



Platinum Wine Club

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

Reynolds Family Winery | Napa Valley

Steve Reynolds feels he was destined to be in the wine business since his youth. The Oklahoma native's father was in the electrical business and the family moved numerous times during Reynolds' youth, including a seven year stint in a small town just south of Munich in southern Germany.

"My father was almost fanatical about wine and was an avid wine collector," Reynolds recently recalled. "Most of our family outings centered around wine and wineries and we never had a meal where there wasn't a bottle of wine on the table."

Reynolds returned to the United States after high school and attended the University of Washington. He next went on to the University of the Pacific where he graduated in dentistry in 1986. He eventually wound up in the Lodi-Stockton area where he practiced dentistry and where he was first introduced to his future wife, Suzie.

"Suzie was at St. Mary's College in nearby Moraga, and we started dating. She had a best friend at the school that was dating a guy from Napa named Oscar Renteria," Reynolds added. "We all started hanging out together during the late 1980's and going to Napa Valley on weekends and holidays where Renteria's father was a vineyard manager."

In 1993, the couple became engaged. A fifteen-minute conversation between the pair on a return trip from Napa persuaded Reynolds to sell his Central Valley practice and move to Napa.

"We decided we loved Napa and I wanted to be one of those gentleman farmers making homemade wine on the side of our garage. I started a new practice and Suzie continued to work in her family's insurance business."

The Reynolds' jump into the wine business began for real in 1995 when an old chicken farm on the Silverado Trail, just south of the prestigious Stag's Leap District, became available. With the help of the couple's old friend Oscar Renteria, Steve Reynolds bought the property and planted vineyards to the fertile land.

By 1999, the first wines were made from a small portion of some very specific vines that had dropped fruit a few months earlier. The finished wines were

well received by friends and acquaintances and Reynolds decided it was time to get into the wine business on a larger scale.

The Reynolds Family Winery's first release of around 2,000 cases came at the start of the new millennium amid a rash of personal problems for Reynolds. With a six month old baby and its needs to deal with, Reynolds lost his inspirational father (and winery investor) and was then forced to give up his dental practice when the running of the new winery operation proved too time consuming.

"I was really up against it," Reynolds admitted. "It was a very difficult time in my life, but I had no real choices. The winery demanded someone be there on a full time basis. I called on my friends and neighbors, and everyone pitched in and helped out."

Basically self taught as a winemaker, Steve Reynolds took courses at UC Davis for two years to perfect his art. He credits South African winemaker Anthony Bell for seeing him through the hardest time in his winery's evolution.

The rest is practically a chapter from a romantic novel. The first Reynolds Family wines were incredibly well received, as were the succeeding releases. Today, Reynolds Family Winery has grown to a comfortable level of around 7,500 cases.

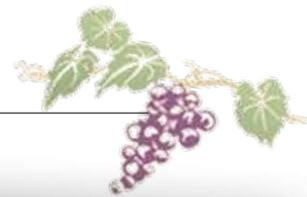
Reynolds has also been active in two other winery ventures, a fun brand called *Naughty*, as well as an innovative brand called *Fifteen Appellations* (which evolved from its original name, *Thirteen*) that brings together grapes from Napa's finest growing districts in one amazing bottle.

Through it all, Steve and Suzie Reynolds have truly enjoyed the experience and path that has led them to where they are today. They have three beautiful children (Cameron, Rebecca, and Sara), dozens of accolades, medals, and achievements for their wines, and most of all, each other.

Today, Steve is one of the most sought-after winemakers in the Napa Valley. He often uses complex and time-consuming winemaking methods for his Reynolds Family wines, and while they are not inexpensive processes, the results speak for themselves. Reynolds Family Winery is a true labor of love and we are thrilled to feature one Steve's celebrated releases.



