



The Wine Press

Medal Winning Wines from California's Best Family-Owned Wineries.

LUCAS & LEWELLEN VINEYARDS
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards

One of Santa Barbara County's most reputable family wineries, Lucas & Lewellen crafts wines of exceptional quality and value from their three premium estate vineyards.



Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards came into existence when two old friends decided they wanted to get into the winery business in the right way. Long-time Central Coast grower Louis Lucas and retired Judge Royce Lewellen were both members of the Santa Maria Wine and Food Society as well as the local Rotary Club and had known each other for more than twenty years when they decided to make the move in 1996. Over lunch, Louis Lucas approached Judge Lewellen about possibly selling one of his proven vineyards, but a deal was struck where Lewellen bought a fifty percent interest in both Lucas Brothers Vineyards - if Lucas would continue to farm them. Two years later, the entity bought another top area vineyard and became a major supplier to numerous wineries throughout California.

Louis Lucas had prior experience with the winery side of the business when he was involved with Tepusquet Vineyards (during the 1970's, when it produced 75,000 cases), and when grape sales softened in the late 1990's, a decision was made to enter the vintner side of the wine industry. The first Lucas and Lewellen wines were made in a number of friends' facilities, but the principals knew that to control their destiny, a new winery was necessary.

The winery, built in nearby Buellton, was completed in 2002 and encompasses more than 20,000 square feet. The equipment there is state of the art and allows for Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards' penchant for producing an unusual number of varietals under its three winery labels (Lucas & Lewellen, Toccata, and Queen of Hearts). In fact, a review of the entire portfolio shows that most of the top varietals are represented at Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards.

Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards' first release was a smallish 400 cases that was overseen by noted winemaker Jed Steele, a level that has now expanded to around the 22,000 case level.

Co-owner Louis Lucas feels the winery is set for some incredible growth in the upcoming years. "Right now, we still sell almost half of our grapes to other wineries," he explained. "With the great reputation of our grapes and the skill of our winemaker, Megan McGrath Gates, we could easily grow to three, four, or even five times our present production levels."

The winery also operates a pair of tasting rooms in the Danish-inspired village of Solvang, also home to one of the company's premier vineyards known as Valley View Vineyard. One tasting room is devoted to Lucas & Lewellen wines and the other showcases the company's line of Italian varietal wines under the Toccata label.

Since inception, Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards has striven to produce sound, affordable wines that offer good price/value relationships. The company has developed a fierce and loyal following and is something of a legend with Central Coast locals. Sadly, Royce Lewellen passed away in 2020, but he leaves behind an incredible legacy that has had a major impact on Santa Barbara County as a whole. His efforts and achievements will continue to be celebrated with each vintage of Lucas & Lewellen wine. We are happy to share two of the winery's latest offerings. Enjoy!

Megan McGrath Gates, Winemaker

Eighth generation Californian, Megan McGrath Gates is winemaker for Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards and possesses outstanding credentials for her all-important job. A graduate of nearby Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, McGrath also holds a winemaking certificate from prestigious UC Davis. She gained valuable experience in Sonoma Valley with Cahill Winery in Sebastopol and also Flowers Vineyard and Winery on the Sonoma Coast. Gates has worked with almost all varietals in her present role and was promoted from within in 2006 after former winemaker Daniel Gehrs left to establish his own winery. Although a classical winemaker, she utilizes several state-of-the-art techniques in formulating the wines for Lucas and Lewellen. She prefers not to classify her philosophy as either Old World or New World, explaining, "I believe in balanced wines with all components married together so that layers of complexity are allowed to unfold."





Featured Gold Club Wines



Lucas & Lewellen 2018 'Estate Vineyards' Merlot, Santa Barbara County 350 Cases Produced

Grown using sustainable farming methods, the Lucas & Lewellen 'Estate Vineyards' Merlot comes from the winery's Los Alamos Valley Vineyard in Santa Barbara County. The wine is rich and classically structured, comprised of 98.5% Merlot and 1.5% Cabernet Franc. On the nose, notes of aromatic black cherry, leather, earth and spicy vanilla oak dominate, while the palate is defined by its soft tannins, velvety texture, and lingering finish. Aged 21 months in French oak. 100% Merlot. Enjoy!

GOLD MEDAL SPECIAL SELECTION



Food Pairing:
CROATIAN COUNTRY
LAMB PEKA

GoldMedalWineClub.com/Recipes



Lucas & Lewellen 2020 'Estate Vineyards' White Blend, Santa Barbara County 226 Cases Produced

A blend of 40% Riesling, 40% Muscat Canelli and 20% Gewurtztraminer, the Lucas & Lewellen 2020 'Estate Vineyards' White Blend comes from the Los Alamos Valley Vineyard. This sustainably grown vineyard stretches for over a mile of Highway 101 frontage just south of the town of Los Alamos and is home to over twenty different varieties of grapes (including the principle varieties from Rhône, Burgundy and Bordeaux). The 2020 White Blend is a beautiful, aromatic dry wine with pretty floral and exotic citrus notes, an elegant base, and a solid structure that leads into a fruity finish. Enjoy!

