



The Wine Press

Medal Winning Wines from California's Best Family-Owned Wineries.

J. WILKES WINES
CENTRAL COAST



J. Wilkes Wines

A tribute to one man's legendary grape-growing and winemaking legacy, J. Wilkes Wines produces award-winning, small-lot 'wines of place' from the best AVA's and vineyards on California's Central Coast.



The story of J. Wilkes Wines is one that Hollywood would quickly embrace. The hero, a fellow named Jeff(erson) Wilkes, works as a grape grower and salesman in the Santa Maria Valley, a bit north of Los Angeles. He is a tireless worker and his efforts literally bear (great) fruit. He takes three vineyards, Bien Nacido and Solomon Hills in the Santa Maria Valley, and French Camp in the Paso Robles Highlands, into wine stratosphere as far as quality and reputation. He is at the top of his game and he decides to try it on his own.

In 2001, Jeff Wilkes introduces the J. Wilkes label and produces around a thousand cases for sale. His efforts are rewarded and the wine sells out quickly. Jeff Wilkes is definitely on his way to establishing his brand as a boutique winery.

For almost the next decade, J. Wilkes Wines continues to grow and produces numerous medals and accolades along the way.

Then, in 2010, at age 57, Jeff Wilkes suddenly passes away. Production of J. Wilkes Wines comes to a halt for nearly the next two years. A small production occurs in 2011, but the brand is all but dormant.

A year later, the prestigious Miller Family of Central Coast winegrowing and winery fame buys J. Wilkes Wines from Jeff Wilkes' estate. The Millers were friends of Wilkes and made the decision to continue the legacy that Wilkes had started more than a decade before.

"Jeff was something of a visionary," Miller Family spokesman Nicholas Miller related. "It was his idea to produce wines using certain AVA's (American Viticultural Area) that would clearly define the origin and varietal without having to pay the price for vineyard-designate wines. It was very insightful and was meant to introduce consumers into specific flavors and tastes."

A year later, the Millers hired Wes Hagen to come aboard J. Wilkes Wines as winemaker, spokesman and brand ambassador. The family gave Hagen free reign to bring the winery's production up to a level they considered acceptable.

In the ensuing four years, J. Wilkes Wines has grown to an impressive 7,000-case level with an eye to significantly increase that number. "We hope to grow J. Wilkes Wines to between 30 and 50 thousand cases in another ten years," Nicholas Miller confided. "And, we intend to remain true to Jeff Wilkes' original viewpoint on how the wines would be developed."

J. Wilkes Wines has also recently opened a tasting facility in Los Olivos that has greatly increased its exposure. "People really identify with Jeff's story," Miller concluded. "He was really a wonderful person and would be extremely gratified that so many are happy with his concept." A Hollywood ending to the story, to be sure.

Wes Hagen, Winemaker

Winemaker Wes Hagen brings an analytical and thoughtful approach to winemaking. A former English teacher, Wes received his viticultural and winemaking degree from the iconic University of California, Davis and has since been an award-winning winemaker on California's Central Coast. His small-lot wines have earned him many 90+ scores from Wine Spectator, Robert Parter, and Decanter magazine, in addition to an incredible array of medals from local and national wine competitions. In 2013, Michael Cervin (of Wall Street Journal and Decanter) rated Wes Hagen as One of the 100 Most Influential Winemakers in the United States.

Wes describes his winemaking style as clean and balanced, showing the place and the vintage. For J. Wilkes Wines, an AVA-based brand, Wes is able to source fruit from the best vineyards on the Central Coast to make wines that represent the place, the *terroir*, at an amazing value.



Featured Gold Club Wines



J. Wilkes 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon

Paso Robles Highlands District

Crafted of 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Lagrein, the J. Wilkes 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon comes from the esteemed Paso Robles Highlands District on California's Central Coast. On the nose, look for classic aromas of blackberry, juicy cassis, ripe plum, and hints of toasted oak, violets and cocoa. The palate offers well-integrated flavors of ripe blackberry, dark-roasted coffee and chocolate with fine tannins and a long, fruit-filled finish. Try pairing the J. Wilkes 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon with Tri-tip barbecue with BBQ beans and garlic bread. Aged 14 months in oak. Enjoy!

92 POINTS - *The Tasting Panel*



Food Pairing:
SANTA MARIA STYLE
TRI TIP

GoldMedalWineClub.com/Recipes



J. Wilkes 2018 Chardonnay

Santa Maria Valley

The cool-climate Santa Maria Valley is known for growing top-notch Chardonnay with plenty of complexity and elegance. J. Wilkes' 2018 Chardonnay opens with aromas of lime blossom, green apple, browned butter, ripe pear and hints of clean ocean air. On the palate, concentrated fruit is balanced by fresh minerality that leads into a lively and bright finish. 2018 was one of the longest, coolest growing seasons in Santa Maria Valley in almost a decade, which allowed this wine to be both restrained and incredibly flavorful. Try pairing the J. Wilkes 2018 Chardonnay with shrimp tempura. Aged 8 months in oak. 98.5% Chardonnay, 1.5% Pinot Blanc. Enjoy!

