



Platinum Wine Club

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

Kukeri Wines | Napa Valley

It is doubtful that anyone in the California wine industry has a more colorful background than the owner of Kukeri Wines, one Petar Kirilov.

Kirilov, 38 is Bulgarian by birth and holds a master's degree in winemaking (2002) from Bulgaria's premier vinification school, the University of Food Technologies located in the City of Plovdiv.

The following year (2003), California beckoned to Kirilov and the young entrepreneur jumped at the chance and landed in the hallowed grounds of Napa Valley. He was able to secure an internship with the venerable Truchard Vineyards that lasted the next two years. Another opportunity allowed Kirilov the chance to join the high-tech wine company Vinovation, Inc. in Sebastopol, Sonoma County. This job involved a number of research and development projects and was followed by winemaker positions at Meadowcroft Wines (Sonoma) and Foyt Family Wines (Napa and Sonoma).

Fast forward to 2013, and Petar Kirilov decided to venture on his own and the first Kukeri Wines officially saw the light of day.

"I had grown up in a small Bulgarian town and my family had always made wine like many other families in the area," Kirilov recalled. "There was no modern equipment and some of the vintages were better than others. I learned how to make wine at a very early age and have always considered wine to be in my blood."

His numerous successes with Meadowcroft's wine portfolio caused him to think about his own wine label.

"I wanted to do something to honor my native country and tell people about our history and culture," he continued. "I had access to some of the marvelous fruit from Mt. Veeder that I feel produces some of the finest Cabernet Sauvignon in Napa Valley. I started in 2010 and was finally able to release my first wines (50 cases) in 2013. The Mt. Veeder fruit is so strong and intense that the wine needed 30 to 36 months in wood to develop."

The story behind the name 'Kukeri' is worth telling. Kukeri refers to a traditional Bulgarian

pagan ritual that originated as far back as 8,000 years ago to the ancient Thracians. The ritual centered on the God Dionysus who was always associated with wine, fertility and rebirth. It was performed between Christmas and Lent by costumed men who walked around and danced to scare away evil spirits as well as to provide a good harvest, health, fertility and happiness. Kukeri is performed by single men as a way of ending the old year and beginning the new while awakening nature for new life.

During the Kukeri ritual, colorful costumes cover most of the body and include decorated masks of animals and large bells are attached to the belt. The masks are scary in nature and imply a protection from the harmful influence of impure powers. The dance moves in special rhythmic steps and the dancers fill the air with sounds of bells and whispered blessings for prosperity. All activity is done at night so as to negate the sun's presence during the day.

The labels for Kukeri wines feature this fierce and animalistic mask, which has also become the logo for the winery. "I wanted to show everyone just how fantastic this aspect of my Bulgarian culture is," added Petar Kirilov. "I know the wine inside the bottle is really fine and I wanted to tell the great story of our culture to compliment the wine."

This year, Kukeri Wines will produce between 500 and 1,000 cases of Cabernet Sauvignon, a Proprietary Red Blend, and Pinot Noir. This is a level Kirilov feels is in keeping with his idea of quality.

"If I remain small, I can control everything. Quality means everything to me and I am happy being a boutique winery. There is some opportunity to grow Kukeri Wines, but it will be gradual when it occurs."

Petar Kirilov is one of a handful of Bulgarians that are involved in the California wine industry and we salute him on his outstanding accomplishments and the unbridled success of his impressive wines.

We hope you enjoy this fantastic and rare 100-Point rated Cabernet Sauvignon from Kukeri Wines. Cheers!



Kukeri | 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Stags Leap District, Napa Valley



