



## CASTORO CELLARS' WINES

*"We are committed to matching individual vineyards and microclimates with winemaking techniques that magnify the quality of the region's varietals. We believe every bottle of our wine exemplifies this commitment."*— Niels & Bimmer Udsen

### **Winemaking Team**

Castoro Cellars is led by its original team of winemakers. Owner Niels Udsen, veteran Winemaker and Enologist Tom Myers, and Assistant Winemaker Mikel Olsten, have worked together for over twenty years, creating world-class wines at affordable prices. Niels' and Tom's relationship stems back even further, to their days of working together at Estrella River Winery.

Through their distinct roles, each member contributes individual talents, enhancing the team as a whole. Niels' keen business sense and leadership abilities are complemented by his knowledge of the many winemaking tasks, from operating presses to running the bottling line. He has designed the winery for quality and efficiency, investing in the best equipment available.

Tom Myers is a skilled winemaker who is widely recognized and respected. He is a hands-on winemaker, supervising the entire process from vineyard to bottle. His experience and commitment to the wine industry earned him the "2002 Winemaker of the Year" award for San Luis Obispo County.

Mikel Olsten is a self-taught winemaker, learning from his own experiences and under the tutelage of mentors such as Tom and Niels. He was Castoro Cellars' first employee and is well-versed in all aspects of the winery. He oversees all daily cellar operations and plays an integral role in maintaining the high quality of Castoro wines.

The way in which the team works together is facilitated by the winery's close, family-like atmosphere. Trusting one another's judgment and palate, the winemaking team, along with other key staff members, conducts regular tastings of Castoro wines. The tastings are always done blind, and can be held as many as three times a week. "This is a crucial part of our winemaking process. Collectively, we are able to leverage a variety of experiences and expertise that we wouldn't otherwise have," explains Myers.

### **Winemaking Philosophy**

For over two decades, Castoro Cellars has created their "Dam Fine Wine" from Paso Robles fruit. Sourcing grapes from over 20 growers in addition to their own vineyards, Castoro Cellars has the flexibility necessary to

select the best fruit every year. “The Paso Robles AVA is the backbone of our wines, providing fresh fruit characters, and the ability to be approachable young, while still aging well,” explains Niels.

Working closely with their growers, Castoro Cellars magnifies fruit quality by matching the proper variety and clone to the right vineyard area. Coupled with specific vineyard techniques, the highest quality grapes are produced. The process comes full circle in the winery, as the appropriate winemaking techniques, fermentation temperatures, and type of oak mature these grapes into a complex and balanced wine.

Elitism does not exist at Castoro Cellars. The winemaking team holds strongly to the belief that wine should be an integral part of the daily meal and should be accessible to all consumers. “We produce an honest wine that is an honest value. We are able to set a price point that is affordable, and so we do. I would love for people to take our wines and compare them against wine two or three times our price,” explains Niels.

## DAM FINE WINE

### **Fume Blanc**

Barrel fermented and aged for four months, the nose of this wine is classic of Sauvignon Blanc, figs, citrus, and melons, with a slight bit of oak and a steely character. The mouth is crisp and fresh with lingering citrus notes.

### **Chardonnay**

A complex wine full of citrus and apple notes, this Chardonnay is a compilation of several Paso Robles vineyards. Roughly 25% of this vintage underwent malolactic fermentation, adding body and a slight butteriness. The barrel fermenting and subsequent aging has contributed oak aromas and a lush mouthfeel. The lingering finish is crisp and fresh.

### **Merlot**

This wine is typically 100% Merlot, with a subtle but full nose of fruit and oak. A combination of newer and older barrels are used to obtain the barrel-aged character without an overbearing oak component. The grapes have a great balance of acid and sugar, and offer intense fruit flavors and aromas.

### **Cabernet Sauvignon**

Depending on the vintage, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc are sometimes added to this Cabernet Sauvignon for complexity. This wine is packed with rich berry and full fruit, capped with a toasty oak note. The finish fills the mouth with lush flavors that aren't blown away with excessive tannins. History shows that this wine will age for many years.

### **Zinfandel**

Zinfandel has emerged as the flagship varietal of Castoro Cellars, garnering an array of accolades. Created primarily from vineyards in the Templeton Gap, the cooler nights and hot days have produced very intense, ripe fruit. The grapes are picked at over 24° brix, adding a hint of jamminess to the wine.

