

NORMAN VINEYARDS



Norman Vineyards is a small family operated vineyard and winery in the hills west of Paso Robles. Founded over a quarter century ago by Art and Lei Norman, the grapes from their vineyards have won tremendous acclaim and respect from the many wineries that have purchased from them. They produce award-winning wines from their estate vineyard as well as from select varietals purchased from neighboring vineyards. The wines have intense varietal character and are handcrafted to preserve the natural fruit characteristics, yet offer a maturity and softness to the palate. Their goal is to produce moderately priced, exceptional wines.

Art and Lei Norman began planting their vineyards in the hills of Adelaida in 1971. These native Californians grew up with a sense of the land's beauty and fragility. Their appreciation of the environment, the calciferous limestone soil and a unique micro-climate results in grapes of the highest varietal intensity without hard tannins. Art and Lei's cultural practices include erosion control, minimum use of pesticides and very little irrigation on, resulting in lower crop yields.

The Normans had envisioned a small winery producing perhaps several thousand cases of wine per year, and for a couple of years their vision was realized. With demand soaring, the Normans felt obliged to meet it, and production grew every year. By the mid-nineties they were using all of their own fruit, and began sourcing fruit from growers in the region who were selected for their excellent vineyard practices and fruit quality. Today their wines come from their home vineyards plus over 8 growers throughout the Paso Robles area. They have also come to purchase fruit in the Cucamonga Valley, as well as the Edna Valley to round out their portfolio.

They began in 1992 with Cabernet, No Nonsense Red, Zinfandel, and Chardonnay. As their production has grown, and accessed to some excellent new vineyards, they have added several Zinfandels and a Barbera. As of 2002 they have embarked on a journey to create a new reserve line of wines as well as a Syrah program. An Estate Zinfandel has been added to the lineup, and they will continue to make limited amounts of varietal wines such as Petite Sirah, Sangiovese, Grenache, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and vineyard designated wines as their curiosity and quality warrant.

BUZZARD TREE MERITAGE

REGION: Paso Robles, CA

WINEMAKER: Steve Felten

GRAPE TYPE: 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot,
34% Cabernet Franc, 6% Malbec, 3% Petite Verdot

COLOR: Deep ruby red

BOUQUET: A floral and complex aroma of ripe cherries and
cassis, with spicy overtones of pepper and nutmeg.

TASTE: Medium-bodied, the intense berry and malt flavors are
superbly balanced with structured tannins and firm acidity. The
lengthy finish coats your mouth with nutty and chocolate flavors.

BARREL AGEING: 16 Months in 1-2 yr old French and
American oak

RECOMMENDED DISHES: Roast beef or pork

CASES PRODUCED: 2,506

SERVE: Room temperature; 68° F (20° C)

