



Jeff Runquist WINES

ABOUT JEFF RUNQUIST WINES

For the adventurous wine drinker looking to explore the diversity of the wine world, Jeff Runquist Wines offers unique varietals from California's premier appellations inspired by the curiosity and passions of their growers and winemakers. A small producer of award-winning single vineyard designated red table wines, his winery and tasting room are located in the heart of the Sierra Foothills, in Amador County's Shenandoah Valley. Most of his wines are produced in very limited quantities and share a similar theme of fresh fruit reflective of the varietal flavors inherent in the grapes and elegant tannins. He produces a wide variety of wines, but there are four principle wines that his winery strives to have available throughout the year: Petite Sirah, Zinfandel, Barbera, and Petit Verdot. All of Jeff's wines will age and become more complex with time, but they can be enjoyed in their youth as well.

Unlike many other winemakers, Jeff leaves the decision about when to pick to the growers and only works with those who share his passion and know the value of harvesting grapes at their peak of flavor, color and character. Depending upon the varietal, Jeff teams with sixteen growers from different parts of Northern and Central California, pairing the particular grape varietal with a specific vineyard site. All but four of his wines carry a vineyard designation and the name of the grower so these partnerships are declared on every bottle of his wine, acknowledging the grower's invaluable contribution. This unique and untraditional business model also allows him to be nimble in the marketplace. By not having resources tied up in vineyards, Jeff is able to give his wines the finest treatment in the cellar and provide his clientele distinctive wines with merit.

Jeff is often asked how he decides which grapes to purchase. The answer is that the grapes made that decision years ago. During the years he made wine for other wineries, he discovered the growers that produced fruit that was successful. When one looks at his portfolio of wines, one sees a road map of his career. He produces seven wines from the Sierra Foothills, two from the Napa Valley, and four from Paso Robles. Jeff's time in the northern interior introduced him to the grapes and growers of the Lodi, Clarksburg and River Junction appellations. These regions provide him with another nine different varietals. It seems that every year brings a new grape or opportunity, and his exploration of these new varietals and growers keeps Jeff's wines fresh and alive.

He started his journey in the wine industry in 1977 when he interned with Seagrams at their Paul Masson Sherry Cellars in Madera while studying enology at UC Davis. Upon graduating in 1980, Jeff worked in the cellar at Montevina in Amador County's Shenandoah Valley, where he was promoted to winemaker in 1982. After a three-year stint at the Napa Valley Cooperative Winery from 1987 through 1990, Jeff became the winemaker for the J. Lohr winery in San Jose. It was during his tenure at J. Lohr that it became clear that he was going to have to make wine for himself.

After over eighteen years of producing wines for others, Jeff launched his own label – Jeff Runquist Wines – with the 1995 vintage of the “Z” Zinfandel from Massoni Ranch in the Shenandoah Valley. In the fall of 2006, Jeff purchased a five-acre parcel in the same area. There, he constructed a small winery and tasting room that opened in May of 2008. In the spring of 2010, a larger production-oriented facility was erected. The adjacent property with 10 acres of grapes (five acres of old vine Zinfandel) became available for sale in 2016. Jeff and his wife Margie were able to purchase the property and add an Estate Bottled Zinfandel from grapes that were planted in 1890.

All are welcome to come to the winery’s tasting room (open seven days a week; 11:00am – 5:00pm) to try Jeff’s award-winning wines. His motto is, “Come taste the diversity and drink the glass less traveled.”

Contact Jeff Runquist wines at 209.245.6282 or info@jeffrunquistwines.com.

Learn more about Jeff Runquist Wines at www.jeffrunquistwines.com.

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