

# Your West Coast Collection

from the Bonner  
Private Wine Partnership



**BONNER**  
PRIVATE WINE  
PARTNERSHIP



# America's Most Unique Wine Club

Dedicated to searching the world for astounding wines from little-known winemakers

## Wish You Could Buy More of Our Wine?

Log into your profile on [www.bonnerprivatewines.com](http://www.bonnerprivatewines.com) to view our store and get your hands on more of the wines you love (while we still have them!) You can also give us a call at 844.733.5249.

### ...Can We Ask A Small Favor?

Can we “compare notes” with you on these wines?

Maybe you picked up on aromas that we didn't. Maybe you just fell in love with a particular bottle. Or maybe the exact opposite. Whatever the case, we want to hear from you. Because you're part of this. And we can only keep this mission going if you're on board.

Shoot us an email at [feedback@bonnerprivatewines.com](mailto:feedback@bonnerprivatewines.com).

Dear Member,

For the best wines from America's west coast, look for a paradox.

To wit...

A chardonnay with no oak or butter...

A valley in Washington where it never rains (and the onions are so sweet you can eat them like apples)...

A So-Cal "wine ghetto" with a colder climate than northern California (and where some of the most interesting experiments in winemaking are taking place today)...

A Napa subregion where the pinots taste like cherry cola (and yet the soil is so highly prized even Domaine de la Romanée Conti owns a vineyard here)...

And much more (as you'll soon discover).

American winemaking may date back 500 years (the Spaniards brought grapes with them), but the modern industry as we know it is still young.

As recently as the early 70s, winemaking in California, Oregon, and Washington was the province of UC Davis wine geeks, one step removed from hippies and earth-ship devotees.

The rest of the world, especially the Europeans, scoffed. But sure enough the geeks had their revenge in 1976, when Californian wines bested their French competitors in the "Judgement of Paris."

Today, several wines of America's west coast have become brands as strong as any from Bordeaux or Burgundy (with the prices to prove it). The suits have moved in, chasing scale and/or point scores with whatever means science affords them.

Yet, the marginal, frontier spirit of the original west coast wine geeks has not altogether disappeared.

Thus, the six bottles in this collection:

- ① Deux Soldats Winemaker's Blend 2018
- ② Tamber Bey Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon 2018
- ③ Muscardini Cellars Tesoro 2019
- ④ Iron Horse Vineyards UnOaked Chardonnay 2019
- ⑤ Bouchaine Estate Pinot Noir 2018
- ⑥ Tercero Verbiage Rouge 2015

Our American collections have always been our smallest batch. With the first wine on this list coming in at just 260 cases produced, the trend continues with this West Coast Collection. "Something rare, something special," as Julien Miquel would say.

To your health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Bonner', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Will Bonner  
Founder, Bonner Private Wine Partnership

## A Quick Note on Wine Tasting

On the next few pages, we've included tasting notes. Here's a quick tip on how to approach them.

What makes a wine expert is not just depth of knowledge – which anyone can achieve – but a sensitivity to taste and smell. A great wine expert will find a hundred little aromas that most will never be able to detect.

Now, if you don't get the same flavors, does that mean you're wrong?

No. Tasting is subjective. Besides which, wines are always evolving in the bottle. That hint of cherry from a few months ago might present itself differently now. So, if you detect a flavor or aroma you don't see on the tasting sheet, add it. See what your friends say. Better yet, if you have a tasting that differs markedly from what's written here, send us your notes. We'd love to compare them!

## 2018 Deux Soldats Winemaker's Blend (Walla Walla Valley, WA)



Only 260 cases  
LIVE certified  
Cabernet  
Sauvignon, Syrah,  
Petit Verdot, Cab  
Franc

Washington State gets a lot of rain – not an ideal climate for most wine. Down in the state's southeast, however, at the Oregonian border, sits a small patch of desert, the Walla Walla Valley. The rain shadow comes from the Cascades on the coast and the Blue Mountains to the west.

Walla Walla's warm dry summers produce Washington State's best reds, typically grown with minimal intervention on steep slopes. Such was the case with this 2018 French blend from Deux Soldats (French for "two soldiers" – owners Eric and Ruthann founded the winery after 20+ years of US Army deployments).

The 2018 growing season was "near perfect" with a warm summer followed by a dry cool fall. After a mid-October harvest, Eric and Ruthann used a low intervention method (known as "LIVE") followed by 18 months in French oak and a 2020 release. You'll find classic cab sauv/syrah notes like red fruit and spice, held up by a strong cab franc/petit verdot body. With ripe dark cherry, raspberry jam, and a dash of pepper on the palate to complement the sparkling tannins. Drink 2022 to 2026.



