



# Platinum Plus!

## Dragonette Cellars | 2018 'Seven' Syrah Santa Ynez Valley

As with many small wineries, it might be considered something of a cliché to say the owners of upstart Dragonette Cellars all love wine. A thorough examination into the rather successful Santa Barbara County winery has proved beyond a doubt that those same owners really love wine. In fact, their love of the almighty grape governs their every action.

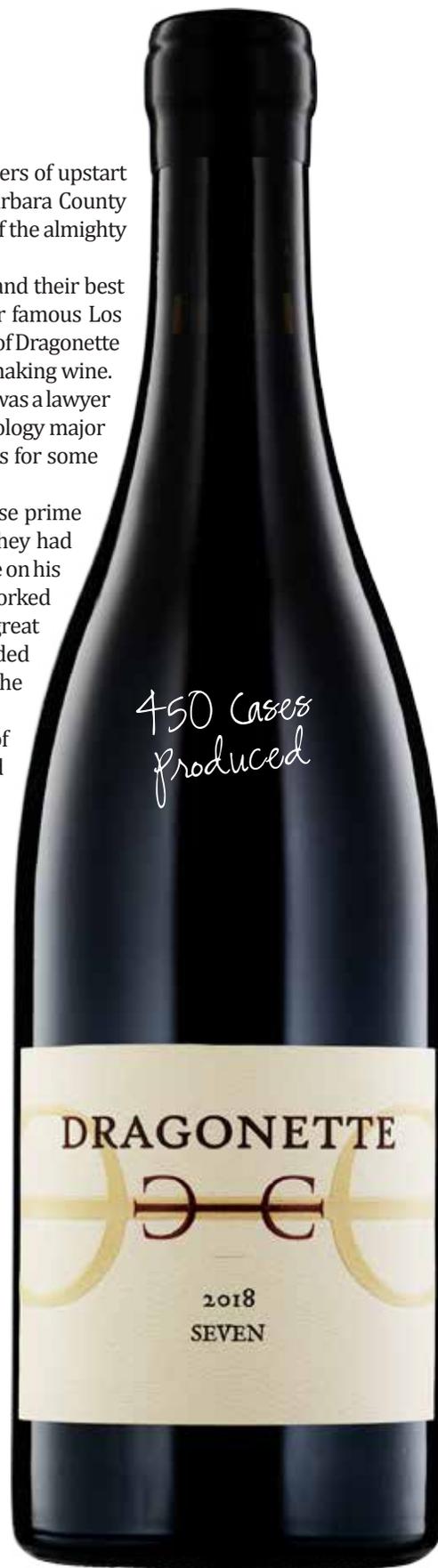
To set the facts, Dragonette Cellars is the product of brothers John and Steve Dragonette, and their best friend, Brandon Sparks-Gillis. It seems that John and Brandon found themselves working for famous Los Angeles wine retailer Wally's and formed a bond that would eventually lead to the establishment of Dragonette Cellars. John's younger brother Steve came aboard and the entity was soon in the business of making wine.

"We all come from different business backgrounds," confessed Brandon Sparks-Gillis. "John was a lawyer taking a wine hiatus from his career, and Steve was working as a computer engineer. I was a geology major in college, but I had already turned to the wine business and had worked in various capacities for some significant wineries both in California and abroad."

The plan hatched by the three friends was quite simple: Establish a winery that would use prime Santa Barbara County grapes and hand-produce the finest wines possible. The trio figured they had something of a leg up since they had a wealth of experience between them. John had studied wine on his own for the past ten years and had apprenticed at renowned Fiddlehead Cellars. He had also worked for three years for one of the area's top vineyard management companies, and had developed great relationships with a number of the leading growers in the area. Sparks-Gillis' experience included the cultish Sine Qua Non Winery of Manfred Krankl and the highly rated Torbreck Vintners of the Barossa Valley in Australia.

The name 'Dragonette' was selected for the winery because it carried a certain panache of mystery and uniqueness. The family name was originally Italian (Dragonetti), but was changed when the family emigrated from Italy in the 1930's. The Dragonette logo is a story in itself. It is actually an old alchemist symbol for the 'elixir of life' or 'drinkable gold.' During medieval times, it was believed that gold contained certain medicinal properties and the alchemists sought a process by which gold could be dissolved into a liquid that could then be ingested to obtain healing properties. For Dragonette Cellars, the symbol was a perfect fit.

Dragonette's first release was a minuscule 200 cases in 2006. Aided by exceptional scores and medals, the tiny winery has expanded and will produce about 5,000 cases this year. The trio of owners feel truly humbled by the public's response to their wines, which are produced at their smallish winery in Lompoc, California. We are proud to present Dragonette's latest offering to our Platinum Plus Wine Club members. Enjoy!



### Accolades & Tasting Notes

**92-94 POINTS** -Jeb Dunnuck

**91 POINTS** -Connoisseurs' Guide

**90 POINTS** -Wine Spectator

A blend of 95% Syrah, 4% Grenache and 1% Viognier from select vineyards in Sta. Rita Hills and Ballard Canyon, the Dragonette 2018 'Seven' is a beautiful wine, balancing power and intensity with structure and elegance. On the nose, complex aromas of red and black fruits, herbs, and spices heighten the senses, while the palate is wrapped around a core of rich blueberries and blackberries seasoned with spices and heightened with freshness. Aged 18 months in oak. Enjoy!



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