

Pinot Noir Press



LA FOLLETTE WINES

Working with some of Sonoma County's best family-owned vineyards, La Follette Wines produces distinctive, site-driven Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs of premium quality.



It all began thirteen years ago as an attempt to create an ongoing dialogue between a number of select vineyards to showcase two of California's premier grape varieties, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

California's North Coast growing region was chosen as the major grape source for La Follette Wines' initial release due to its incredible assortment of growing areas and the diversity of climate and soils it offers to the band of farmers that have made the North Coast one of California's premier growing areas.

La Follette Wines is owned by Pete and Terri Kight who also own the well-respected Quivira Vineyards in Sonoma's Dry Creek Valley, as well as the highly acclaimed Torbreck Vintners in Australia's Barossa Valley. Kight is the CEO of electronic bill pay pioneer CheckFree and an avid devotee of fine wines.

The Kights' entrance into the wine industry occurred in the spring of 2006, when they met Henry and Holly Wendt, the founders of Quivira Vineyards. The Kights were captivated by Quivira's location in Dry Creek Valley and the winery's vision to craft better wine through better vineyard management, using biodynamic and organic farming techniques. Since shaking hands and purchasing the winery in the summer of 2006, Pete and Terri have rallied their team around a strong sense of purpose and the mutual understanding of how a

sustainable, holistic approach to growing grapes can yield distinctive wines.

Fast forward a couple years and the Kights established a sister winery to Quivira Vineyards - a partnership with winemaker Greg La Follette. The entity began operations in 2008 and was officially launched in 2010. Thus was the beginning of La Follette Wines.

The winery, which takes its name from the founding winemaker, Greg La Follette, began producing vineyard-designated Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays from some of the most expressive and interesting vineyards in Sonoma and Mendocino County. A total of 5,000 cases were initially released and that number has just slightly increased to the present level of around 7,200 cases.

Greg La Follette is something of a legend in winemaking circles around Sonoma County. While his career began as a musician at 17 (he was the bagpiper for the Queen Mary berthed in Long Beach, California), he always wanted to be a winemaker. He eventually transferred to UC Davis to pursue his dream and was able to complete his post grad work on how Burgundian winemaking techniques affect mouthfeel. That experience fostered an attachment for both Pinot Noir and Chardonnay that affected his entire winemaking career.

For the past fifty years, Greg La Follette has plied his trade as a world *continued on back...*





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class winemaker and has been responsible for wine entities such as Flowers, Alquimista, Steelhead and Tandem to name a few. He has also been named Winemaker of the Year and tagged as the 'Prince of Pinot' by the website of the same name. Throughout the years, awards and accolades have come by the bushel to Greg La Follette and his wines have earned a reputation for both their quality and price/value relationship.

Since La Follette Wines' inception, the company has been an excellent negotiant model for the Northern California wine industry. With no estate vineyards, La Follette has prospered on long-term contracts with growers from a number of highly-rated vineyards. Included are the likes of renowned Sangiacomo Vineyards, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Hawk's Roost Vineyard, Van Der Kamp Vineyard and several others. The grape-growing group represents an outstanding selection of fruit from specific terroirs that reflect the flavors and intensities of each specific site.

La Follette's winemaking team today falls under the leadership of Hugh Chappelle, who brings nearly three decades of experience, including stints at such luminaries as Flowers, Lynmar, and Quivira. His desire to fully embrace the concept of terroir - crafting wines that are true to the vineyard, pure in their expression, and a delight to drink - is reflective of La Follette's philosophy as well.

La Follette Wines is a wonderful story of insight and planning that provides an excellent collection of award-winning wines from high-caliber vineyards. We are proud to present La Follette Wines to our Pinot Noir Wine Club members. Enjoy!

LA FOLLETTE 2017 PINOT NOIR Sangiacomo Roberts Road Vineyard, Sonoma Coast

This beautiful Pinot Noir hails from the famed Sangiacomo Roberts Road Vineyard, located at the base of the eastern foothills of the Sonoma Coast. With bright fruit character, especially dark plum and red cherry, this wine highlights the Petaluma Gap region. A delightful touch of cinnamon stick, dusty earth and roasted marshmallow enlivens the tastebuds and leads into a silky, long finish. Aged 11 months in oak. 100% Pinot Noir. Enjoy!

92 POINTS
- Robert Parker,
The Wine Advocate



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