



# The Wine Press

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

**RUCKSACK CELLARS & TOBIAS VINEYARDS**  
SIERRA FOOTHILLS & MENDOCINO



# Rucksack Cellars and Tobias Vineyards

**Following in their families' footsteps, a duo of wineries takes the talent and wisdom of generations past to continue their legacies of crafting world-class, award-winning wines.**



Rucksack Cellars' estate vineyard, nestled within the Sierra Foothills appellation; The Bush Family, owners of Rucksack Cellars; Toby (Tobias) and Dawn Forman, owners of Tobias Vineyards; The Forman family grows grapes in Napa Valley, Mendocino, and Sonoma.

## Rucksack Cellars, Sierra Foothills

Established in 2013 by husband and wife team Paul and Maggie Bush, Rucksack Cellars celebrates the owners' love of adventure, offering unique and boutique wines that embrace the outdoor Sierra Nevada lifestyle and the Sierra Foothills winegrowing region.

It all started with the purchase of a 21-acre parcel of land in Apple Hill (just east of Placerville). The farm had been underutilized for more than five decades and was perfect for what the Bushes wanted to accomplish. Their intention was to develop a destination winery site where nature and wine could bond in true harmony. Today, that goal has certainly been attained with Rucksack Cellars becoming a place no visitor to the Sierra Foothills should ever miss.

Rucksack Cellars released its first wines in 2015 and was greeted with excellent initial success. Their portfolio of wines exhibit the depth and diversity of the Sierra Foothills Appellation, offering unique examples of fruit expression through Chardonnay, Zinfandel, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and a handful of Portuguese varieties.

The name of the winery is a nod to Paul's backpacking travels through Africa, where backpacks are called rucksacks. A rucksack was your home, your security, and your passport to adventure - a fitting name for the winery whose theme embodies the ideas of travel and discovery. Maggie and Paul have put a great deal of thought into their Rucksack Cellars winery project and we are delighted to share these wines with our Gold Wine Club members.

## Tobias Vineyards, Mendocino

Tobias Vineyards is the marriage of two winemaking families (literally) that brings together generations of talent in the California wine business. Toby (Tobias) and Dawn Forman created Tobias Vineyards with the knowledge of farming, viticulture and winemaking handed down by their legendary fathers, Ric Forman and Bill Pauli. Together, they are continuing a legacy, crafting fresh and approachable wines from Napa Valley, Mendocino, and Rockpile Sonoma County.

Dawn grew up in Mendocino, where her family has grown and farmed grapes for five generations, and Toby grew up in Napa Valley, where his father has crafted classic Napa Valley wines for over 50 years. They are both still involved in their family entities, but Dawn and Toby are thrilled to now offer Tobias Vineyards, a culmination of both of their efforts and family history.

Tobias Vineyards currently offers a Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, a Mendocino Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, and a Red Blend with varieties sourced from Rockpile Sonoma County. These award-winning wines are made in limited quantities and very hard to find. We are happy to share the Tobias Sauvignon Blanc with our members. Enjoy!

## Paul Bush, Rucksack Winemaker



Growing up working for his family's winery operation (Madroña Vineyards), Paul Bush started early in the wine industry and learned the business from the ground up. He believes Rucksack Cellars' location in the Sierra Foothills offers an abundance of choices for grapes, soils, climates and practically everything important to a winemaker. It is his goal to craft wines that showcase the unique characteristics of this diverse appellation.

## Toby Forman, Tobias Winemaker



Toby Forman learned the art of winemaking working alongside his winemaker father, Ric Forman (of Sterling, Newton and Forman Vineyards). He approaches each vintage with intense diligence in the vineyard, profound wisdom yet natural talent in the cellar, and with the knowledge of generations past. Toby works to find consistency and balance in each wine, blending his family's unique vineyard blocks to create harmony.

## Featured Gold Club Wines



### Rucksack 2016 Zinfandel, Sierra Foothills

297 cases produced

A blend of four distinct vineyards in the Sierra Foothills' El Dorado appellation, the essence of this 2016 Zinfandel is both the structure of the mountain fruit and the earthy elegance of the terroir. This youthful wine offers aromas of intense Bing cherry fruit, raspberry freshness, and hints of white pepper and savory spices. The palate is refined and focused with flavors of ripe cherry and bright blackberry, balanced with earthiness, a touch of pepper and clove spice on the finish. Aged in oak. 96% Zinfandel, 4% Barbera. Enjoy!

**GOLD MEDAL** - El Dorado County Fair Wine Competition



Food Pairing:  
CHIMICHURRI, OLIVE  
& KALE PIZZA

### Rucksack 2016 'The Cache' Red Blend, Sierra Foothills

254 cases produced

A mountain-grown blend of 33% Cabernet Franc, 23% Merlot, 18% Malbec, 16% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Petit Verdot, the 2016 'The Cache' Bordeaux-style blend offers complexity and perfumy notes on the nose with subtle pinches of spice. The Merlot and Malbec give the wine its rich texture, which is balanced by the brooding ripe blackberry and sweet cherry flavor profile. Hints of vanilla come through on the finish. Aged in oak. Enjoy!

