

ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS

POV, LOS CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY, 2013



- Organic - CCOF Certified Vineyards
- Three classic Bordeaux varietals: Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon
- From RSV's Vandal, Three Amigos and OSR Vineyards
- Cuvee changes every vintage
- 19 months in 30% new French oak barrels
- Labels feature original photography by Rob Sinskey
- Three photos per vintage - Four of each per case

Winegrowing Notes

The second year of drought produced grapes with thicker skins and smaller berries for deeply colored, intensely flavored wines. Most of Napa Valley described the vintage as "early, even and excellent." However, RSV's "Right Bank of Napa Valley" Vandal Vineyard is not like the rest of the region. Though we do share the "excellent" adjective, the relatively cool season allowed a longer hang time than most. Harvest was completed October 8th as the last block of RSV's organically farmed Cabernet Sauvignon was brought to the cellar, crushed and allowed to ferment on feral yeast. Gentle cap irrigation was employed to extract color and flavor without the bitter notes that can develop from more aggressive pump overs. Once dry, the wines were moved to small French oak barrels (approximately 30% new) where the wines rested for almost two years in the RSV caves. It was then blended by taste to take advantage of the unique way Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon respond to the eccentricities of the growing season. The result is an elegant, well balanced wine that is delicious young but will continue to improve for the next decade or more.

Tasting Notes - by Jeff Virnig

The difference between good and great wine is 45 minutes. Great wine is never a quick study as nuances can initially go unnoticed until the wine has time to air in a glass or decanter. I encourage decanting younger wines, especially if they are not over-ripe and were picked to optimize balanced fruit, acid and tannin.

The 2013 POV is a wine worthy of decanting and best enjoyed over a long meal to allow it to reveal its subtle nuances. The aromas and flavors, when initially poured, are of red berry, chocolate-mocha, bramble and spice with just a hint of earthy minerals hiding in the background. The wine opens up to reveal a semi-round, mid-palate texture with a hint of tannin and a lingering finish of macerated berries that remain on the palate long after the wine is tasted.

FINE WINES. ORGANIC VINES.

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from the "Right Bank" of Napa!

Grape growers, like all farmers, are the canaries in the coal mine. We feel it first. Just look at what we've experienced over the last five or so years: extreme drought capped by record rain followed recently by extreme, record-setting high temperatures. We are experiencing the very definition of climate change - unusual, erratic weather.

When RSV adopted an organic farming model over twenty five years ago, we had several goals: Do the "right" thing in an area where farming and residential properties interfaced. Create world class wine in a responsible way for "guilt-free hedonism!" Work with, not against, nature in order to leave the land in better shape than when we acquired it. Create a positive working environment for all employees. Leave as small a footprint as possible when it comes to the winery and the mechanized farm implements by incorporating animals, solar, bio-fuels, etc.. Grow resilient vines that can withstand the looming issue of climate change.

At the time, we felt that if climate change really was in process, then things were going to become more extreme and challenging to farmers in the not too distant future. Winemaker Jeff Virnig proposed that we institute a method of farming now known as "regenerative agriculture." This farming model is not only organic, it also encourages practices that lead to carbon sequestering; see: <https://rodaleinstitute.org/assets/WhitePaper.pdf>. This model would ideally create a healthy vine that could withstand weather extremes, such as spikes in temperature.

Today we see that climate change is indeed in process and our adoption of the "think globally - act locally" approach has, so far, paid off and our vines are holding up quite well, thank you. However, we have had to rethink some varieties and selections in certain locations. For example, we recently replanted a vineyard that had grown too warm for Pinot Noir with Zinfandel and Primitivo and a Merlot parcel with Cabernet Franc. We continue to hone our response to the ever-changing weather by actively seeking out selections that will maintain their acidity and ripen later in the warming climate.

As temperatures rise in some regions, single variety wines run the risk of becoming monochromatic. One of the better tools we have for making great wine in this less predictable environment is to blend varieties to make a great wine that is reflective of the vintage. In the Carneros regions, both Merlot and Cabernet Franc do a great job holding on to acid while Cabernet Sauvignon gets an extra long growing season for flavor development. Every vintage, each variety responds to the weather patterns in their own unique way, allowing us to blend these three varieties together in just the right proportions for a truly luxurious, guilt-free and hedonistic wine that doesn't hurt the planet or your palate.

**Unlikely Points of View from
Unlikely People** - wouldn't it be nice if they acted on their words?

1. "Whether humans are responsible for the bulk of climate change is going to be left to the scientists, but it's all of our responsibility to leave this planet in better shape for the future generations than we found it."

2. "I'm a fiscal hawk. I vote against all taxes, but I do believe the environment, and climate change is a bigger issue than fiscal deficits are as a risk to the nation."

3. "We believe addressing the risk of climate change is a global issue."

Key: # 1. Mike Huckabee - Former Republican Presidential Candidate and former Governor of Arkansas
2. Vinod Khosla - Billionaire founder of Sun Microsystems
3. Rex Tillerson - US Secretary of State and former CEO of Exxon

