



Platinum Wine Club

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

Le Vigne Winery | Cuore Della Vigna, Paso Robles

There are two intertwining stories associated with Le Vigne Winery worth reporting.

The first involves the family of Sylvester Feichtinger who purchased property in the Paso Robles growing area in the 1960's – true pioneers of the recently-heralded AVA. The family operated Sylvester Vineyards and Winery, and for a number of years, was considered among the top producers in the region.

The second important aspect involves one Walter Giovanni Filippini, who emigrated from his native Lombardi Region of Italy in 1982. He eventually married his wife Sylvia, who so happens to be Sylvester Feichtinger's daughter.

Filippini was a world-renowned chef and winner of Italy's National Chef Competition who decided to move to New York and was subsequently featured on film producer Dino de Laurentis' food show. He eventually moved to Los Angeles where he worked in several restaurants and met Sylvia. The rest is history.

At some point, Sylvester Feichtinger decided to leave the wine business and passed the winery to Sylvia and Walter. The couple had already developed two successful businesses, Peacock Cheese Distributing Co. and Il Treno Restaurant, and welcomed the additional challenge of taking over the family winery operation.

"In a close family," related Walter Filippini, "you do what you need to do. I had always loved wine in Italy and realized what wine and food combinations could offer the consumer. For me it seemed the natural thing to do."

In 2011, Le Vigne Winery was split off from Sylvester Vineyards and Winery to provide an additional option for the family's more than 143 acres of vineyards.

"When we got an extremely high rating early in Le Vignes' development, a 96 I believe, we were faced with something of a dilemma. When the rating came out, we only had 700 bottles left," chronicled Filippini. "It would have been easy to double the price and sell every bottle, but we decided to keep the same price and only allow one bottle for each customer. We made 700 new friends, and many are still our best customers to this day. We have an extremely loyal following and some of them come to the winery as often as 15-20 times a year."

Walter Filippini believes his company's extensive vineyards are the key to Le Vigne Winery's success. A wide assortment of varietals are planted that allow for a number of interesting varietal combinations.

"Different wines can be paired with a host of creative dishes," Filippini continued. "It's all up to the creativity of the chef. If a chef wants to bring out a certain food feature, he pairs it with a wine that compliments that feature. We do that at the winery all the time and have made a great number of our customers quite happy with some of our events."

The Le Vigne Winery label is another example of family involvement. Filippini's cousin, Daniela Bianchini, produced a pencil drawing that commemorated Filippini's grandparents' 50th anniversary. The scene showed his grandfather, Domenico Filippini, resting after coming down a mountain in Lombardy's steep growing area that borders nearby Switzerland. It is a moving tribute to the family's participation in Italy's storied wine history as well as a salute to the generations of Filippinis that came before.

From its smallish opening release of only 500 cases, today's Le Vigne Winery produces around 5,000 cases.

The winery and tasting facility in Paso Robles is considered a must-stop for everything considered gourmet in the food world. "It's a food adventure all right," admitted Walter Filippini. "It's up to the customer's imagination to seek out the right combinations. We are here to help and guide them in the right direction. We want everyone to leave here happy."

Sylvia Filippini remains active in Le Vigne Winery's business and has a hand in all important decisions the company makes. Walter devotes between 20 and 25% of his time to Le Vigne's efforts and admits to having a ball doing it. "I love what I do, and I love our wines. I'm not sure anyone could ask for anything more."

Le Vigne Winery is another excellent example of the Paso Robles AVA's ascension to the top tier of wine-producing areas that has made it one of California's most acclaimed growing locales.

It is our pleasure to introduce our *Platinum Wine Club* members to this celebrated winery. Enjoy!





**92 POINTS
+ GOLD MEDAL**
— Beverage Testing Institute's
Tasting Wine Review
— International Winemaker's
Challenge

91 POINTS
— Wine Enthusiast

290 cases produced

As a tribute to their Italian heritage, This 2016 Super Tuscan-style Red Blend is a reflection of Italy's grape varietals with the added twist of Paso Robles' unique terroir. This style arose in the 1970's out of rebellion against Italy's strict regulations, which limited winemakers to producing Chianti and stifled their creativity. Thankfully these illegally-made wines found their place in history.

This 2016 Cuore Della Vigna (Heart of the Vineyard) boasts strawberry and ripe cherry scents that evolve to reveal an earthy undertone. Palate-wise, a complex profile of ripe berries, peppery spice, ginger and chocolate laced with caramelized sugar offer a true taste adventure. Excellent balance leads to a marvelous finish that lingers for some time. 63% Sangiovese, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot. Alcohol 14.0%. Aged 21 months in American Oak (17% new).

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4-Bottle Members:	\$38.00	\$35.50	\$34.25



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**This month's Platinum Plus!
Featured Wine:
Keller Estate, 2016 Pinot Noir
La Cruz Vineyard,
Sonoma Coast AVA**
91 Points - *WineSpectator.com*
410 Cases Produced



Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included in above prices.

*Effective per bottle prices after Membership Rewards discount is applied at checkout. Membership Rewards does not apply to Sale or Special-Offer Wines.