



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.

Torch Cellars

Co-Owners: Mark Welch & Greg Jelstrom

Winemaker: Mark Welch

Location: Paso Robles, California

Producing just 350 cases annually, Torch Cellars is located off Highway 46 West in Paso Robles on California's Central Coast. The winery was founded in 2013 by Mark Welch and Greg Jelstrom, who strive to make elegant wines from distinctive vineyards in the Willow Creek, El Pomar and Templeton Gap districts of Paso Robles. Together, they are crafting some very special, limited production wines that continue to fly under the radar from most wine enthusiasts.

Winemaker Mark Welch has been in the wine industry for some time, perfecting his craft at such prominent estates as Wild Horse Winery (Paso Robles), Kim Crawford (New Zealand), and Domaine Genevaz (Switzerland). He is currently the assistant winemaker and cellar master at Midnight Cellars (Paso Robles) and an independent PCA/Viticulturist who is responsible for pest and disease assessment for 3,000 acres of wine grapes on the Central Coast. In 2013, he teamed up with Greg Jelstrom to start his own label, Torch Cellars. The name of the winery, 'Torch,' is the nickname that was given to

Mark by Kenneth Volk of Wild Horse Winery in the early 1990's. Mark used to have longer, blonder hair that reminded Kenneth Volk of a flashlight or lighter after being in the sun all day. The 'Torch' sun symbol is also personal to Mark; the original artwork was made by Mark's grandmother, who was a very talented artist living in Santa Cruz, California. It was a sun-shaped serving tray made of coral, seashell and coin inlay and covered with resin that was always used when she would entertain guests. Mark thought it was the perfect symbol for his new winery brand, and now the 'Torch' sun symbol graces each of his wine labels.

Mark and Greg's first release was a 2012 Zinfandel from the famed Willow Creek District of Paso Robles. They have since expanded to include Chardonnay, Muscat Blanc, Tempranillo, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Syrah, Tannat, and Petite Sirah, all sourced from prime vineyard locations in Paso Robles. The wines are made in extremely limited quantities, but the duo enjoys being a small winery and doesn't have plans to change that anytime soon. Staying small, they can devote more time to managing their business and wine quality. Plus, it's more personal and they enjoy meeting everyone. We hope you enjoy this special selection from Torch Wine Cellars. Cheers!



Torch 2017 Chardonnay

77 cases produced

Willow Creek District, Paso Robles, California

As stated by Wine Spectator magazine, "Among the California AVA subregions, Willow Creek District is one to watch." This sweet spot has long been favored by Paso Robles vintners for its cooler temperatures and limestone-rich soils. It's here that Torch Wine Cellars sources its Chardonnay grapes from, and crafts their distinctive bottling that is rich in complexity. Aromas of crisp apple, pear and fig complement the buttery nuances and hints of vanilla on the beautifully balanced palate. Aged 5 months in oak. 100% Chardonnay. Enjoy!



Gold Medal Wine Club Price: \$25.00 / bottle

To order, visit the Wine Store at 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.