



## Diamond Series



### Bacio Divino Cellars

By even the sophisticated standards of Napa Valley, Claus Janzen is a most unique asset to the valley's wine community.

Born in Germany, Claus and his family moved to Canada in his infancy. Claus attended school in Canada and immediately after college moved to Switzerland where he worked in a number of high caliber hotels. During his stint as an hotelier, Claus became interested in wines, and in particular the great Burgundies and Rhônes of France.

After moving back to Canada, he eventually received the equivalent of a master's degree in business. Next, Janzen entered the family real estate business in Winnipeg, where he spent a number of years. The city asserted itself as a perfect setting for Janzen's continuing interest in wines and great food. His experience in Europe and his natural palate made him a serious oenophile and eventually the top wine taster throughout all of Canada.

During all this time, Janzen continued his periodic visits back to Europe and to his favorite wine regions in France. He became particularly enamored with developments in Southeastern France where a close friend had produced the first Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah blend that was to astound wine critics everywhere and have an important affect on Claus Janzen's upcoming wine career.

Sometime in the mid to late 1980s, Janzen and his family were introduced to Napa Valley. Napa compared favorably to the bucolic French countryside the Janzens loved and the decision was made to move to Napa. Janzen was soon introduced to Caymus Vineyards' owner Chuck Wagner, and a marvelous friendship quickly ensued.

"I was invited to be able to take part in the 1988 harvest at Caymus," explained Janzen, "but, I must say it was absolutely the hardest work I had ever experienced.

I had been around a number of harvests in France, but actually working one made it all come together."

Janzen credits Wagner and his late father Charlie Wagner with providing him in 1994 with the opportunity to establish him in the wine industry. Wagner offered Janzen a job in helping to launch Caymus' international marketing and reputation. Janzen quickly agreed and spent the next eleven years in Caymus' employ.

About a year into the working relationship, Chuck Wagner asked Janzen what he wanted to do with his life. When Janzen implied he wanted to start a winery, Chuck Wagner was eager to help his friend as long as the new entity didn't compete directly with Caymus.

"We actually took some Sangiovese that had been blended with Petit Syrah and started the process," Janzen added. "When I also added some additional Cabernet Sauvignon in a manner that was similar to what I had seen in France, the actual groundwork for the first Bacio Divino wines was laid."

Utilizing his marketing skills, Janzen opted for an Italian name with a cache that he felt would ensure acceptance. Bacio Divino is literally "Divine Kiss" in Italian; a synonym for the experience the blend of grapes has on the palate of anyone tasting the wine.

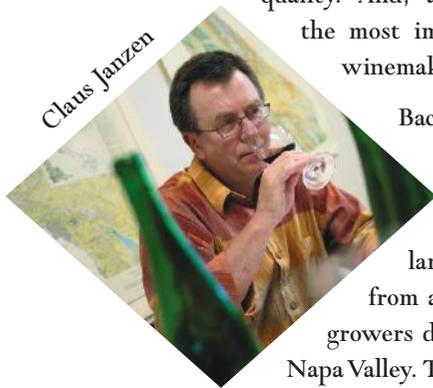
Bacio Divino Cellars began with only 800 cases for its initial release in 1993, and the number has grown slowly to its present level of around 4,000 cases. Once more, Claus Janzen has no intention of increasing production.

"I am completely satisfied with the static level our winery enjoys at present," he stated. "At this present level I can completely control everything I need to insure complete



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quality. And, after all, isn't that the most important aspect any winemaker can demand?"

Bacio Divino owns a ten-acre parcel in Henry Canyon and also buys a relatively large amount of grapes from another fifteen or so growers dispersed throughout Napa Valley. This accessibility to a wide selection of grapes and differing

soils and climates allows Janzen to pick and choose the fruit he wants to utilize for his wines.

Janzen also credits another Napa Valley icon, Bill Smith, former owner of La Jota Vineyards and Winery with being instrumental in his early winemaking decisions. "Whenever I had a question as to good or bad, Bill was there to help," finalized Janzen.

Bacio Divino has now grown to include four wine labels, including Pazzo (a Sangiovese/Cabernet Sauvignon blend), Vagabond (an old world styled Syrah and Petite Sirah), Janzen (vineyard-designate, small-lot Cabernets), and Lucie, the newest addition, and name for Bacio Divino's Russian River Pinot Noir.

Janzen and his wife Diane are nearing the twentieth anniversary of Bacio Divino Cellars, and continue to enjoy the critical accolades and marvelous ratings awarded by the wine community.

## Accolades and Tasting Notes

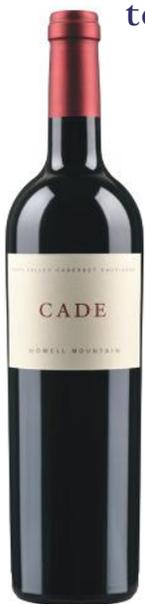
### Bacio Divino 2008 Janzen 'Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Vineyard' Cabernet Sauvignon

**93-Points, Cellar Selection, *Wine Enthusiast*** — "A wine to cellar. With powerful tannins and near perfect balance, it's extraordinarily ripe and rich in blackberries and currants, with hints of minerals and spices. Very dry, it feels vital from the first taste to the long finish. The vineyard is north of Yountville, which puts it in a cooler area. Should develop bottle complexity over the next decade."

**92-Points, *Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar*** — "Saturated ruby-red. Complex, deep aromas of cassis, espresso, graphite and violet. Suave and savory, with enticing floral lift to the cassis and black cherry flavors. There's a chocolate richness here like the other 2008 Janzen Cabernets display but this wine is finer-grained and more perfumed. The energetic, mouthcoating, long finish features smooth tannins and a light touch for a wine with 15% alcohol."

**Winemaker Notes** — Sweet, succulent blackberry flavors, suffused with notes of vanilla and hints of earth. The palate is moderately robust at this early age, yet the tannins are exceptionally balanced allowing early consumption.

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## Reorder

Often named the benchmark for Napa Valley Cabs, Janzen's vineyard-designate Cabernet Sauvignons are luscious, terrior-driven exemplars of Napa's noble grape. The Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Vineyard bottling is the latest to join the Janzen family of wines, beautifully showing the essence and singular character of this exceptional vineyard. 2008 is the inaugural vintage, setting the bar remarkably high with its competitive scores. Just 190 cases produced.

Winery Direct: \$100.00

**Diamond Series Price:**

2-Bottle Members.....\$85.00 / bottle

4-Bottle Members &

Multi-Series Members...\$80.00 / bottle

(Plus shipping)

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