

Pinot Noir Press



RIDEAU VINEYARD

“It's all about our objective of representing the total wine experience for our our guests. It's also about our long term goals of creating world-class Rhône varieties that rival our French Cousins.”



More than a decade ago, Martin Gauthier was running a successful electrical energy business in Montreal that involved selling energy throughout Canada's widespread provinces. At one point, he became interested in wines and began collecting bottles of his favorite French Burgundies and top Rhône varieties.

Nearly five years passed and Gauthier and his wife Isabelle moved to Northern California where his wine passion continued to grow.

“We began looking for a property that was well suited to growing great Rhône fruit, since the wines of the Rhône Valley were my choice to drink,” he recently recalled. “We looked all over and eventually came upon Rideau Vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley that proved almost perfect for what we wanted to accomplish.”

“Rideau Vineyard was a perfect fit for us,” Martin Gauthier recounted. “The microclimate is absolutely perfect for Rhône varieties. We have planted additional Rhône varieties and now have fifteen acres under vine. All of our estate wines are grown on our property.”

The Rideau Estate is more than just a growing site, in fact, a great deal more. An historical adobe, El Alamo Pintado Adobe, was built in 1884 and is incorporated into the Rideau Vineyard complex.

“The original rose garden and its environs are absolutely charming,”

remarked Gauthier. “It's all about our objective of representing the total wine experience for our guests. It's also about our long term goals of creating world-class Rhône varieties that rival our French cousins. They are considered among the world's finest wines and we want our wines to be considered their equals.”

Rideau Vineyard also buys a certain amount of fruit from local growers whose fruit the winery feels meets their exacting standards. “We visit our growers and see how they develop their grapes. Most of our growers are on long-term contracts that provide us with extremely high-quality fruit that goes into our wines. The success we have enjoyed with our portfolio speaks for itself.”

At this point, the winery produces nearly 8,000 cases each year, but it is the intention of Martin Gauthier to increase the production until it reaches the 10,000-case mark. “At that level, it is still possible for us to control the quality of our wines. If we get any larger, the volume represents a bit of an obstacle,” he added.

The Rideau Vineyard label is a story unto itself. According to Isabelle Gauthier, who oversaw the new labeling process, “The rose is the symbol of our place in history and our ongoing connection to the historical aspect of the adobe. Since we want everyone who visits to experience this relationship

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on a personal basis, the rose is the symbol we chose. We also decided to change the pattern on the label for each wine we produce. From the great reaction we have received from our customers, I feel our label has been quite successful.”

From the historic El Alamo Pintado Adobe that serves as the tasting room, to the gentle sounds of rustling vines, live music, and new friends mingling over a glass of wine, the tasting room experience is unlike anything you’ve had before!

ADRIENNE ST. JOHN, WINEMAKER



Winemaker Adrienne St. John, was raised on a vineyard in Sonoma Valley, California, and is a fourth-generation winemaker of the iconic Pedroncelli Family that has made wine for almost a century in Sonoma’s hallowed grounds. “It was my interest in Rhône varietals and the direction Rideau Vineyard was heading that caused me to join the Rideau winemaking team,” St. John offered. “Anyone who wants to produce topflight Rhône varietals and Pinot Noirs gets my attention. Since joining Rideau, I feel we have never looked back.” Adrienne is aided by Gretchen, assistant winemaker who brings experience from vineyards and wineries all over the world. The winemaking team is completed by Lio, Cellar Master, who’s adept at everything, and Ruben who is the Vineyard Manager, and has been working in viticulture for almost three decades.

RIDEAU 2014 PINOT NOIR La Encantada Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills AVA

Rideau’s 2014 Pinot Noir is from the famed La Encantada Vineyard located in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. This well-established, organically-farmed vineyard is in the crème-de-la-crème of AVA’s for Pinot Noir. On the nose you can find an abundance of classic Sta. Rita Hills characteristics including forest floor, flint, and black/white pepper notes. On the palate, you’ll find a rich set of flavors full of raspberry, cranberry, white pepper, spice and a hint of cocoa powder. The wine has great fruit concentration and excellent structure that supports a wonderful, balanced acidity which follows through on the finish. Bottled unfiltered, using only native yeast, the terroir is further highlighted through their process of whole cluster fermentation. 100% Pinot Noir. Aged 14 months in 35% new French oak. Enjoy!

93 POINTS
– *Wine Enthusiast*
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