



Platinum Plus!

Joseph Jewell | 2016 Zinfandel Grist Vineyard, Dry Creek Valley

This month's *Platinum Plus!* feature comes from Joseph Jewell, a duo of young, garage-style winemakers specializing in single-vineyard wines from Sonoma and Humboldt Counties. Founded by Micah Wirth and Adrian Manspeaker in 2006, Joseph Jewell Wines may have started in a small garage in Windsor, California, but today the ultra-boutique winery has an award-winning reputation and stands as one of the crown jewels (no pun intended) of Sonoma wine country.

Micah Wirth is the fourth generation in a family of wine producers. His father was the winemaker at Sonoma's Preston Vineyards, and starting at the age of 8, Micah would accompany him to work where he anxiously learned the basics of winemaking. Once he was old enough, Micah enrolled in enology classes at the heralded UC Davis campus, which only fueled his passion. After graduating and working a number of grueling 15-hour days at harvest internships, he landed a winemaking position at Gary Farrell Winery. Over the next seven years, Micah worked his way up to Cellar Master and gained the ambition he needed to start his own label.

In 2006, Micah teamed up with friend Adrian Manspeaker and founded *Joseph Jewell*. Adrian worked in construction with a business background, but he was always fascinated by winemaking and jumped at the chance to join the industry. The winery name, Joseph Jewell, is a combination of the duo's middle names (Micah *Joseph* Wirth and Adrian *Jewell* Manspeaker) and the coat of arms on the wine label depicts a mystical dragon that represents both of their Scottish heritages.

Since starting out, Micah and Adrian have remained dedicated to their original winery vision of crafting vineyard designated wines from Sonoma and Humboldt Counties. They seek out growers who use sustainable farming practices and work closely with the property owners to monitor the fruit's progress and the distinctive character of the sites. Grist Vineyard, the source for this month's featured wine, rests majestically at 1,000 feet above sea level at the top of Bradford Mountain in Sonoma County, and it consistently produces award-winning Zinfandel. Joseph Jewell is one of the few wineries with access to Grist Vineyard and they strive to craft Zinfandels with brilliant expressions of the special site.

Micah and Adrian still serve as the sole employees and co-winemakers of Joseph Jewell and currently produce single-vineyard Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and a Rose of Pinot Noir. With a number of prestigious awards already to their name, they look forward to a promising future while building the growing Joseph Jewell brand.



Accolades & Tasting Notes

94 POINTS - *Wine & Spirits*

93 POINTS - *Wine Enthusiast magazine*

The Joseph Jewell 2016 Grist Vineyard Zinfandel is perfectly described as where power and elegance meet - a culmination of delicious bramble fruits, spicy aromas, and a soft, full mouthfeel that is sure to please. On the nose, aromas of raspberry, cranberry and clove, which just a touch of mesquite, awaken the senses, while the palate is equally alluring with full bodied flavors of red plum, brambly dark fruit and hints of cinnamon. Aged 18 months in oak. 100% Zinfandel. Enjoy!



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