

GOLD MEDAL WINE CLUB'S  
Diamond Series Selection



# Diamond Plus!

## Fotinos Brothers Winery 2009 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

This month's *Diamond Plus!* feature, Fotinos Brothers Winery, can trace its wine origins back many generations. In the late 1800's, Christos Fotinos learned to make wine under his father in Lefkas, Greece. When he later immigrated to the United States, Christos Fotinos eventually made his way to Sonoma County and realized his dream of farming his own vineyard. Christos passed on his winemaking knowledge to his son Tom who in turn passed it on to his sons, Tom and Chris. In 1968, Tom (the father) purchased his own vineyard with the idea of creating one of the best private label wines in Napa Valley.

At the time, the large family would gather together on Sundays to enjoy Greek food and even stomp some grapes inside half barrels. Starting in 1973, some one hundred cases of wine were produced annually, mostly for family use and as gifts for close friends. These wines were also entered in many local wine contests and produced an unusually high number of ribbons and awards.

Today, Tom and Chris are the 5th generation of their family in the wine business. They are the owners of an exceptional boutique winery, Fotinos Brothers Winery, which is located in the lower Napa Valley growing region known as Carneros. The area is close to San Pablo Bay and benefits from its foggy mornings and wonderful sun-filled afternoons. Fotinos Brothers Winery's first releases saw the light of day in 2006 and the winery has grown steadily ever since.

Fotinos Brothers Winery is focused on producing two varietals: Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon. The Pinot is grown on the winery site in cooler Carneros, while the Cabernet is grown on a northerly Napa Valley site located near Pope Valley. They dictate the farming of a specific parcel on this vineyard property and it is overseen by Tom's wife Danielle, who carries an extensive background in vineyard management. She also tends to the home vineyard of Pinot Noir.

While Danielle manages the vineyards, Tom serves as winemaker and Chris directs the sales and marketing. Together, they have no plans to become a commercial winery and are quite content with the way things are, producing a small number of exquisite wines. Fotinos Brothers Winery is a throwback to the older, family-style wineries that initially made Napa Valley and its plethora of great wineries the success that it is today.

### Accolades & Tasting Notes

**94 POINTS + GOLD MEDAL** - Beverage Testing Institute

The Fotinos Brothers' 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon was produced from the winery's Lake Spring Ranch Vineyard in northern Napa Valley. This warmer region of the Valley creates an ideal microclimate for this exceptional Cabernet. Full-bodied and fruit-forward in style, the 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon displays beautiful berry flavors of black cherry and cassis with hints of smoke, toasted oak, and spice. Its smooth, silky finish is supported by firm tannins and luscious lingering flavors. Aged 24 months in oak, 12 months in bottle. Enjoy now until 2019.

**Retail Price at the Winery: \$79.00 /bottle**

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