



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.

Wine Spots Wines

Owner: Daniel Le Francois

Winemaker: Scott Peterson

Location: Napa Valley, California

There aren't many practicing lawyers who have given up the courtroom to become winery owners. In the case of Wine Spots Wines' owner, Daniel Le Francois, the story of his real-life odyssey into the wine world is one worth telling.

Le Francois attended the University of Virginia and graduated with a law degree. He joined a Washington-based law firm and began the practice of law. Sometime later, Le Francois realized the exercise of law was not for him, so he set out for an extended backpack adventure in Asia and other places. He eventually ended up in Europe and was particularly impressed with France. It was there that he first experienced the great grape's calling, and he readily admits the time was the beginning of his sojourn to become owner of Wine Spots Wines.

"I was in Southern France, in Bordeaux's Saint-Emilion to be exact," he recalled. "Something about the place, the ambiance, the greatness of the wines - well, they had an amazing effect on me. From that point on, I knew I wanted to be associated in some way with wine." For the next few decades, Daniel Le Francois worked at a number of assorted jobs within the wine industry and at one point became a vice president for the well-respected French cognac producer, Camus, where he developed new brand innovations for the company. He also became associated with Asian duty-free shops, where he became the wine buyer for the multi-national collection of stores. During that time, he tasted a huge number of wines from around the world and finally settled in on what he really wanted to do - open his own winery in Sonoma County.

"I had always dreamed of doing my own thing," he added. "I felt I had acquired a really good sense of terroir, meaning the identification of exactly where a wine comes from. I had tasted many thousands of wines from just about everywhere and I had learned to identify certain aspects of their origin. I wanted to put that knowledge to good use."

Wine Spots Wines first saw the light of day in 2005, with a modest release of around 600 cases. All of the wines' fruit is sourced from Le Francois' large number of contacts within the wine grower family.

The name of the winery is a story of its own. "I was traveling at one point, and a drop of wine fell on my map," he explained. "I was in wine country and the drop made me think of how nice it would be to be able to point out the exact location of the vineyard. I also thought it would make an interesting name for a winery." Each wine produced by Wine Spots Wines cleverly details the exact spot where it was grown, a first in the wine business.

Daniel Le Francois is joined by noted winemaker Scott Peterson (Naked Wines, Scenic Root Winegrowers, WineCraft) who serves as his consulting winemaker. Peterson, a UC Davis alum, has been with Le Francois for more than a decade and has had a firm hand in directing Wine Spots wines' particular style and direction.

We are happy to introduce Wine Spots Wines to our Garagiste Wine Club members. We hope you enjoy!

Wine Spots 2017 "Cuvée 38" Red Wine

Napa Valley

A classic Bordeaux-styled wine, the Cuvée 38 shows the strength and structure of Old World varietals with the finesse and floral signature of Napa Valley. A blend of 67% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc, 4% Malbec, and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2017 Cuvée 38 captures the complexity, regal mouth feel, and soft, silky tannins that are hallmarks of the Bordeaux Right Bank style. This is an expressive wine with dark cherry, cassis, and blackberry flavors that are enhanced by French oak aging, further contributing to the balance, silky tannins, and lingering finish. Aged 12 months in oak. Enjoy!

Gold Medal Wine Club Price: \$42.00 / 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.

