



Platinum Wine Club

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

Gibbs Vineyards | Napa Valley

While Craig Handy considers himself a successful grower in Napa Valley, his efforts on the winemaking side of the wine business have vaulted him into rarefied company. As co-owner and winemaker for the relatively new Gibbs Vineyards, Handy, 57, has produced some incredible scores and awards for his 6 year-old winery.

"I still consider myself more of a grower than anything" a modest Handy said during an interview. "We grown our own Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc for our estate programs, and we source the remaining fruit we need from four of the finest vineyards in northern California. From the success we have enjoyed thus far, our aim must be doing something right."

The Gibbs Vineyards story unfurled in 2014 when the company released its first 3,000 cases. That number has grown steadily and will approximate 7,000 cases this year. Handy points to the 10,000-case level as a goal for the future. "The 10,000-case level is where I feel we can be comfortable and stick to our goals and quality objectives," he continued. "It's all about the fruit you use and the sources that are available. Great fruit produces great wines, and *terroir* is the name of the game at our level!"

Gibbs Vineyards currently has 48.25 acres under vine that accounts for a large part of its reserve program, a fact that Craig Handy feels is an important element in his winery's success story. Handy's wife Susan is the daughter of Dr. Lewis Gibbs Carpenter, Jr., the former psychologist and farmer who bought the original valley floor land in the 1950's that comprises Gibbs Vineyards Estate. Carpenter was a devotee to Bordeaux varietals and planted mostly Cabernet Sauvignon in the rich and fertile soil that bears the name 'Centa Vineyard.' At this point, the valley is only 3,500 feet wide and benefits from the heat reflected off the hills to the west and east. Cabernet Sauvignon thrives in this environment that has been under plant since 1865 and is almost entirely clay loam soil. Another ancient vineyard site, Cross Creek Vineyard, lies between Howell and Glass Mountains, and is the source of additional Cabernet Sauvignon that has been farmed since the 1870's.

Handy's decision to enter the incredibly competitive wine industry came after he saw his fruit capture high marks and awards for other wineries. "We just felt it was the right time to jump into another

aspect of the wine industry and wanted to see how we could do on our own," admitted Handy. "We had a degree of confidence in our fruit and that confidence has been borne out over the past six to eight years."

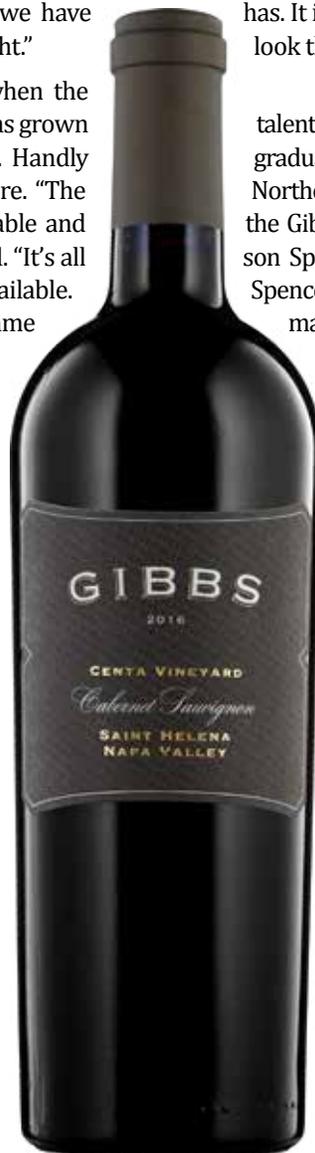
When it came to developing the label for Gibbs Vineyards, Handy was right at home. "I had been a label designer for 26 years at the time and had worked with numerous large and small wineries," he explained. "We wanted our label to stand out, to have a different shape, a shape that no other label in the wine business has. It is intended, through its background, to have a high class look that depicts the quality inside the bottle."

To produce that quality, Gibbs Vineyards employs the talents of Assistant Winemaker Julie Schreiber, a UC Davis graduate with more than 20 years of experience with a host of Northern California wineries. Schreiber lends a veteran hand to the Gibbs Vineyard operation that also includes Craig Handy's son Spencer, 28, who is the company's director of operations. Spencer Handy's high school friend, Lucas Walter, is the marketing director in this close-knit, family-oriented business.

The wines of Gibbs Vineyards are Bordeaux-styled in keeping with its founder's passion for the quintessential French grapes. Since there are not many estate bottlings in the St. Helena AOC, the Gibbs Vineyards selections tend to stand out. Their Cabernet Sauvignon style is definitely Bordeaux-flavored, and includes small portions of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot that are sourced from nearby Napa Valley growers.

"We age our Reserve Cabernets an extra year to eighteen months," added Craig Handy. "We find the extra aging produces additional concentration, somewhere between the 15 to 20 percent range. It provides a distinct French accent to the wines and has become a hallmark for our Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon."

