



PLATINUM SERIES



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

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, now 75, 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. Stevens 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 rarified air of 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 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 (Berhens 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. D.R. Stephens is less active in today's winery business and has taken a *laissez faire* approach to his Napa Valley gem. As the winery has evolved into its present status he has chosen to leave it in the hands of his son and employees.

"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 say that he now sits back and enjoys the foundations he has built and what our winery has become."

Justin Stephens also heads his own winery, the successful Hunnicutt Winery where all of D.R. Stephens Estate wines are produced. A plan has been formulated to begin construction on a new winery for D.R. Stephens Estate on the family's Napa Valley property this year.

Currently, around 2,000 cases of wines are produced annually by D.R. Stephens Estate. In addition to the company's famed Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are apart of the estate's portfolio.

Is there a chance of expansion in the future 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."

Stephens is quite upbeat with the fact that one of his family's closest friends and Cabernet Sauvignon suppliers has recently acquired some additional contingent acreage. This plot had already been cleared and will present usable fruit in 2016.

"It's all about measured growth," Stephens explained. "And we are quite happy with what we have now."

So goes it at the top of the proverbial heap, the lofty location that D.R. Stephens Estate currently enjoys. This current *Platinum Series* selection is a joy to behold and will remain within your memory for some time to come. As always, enjoy!



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-\$45 each delivery

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

Canihan 2009 Pinot Noir
93 POINTS + 2 GOLD MEDALS
+ SWEEPSTAKES WINNER

Just 240 Cases Produced!

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



TASTING NOTES

93 POINTS

-*Wine Enthusiast* magazine

91 POINTS

-*Ken's Wine Guide*

Just 625 Cases Produced

The D.R. Stephens 2008 "DRII" Cabernet Sauvignon is a blend from D.R. Stephens' two Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards in Napa Valley – Moose Valley Vineyard in St. Helena and Walther River Block Vineyard in Rutherford. These vineyards are used to bottle D.R. Stephens' single vineyard Cabernet Sauvignons and consistently produce exceptional fruit. Highlighting the best fruit characteristics from each vineyard, the 2008 DRII Cabernet Sauvignon shows deep, expressive aromas of raspberry, mocha, and cinnamon, while the palate is bursting with rich fruit and well-integrated tannins that remain elegant and flavorful through the long, blossoming finish. *Wine Enthusiast* says this Cabernet Sauvignon "possesses that elusive quality variously called finesse or elegance. Even though it's a big wine, filled with blackberry, cassis, dark chocolate and oak flavors, and the tannins are firm, it feels like pure velvet, showing pedigree all the way through the long finish." Aged 22 months in oak. Enjoy now until 2018.

·D·R·
STEPHENS
Estate

Dear *Platinum Series* Members,

Included in your shipment is our D.R. Stephens Estate 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon DRII. We have been farming a vineyard in St. Helena, Moose Valley Vineyard, since 1996, and another in Rutherford, Walther River Block, since 2000. Historically, these two vineyards were kept separate throughout the production process and constituted individual vineyard designated bottlings bearing their respective names. With the 2004 vintage, we decided to introduce a third wine that married these two vineyards, hence the "II."

The 2008 vintage was remarkable in that we experienced one of the coldest spells during bud break history. This was followed by a substantial heat spike in May, accompanied by dry winds while the vines were flowering. Both of these events conspired us to reduce the crop dramatically. Damage throughout Napa ranged from complete vineyard decimation to substantial potential crop loss – no vineyard was unscathed. Fortunately, these factors play a role in quantity, not quality, and after this challenging start, Napa Valley experienced near-perfect growing conditions. Arguably, this natural crop reduction served to concentrate flavors. The 2008 DRII certainly reflects this.

Enjoy!

Justin H. Stephens
Proprietor

1860 HOWELL MOUNTAIN ROAD • SAINT HELENA, CA 94574
PHONE 707-963-2908 • FAX 707-963-2901 • www.drstephenswines.com



ORDERS

D.R. Stephens 2008 "DRII" Cabernet Sauvignon

Retail Price at the Winery: \$65.00

As a *Platinum Series* Member,
Save 14% - 20% Online!

GoldMedalWineClub.com
1-800-266-8888

These special discounts are available only to club members, gift recipients and gift givers. Remember to **login** to see your prices online!

*2 bottle min. per wine, per order. Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included in above prices. Call for details.