

ZD WINES

In 1968, Norman deLeuze and Gino Zeponi 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.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Varietal/Blend: 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Petit Verdot

Farming: sustainable

Soil: varied

Year Vines Planted: before 1992

Yeast: cultured

Fermentation: open-top fermentation / hand punch-downs every 8 hours / vineyard lots are kept separate during fermentation and first year of aging, prior to selection process

Aging: 22 months in American Oak

Alcohol: 14.5%

Fined: none

Filtered: light

Country: United States

Region: California

Sub Region: Napa

Vineyard: estate and sourced fruit

Vineyard Size: 3.2 acres

“This wine begins with wonderful aromas of cassis, black cherry, and red plum that are complemented with subtle hints of clove, lavender, cocoa, and vanilla. The palate has a core of ripe, dark fruit enveloped with lush, balanced tannins that help carry the wine through to an incredibly long finish. The oak is present, but well integrated, and gives the wine an added layer of complexity.”

Winemaker's notes