Reynolds | 2012 Merlot, Stags Leap District, Napa Valley



**93 POINTS +
GOLD MEDAL**

— *Tastings.com*
(Beverage Testing Institute)

**DOUBLE
GOLD MEDAL**

— *Houston Rodeo
Wine Competition*

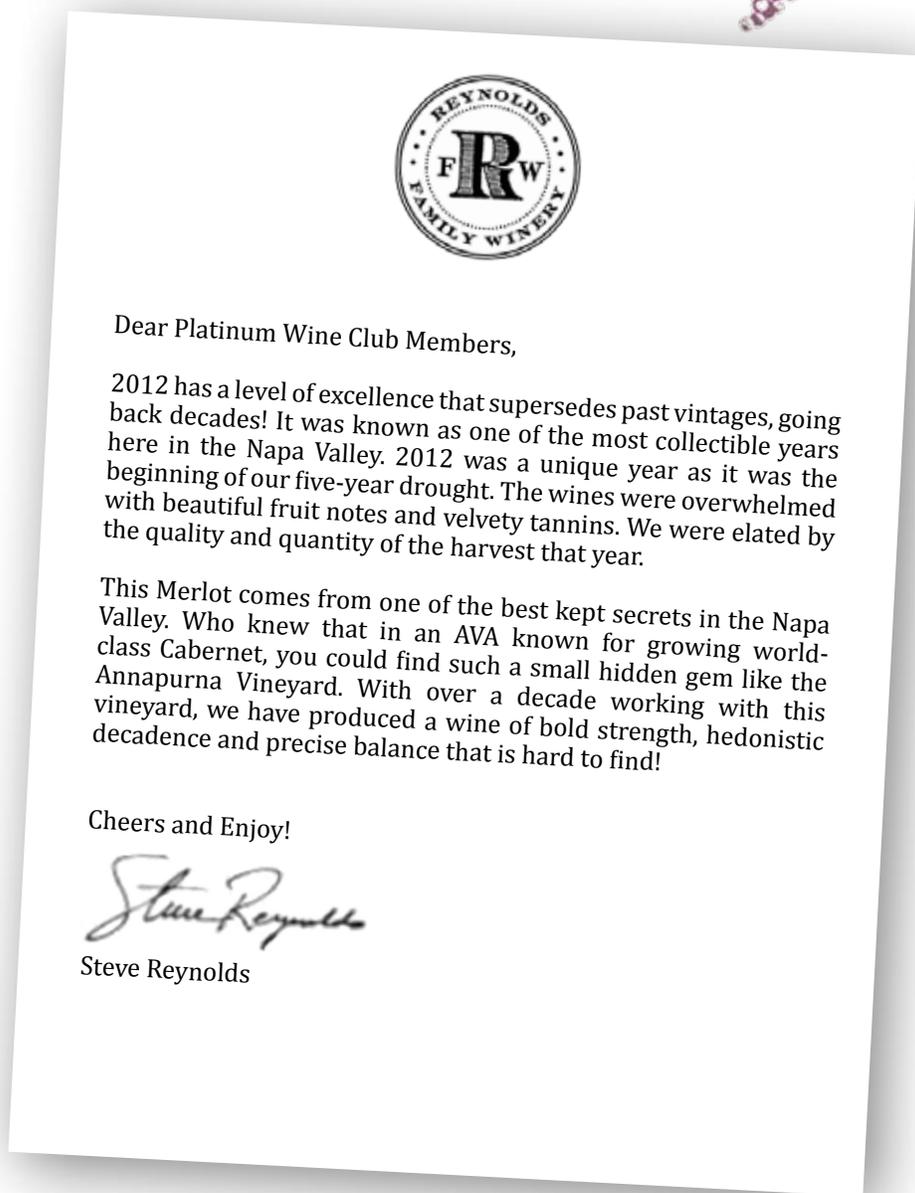
439 cases produced

From the renowned Annapurna Vineyard in Napa Valley's Stags Leap District comes this elegant and restrained, yet vibrant Merlot with excellent depth and style. Nearly opaque deep purple in color, the Reynolds 2012 Merlot opens with aromas of fresh thyme and cedar. Flavors of black raspberries, boysenberries, bitter chocolate and dried cherries lead your palate on a journey and linger on the long, seamless finish with hints of vanilla, spice and sandalwood. A beautifully balanced and flavorful Merlot. Don't be shy about taking this bottle into your favorite steakhouse - it will hold up to that Rib-eye steak just as well, and maybe even better, than a Cabernet. Aged 22 months in oak. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Enjoy now until 2022.



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

**Jeff Gordon 2008 Napa Valley
Joie de Vivre Red Blend**

90 Points - *International Wine Report*
Platinum Medal - *San Diego Intl. Wine Comp.*
Best of Class of Region - *CA State Fair Wine Comp.*

Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included in above prices.

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