



# Platinum Wine Club

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

## Lucie - Bacio Divino Cellars | Napa Valley

Bacio Divino Cellars, one of California's most celebrated wine producers starts an exciting brand called 'Lucie,' based in the Russian River Valley and featuring some of the region's most compelling vineyards.

By even the sophisticated standards of Napa Valley, Claus Janzen is a most unique asset to the valley's wine community. Born in Germany, Janzen and his family moved to Canada in his infancy. Janzen attended school in Canada and immediately after college moved to Switzerland where he worked in a number of high caliber hotels. During his stint as an hotelier, Janzen became interested in wines, and in particular the great Burgundies and Rhônes of France.

After moving back to Canada, he eventually received the equivalent of a Master's degree in business. Next, Janzen entered the family Real Estate business in Winnipeg, where he spent a number of years. The city asserted itself as a perfect setting for Janzen's continuing interest in wines and great food. His experience in Europe and his natural palate made him a serious oenophile and eventually the top wine taster throughout all of Canada.

During all this time, Janzen continued his periodic visits back to Europe and to his favorite wine regions in France. He became particularly enamored with developments in Southeastern France where a close friend had produced the first Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah blend that was to astound wine critics everywhere and have an important affect on Janzen's upcoming wine career.

Sometime in the mid to late 1980's, Janzen and his family were introduced to Napa Valley. Napa compared favorably to the bucolic French countryside the Janzens loved and the decision was made to move to Napa. Janzen was soon introduced to Caymus Vineyards' owner Chuck Wagner, and a marvelous friendship quickly ensued. "I was invited to be able to take part in the 1988 harvest at Caymus," explained Janzen, "but, I must say it was absolutely the hardest work I had ever experienced. I had been around a number of harvests in France, but actually working one made it all come together."

Janzen credits Wagner and his late father Charlie Wagner with providing him in 1994 with the opportunity to establish himself in the wine industry. Wagner offered Janzen a job in helping to launch Caymus' international marketing and reputation. Janzen quickly agreed and spent the next eleven years in Caymus' employ. About a year into the working relationship, Chuck Wagner asked Janzen what he wanted to do with his life. When Janzen implied he wanted to start a winery, Chuck Wagner was eager to help his friend as long as the new entity didn't compete directly with Caymus.

"We actually took some Sangiovese that had been blended with Petite Sirah and started the process," Janzen added. "When I also added some additional Cabernet Sauvignon in a manner that was similar to what I had seen in France, the actual groundwork for the first Bacio Divino wines was laid."

Utilizing his marketing skills, Janzen opted for an Italian name with a cache that he felt would ensure acceptance. Bacio Divino is literally "Divine Kiss" in Italian; a synonym for the experience the blend of grapes has on the palate of anyone tasting the wine. Bacio Divino Cellars began with only 800 cases for its initial release in 1993, and the number has grown slowly to its present level of around 4,000 cases. Bacio Divino owns a ten-acre parcel in Henry Canyon and also buys grapes from another fifteen or so growers dispersed throughout Napa Valley. This accessibility to a wide selection of grapes and differing soils and climates allows Janzen to pick and choose the fruit he wants to utilize for his wines.

Bacio Divino has now grown to include four wine labels, including Pazzo (a Sangiovese/Cabernet Sauvignon blend), Vagabond (an old world styled Syrah and Petite Sirah), Janzen (vineyard-designate, small-lot premium Cabernets), and Lucie, the newest addition, and name for Bacio Divino's Russian River Chardonnay.

Claus and his wife Diane are now celebrating Bacio Divino Cellars' 27th year, and continue to enjoy the critical accolades and marvelous ratings awarded by the wine community.



# BACIO DIVINO CELLARS

Greetings from Napa!

It is an honor to have our 2015 Lucie Dutton Ranch Chardonnay selected for the Platinum Wine Club.

We started harvesting just a few tons of Chardonnay from this very desirable Dutton Ranch Vineyard in Russian River Valley starting in 2012. The loose dirt in the Goldridge soil, and temperate climate influenced by the ocean breeze make this site truly spectacular for Chardonnay vines.

Early is the word that best describes the 2015 vintage-bud break, veraison, harvest were sooner than anticipated. While this vintage produced a lower yield, the overall quality and flavor development of the fruit did not disappoint.

Our 2015 Lucie Chardonnay has 10 months of barrel age, yet is NOT your buttery style of Chardonnay that has become so common. By foregoing malolactic fermentation we've kept evident the wine's clean bright acid. The resulting wine is wonderfully refreshing, layered with complexity and exceptionally food friendly.

Cheers,



Claus Janzen  
Bacio Divino Cellars

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

**Plumpjack  
2014 Syrah**

**96 Points**  
— Robert Parker's  
*Wine Advocate*

## LUCIE | 2015 Chardonnay, Dutton Ranch Vineyards



**94 POINTS**

— Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*

The 2015 Lucie Chardonnay is sourced from Russian River Valley vines that are planted in coveted Dutton Ranch Vineyard's Goldridge sandy loam soil. The fruit was whole-cluster pressed to preserve maximum quality. Plenty of lemon custard, apple blossom, brioche and honeysuckle are present. The longer the wine is open, the more infectious the aroma and flavor becomes. While crisp and clean, it is incredibly rich on the palate. Barrel fermented and aged in Taransaud French oak barrels sur lie for 10 months. 100% Chardonnay. Enjoy now until 2022.

**93 POINTS**

— *Wine Enthusiast*

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