



# Garagiste

## WINE CLUB

[gar-uh-zheest'] noun - A French term used to describe independent, artisan winemakers crafting small batches of wine in garage-type settings and not yet discovered by the mainstream.

## Tom Mackey Cellars

Owner & Winemaker: Tom Mackey

Location: Sonoma County, California

Legendary winemaker Tom Mackey (of St. Francis Winery fame) is back on the scene with his namesake Tom Mackey Cellars, an ultra-boutique entity founded in 2014 by Tom and his business partner/assistant winemaker, Clyde Galantine. The goat at Tom Mackey Cellars is to source fruit from some of the finest vineyards in Sonoma County and craft very small lots of hand-picked Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel, accenting the unique flavors and aromas that the vines and land provide. While the winery is still very young, the winemaking methods of Tom Mackey are award-winning and go back several decades, giving his new brand immediate distinction and merit.

Tom Mackey is a third generation San Franciscan who grew up as a 'city boy.' Visiting his relatives' and friends' ranches and farms seemed exotic and Tom recalls wine often being on the dinner table as a natural accompaniment to family meals. He embarked on several trips to wine country north of San Francisco and before he knew it, wine had become an exciting hobby and passion of his.

Tom started off his wine education at Fresno State University, where, while working in a wine shop, he earned a BS and MS in Enology Food Science with a minor in Viticulture. After completing his grad work, and working a winemaking stint in the Finger Lakes region of New York State, Tom found himself back in California working as an assistant winemaker at a Napa Valley winery. In 1983, Tom was hired as the first winemaker at St. Francis Winery in Sonoma Valley, and he spent the next thirty years leaving a serious mark on the winery and the region. From developing new wines, purchasing new vineyards, and assisting in the design of a state-of-the-art winery, to equipping and staffing the facility and supervising the various winemaking departments, Tom truly had a hand in everything. He helped establish Merlot as a serious varietal, earning the title, 'Master of Merlot,' from Wine Spectator, and Robert Parker rated his wines as some of the finest in California. Tom was also named 'Winemaker of the Year' multiple times over the years. As for the region of Sonoma Valley, Tom helped lead the way in pioneering a 'Sonoma Valley' style of winemaking, as well as helping the region find a home in on its identity.

Tom's newest endeavor, Tom Mackey Cellars, is tiny and focused. With the help of Clyde Galantine, Tom hand-selects his grapes from small local vineyards (St. Francis Wild Oak Vineyard in Sonoma Valley and Mike Lee's Monteciello Vineyard high above Sonoma Valley, to name a couple). This is truly hands-on winemaking, as Tom and Clyde are the sole employees and they are equally passionate about their craft. We are proud to share Tom Mackey Cellars with our Garagiste Wine Club members.

## Tom Mackey 2018 Merlot

65 cases produced

Woolard Family Vineyard, Sonoma Valley

This inaugural vintage of Tom Mackey Merlot (the Wine Spectator's 'Master of Merlot' is back!) is a blend of 95% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Petite Verdot from Sonoma Valley's Woolard Family Vineyard. Deep ruby in color, this 2018 Merlot offers a brambly ripe cherry cola nose with hints of mint and white pepper. The balanced flavors of jammy black cherry, cola, blackberry and raspberry are deeply satisfying, with hints of cracked green pepper coming through on the long finish. Aged 21 months in oak. Enjoy!

Gold Medal Wine Club Price: \$30.00 / bottle

To order, visit the Wine Store at [www.GoldMedalWineClub.com](http://www.GoldMedalWineClub.com) or call 1-800-266-8888

\*2 bottle minimum per wine, per order. Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included. Call for details.

