



Diamond Wine Club

TOBIAS VINEYARDS

Napa Valley

It wouldn't have surprised anyone if Dawn Pauli-Forman and Tobias 'Toby' Forman had chosen to become winery owners as their chosen profession. Both came from noted winemaking families that had enjoyed incredible success in the evolution of the heralded Napa Valley and the more northern locale of Mendocino County.

For the record, Toby Forman is the son of iconic Napa Valley winemaker Ric Forman, one of the guiding forces in the valley's rise to international prominence. He is credited with being the forerunner in the varietal Merlot's meteoric climb to importance during the latter part of the 20th century. His current winery, Forman Vineyards, is a Napa Valley staple of the highest level.

Bill Pauli is equally well-revered in Mendocino folklore for his Yokayo Wine Company and his numerous stints in various wine-related associations and boards including a term as President of the California Farm Bureau Federation. Bill Pauli is basically a grower whose grapes have provided a host of high scores and awards in competitions.

Dawn Pauli and Toby Forman met while Dawn was attending UC Davis for viticulture classes. A backyard barbecue proved to be the nesting ground for a love affair and marriage that has produced a pair of daughters for the couple. Their individual backgrounds proved to be the cement that resulted in the formation of Tobias Vineyards and its ascension to the highest ranks of Napa Valley producers.

"We both worked with our fathers since we were little," commented Dawn Pauli-Forman. "It has turned out almost perfectly. Toby handles the growing and winemaking and my marketing degree allows me to handle that aspect of the business."

Tobias Vineyards started small - really small - in 2005. Toby Forman produced

around 200 cases of Zinfandel and the brand was off to the races. Excellent scores from industry periodicals allowed the winery to vault into the upper strata of Napa Valley stardom.

"Toby does practically everything around the winery," added Dawn Pauli-Forman. "He even drives the tractor in the steep vineyards that occupy a portion of the famed top section of Howell Mountain. We have a 43-acre estate vineyard that provides us the fruit for our Pauli Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon that has become so popular with our customers. The fruit is superior in nature and Toby is able to craft the juice into some really fabulous wines. I truly believe that Toby is a farmer first and a winemaker second and that give him the emphasis to be successful. He wears a number of different hats and even designs the gardens."

As an update, Tobias Vineyards currently produces wines around the 4,000-case level, but expects that number to grow in the near future. "We will only produce a limited amount of our Pauli Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, but will increase the number of cases of our Lifestyle brand to meet consumer demand. As long as we remain consistent in our quality, our production will rise as the need increases," added Dawn Pauli-Forman.

The Tobias Vineyard label is a story unto itself. The Formans enlisted the help of noted San Francisco artist Alyssa Warnock to produce what they called, "a vintage-classic look" for their bottles. After perusing hundreds of both European and California wine labels, they decided on a "gentlemanly" photo of Toby for their signature wine. Alyssa Warnock performed her magic and the present-day label evolved. A distinctive "T" was added to the capsule to produce a near-perfect for the consumer.

"We are still a small, family business," continued Dawn Pauli-Forman. "We never

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TOBY FORMAN,
OWNER & WINEMAKER

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want to lose the relationship with our roots that has allowed us to become successful.”

Her words are an understatement of sorts. The fairytale marriage of Dawn and Toby Forman could easily become the fodder for a Hollywood script. For the first decade and a half of its existence, Tobias Vineyards has carved out a distinctive niche in the ultra-competitive scenario that is Napa Valley at its zenith. Their wines are different from those of their parents and are always considered for their individual characteristics. This is no easy feat when you consider the reputations of Ric Forman and Bill Pauli, both iconic figures in the California wine industry.

Kudos to Tobias Vineyards and their charming and efficacious owners. They represent the current generation of winery proprietors who strive for the best possible results in producing their products.

We are happy to introduce our Diamond Club members to this marvelous Napa Valley winery and its heralded Cabernet Sauvignon. Cheers!

Tobias 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon, Pauli Vineyard, Howell Mtn, Napa Valley

94 POINTS + CELLAR SELECTION — *Wine Enthusiast magazine*

“Made entirely from one site and 100% varietal, this is brawny, broad and earthy in powerful tannin grip and savory character. Dried herb, sage and black currant contribute complexity and intrigue around the full-bodied ripeness and structure.”

94 POINTS — *Antonio Galloni, Vinous*

“The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Pauli Vineyard is a deep, rich, exciting wine endowed with tremendous depth and intensity. Raspberry jam, wildflowers, incense, chocolate, leather and red fruit all run through this Cabernet. The warmth of the growing season has tempered some of the young Howell Mountain tannins and overall structure, which is not a bad thing at all. Ample and full-bodied with dramatic intensity, the 2017 will drink well with minimal cellaring.”

93 POINTS — *Wine Spectator magazine*

“Ripe and forward, with waves of crushed plum, boysenberry, and blackberry preserves rolling through, supported by streaks of tar, iron and licorice snap that course underneath. There’s plenty of stuffing for the cellar, but this should be relatively approachable in the near term as well.”



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

Geodesy 2016 Red Blend,
Sage Ridge Vineyard,
Napa Valley

96 Points + Editor's Choice
- *Wine Enthusiast magazine*
393 CASES PRODUCED

