

ZD Wines

In 1968, Norman deLeuze and Gino Zepponi pooled their resources of \$3,000 apiece and applied for a winery permit. Producing world-class wines was the vision of these two former aerospace engineers who, in pursuit of their dream, launched ZD Wines. Their plan was to produce wines similar to those from the renowned Burgundy region of France using Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, at a time when there had not been a winery permit issued in Sonoma County in nearly 20 years.



In the 1970's and 80's, Norman deLeuze paved the way for sustainable and organic farming in California's cooler climates. After his passing a few years back, the family continues to produce wines with his personal, hands-on approach. Over the years, all of Norman and Rosa Lee's children – Robert, Julie and Brett – have joined the winery staff. The family is now on its 4th generation to contribute their time and skills to the winery.

Robert's involvement began the day his father formed the winery and began crushing wine grapes. From the time he was 11 years old, Robert was never far behind Norman. In 1983, after years of practical experience and studying viticulture and enology at UC Davis, Robert became winemaker. The success of ZD Wines can only be attributed to the dedication and winemaking philosophy of the deLeuze family. As ZD Wines moves forward, the family continues to grow. In 1996 the deLeuze family purchased an historical, 33-acre vineyard in Carneros. Formerly owned by Irish immigrant Patrick Flanagan, the property is planted with 26 acres of Chardonnay. Another seven acres was planted with Pinot Noir which produced its first vintage in 1999. As the winery continues to grow, so does the vision of ZD Wines.



Pinot Noir



Varietal/Blend: Pinot Noir

Farming Practices: certified organic

Soil: varied

Vine Training: guyot

Harvest Technique: by hand

Year Vines Were Planted: 1974–2005

Yeast: cultured

Fermentation: open-top fermentations with hand punch downs every 6 hours

Malolactic: yes

Maturation: 10 months in French Oak

Alcohol: 13.8%

Acidity: 3.78 pH / 0.63 TA

Fined: no

Filtered: yes

Country: United States

Region: California

Subregion: Los Carneros AVA

“With a beautiful dark ruby color, the Pinot Noir has aromas of ripe strawberries and briary black cherry interspersed with hints of vanilla, cedar, and rhubarb. The subtle oak nuances integrate perfectly with the bright fruit, balanced acidity, and silky tannins. This wine is drinking beautifully now, but will also age gracefully in your cellar.”

– Winemaker's Notes

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