**100 POINTS
+ BEST OF CLASS
+ DOUBLE
GOLD MEDAL**
— *Sunset Intl. Wine Competition*

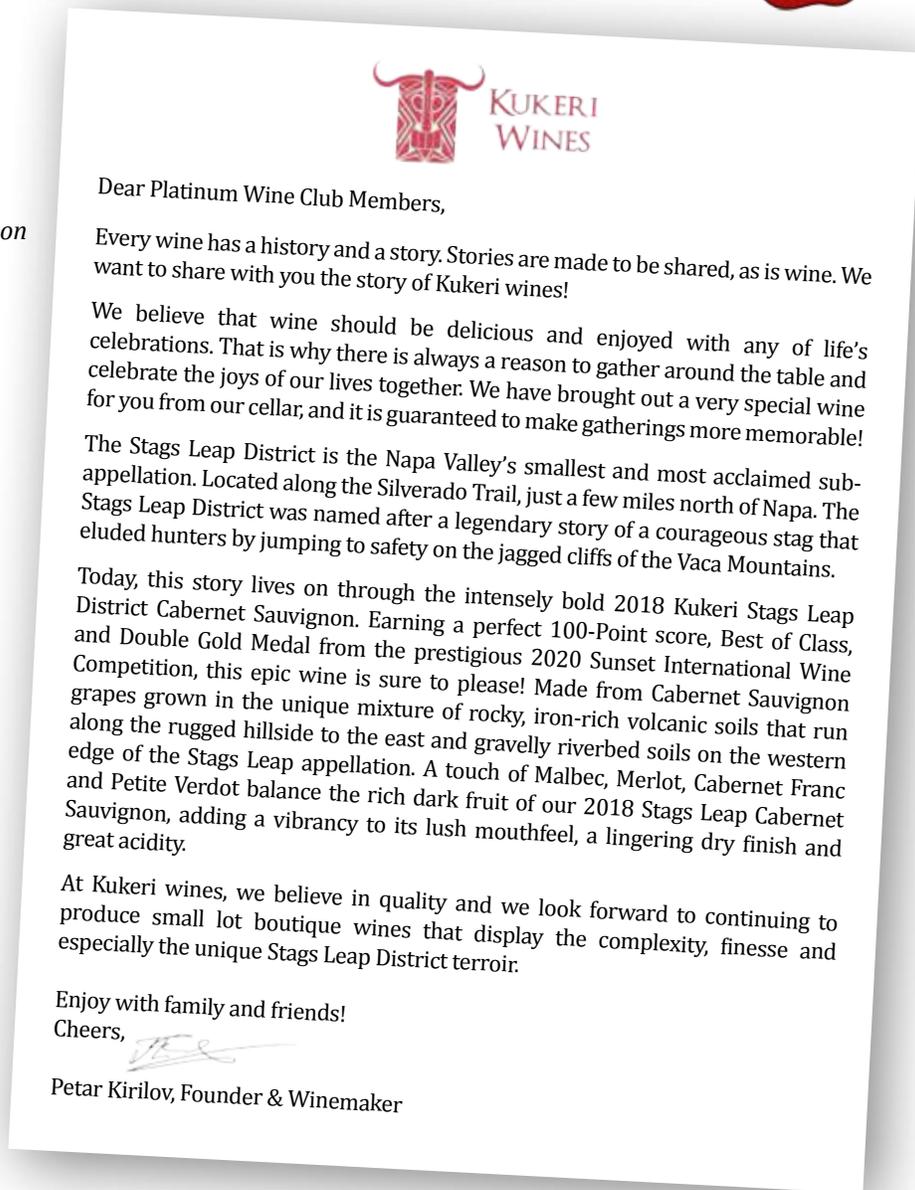
290 cases produced

The Kukeri 2018 Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignon is bold and beautifully colored with aromas of dark berries, cassis, roasted espresso beans and subtle sensations of allspice, mineral and cigar box. On the palate, the rich and concentrated flavors of ripe blackberry, dark cherry, ripe plum, fresh mountain herbs and savory spices are in perfect harmony with the rich, velvety texture, firm tannins, well-integrated structure, and long, dry finish. This Cabernet Sauvignon is a perfect accompaniment to any grilled meat dish. Aged 18 months in French oak. 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3,6% Malbec, 2.8% Merlot, 2.1% Petit Verdot, and 1.5% Cabernet Franc. Enjoy!



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Winery Retail Price \$85.00/btl.	2+ btls.	6+ btls.	12+ btls.
2-Bottle Members:	\$75.00	\$73.33	\$72.50
4-Bottle Members:	\$75.00	\$72.50	\$71.25



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

**Hill Family 2018
'Like a Hawk' Red Blend
Napa Valley**

90 Points - *Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate*
658 Cases Produced



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