cabernet Sauvignon showcases a glorious aroma of juicy and ripe black and blue fruits together with a touch of Moose Valley Vineyard's signature graphite and intense character. The palate is smooth and generous, gushing forth flavors of blueberry pie and black cherry followed by tiers of violet, anise and milk chocolate. This D.R. Stephens Cabernet Sauvignon is intended for immediate enjoyment, but as always, will gain in complexity with several years in bottle. Aged 21 months in oak. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Enjoy!



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Membership Rewards Pricing\***

Winery Retail Price <del>\$90.00/btl.</del>	2+ btls.	6+ btls.	12+ btls.
2-Bottle Members:	\$69.00	\$67.33	\$66.50
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**This month's Platinum *Plus!*  
Featured Wine:**

**Carter Cellars 2018  
'Hossfield Coliseum' Red Blend,  
Napa Valley**

97 Points - *Jeb Dunnuck*  
133 Cases Produced



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