GOLD MEDAL SPECIAL SELECTION



Food Pairing:
SHRIMP
TEMPURA

GoldMedalWineClub.com/Recipes

HOW WE CHOOSE OUR WINES:

Gold Medal Wine Club showcases exceptional wines from only the best small wineries of California. Featured wines include those which have earned medals in the top wine-industry competitions or have been highly rated by a respected national wine publication (see goldmedalwineclub.com/resources/wine-ratings). On occasion, we feature wines which are newly released by the winery and which medals and reviews are forthcoming. Each and every selection is a superb wine made in small quantities and with very limited distribution. There are over 4,000 wineries in California producing thousands of different wines. Only wines fitting the above criteria are considered in choosing the featured selections each month.

Add a Plus! Bottle to your next wine delivery

\$18-\$22 per delivery

The Plus! Program automatically adds on one special wine to each regularly scheduled wine delivery, or as often as you like! Plus! wines are all highly-rated, very small production wines with availability too limited for all regular club members to receive. For more information, visit: GoldMedalWineClub.com/plus

*Gold Plus! wines have very limited availability so this specific selection may be substituted with another great wine.

**Gold Plus!
Featured Wine:**

**Carucci 2015 Grenache,
Santa Maria Valley***

92 Points
- *Wine Enthusiast magazine*

120 Cases Produced





Wine Winyard: Test Your Wine IQ



1. From where do the varietals, Barbera and Lagrein originate?

Lagrein (pronounced *lah-grine*) is an ancient grape variety native to the small wine region of Sudtirolo-Alto Adige, which is located at the very northern tip of Italy on the border of Austria and at the base of the Dolomites. The varietal is related to Syrah and Pinot Noir and produces wines that are surprisingly dark, bold and plummy, but also lighter on the palate than its inky color implies. Like most Italian wines, Lagrein is high in acidity and minerality, which keeps the wine vibrant, fresh, and excellent with food. Lagrein's typical flavor profile is of blackberries and black cherries with hints of wild herbs and river stones. There are currently only a handful of Lagrein plantings in California. Also from Northern Italy, Barbera originated in Piedmont and it is suspected that the varietal dates as far back as the 7th century (making it nearly 1,000 years older than Cabernet Sauvignon). Barbera is the third most planted grape in all of Italy and produces some of the juiciest, most food-friendly wines. It can range in style from fresh and light to full-bodied and elegant with incredible age-ability. Barbera was reportedly first brought to California in the 1880's, and it has since earned many devotees among California wine connoisseurs.

2. What is a diurnal temperature swing and how does it affect Paso Robles' grapes?

Paso Robles has always been known for its heat; average temperatures during the summer growing season can push 105 degrees during the day, but did you know the nighttime temperatures in the region can drop by 40 to 55 degrees? This is what experts refer to as a diurnal shift and Paso Robles has one of the highest diurnal shifts - if not the highest - of any AVA in the United States. This is what makes Paso Robles unique. The grapes are thus allowed to achieved power and full ripeness (with the high daytime heat), but the ripening rate is slowed with the colder nighttime temperatures, which allows flavors to slowly develop while also maintaining high acidity levels - more simply, it allows big, bold wines to also have balance and finesse that cannot be attained in unremittingly hot areas like the Central Valley.

3. Where is the Paso Robles Highlands District located?

The Paso Robles Highlands District is very remote, located in the very southeastern corner of the encompassing Paso Robles AVA. It's not an easy place to get to and few winery tasting rooms operate here, but it is an excellent location to grow warm-climate loving grapes like Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel and Petite Sirah.

Gold Medal Wine Store



INSTANT Membership Rewards Pricing*

Save 24% to 43% off Winery Retail Prices

J. WILKES	Winery Retail Price	Gold Medal Membership Rewards Pricing*			
		2+ btls.	6+ btls.	12+ btls.	
2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Paso Robles Highlands District	\$30.00/btl.	2-Bottle Members:	\$21.00	\$19.33	\$18.50
		4-Bottle Members:	\$21.00	\$18.50	\$17.25
2018 Chardonnay, Santa Maria Valley	\$25.00/btl.	2-Bottle Members:	\$19.00	\$17.33	\$16.50
		4-Bottle Members:	\$19.00	\$16.50	\$15.25

*Effective per bottle prices after Membership Rewards discount is applied at checkout. Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included in above prices. Membership Rewards does not apply to Sale or Special-Offer Wines.