



Platinum Wine Club

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

Fore Family Vineyards | Napa Valley

Arguably one of Napa Valley's best under-the-radar wineries is this month's *Platinum Wine Club* feature, Fore Family Vineyards. With just a 1,000 cases produced each year, and a handful of distinctive, site-driven wines making up the ultra-boutique portfolio, Fore Family Vineyards is steadily building its reputation as a world-class winery in northern California.

Owners Jim and Diane Fore grew up in Napa Valley and have long shared a passion for premium wines. Their transition into the winery business, although unexpected, has proven to be an exciting new path that challenges them every step of the way.

"We weren't always in the wine business," explains Diane Fore. "I used to be a Kindergarten teacher and my husband was a Piping Designer at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. When the base closed in 1988, Jim and I moved back to Napa and he decided we should become farmers."

Jim and Diane sought out friend Doug Hill (of Hill Family Estate Winery) who had over twenty-six years of experience growing grapes in Napa, and started acquiring leases on suitable properties throughout the Valley.

"Doug was extremely helpful and set us in the right direction when choosing sites. He had a good feeling about where we should be looking and which grapes would grow best," Diane credits. "Jim started working for Doug's business, Yountville Equipment Company, and learned how to grow high quality wine grapes in Napa while planting and developing vineyards in the area." Little did Jim know that he and Doug would become grape growing partners just a few short years later with the establishment of Fore-Hill Vineyards (1995).

The farming business clicked for the Fores and before long, Jim and Diane had acquired and planted forty-five acres of vineyard property in Napa Valley. About fifteen different grape varieties grow on the five different vineyard sites, most of which are sold to neighboring wineries. The vineyards are overseen by both Jim and Doug, and their shared vineyard management business (Fore-Hill Vineyards) that strictly adheres to sustainable growing practices.

In 2000, Jim and Diane Fore located a ninety-five acre mountain top property on Cobb Mountain in Red Hills Lake County - just a couple of hours north of Napa Valley. They fell in love with the land,

purchased it, and planted seventeen acres to mostly Rhône varieties, plus a little Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Just four years later, the couple released their first vintage of Fore Family Cabernet Sauvignon from the new Lake County property with the help of winemaker Peter Franus. The Fores had been selling fruit to Peter for many years and it seemed like a natural fit that he would become their winemaker.

"Peter is a simplistic winemaker and believes in a minimalist approach," Diane states. "His style has worked well for us and he has made excellent, distinctive wines for our winery." Fore Family's current winemaker is Tim Dolven, who also serves as Peter's assistant at Peter Franus Wine Company.

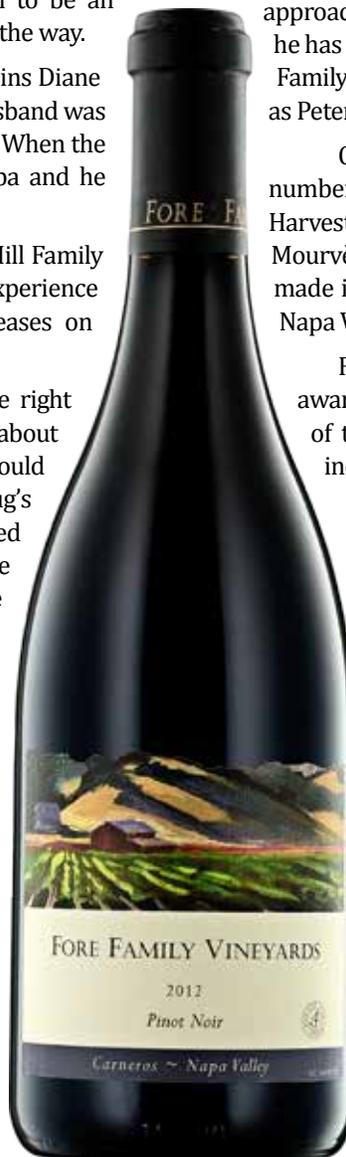
Over the years, Fore Family Vineyards has introduced a number of wines to their label, including a Pinot Noir, Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc, Grenache Blanc, Albariño, Merlot, Mourvèdre, Grenache Noir, and a GSM blend. Each bottling is made in extremely limited quantities from either the Fores' Napa Valley or Lake County properties.

Fore Family's wines have won a number of first place awards in local competitions, which considering the caliber of their Napa Valley and Lake County neighbors, is an incredibly impressive feat.

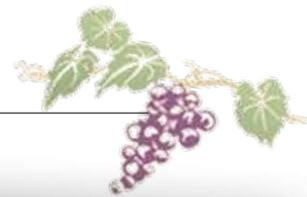
"We are very happy with how far we've come," Diane says. "We've been playing it safe with our production, but we'd like to grow a bit more when we have the opportunity."

Fore Family recently opened a tasting room in downtown Kelseyville (Lake County) that features samples of their handcrafted wines, a handmade tasting bar, an oven that passes through to the neighboring bakery, and an artist-of-the-month series with local artwork displayed. The project has been an exciting new development for Fore Family Vineyards, allowing visitors to get to know the brand and wines while growing the winery's Lake County exposure.

Jim and Diane Fore are now happily joined by their son Eric, who helps around the winery and vineyards in nearly every capacity. He has been a wonderful addition to the family business that is certain to see continued success.