**GOLD MEDAL SPECIAL SELECTION**



Food Pairing:  
WINE BRAISED  
SHORT RIBS

### Rucksack 2017 'The Cache' Red Blend, Sierra Foothills

360 cases produced

The 2017 'The Cache' is all about elegance, structure and balance, showing the incredible harmony between these five Bordeaux varieties - 51% Malbec, 27% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Petit Verdot. This mountain-grown blend offers a melange of Bing cherry, blueberry, pomegranate, and red currant with soft tannins and a lingering finish. Aged in oak. Enjoy!

**GOLD MEDAL SPECIAL SELECTION**

### Tobias 2018 'Lexi's Estate' Sauvignon Blanc, Mendocino

1,000 cases produced

A joint winemaking venture between owner/winemaker Toby Forman and his daughter Lexi, the Tobias 2018 'Lexi's Estate' Sauvignon Blanc is fresh, bright, and exceptionally complex. The nose offers a brightness of citrus, green apple, and tropical fruit with subtle hints of vanilla, while the palate bursts with notes of white peach, honeydew melon, green apple, passion fruit and Meyer lemon before leading into a long, lasting finish. Aged 9 months in stainless steel. 100% Sauvignon Blanc. Enjoy!

**GOLD MEDAL SPECIAL SELECTION**



Food Pairing:  
CHICKEN & KALE SALAD w/  
LEMON-DIJON VINAIGRETTE

[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-\$25 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:  
Tantara 2016  
'Cuvee Jeannette' Pinot Noir,  
Santa Lucia Highlands - Monterey  
Gold Medal Special Selection  
101 Cases Produced**



# Wine Wizard: Test Your Wine IQ



## 1. What is the difference between sweet wine and dry wine?

Although this seems like an easy distinction (one is sweet and one is not), there's actually more to it than that. Both sweet and dry wines are defined by their levels of residual sugar (sugar that is left in the wine after fermentation has been completed). Other factors such as acidity, tannins, and alcohol can effect the perception of what is sweet and what is dry, but it all comes down to the residual sugar. Here are some of the most common processes when creating a sweet wine: 1) Allowing the grapes to further mature on the vine, which creates a higher sugar level in the fruit, and thus a higher level of residual sugar after fermentation; 2) Adding sugar to the juice to achieve the desired level of sweetness; 3) Stopping the fermentation process before it has finished its cycle; 4) Picking the fruit before they have fully matured and then drying the grapes in the sun to produce more sweetness.

## 2. What is the average alcohol content in wine?

The average alcohol content in wine is between 12% and 15%. Winemakers actually have to pay a higher tax rate on wines that are over 14% alcohol by volume.

## 3. What determines the alcohol content in a bottle of wine?

The degree of alcohol in any given glass of wine is equivalent to its percentage by volume, which is often referred to as 'ABV,' or alcohol by volume. The alcohol content in wine is directly correlated with the amount of sugar that has developed in the grapes at harvest time (the higher the sugar level, the higher the potential alcohol). This doesn't mean that higher alcohol wines are sweeter though. During fermentation, yeast consumes the sugar and converts it to alcohol. The style (or varietal) of wine, the climate where the grapes are grown, and the winemaking/fermentation process are all key factors in determining both the sugar content of the grapes and the amount of alcohol in your bottle.

## Gold Medal Wine Store



INSTANT Membership Rewards Pricing\*

Save 21% to 38% off Winery Retail Prices

|  | Winery Retail Price     |                   | Gold Medal Membership Rewards Pricing* |          |           |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|--|----------|-----------|
|  |                         |                   | 2+ btls.                               | 6+ btls. | 12+ btls. |
| Rucksack 2016 Zinfandel, Sierra Foothills                  | <del>\$28.00/btl.</del> | 2-Bottle Members: | \$22.00                                | \$20.33  | \$19.50   |
|  |                         | 4-Bottle Members: | \$22.00                                | \$19.50  | \$18.25   |
| Rucksack 2016/2017 'The Cache' Red Blend, Sierra Foothills | <del>\$28.00/btl.</del> | 2-Bottle Members: | \$22.00                                | \$20.33  | \$19.50   |
|  |                         | 4-Bottle Members: | \$22.00                                | \$19.50  | \$18.25   |
| Tobias 2018 'Lexi's Estate' Sauvignon Blanc, Mendocino     | <del>\$26.00/btl.</del> | 2-Bottle Members: | \$20.00                                | \$18.33  | \$17.50   |
|  |                         | 4-Bottle Members: | \$20.00                                | \$17.50  | \$16.25   |

\*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.