



# Garagiste SERIES

[gar-uh-zheest'] noun - A French term used to describe independent, artisan winemakers crafting small batches of wine in garage-type settings and not yet discovered by the mainstream.

## Levo Wines

Owner/Winemaker: Bret Urness

Location: Paso Robles, California

Thank goodness Bret Urness (Urr-ness) isn't fazed by rejection. After applying to most universities offering studies in viticulture and winemaking (UC Davis, Fresno State, and several others) he decided to head to Portugal in 2011 to learn the wine business from the bottom up.



Urness, now a sage 26-year-old, made the most of his time abroad and returned to his native Idaho and secured a job in a small winery. His father is credited with his early interest in wine that has today become his passionate avocation.

After stints at several wineries, (comprising about every job possible), the youthful entrepreneur of Norwegian descent decided to try it on his own and LEVO Wines is the result.

For the record, LEVO evolves from the Latin word lev that means 'rise' as well as being the base word for leverage, levitate, lever, etc. LEVO Wines is Bret Urness' reference to Eagle, Idaho, his home town where he initially developed his passion for wine.

In 2011, he located his winery to Tin City, an industrial part of Paso Robles and made his first release (204 cases) in 2012. Our Garagiste featured wine is LEVO Wines' third release.

LEVO Wines has experienced some incredible results in its relatively brief existence, a fact that pleased its owner immensely. "We are definitely underdogs," he remarked recently. "We set out to make a beverage that can be viewed as an art. We want our wines to be more than a product, similar to a familiar friend that you can sit down and get to know. We want our wines to tell a story, and possess both personality and soul. The support that consumers have expressed thus far is most humbling."

LEVO Wines' Spot label is of Urness' own design, a unique example of bubbles on a blackened background, a tribute to its owner's (and only employee) artistic side.

## Levo 2014 "Spot" Syrah

White Hawk Vineyard, Los Alamos, Santa Barbara County AVA, California

204 Cases Produced.

Bret credits the vineyard with his winery's success. His "Spot" signifies a special growing place, with vines that are south facing. Located at 900 feet above sea level, the soils are composed of ancient marina sand (that was once a beach of sorts) that offers excellent drainage. The juice is highly concentrated that is then fermented in small bins, half new oak and half used. Urness adheres to traditional winemaking techniques that he feels make his wines special. He calls his wine a "chameleon" that changes as it stands open for a longer time. Enjoy violets, and fresh black and blue fruit with savory meat qualities in the background. 100% Syrah. Enjoy now until 2024.

Gold Medal Wine Club Price: \$36.00 / bottle

To Order, Visit the Wine Store at [GoldMedalWineClub.com](http://GoldMedalWineClub.com)

or Call 1-800-266-8888

\*2 bottle min. per wine, per order. Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included. Call for details.