# 2018 Tamber Bey Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley, CA)



1200 cases  
Calistoga Region of Napa  
Cabernet Sauvignon

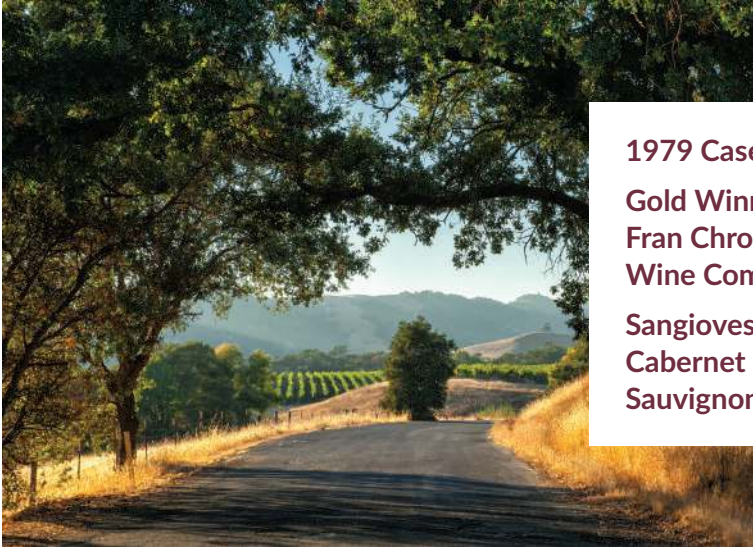
At the northern rim of Napa’s banana shape, surrounded by mountains that trap the cool nightly mist, sits a 22-acre horse ranch. Some of the world’s top competition horses train here. Of interest to us, however, is the winery, named in honor of owner Barry Waitte’s two favorite Arabian endurance horses (Tamborina and Beyamo).

Barry was among Northern California’s first wave of tech entrepreneurs, working at AOL and Apple. All the while, he was also a self-described “professional consumer” of wines – insisting on learning as much as possible about every wine he bought.

Tamber Bey focuses on single varietals, obsessing over source. The result is this opulent 2018, with a heavy dark cherry presence – coloring, nose, and palate. You’ll also find a bit of earth in the nose that becomes a hint of tobacco and leather in the mouth. Blueberry and rhubarb join in as well, leading the whole to a long, smooth finish. Drink 2022 to 2028.



## 2019 Muscardini Cellars Tesoro (Sonoma Valley, CA)



**1979 Cases**

**Gold Winner, San  
Fran Chronicle  
Wine Competition**

**Sangiovese,  
Cabernet  
Sauvignon, Syrah**

Before immigrating to the US in 1909, winemaker Michael Muscardini's grandfather made wine back in Italy. Today, Michael honors his heritage with this mix of half sangiovese, half cab sauv/syrah.

We're used to French styles in California (and Muscardini's 2016 merlot recently won Double Gold at the 2022 San Fran Chronicle's Wine Competition), but Super Tuscans are more of an oddity.

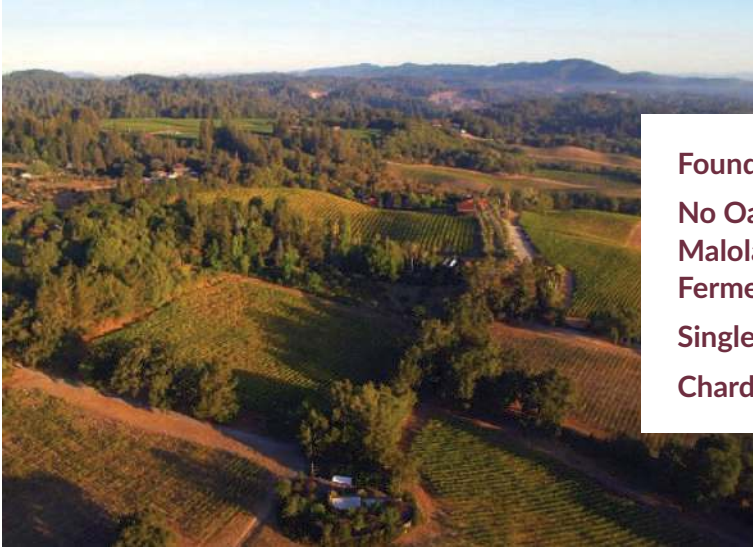
Michael calls his method "new world thinking with old world drinking" and it works wonders in this 2019, itself a Gold winner in the Chronicle's competition.