Fore Family | 2012 Pinot Noir, Napa-Carneros

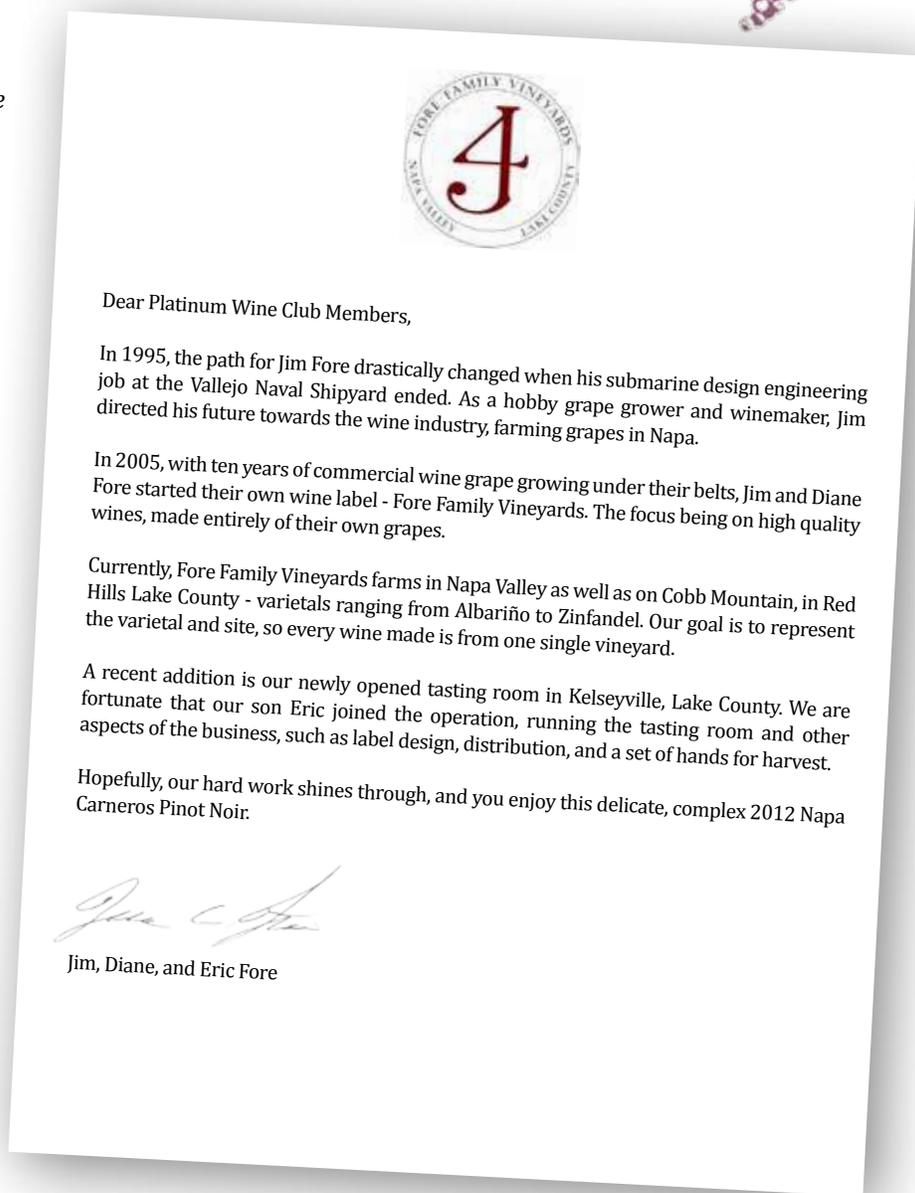


**92 POINTS +
GOLD MEDAL**
— Beverage Testing Institute

GOLD MEDAL
— San Francisco Chronicle
Wine Competition

256 cases produced

A silky, fruity Pinot Noir with excellent balance and classic Napa-Carneros characteristics, the Fore Family 2012 Pinot Noir is a welcome addition to any table. Dusty ruby-garnet in color, this Pinot Noir displays classic aromas of earth and mushrooms, with additional layers of Bing cherries, sage, cream, and vanilla (from the French oak barrels used for aging). The palate is satiny and bright with lively acidity that is held in balance with flavors of cherry, earth, white pepper, coriander, sage and vanilla. Supple tannins and notes of toffee and light oak linger on the smooth finish. Try pairing the Fore Family 2012 Napa-Carneros Pinot Noir with pork tenderloin, Beef Stroganoff, or lasagna. Aged in French oak. 100% Pinot Noir. Enjoy now until 2020.



Dear Platinum Wine Club Members,

In 1995, the path for Jim Fore drastically changed when his submarine design engineering job at the Vallejo Naval Shipyard ended. As a hobby grape grower and winemaker, Jim directed his future towards the wine industry, farming grapes in Napa.

In 2005, with ten years of commercial wine grape growing under their belts, Jim and Diane Fore started their own wine label - Fore Family Vineyards. The focus being on high quality wines, made entirely of their own grapes.

Currently, Fore Family Vineyards farms in Napa Valley as well as on Cobb Mountain, in Red Hills Lake County - varietals ranging from Albariño to Zinfandel. Our goal is to represent the varietal and site, so every wine made is from one single vineyard.

A recent addition is our newly opened tasting room in Kelseyville, Lake County. We are fortunate that our son Eric joined the operation, running the tasting room and other aspects of the business, such as label design, distribution, and a set of hands for harvest.

Hopefully, our hard work shines through, and you enjoy this delicate, complex 2012 Napa Carneros Pinot Noir.

Jim, Diane, and Eric Fore



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**This month's Platinum *Plus!*
Featured Wine:**

**GRIMM'S BLUFF 2014
Estate Cabernet Sauvignon**

92 Points - *Wine Enthusiast* magazine
206 cases produced



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