The future seems extraordinarily bright for Gibbs Vineyards and the Handy family. Their primary source of grapes is secure and they continue garnering top scores and individual awards for their extraordinary wines. It is a great pleasure to introduce Gibbs Vineyards to our Platinum members. We know you will enjoy this selection!





93 POINTS
— Antonio Galloni's *Vinous*

91 POINTS
— Jeb Dunnuck

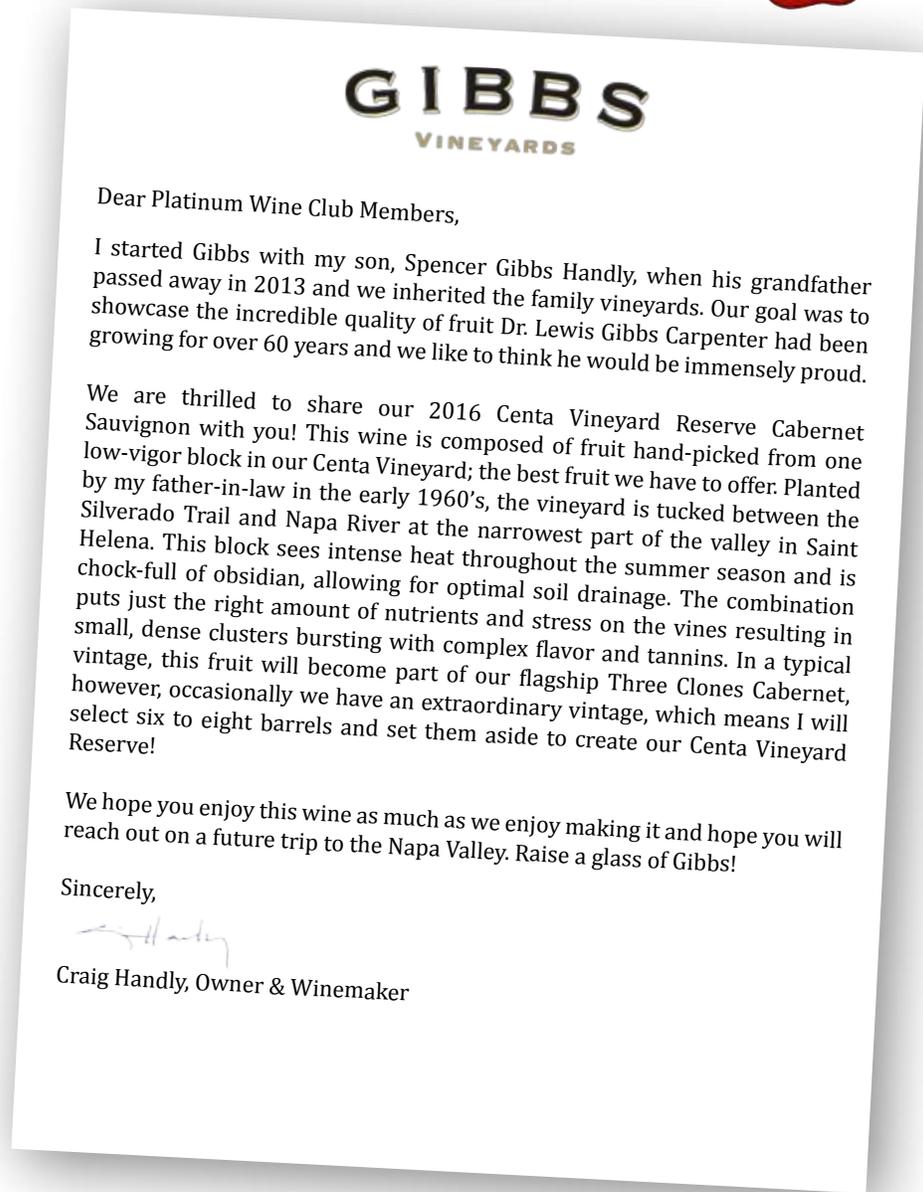
90 POINTS
— James Suckling

216 cases produced

The Gibbs 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon is a reserve bottling comprised of fruit hand-picked from the Centa Vineyard in St. Helena, Napa Valley - the best fruit Gibbs Vineyards has to offer. Planted adjacent to the Silverado Trail at the narrowest part of the valley, this vineyard sees intense heat throughout the summer season and its chock-full of obsidian, which allows for optimal soil drainage. Dense, concentrated, and complex, the Gibbs 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon is dark purple in color with generous aromas of juicy dark cherry, blackberry, and black plum, layered over graphite, mocha, clove, cinnamon, vanilla, leather and a touch of dark cocoa powder. The tannins are sizable but soft, bringing structure to the complex flavors and extending the already lengthy finish. Aged 22 months in oak. 96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot. Enjoy!

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

**Fort Ross 2017 Pinot Noir,
Fort Ross-Seaview, Sonoma Coast**

92 Points - Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*
92 Points - Jeb Dunnuck
627 Cases Produced



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