



# Diamond Wine Club

## MATETIC VINEYARDS

*San Antonio Valley, Chile*

Matetic Vineyards came into existence in 1999 when the Matetic family decided to diversify its businesses and invest in a winery operation. The Matetic family is originally from the town of Rijeka (now in modern-day Croatia) and first came to Chile back in 1892. Jorge Matetic, the fourth generation of the family in Chile, had interests in sheep, cattle, farming, and tourist development, and after conducting detailed studies of El Rosario Valley in Chile's San Antonio Valley, decided it had great potential for growing wine grapes. In 1999, the family planted vines on the slopes of this protected environment and not only did they become pioneers in Chilean cool-climate Syrah, but they decided to make their new winery a biodynamic entity, a fact that bears explanation.

One of a small handful of biodynamic wineries, Matetic Vineyards must follow rigid guidelines before its fruit can be certified biodynamic. Simply put, biodynamic farming (relative to grape growing) insures that the principles and practices of biodynamics are based on a spiritual/practical philosophy, called anthroposophy, which includes understanding the ecological, the energetic, and the spiritual in nature.

As a practical method of farming, biodynamics embodies the idea of ever-increasing ecological self-sufficiency just as with modern agro-ecology, but also includes ethical-spiritual considerations. This type of viticulture views the farm as a cohesive, interconnected living system. Involved are the cycles of the moon, exact temperature, and humidity control that makes biodynamic farming a good deal more expensive than regular farming.

When making his decision to go biodynamic, Jorge Matetic noted that a number of the greatest vineyards and wineries had already converted to biodynamic farming. The likes of famed

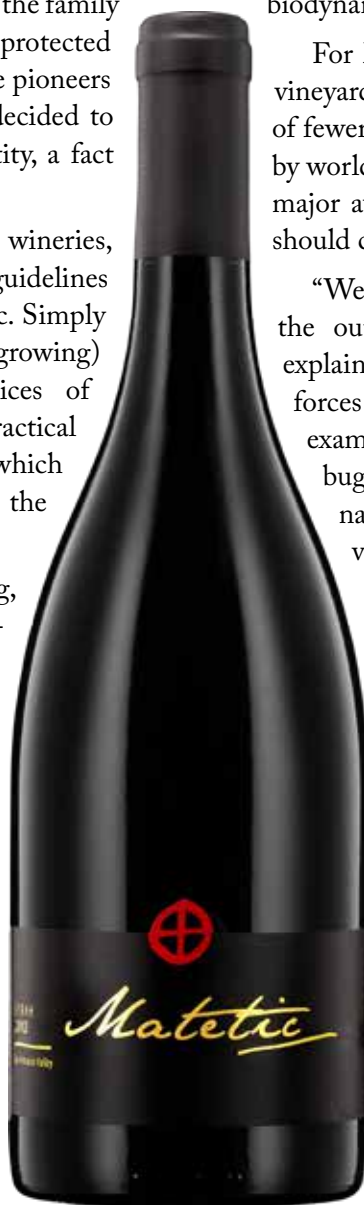
Napa winery Grgich Hills has taken the step along side such notables as Burgundy's Comtes Lafon, Leflaive and perhaps the most revered wine producer on the planet, Domaine de la Romanée Conti. In Alsace, there is Domaine Weinbach, Deiss and Zind-Humbrecht. In the Rhône, it is Chapoutier. In the Loire Valley, there is Coulée de la Serrant, whose owner, Nicolas Joly, could be considered the John the Baptist of the movement. Around the globe, there is tremendous credence to the biodynamic movement.

For Matetic Vineyards, all ninety acres of their vineyards are biodynamic. With a total production of fewer than 3,500 cases, Matetic Vineyards is tiny by world standards. Nevertheless, its wine have won major awards on the international wine scene and should continue to do so for many years to come.

"We chose this path because we love nature and the outdoors," Matetic was recently quoted as explaining. "This system involves harnessing the forces of nature to act with positive energy. For example, if a bug is bad for crops, find another bug to eat it. When you treat the plants that are naturally good, this is evidenced in the vineyard, because when our neighbors are affected by frost, we are not. Moreover, this form of production can get better prices."

Jorge Matetic has built a marvelous, modern wine facility that overlooks the slopes of El Rosario Valley, a sub valley of the larger San Antonio Valley, that lies approximately seventy miles west of the capital of Santiago, near the Pacific Ocean. The winery's modernistic design and agricultural stances fits in well with its selective type of farming and winemaking.

The winemaker for Matetic Vineyards' wines is Julio Bastias, an agronomy engineer from the Universidad de Talca



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JORGE MATETIC,  
PRESIDENT

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who began his professional career at the Universidad in enological research. He has been an assistant winemaker at Vina Viu Manent, Vinedos Organicos Santa Emiliana and Vinedos del Maule. Julio also spent time in California's Napa Valley working as an assistant to Ken Bernards and producing wine for Ancien Wines, Witford Cellars, and Donum Estate. Julio believes in a biodynamic farming practice, one that includes both organic farming elements as well as the philosophy that connects winemaking with nature and the cosmos.

If ever there was a completely thought out winery and vineyards, Matetic Vineyards is most certainly the operation that comes to mind. Helped most assuredly by the entire new wave Chilean wine movement, Matetic Vineyards will continue to gain in stature and prestige in the following years. It is our pleasure to introduce this marvelous winery to our Diamond Wine Club members. Enjoy!

## Matetic 2012 Syrah, San Antonio Valley, Chile

277 CASES PRODUCED

97 POINTS — *James Suckling*

“This is an unbelievable red with sublime tannin texture and mind-binding depth and finesse. The nose shows granite, slate, blackberry, blueberry, and lavender aromas. Full body yet agile and harmonious.”

93 POINTS — *Wine & Spirits magazine*

“Matetic planted the first Syrah vines in the San Antonio Valley, in 1998; they have farmed those vines under biodynamic principles since the beginning and use those original vines for this bottling, their top Syrah. Their far-coast vineyard and careful farming produce a refreshing Syrah, filled with vibrant red fruit flavors and spice.

This wine gains depth with air, the texture taking on enough grip for lamb.”

### Winemaker's Notes - Julio Bastias

“The Matetic Syrah 2012 is dark violet red. Expressive and complex aromas reveal nuances of pepper, violet, olives, moistened earth, spices, and soft menthol notes. On the palate, it is balanced between fresh acidity and sweet velvety notes delivered by the soft yet potent tannins. The flavors confirm the complexity in the nose, filling the mouth with balance and finesse, leaving a prolonged finish. It has great aging potential and will benefit greatly by decanting a few hours before serving.”



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### This month's Diamond *Plus!* Featured Wine:

Reynolds 2012 Reserve  
Cabernet Sauvignon  
Stags Leap District, Napa Valley

94 Points + Cellar Selection + Gold Medal  
- *Tastings.com* (Beverage Testing Institute)

700 CASES PRODUCED



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