



Platinum Wine Club

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

Opolo Vineyards | Paso Robles

A chance meeting of two men out for a walk almost twenty-five years ago has led to the successful winery operation that is known as Opolo Vineyards.

The meeting of the two, Rick Quinn and Dave Nichols, took place in the City of Camarillo, CA. Quinn had just bought some 70 acres of plantable land near the City of Paso Robles on the Pacific Coast, and had been told the land was nearly perfect for planting grapes.

Nichols was fascinated with Quinn's account of the transaction and suddenly found that he was also interested in the project. The two became fast friends and a partnership developed that ultimately became Opolo Vineyards.

"Our basic intent was to become farmers and sell all the grapes we produced to the local wineries that were beginning to crop up along the Central Coast," informed Nichols during a recent interview. "Rick was also an amateur home winemaker so I started making some wines myself. Our wines were quite successful among our friends and family, so we expanded our production a bit."

The business of growing grapes flourished for several years, but soon an abundance of fruit in the Central Coast region forced a decision for the partners to open a winery. An old tractor shed was converted into a winery. Tanks and barrels were added to accommodate Opolo Vineyards' first releases. By 2001, the first thousand cases of the new entity were offered to the public, and were sold out in less than three months.

The wine received rave reviews and critical acclaim and the new winery was on its way.

For the record, the name 'Opolo' (pronounced *Op-o-lo*) is a Yugoslavian wine name that Rick Quinn admired and borrowed for the new winery name. Quinn is also half Yugoslavian and half Irish.

The ensuing years have been very good to Opolo Vineyards. Annual case production has risen to approximately 60,000 cases and more than twenty different wines are produced each year. Opolo crafts a wide range of single-varietal wines and several blends, including Rhone, Bordeaux, Italian and Spanish varietals.

A new facility was completed in 2003 adjacent to the original winery building. Five years later, a bed

and breakfast was opened that allowed Opolo Vineyards' customers to experience the wine industry first hand. The place has three bedrooms and some breathtaking views to offer.

The overriding facet of the operation is the successful long-term partnership between Quinn and Nichols. The pair feels that they complement each other in a number of ways. "Rick is the real visionary," Nichols continued. "He sets the goals for everyone to achieve. On the other hand, I am a nuts and bolts person who sees that everything runs smoothly. As far as the partnership is concerned, that sort of interaction has worked out quite well for us."

The fact that Opolo Vineyards is a partnership rather than a corporation makes it somewhat of a rarity in the California wine industry. It is also a marvelous example of a hobby for two men that turned into a successful business. Since its inception, Opolo Vineyards has garnered more than its share of excellent scores and quality medals in the highest competitions. Numerous industry periodicals have commented on the excellence of its wines and the consumer following Opolo Vineyards has developed is also worth noting.

Nichols is also careful to point out that the local terroir on Opolo Vineyards' nearly 300 planted acres deserves plaudits for its role.

"We have the best of all worlds on our property. The coastal influence is marvelous and the calcareous soils (of a chalky or limestone type) allow for deep roots for our vines. When you add in the fact that the mean temperatures are ideal for what we are trying to accomplish, it all becomes a win-win situation."

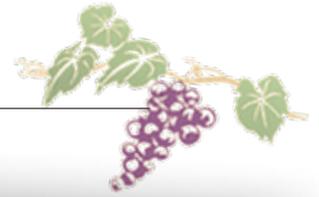
It seems that Dave Nichols is one of a significant minority of individuals whose life is apparently absolute.

"I still enjoy working in the tasting room on weekends," he confessed. "It provides me a wonderful opportunity to interact with our friends and customers. What I learn from them goes right back into our next wine releases. We are always striving to improve our quality. I will still be saying the same thing in another twenty years if I am lucky."

It is with great pride that Gold Medal Wine Club presents Opolo Vineyards to our *Platinum Wine Club* members. Enjoy!



