



Gold Plus!

LE VIGNE WINERY
2017 PETITE SIRAH

Domenico Estate Vineyard, Paso Robles



This month's featured *Gold Plus!* winery, Le Vigne Winery of Paso Robles, California, is unique in that it has two intertwining stories that are worth reporting to give the full picture.

The first involves the family of Sylvester Feichtinger who purchased property in the Paso Robles growing area in the 1960's. They were 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.

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, which Walter believes are the key to the winery's success. A wide assortment of varietals are planted that allow for a number of interesting varietal combinations.

The Le Vigne Winery label is another interesting story and an 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 and operates a stunning winery and tasting facility in Paso Robles. 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 *Gold Plus! Wine Club* members to this celebrated winery.

Accolades and Tasting Notes

Gold Medal Special Selection

Produced from the Domenico Estate Vineyard in Paso Robles, the Le Vigne 2017 Petite Sirah opens with pronounced aromas of dark berries with subtle hints of sweet spices from American oak. On the palate, saturated flavors of dried fig, cacao and all spice complement the grippy and up-front tannins that are packed with flavor and texture and lead into a lasting finish. Aged 22 months in oak. 100% Petite Sirah. Enjoy!



YOU SAVE 15% - 29% off the winery retail price!

Gold Medal Membership Rewards Pricing:*

Membership Level	Retail Price at Winery	Number of Bottles Ordered:		
		2+	6+	12+
2-Btl. Members:	\$27.00	\$23.00	\$21.33	\$20.50
4-Btl. Members:		\$23.00	\$20.50	\$19.25

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