GOLD MEDAL SPECIAL SELECTION



Food Pairing:
BAKED PETRALE SOLE
WITH ASPARAGUS

GoldMedalWineClub.com/Recipes

HOW WE CHOOSE OUR WINES:

Gold Medal Wine Club showcases exceptional wines from only the best small wineries of California. Featured wines include those which have earned medals in the top wine-industry competitions or have been highly rated by a respected national wine publication (see goldmedalwineclub.com/resources/wine-ratings). On occasion, we feature wines which are newly released by the winery and which medals and reviews are forthcoming. Each and every selection is a superb wine made in small quantities and with very limited distribution. There are over 4,000 wineries in California producing thousands of different wines. Only wines fitting the above criteria are considered in choosing the featured selections each month.

Add a *Plus!* Bottle to your next wine delivery

\$18-\$22 per delivery

The *Plus!* Program automatically adds on one special wine to each regularly scheduled wine delivery, or as often as you like! *Plus!* wines are all highly-rated, very small production wines with availability too limited for all regular club members to receive. For more information, visit: GoldMedalWineClub.com/plus

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

Mastro Scheidt Family Cellars
2018 Cabernet Sauvignon,
Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County

Gold Medal Special Selection

100 Cases Produced



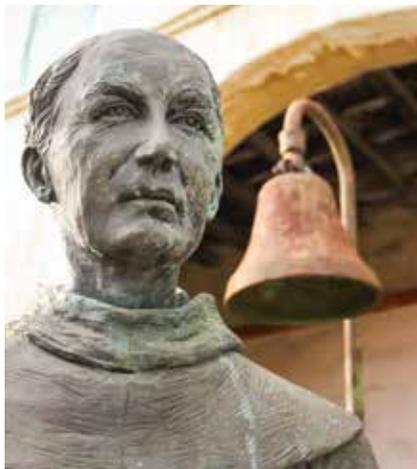


Wine Wizard: Test Your Wine IQ



1. When were the first wine grapes planted in Santa Barbara County?

Father Junipero Serra is credited with introducing grape vines to the Santa Barbara region back in 1782, making Santa Barbara one of the oldest wine-producing areas in California! Legend has it that Father Junipero Serra brought vine cuttings to Santa Barbara from Mexico that were a direct descendant of the vines brought over by conquistador Hernán Cortés.



2. What makes the Santa Barbara wine growing region unique from other AVA's in California?

There is a geographic anomaly in Santa Barbara that traces back to five million years ago. At the time, tectonic activity thrust up a huge part of the land, rotated it, and created the transverse mountain ranges we see in Santa Barbara today. Here, the mountains run east to west, which is unlike the rest of California where the mountains are parallel to the coastline in a north to south direction. This topographical feature creates wind tunnels, which enable cool air to flow from the Pacific Ocean into the valleys of Santa Barbara County, keeping the temperatures moderate during the day and cool at night. The Pacific Ocean also creates morning fog that cools and protects the grapes in the vineyards, which leads to extremely long growing seasons.



3. How many AVA's are within Santa Barbara County?

At around 3,730 square miles in size, Santa Barbara wine country is home to six official AVA's (American Viticultural Areas). These include Santa Maria Valley, Santa Ynez Valley, Sta. Rita Hills, Happy Canyon, Ballard Canyon and Los Olivos District. The distance between the grape-growing areas and the cooling effects of the Pacific Ocean is a key factor that shapes the characteristics of each AVA. The western areas are cooler, while the eastern regions are warmer. Grapes also show considerable vineyard-to-vineyard variation within each AVA, cut to the unique topography, soil types, and climatic diversity. Elevation also plays a role with the distinction between each AVA and the variety of grapes planted - the highest vineyard in Santa Barbara wine country sits at an astounding 3,000 feet above sea level!

Gold Medal Wine Store



INSTANT Membership Rewards Pricing*

Save 29% to 45% off Winery Retail Prices

| LUCAS & LEWELLEN | Winery Retail Price | | Gold Medal Membership Rewards Pricing* | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|--|----------|-----------|
| | | | 2+ btls. | 6+ btls. | 12+ btls. |
| 2018 'Estate Vineyards' Merlot, Santa Barbara County, California | \$34.00/btl. | 2-Bottle Members: | \$23.95 | \$22.28 | \$21.45 |
| | | 4-Bottle Members: | \$23.95 | \$21.45 | \$20.20 |
| 2018 'Estate Vineyards' White Blend, Santa Barbara County, California | \$24.00/btl. | 2-Bottle Members: | \$17.00 | \$15.33 | \$14.50 |
| | | 4-Bottle Members: | \$17.00 | \$14.50 | \$13.25 |

*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 Special-Offer Wines.