



# The Wine Press

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

**PORTERHOUSE WINERY**  
CALIFORNIA





# Porterhouse Winery

**Honoring his rich family history in the butcher business, Adam Comartin crafts premium, terroir-driven wines from throughout California for his new Porterhouse Winery.**



One usually refers to a porterhouse as an exceptionally fine cut of steak. That allusion is certainly the correct reference point to this month's Gold Wine Club selections, the Porterhouse 2018 Lodi Cabernet Sauvignon and 2019 Arroyo Seco Chardonnay.

"Both my grandfather and great grandfather (William Comartin Jr. and Sr.) were butchers in Lodi, California," owner Adam Comartin recently recalled. "When I was young, I always hung around them and they told me that the finest steaks were always the porterhouses, so I wanted to honor them with the name of our winery."

Adam Comartin first fell in love with wine while backpacking through Europe as a teenager. When he returned home to California, he earned a degree in Viticulture and Enology from UC Davis. He and his wife Jennifer also ventured to Australia where they lived in the city of Adelaide, outside the Barossa Valley for some time. It was here that Adam was introduced to the Grenache varietal and he made a decision to one day make the finest Grenache in the entire world.

When the couple returned to California in 2004, Adam began a 10-year assistant winemaker career with Silicon Valley's Testarossa Winery, and with the Grenache varietal in the back of his mind, he discovered California's premier sites for the varietal. While at Testarossa, Adam honed his artistic side of winemaking and made valuable relationships with vineyard owners in Santa Barbara and along the Central Coast.

"While I was working at Testarossa in 2006, I actually started making small amounts of wine under the aegis of Comartin Cellars," explained Adam Comartin. "One of our most successful wines was our Porterhouse Reserve Blend. It became a hit with the drinking public and we decided to give it a name of its own."

The first release of Porterhouse Winery came in 2017, a smallish 684 cases of three exceptional wines. "The style of these wines, full-bodied, rich and tasteful, really resonated with everyone who tasted them," informed Comartin. "It was my specific intention to produce wines that would stand up to their namesake cut of meat and the incredible flavors it produced. They were intended as dinner wines from the inception."

Porterhouse Winery sources its grapes from top quality farmers with a variety of contracts. "We start with a one-year trial with the fruit and if it meets our specifications and needs, we generally wind up with 3-year contracts or longer," he went on.

Porterhouse Winery is a prime example of its owners' ability to realize a segment of its wine portfolio could be capable of individual status and the ability to grow itself into a top-caliber brand. We salute Adam and Jennifer Comartin for their insight in bringing Porterhouse Winery into the limelight of California's heralded wine community. We know you will enjoy these excellent selections. Cheers!

## Adam Comartin, Winemaker

Adam Comartin is the owner and winemaker behind Porterhouse Winery and it is his goal to craft wines that reflect the vineyard or region from which they are from. Each site that Porterhouse Winery sources fruit from has unique characteristics that he strives to preserve during the winemaking process. By making careful decisions in harvesting, fermenting, cooperage (barrel type), and aging, Adam Comartin crafts an exceptional range of wines for Porterhouse Winery that are often awarded lofty scores and prestigious medals from the industry press and national competitions.

Together, Adam and Jennifer Comartin oversee every process, from working with their growers and fermenting the grapes to packing and shipping their handcrafted wines. They are involved in every step from beginning to end to ensure premium wine quality and personable relationships with all customers, from grape to table.



## Featured Gold Club Wines



### Porterhouse 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Lodi

1,250 Cases Produced

A blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Barbera, and 4% Malbec, the Porterhouse 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon showcases the quality and character of the Lodi appellation. Deep burgundy in color, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon offers aromas of berry, spice, anise and pepper with flavors of black cherry, blackberry and cedar on the soft, full-bodied palate. It finishes with silky tannins and just a hint of oak. The Barbera and Malbec were added to give more dimension and texture to the fruit of the Cabernet Sauvignon and the result is a wine that truly over delivers for the price. Aged 24 months in oak. Enjoy!