Opolo | 2014 Rhapsody Red Blend, Reserve Collection, Paso Robles



91 POINTS

—*Wine Enthusiast magazine*

90 POINTS

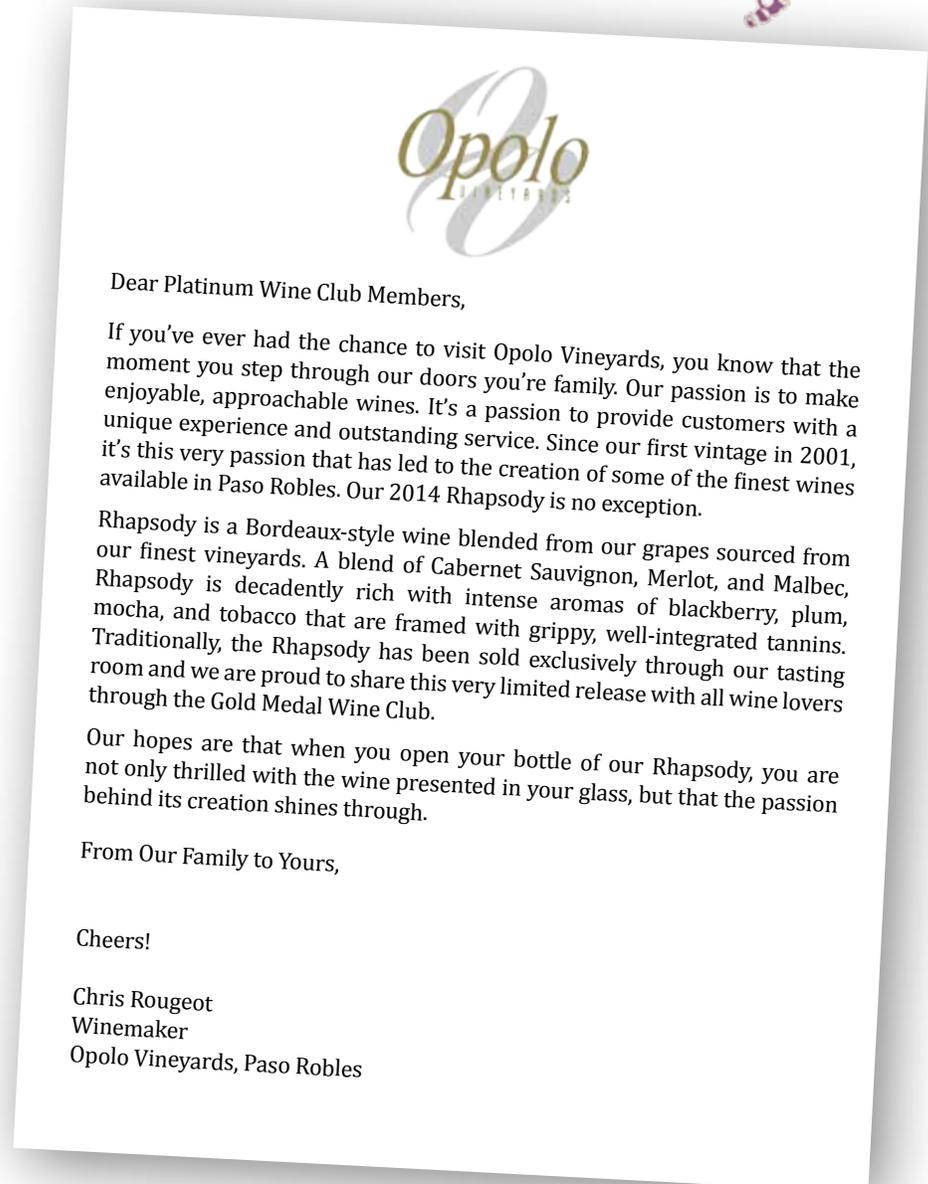
—*Robert Parker's
The Wine Advocate*

Opolo's 2014 Rhapsody Reserve Red Blend is comprised of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and 14% Malbec, sourced from Opolo's finest estate vineyards in Paso Robles on California's Central Coast. This Bordeaux-style blend is beautifully balanced, full-bodied and decadently rich, showing off the exceptional and expressive fruit that flourishes in Opolo's estate vineyards. On the nose, intense and lively aromas of blackberry, plum, mocha, tobacco, red cherry, and Chinese five spice are in perfect harmony, while the fruit-forward palate offers flavors of candied cherries and ginger spice with chalky, well-integrated tannins. This wine is delicious now, but will continue to evolve with proper cellaring. Aged 15 months in oak. Enjoy!



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93 Points + Gold Medal
- *Tastings.com (Beverage Testing Institute)*
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