

# GOLD MEDAL WINE CLUB'S *Pinot Noir Press*



v09i10



## *R*YAN COCHRAN WINES

An up-and-coming producer in California's Santa Barbara County, Ryan Cochran is an award-winning artisan winemaker focused on vineyard-designated Pinot Noirs from the region's best vineyards.



With grapes sourced from the best vineyards he can get his hands on, Ryan Cochran produces extremely limited quantities of vineyard designated Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from Santa Barbara County on California's Central Coast. Although relatively new to the wine business, Ryan Cochran has already established himself as an award-winning winemaker with a loyal following of his Burgundian-style wines.

After earning a degree in marketing from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, Ryan Cochran moved to San Francisco where he launched a successful career in marketing and advertising. Over the years, Ryan worked as an art director, a freelance copywriter, and a creative director for a number of marketing communications companies. Today, he still maintains his 'day job' in advertising, but escapes to the Central Coast every chance he gets to work on his name sake winery, *Ryan Cochran Wines*.

Ryan had always dreamed about making wine, and one foggy morning in July 2009, he decided to stop dreaming about it and actually do it. The advertising agency he was working at had just imploded and he had started freelancing, but it was a bad time for work in San Francisco. Ryan decided that *now* was the perfect time to experiment with winemaking. He

contacted Roger Nichols at RN Estate in Paso Robles and asked to be an intern. Ryan was impressed, not only with Roger Nichols' beautiful wines, but with his 'DEY' (do everything yourself) approach to his business. That year, Ryan helped in all phases of RN Estate's harvest, from vineyard work in the spring to pressing and barreling in the fall.

In 2010, Ryan came back to RN Estate and made one barrel of his inaugural Ryan Cochran Pinot Noir on the side. The following year, he made three barrels and was promoted to Roger's assistant winemaker. He made two different Pinots in 2012 and introduced his first Chardonnay in 2013. All of the fruit was sourced from among the best vineyards in Santa Barbara County, including Fiddlestix Vineyard in Santa Rita Hills and Solomon Hills Vineyard in Santa Maria Valley.

Ryan proudly designed the 'Ryan Cochran' wine labels himself, incorporating artwork from the Ryan family coat of arms (*Ryan* is his first name and also his mother's maiden name) and the family motto from the Cochran side, *Virtute et Labore* (*With strength and effort*).

With a number of 90+ ratings already to his name, Ryan Cochran is a producer to watch and one our *Pinot Noir Series* members should definitely have on their radar. Cheers!



## ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



Ryan Cochrane is the owner and winemaker for his namesake operation in Santa Barbara County. His focus has always been on Pinot Noir (his favorite varietal) because, in his words, “it’s food friendly, extremely versatile, and seems to express the terrior from which it’s grown better than any other varietal. For me, it’s just so nuanced, complex, delicate yet substantial, feminine, and beautiful.” We couldn’t agree more! Ryan loves making Pinot Noir from Santa Barbara County and bringing out the characteristic brightness and liveliness the region’s fruit is known for.

## RYAN COCHRANE 2013 PINOT NOIR

Produced from Fiddlestix Vineyard, one of the most famous vineyards in the Santa Rita Hills, the Ryan Cochrane 2013 Pinot Noir is delicate and elegant with ripe, vibrant aromas and flavors. On the nose, notes of strawberry, wild cherries, dark roses, sandalwood and clove mingle together and complement the palate with red cherry and red berry flavors with just a touch of caramelized vanilla and flowers. The finish just seems to...well...never finish. Aged 10 months in French oak. 100% Pinot Noir.

Cases Produced: 125

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**Ryan Cochrane 2013 Pinot Noir**  
Fiddlestix Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills

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