### **White Zinfandel**

With a bouquet full of fruit characters such as berries, cherry, and watermelon, this wine lends itself to being enjoyed with or without a meal. The flavors are full of delicate Zinfandel fruit, balanced with a slight bit of sweetness to make this off-dry wine clean and brisk.

### **Muscat Canelli**

The fresh fruit and flowery aromas are just as intense in the wine as they were in the fruit. This wine can be enjoyed as an aperitif or with the crispness of fruit desserts. Interestingly, it's a treat with very spicy foods.

### **Late Harvest Muscat Canelli**

The grapes for this wine come from the Stone's Throw Vineyard. Before harvest, select rows of the vineyard were tagged for extended ripening. The results produced this very aromatic wine with hints of apricots and pears. Fortification stopped the fermentation and retained the fruit's natural sweetness.

### **Late Harvest Zinfandel**

To create this wine, the winemaking team selects ten rows of the Cobble Creek Vineyard and nets the vines to protect them from birds. The grapes are then left to hang for about one month after the primary picking, resulting in grapes of unmatched intensity. The wine is full of plum and spice.

### **Zinfandel Grape Juice**

A delicious and healthy alternative to sodas, this juice is great for kids as well for the designated driver. Due to the natural sweetness of the grapes, no sugar is added to this juice.

### **RESERVE WINES**

Castoro Cellars creates several Reserve wines, which are produced in very limited quantities. Call the tasting room for release information and availability.

### **Viognier**

From the Steinbeck Vineyard in the Paso Robles appellation, this Reserve wine is cold fermented in stainless steel tanks, which helps retain its inherently floral aromas. It is then put in small oak barrels to age for four months, resulting in a highly aromatic wine with intense flavors.

**Blind Faith Pinot Noir**

This is the first vineyard-designation for the Blind Faith vineyard. It exhibits intense fruit aromas including black cherry notes and balanced toasty, slightly smoky, oak flavors.

**Bien Nacido Pinot Noir**

Created from the grapes of the famed Bien Nacido Vineyard in Santa Barbara County, this wine presents an elegant nose of cherries, oak and wild mushrooms. The mouth is light, yet full of fruit. It is aged in new French Oak barrels for 5 months.

**Sangiovese**

This wine is a myriad of distinctive flavors fighting their way to prominence. The grapes are perfectly ripened and produce a very rich wine. Aromas of allspice, cinnamon, and vanilla from the oak are coupled with rich, ripe fruit nuances of plums and dried apricots.

**Tempranillo**

This wine started as a Wine Club exclusive and has been so successful that it has been added to Castoro's quiver of wines. The Tempranillo grape has been an integral part of the Rioja wines of Spain for many years. The grape and many of its characteristics resemble Zinfandel. Note the allspice, plums and strawberries in the nose and a lingering finish of fresh fruit in the finish.

**Vineyard Tribute Zinfandel**

This wine is a marriage of a select few vineyards that complement each other, producing a unique wine that pays tribute to the best Paso Robles Zinfandel vineyards. Ripe and jammy fruit aromas and flavors flourish in this highly sought-after wine.

**Cobble Creek Zinfandel**

Made from the organic vineyards surrounding the Castoro Cellars Tasting Room and the home of Niels and Bimmer Udsen, this wine tends to exhibit great raspberry fruit notes. The elegant fruit and ripe plum aromas couple with a spiciness that is characteristic of rich Zinfandels.

**Giubbini Zinfandel**

Explosive and jammy, this is a big Zinfandel with large fruit components that cater to the senses. This vineyard-designated wine typically carries a higher acid and tannin level – elements of a wine that complement many rich foods – and offers good aging potential.

### **Syrah**

This Syrah is a great example of what this highly respected variety has to offer. The grapes are sourced from two well-managed vineyards in Paso Robles. The aroma offers an intensity and balance of berry fruits, violets and oak. The mouth is lush with bright fruit and oak flavors that linger on the palate.

### **Cabernet Franc**

This wine is a blend of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot from the Cienega Valley AVA and the Paso Robles AVA. It has a medium body with elegant character. The aromas are of ripe fruit with flowery notes and the added complexity of oak vanillins. The tannins are moderate and the wine will age favorably for several years.

### **Diciannove Anni**

An annual creation, the blend of this wine differs every year, as does the name, which reflects the Italian translation of the anniversary of Castoro Cellars. This 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary wine is a blend of 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Zinfandel, 13% Cabernet Franc and 12% Petite Sirah, producing a supple and complex wine with all the required components for years of aging. It is a masterpiece of blending.