

## This Month's **Classic Wine Club** Selections

Every month our **Classic Wine Club** members receive one or two bottles of our featured wines. The wines you get depend on the membership you are enrolled in. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting!

### *Critique of Pure Riesling - Bonny Doon Vineyards*

Randall was born in Los Angeles in 1953 and attended the prestigious University of California at Santa Cruz where he was a permanent Liberal Arts major. Some time later he found himself working at the Wine Merchant in Beverly Hills sweeping floors. Through exceptional fortune he was given the opportunity to taste a goodly number of great French wines and this singular experience turned him into a complete and insufferable wine fanatic. He returned to the University of California at Davis to complete a degree in viticulture in 1979, where he developed a single-minded obsession with pinot noir.

After attempts to produce the Great American Pinot Noir proved systematically elusive, he turned his attention to the Rhône varieties. His Vineyard was planted to Syrah, Roussanne, Marsanne, Viognier and Riesling, and produced achingly beautiful wines. The wine appears to have fallen squarely in the node of a great wave of interest in Mediterranean varieties in California.

An incorrigible omniform, Mr. Graham has since decided that the world is his vineyard and throughout the year you might espy him at one of his many projects in France, southern Italy, or Germany. Randall lives in Santa Cruz with his muse Chinshu, their daughter Amelie and his thesaurus.

In Mr. Graham's own words, "Kant, or won't? Is it the words we use to represent electric acidity and peachy, mineral flavors that are determinative of rieslingness, or does the state of rieslingness imprint upon us our organoleptic understanding of the wine? Either way, Kant would clearly have benefited with a higher dose of acid. We have dusted off Critique after a 3 year hiatus in what is turning out to be an exceptional vintage for dry white wines. Though the vintage was unusually hot throughout most of the west coast, the wines in general maintained a remarkably high level of natural acidity, enough to impress and further stiffen the spine of the most vigilant Teuton. Due in large measure to the combination of warm temperatures and the long hang time necessary to achieve phenological maturity, Critique also carries around with it more than a tad of alcohol, yet the wine seems to gather it in and contain it without aid of fire suppression equipment."

An excellent example of the "harmonic dry" winemaking style, the 2004 Critique shows off the bright stone fruit and wispy white flower essences unique to riesling, while containing them in a very rigid, stony, even austere framework. A definite, though spurious, suggestion of sweetness in the nose is met with potent crackle of acidity, complete dryness and an expansiveness across the palate courtesy of fermentation in older barrels and the wonder drug of intensive lees therapy.

### *Cabernet Sauvignon, 2001 - Paso Robles* *Locatelli Vineyards & Winery*

Most of the wines created by Locatelli Vineyards are made from 100% estate grown grapes from the Paso Robles region along California's breathtaking central coast. The Paso Robles appellation is famous for its structured Cabernet Sauvignon and much of its acreage is planted with this grape.

Locatelli Vineyards and winery is situated east of the Salinas River, overlooking the quiet town of San Miguel. In 1996, forty acres of wine grapes were planted, including 11 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon. Please refer to the other side of this page for more information about this winery.

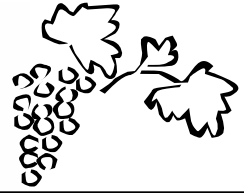
This beautiful, estate bottled Cabernet Sauvignon is a very ripe and fruity, full-bodied wine with flavors of fig, cloves and black pepper. Then tannins are well balanced bringing forth a smooth and silky mouth feel with an amazingly fresh finish. *Only 200 cases of this wine were produced.*

We especially enjoy this wine with pasta covered by a hearty red sauce, and with nice dark chocolate for dessert.



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## This Month's Epic Reds Wine Club Selections

Every month our **Epic Reds Wine Club** members receive two bottles of our featured red wines. These wines are some of California's boutique winery's finest offerings. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting!

### *Locatelli Vineyards & Winery*

Family-owned and operated, Locatelli Vineyards & Winery specializes in hand-crafted full-bodied estate wines. Included in their wine list are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petite Sirah and others. Located as Paso Robles' northern most winery, they overlook the peaceful Salinas River Valley and historic Old Mission San Miguel. They invite you to enjoy them for tasting Friday-Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at 8585 Cross Canyons Road, San Miguel, California.

If you're looking for a quaint, boutique winery where the owners are the entire tasting room staff, then Locatelli Vineyards & Winery is for you. They do not boast an expansive tasting room or parties every Friday, but what they can give you is a very personal wine experience involving their premium Estate wines. The inside of their intimate Tasting Room is reminiscent of something you'd find in the hills of Italy with the aged walls & rustic wood trimmed windows. On busy weekends added family is thrown into the mix to help out, including mothers, brothers, sisters, fathers & maybe a cousin or two. You'll definitely realize this winery is all about family & friends, as from time to time you may see one or more of the owner's five children meandering around.

The owners/operators of Locatelli Vineyards & Winery are Louis & Raynette Gregory. Both are former residents of Visalia which is in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. Louis & Raynette owned & operated Applied Geometrix engineering business in Kingsburg, but in 1996, they looked to the Central Coast to buy property wishing to switch occupations to the world of farming & enology. That is when they found their 100 acre property just north of Paso Robles, nestled in the picturesque Santa Lucia foothills overlooking the beautiful Salinas River Valley & Old Mission San Miguel. With the help of Raynette's father, Reuben Gruber, the property was transformed from cattle land to 40 acres of premium wine grapes. Reuben continued to manage & oversee the wine grapes until 2001 when Louis & Raynette, with their young family, moved permanently to Locatelli Vineyards.

In that same year, Locatelli Vineyards became Locatelli Vineyards & Winery. The entire winemaking process from start to finish is accomplished by Louis Gregory with additional recruitments for crush & bottling. Raynette can usually be found in the office & tasting room managing the remaining duties of the business. Occasionally you'll find her performing "cellar rat" chores in the winery (not too often she hopes). The vineyard varietals consist mainly of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot & Petite Sirah with additional plantings to Petite Verdot, Malbec, & Muscat Blanc. This gives Louis the flexibility to develop new blends as well as some traditional ones. Their most popular wine is currently a Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot blend called Cielo Rosso (Red Heaven). Before bottling, all the wines are aged for two to three years in French & American oak barrels allowing for a very enjoyable wine.

"Where did the name Locatelli come from?" The vineyards & winery are named after Louis' Great Grandfather, Cesare Locatelli, as a tribute to him & their heritage, as well as others, who have come before them making the long journey to America. You can read more about Cesare's life on Locatelli Winery's website by clicking on the Heritage Page.

#### *2004 Petite Syrah, Estate Bottled, Paso Robles*

This beautiful Petite Syrah shows an abundance of sweet dried plum, backed up by blackberry and cedar, and finishes with a slight touch of apple. Charbroiled steaks and tri-tips prepared with a medium spicy dry rub will go perfectly with this wine. *Only 650 cases of this wine were produced.*

#### *2002 Cielo Rosso (Red Heaven), Estate Bottled, Paso Robles*

This is the most popular wine made by Locatelli, and it consists of a magical blend of 40% 2002 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, and 60% 2002 Estate Merlot. Try it with roast beef, a nice rib roast, beef stew or meatloaf recipe. *Only 125 cases of this wine were produced.*