**GOLD MEDAL SPECIAL SELECTION**



Food Pairing:

GREEK  
LAMB BURGERS

[GoldMedalWineClub.com/Recipes](http://GoldMedalWineClub.com/Recipes)



### Porterhouse 2019 Chardonnay, Arroyo Seco

750 Cases Produced

Arroyo Seco is Spanish for 'dry riverbed,' and throughout the appellation the soils are scattered with ancient river rocks amongst the rows of vines, giving the resulting wines layers of unique minerality and natural acidity. The Porterhouse 2019 Arroyo Seco Chardonnay showcases this very unique appellation. Golden in color, this wine opens with aromas of Meyer lemon and citrus peel, followed by vibrant flavors of stone fruit, minerals and a crisp finish of bright acidity. Aged 80% in stainless steel, 20% in neutral oak. Enjoy!

**GOLD MEDAL SPECIAL SELECTION**



Food Pairing:

SCALLOPS  
WITH CABBAGE AND CAPERS

[GoldMedalWineClub.com/Recipes](http://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](http://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](http://GoldMedalWineClub.com/plus)

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

**Gibbs 2018 'Dusty Red' Blend,  
Napa Valley**

92 Points

- James Suckling

401 Cases Produced







# Wine Winyard: Test Your Wine IQ



## 1. Who introduced the 100 Point wine rating scale?

Most novices, enthusiasts, and wine aficionados are familiar with the standard 100-Point scale used today to rate the quality of a wine. The 100-Point scale is common place in national wine publications and is utilized at numerous wine competitions across the country. This rating system was developed and first implemented by one of the most internationally recognized and respected wine advocates, Robert Parker. As a fledging wine critic and writer in the early 1980's, Robert Parker decided to attach a score to every wine he tasted, judged and reviewed. He based his scoring system on the grading scale from his earlier days in school. Initially, most wine writers and publications scorned Parker for trivializing wine, although, within a few years, they were all using Robert Parker's 100 Point scale. *The Wine Advocate*, *Wine Spectator*, *Decanter*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Vinous* and *Wine & Spirits* are among the highly respected wine publications that publish ratings based on Robert Parker's 100 Point scale.



## 2. When did winemaking begin?

The oldest archaeological evidence of winemaking was found at an 8,000 year-old village in the nation of Georgia. Here, about twenty miles south of Tbilisi, Georgia, is a mound called 'Gadachrili Gora,' and the people who lived here were the world's earliest known vintners, producing wines as early as 6,000 B.C. This was at a time when prehistoric humans were still reliant on stone and bone tools! The archaeological studies here revealed clay pots with grape decorations and residues of some of the world's oldest wine.



## 3. What happens to a wine's color as it ages?

As red wines age, their color will transition from a dark, dense color to a paler shade of red-brick brown. On the contrary, the coloring of white wines will go from a pale straw color to a darker amber-gold hue over time. The color of wine and its change over time also depends on the particular grape variety, the length of time the grape skins are in contact with the grape juice during and after fermentation, and the amount of time the wine spends aging inside an oak barrel.



## Gold Medal Wine Store



INSTANT Membership Rewards Pricing\*

Save 28% to 41% off Winery Retail Prices

PORTERHOUSE	Winery Retail Price	Gold Medal Membership Rewards Pricing*			
		2+ btls.	6+ btls.	12+ btls.	
2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Lodi	<del>\$35.00/btl.</del>	2-Bottle Members:	\$25.00	\$23.33	\$22.50
		4-Bottle Members:	\$25.00	\$22.50	\$21.25
2019 Chardonnay, Arroyo Seco, Monterey	<del>\$29.00/btl.</del>	2-Bottle Members:	\$21.00	\$19.33	\$18.50
		4-Bottle Members:	\$21.00	\$18.50	\$17.25

\*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.