



Garagiste SERIES

[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.

Tonti Family Wines

Owner: Peter Tonti Winemaker: Gus Gamba

Location: Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

Peter Tonti was introduced to the world of wine at a very young age. As a boy in Columbus, Ohio, Peter would watch his Italian father make wine with an old hand-cranked press and a half-dozen wine barrels in their family basement (his father was originally from Forli del Sannio, a small village in Italy's Abruzzo region). He didn't produce much wine - just enough for the family to enjoy with their dinners each night - but the tradition instilled in Peter a lifelong dream to honor his father's vision and to someday establish a family winery of his own.

"Wine has been an integral part of my life since I can remember," recalled Tonti during a recent interview. "My family moved to California when I was twelve and I have been exposed to wine and the wine country since that time."

Before starting Tonti Family Wines in 2014, Peter Tonti held several careers, most notably as a business consultant and real estate developer. He also served on the board of Worldwide Golf, running their franchise division, and at one point he even acquired two Portuguese cork companies, which introduced him to many wineries with whom he still maintains relationships today. Peter's extensive business experience makes him an incredibly well rounded individual and it was with great excitement and anticipation that in 2014 he finally built the family winery he had always dreamed of.

Tonti Family Wines released its inaugural wine in 2015, a 2012 Old Vine Zinfandel produced from fruit sourced from several sites in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley. Peter worked closely with award-winning winemaker Gus Gamba (of Gamba Vineyards and Winery) to craft this first release and couldn't be happier with the result. The wine received some great attention and it was a clear indication of the caliber of wines Peter Tonti planned to produce with his namesake winery. Gus Gamba continues to serve as the winery's consulting winemaker today.

After an excellent initial response, Tonti Family Wines has continued its progress and now produces Zinfandels exclusively from a Russian River Valley vineyard that was planted in the early 1900's. The location is on the eastern edge of the Valley that features gently rolling bench land, just above the valley floor. Zinfandel is the principal varietal planted here and the plot's longevity assures it's 'Old Vine Zinfandel' status. Tonti Family Wines farms the vines organically to assure the highest quality of fruit is achieved each vintage.

Tonti Family Wines has remained a small operation and we are happy to share this rising star winery with our Garagiste Wine Club members. Enjoy!

Tonti 2016 "Artisan Series" Old Vine Zinfandel 139 cases produced

Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

The 2016 'Artisan Series' Old Vine Zinfandel is a blend of Tonti's finest barrel selections - ones that were put aside for their individual characteristics and their intensity. It inspired Peter Tonti to bottle the wine in a limited quantity, in a special and meaningful package. Vivid violet in color, this 2016 Zinfandel offers dominant aromas and flavors of chocolate and berry pie crust with a satiny, tangy, fruity full body and supporting notes of raspberry preserves, chocolate blueberries, peppery spice and cedar. Dusty tannins and moderate oak come through on the finish. Aged 18 months in oak. Enjoy now until 2026.

Gold Medal Wine Club Price: \$43.00 / bottle

To order, visit the Wine Store at 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.

