village **VINO!**

VOLPE PASINI 2018 RIBOLLA GIALLA, COLLI ORIENTALI, ITALY

Volpe Pasini is one of Italy's oldest wine producing estates with records dating back to 1596. In those days, it was just the Volpe side of the family tending the grapes and making the wines in the high North Eastern region of Italy. That changed around the end of WWII when the Volpe line of heritage had no heir-apparent and was transferred over to the Pasini line of the family, hence the modern day label displaying both familial names.

The varietal Ribolla Gialla is also significant to the region as it can be found in the estates historical records dating back centuries and is indigenous to Colli Orientalli. Ribolla Gialla can also be made in a variety of styles depending upon it's execution, some are made in a more full bodied manner with extended skin contact and or in a leaner style with the juice from the grapes not having extended skin contact time. This example is incredibly crisp and clean and aged without extended skin contact in all stainless steel, with pronounced minerality and showcases fresh mountain herbs against just ripe orchard fruit.

EXPLORERS CLUB
MARCH 2020

LOS PILARES 2017 GRENACHE, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Los Pilares produces natural leaning, minimal intervention wines from San Diego County, primarily from vineyard sources nestled in small pockets of remote land up in the mountains of Julian. We felt that this was a perfect example of quality wine being made in our backyard to share with our wine club members as well as a great segue into our upcoming San Diego County and Baja California tasting this month!

Their 2017 Grenache really shows that selecting the correct varietals for a burgeoning region is key to transmitting a sense of place or "terrior." While this wine has all the hallmarks of the varietal, ripe berry fruit and a rocky minerality, there is a discernible and balancing level of acidity to this Grenache that speaks of its high altitude origin. The particular vineyard this Grenache was made from was only 12 years old at the time of harvest which speaks volumes for the potential of these vines especially under winemaker Kyley Morgan's guiding hands.

A TRIBUTE TO GRACE 2016 GRENACHE, MORRO VIEW VINEYARD, EDNA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Winemaker Angela Osborne has long been a mainstay at Village Vino not only because of her delicious Rosé or her connection to San Diego (she worked for a short while at Winesellar & Brasserie) but also because of her vision of singularly perfecting a uniquely Californian expression of the varietal Grenache.

Angela started the A Tribute To Grace label back in 2006 and decided to name it as such after her Grandmother, Grace, and her personal love for the varietal of Grenache. To this day, Angela only works with Grenache from single vineyard sources for all of her red wine bottlings.

Angela's 2016 vintage bottling of the Morro View Vineyard Grenache is truly a testament to her talent as a winemaker. It's expression is very delicate at first, almost suggesting a Pinot Noir like character of more aromatic presence. With a little bit more air and time to open, the fruit characteristics of the Grenache grape really begin to sing, adding deeper berry notes to the wine. On the finish, this wine speaks of its cool, coastal climate above Morro Bay with notes of scraggly underbrush and saline ocean influence. This wine is showing wonderfully right now at only 4 years old but will develop for several more years if you can wait that long.

We particularly wanted to use this wine as this month's Collectors Club selection to be able to show a counterpoint to the Grenache grape grown in California by two up and coming producers only a few hundred miles away and only across the span of one vintage (see the example of Los Pilares above for the Explorers Club).We hope that this is as interesting a case study for our members as it was for us and reveals more about the dynamic range that California AVAs (American Viticultural Areas) are capable of expressing.