

PATLAND ESTATE VINEYARDS

he pastoral splendor of Napa Valley's expansive vistas attracts over 4.5 million visitors annually. The uniquely relaxed aura, rustic-luxe hotels, Michelinstarred restaurants and cult wineries surely bring vibrant warmth to all who make the journey. Some would go even further; perhaps imagining themselves settling and leading the life of the country vintners, yet the notion is quickly dismissed as fantasy, requiring an unfathomable devotion of time and resources. When Henry and Olga Patland visited the region over 25 years ago they, like many tourists, were enamored with the area's incomparable blend of beauty and history, and vowed to return.

Ukrainian immigrants of Russian descent, the Patlands immigrated to the United States in 1978. After a yearlong stint in Miami, they made California their family home. Henry obtained an engineering degree from UC Santa Cruz and during that time, the Patlands visited Napa regularly, dreaming about and envisioning their own winery. They frequented a small vineyard where the owner himself poured tastings for visitors and over the years, witnessed its transformation from a small, dark cellar into a magnificent estate; the Patlands were deeply inspired. After Henry found success in the high tech data storage industry - the American dream fulfilled at last - the Patlands turned their sights back upon the industry that had always captured their hearts, winemaking. They began searching for the right location, there were after all, many to choose from. It was only after several years of comprehensive research and visiting countless estates that they came upon the perfect property...

A rugged mountain landscape swathed in chaparral, oaks and succulents forms a seemingly inhospitable yet ideal backdrop to what would become an oenophile's oasis. Sitting atop a terraced plateau, nestled amongst the grapevines is a trio of Tuscan-style houses aptly named "Terra del Cuore" (Italian for "Land of the Heart"). The grand view afforded by this perch sweeps miles across southern Napa Valley and as far as San Pablo Bay and Mt. Diablo. Upon visiting the property, the Patlands were amazed by the beauty of the grounds. The pomegranate trees that

dotted the property reminded them of their native Ukraine where the fruits were highly desired during the cold fall season. The grounds' Mediterranean style was beset with olive trees, cypresses and oleander; fruit trees, flowerbeds and grape vines grew abundantly from every crevice and amid the fountains and sculptures, a sense of contemplative serenity and imaginative flair thrived. Henry and Olga had finally found the perfect property upon which to found their estate.

The Patlands acquired Terra del Cuore in 2007 from then-owner Jack Daniels of Wilson Daniels Wineries, who was relocating to Cabo San Lucas. Henry and Olga wasted no time and set about making their mark upon the Valley. They recruited Jay Buoncristiani as head winemaker, who had previously held the same position at the Hess Collection for five years. Having formally anointed Patland Estate Vineyards, the team began envisioning and experimenting with different grapes and blends. At that time, the property had Merlot, Syrah and Sangiovese grapes planted on the grounds. Those grapes went into the Patland Proprietary Red Wine, result-

CAVALLO DA CORSA / ISSUE II / 59



ing in a unique ruby garnet blend, rich in aromas of red berries, clove, vanilla cigar spice and nutmeg. With an elegantly soft, satin-like finish, this particular combination was exclusive to the 2007 production. Later, Henry's preference for "big, heavy Napa Cabs" lead to a production of the Patland Cabernet Sauvignon which was praised for its richness and range of flavours. Both Patlands' Proprietary Red Wine and Cabernet have received impressive 93-point reviews from Wine Spectator.

In 2008, upon returning from the wine country of Argentina and Chile and following the advice of head winemaker Buoncristiani, the decision was made to convert the vines present on the property into Malbec. The estate's unique climate, location and soil were ideal for the consistent production of a rich Malbec blend. It was also in Argentina that the estate's label and branding began to take

60 / CAVALLO DA CORSA

form. Eldest son Michael looked to many classical marguees and echoing the Patlands' humble beginnings, the design began as a sketch on a napkin. Michael was particularly inspired by the artwork in their home and today a swatch of their favourite painting flanks the Patland Estate Vineyards label. Indeed every member of the Patland family has been involved in aspects of the vineyard's conception, refurbishment and daily operation. Olga's artwork can be seen in the hallways and twins Kevin and Felix help with tours of the extensive property. The family's stories, travels and inspired way of life have begun to intertwine with the history and future of the property itself.

Amongst the establishment in Napa Valley, Patland Estate Vineyards reminds us that newcomers are never to be underestimated. Having already garnered several awards and attracted the attention of keen wine aficionados, the relatively young vineyard has truly bright prospects ahead. Their limited production yields rare wines with handcrafted artisanal bouquets, rife with character. Faithful to their hard-working immigrant mentality, Henry and Olga are not content to rest on their laurels. Their deep passion for winemaking and desire to pass on a remarkable legacy to their children is revealed through the vineyard's constant innovation and improvement, aided by the outstanding talent they have recruited along the way. A genuine David amongst goliaths, Patland Estate Vineyards stands as a hidden treasure, waiting to be savored and appreciated by the adventuring connoisseur. ()

For more information please visit www.patlandestatevineyards.com







CAVALLO DA CORSA / ISSUE II / ℓI