This Tesoro ("treasure" in Italian) doesn't so much fall into the glass as unfurl like a dark crimson curtain in an old Baroque-era theater. Completing the effect are notes of roast walnut, tobacco, clove and berries in the nose; with blackberry, plum and dark chocolate on the palate. Drink 2022-2030.





# 2019 Iron Horse Vineyards UnOaked Chardonnay (Green Valley, CA)



**Founded 1976**  
**No Oak, No Malolactic Fermentation**  
**Single Estate Chardonnay**

You've heard us rail against overly buttery, oaky California chardonnays. But we don't hate chardonnay itself, especially chards in the cool weather Burgundian style. Iron Horse, located in the cool fog of Sonoma's northern Green Valley, eschewed both oak and malolactic fermentation (the secondary fermentation that produces the extra "buttery" effect) for this 2019.

Sonoma fans will know Iron Horse as the producer of one of California's best sparkling wines, the result of a targeted approach to the management and fermentation of their grapes (specialized treatment lot by lot, even vine by vine). They used the same precision for this bottle of UnOaked, deciding how each lot of chardonnay grapes should be handled (e.g. immediate pressing or cold soak) as they entered the winery.

The lack of butter and oak make space for a fine nose of red apple, lychee, and dried fruit, with the apple continuing onto the palate where it mixes with a hit of lemon and a ripe pear finish. Drink 2022 to 2027.



# 2018 Bouchaine Estate Pinot Noir (Napa Valley, CA)



**Carneros District  
Hand Harvested,  
Native Yeast  
Pinot Noir**

The pinot noirs from the Carneros district at the southern tip of Napa and Sonoma are known for having a hint of “cola.” No idea why. Perhaps it’s the clone types (US pinot noir vines are clones of old European vines). Perhaps it’s something in the soil – pinot noir is a grape that seems to soak up terroir like no other.

In this 2018 from Bouchaine – the oldest continuously operating winery in Carneros (since the 1880s) – the cola makes its appearance in the nose, before mixing with cherry and strawberry on the palate. Not to say that this pinot noir is overly fruity.

You’ll also find some cocoa and spice in there. From grapes hand harvested at night, followed by a week-long cold soak all in the service of preserving and extracting maximum flavor, Bouchaine’s Estate pinot combines the best of Napa’s bright elegance with Sonoma’s earthy depth. Drink 2022 to 2032.



## 2015 Tercero Verbiage Rouge (Santa Barbara, CA)



**Micro-Producer**  
**42 Months in**  
**French Oak**  
**Grenache,**  
**Mourvedre, Syrah,**  
**Cinsault**

Santa Barbara is the Brooklyn or Austin of California's winemaking scene. It's hip. Not in the ultra-fashionable sense, but in the earthy, artisanal-kombucha sense. Called "the wine ghetto" by some, Santa Barbara is a county where tiny, owner-operated wineries can get weird and break rules on pleasant, rounded hills where vines grow beside ancient oak trees (and sometimes grazing horses).

Perhaps inspired by the round-top hill wineries of southern France, winemaker Larry Schaffer eschews the Bordeaux and Burgundy styles favored by most California winemakers and looks instead to Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

He gets pretty darn close with this 2015, from foot-stomped grapes, with whole cluster fermentation and 42 months aging in French oak. Yes, this is a wild beast of a wine, even after all that aging. Note the bramble fruit, earth, and tea leaves in the nose. The mourvedre and syrah hit their peak after a second on the palate. Don't swallow just yet. Enjoy the long finish. Drink 2022-2032.





## **Our Mission**

At the Bonner Private Wine Partnership, our mission is to bring you unique bottles from all over the world. We seek wines that are bursting with life and character – wines with an adventure in every bottle.

## **Your Next Quarterly Shipment**

As you read this, we are already selecting and arranging to import wines for next quarter's shipment. We will be in touch to share what we've found with you when we get closer to the shipping date. Until then, enjoy your wine! (And let us know what you think!)

## **Problem with Your Shipment?**

Please call our customer service, 9-5 Monday through Friday at 844.733.5249. We want everyone to get the most out of this club and these wines. So if there's a problem, we'll do our best to make it right.

## **Want More Wine?**

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