

GOLD MEDAL WINE CLUB'S  
Diamond Series Selection

# Diamond Plus!

## Star Lane Vineyard 2006 Astral Red Blend Santa Ynez Valley



When Jim Dierberg has a passion for something, he acts quickly and decisively. Just ask his wife Mary, to whom he proposed on their first date! It was love at first sight, yet, again, when they laid their eyes on the Star Lane Ranch Estate in the Santa Ynez Valley of California's Central Coast.

Starting with just 100 acres in 1996, the couple planted the Star Lane Estate to mostly Bordeaux varietals, and then purchased two more vineyard properties which they named Dierberg Vineyards. Jim and Mary decided the cooler Dierberg Vineyards were well suited for Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Syrah, and gave the *Dierberg Estate* name to this vineyard's unique wine profile.

Considered "sister estates," Star Lane and Dierberg utilize an extraordinary winery facility carved into the base of a 1500-foot-high ridge. A visual feast as well as a minimalist's vision of winemaking efficiency, the winery moves grapes, juice, and wine entirely by gravity from the crush pad to the caves three stories below, while ensuring the most gentle handling and winemaking strategies possible. From world-class wines to a stunning facility, Star Lane and Dierberg Estate have quickly become frontrunners of California's esteemed Central Coast.

### Accolades & Tasting Notes

**93 POINTS**

-Anthony Dias Blue, "The Tasting Panel"

**92 POINTS**

-Stephen Tanzer's *Int. Wine Cellar*

After recognizing the exceptional quality of the hillside plantings near the top of the Star Lane Vineyard, Jim Dierberg created the concept of *Astral* and began producing a special wine from these higher elevated hillside blocks. This section of the vineyard produces very low yields which creates wines of considerable intensity and structure. *Astral* is comprised of the most extraordinary components of this site and it's released in very limited quantities.

The Star Lane 2006 *Astral* blends Cabernet Sauvignon (52%), Petit Verdot (29%) and Cabernet Franc (19%) to craft a distinctive Bordeaux-style blend from the Santa Ynez Valley. Black cherry, cassis, violets and dark purple aromatics flirt with the senses, while focused dark berries produce a beautiful core of flavors with hints of mocha and cocoa unfolding on the palate. A gorgeously dense, rich wine that captures one of Star Lane Vineyard's best achievements. Aged 18 months in oak. Enjoy now until 2016.

Winery Direct: \$80.00 /bottle

**Gold Medal Wine Store price:**

**2 Bottle Members: \$68.00**

**4 Bottle / Multi-Series Members: \$65.00**

\*2 bottle min. order.

Availability is extremely limited.  
(plus shipping)

800-266-8888 [www.goldmedalwineclub.com](http://www.goldmedalwineclub.com)

