

## Returning to Small-Batch with Cabana Winery

When Boston native Robert Smerling first fell in love with wine, he committed a great deal of time to exploring wines on the other side of the Atlantic. He traveled to famous wineries in France and Italy. He drank the great wines of Europe. But when his full-time job as an investment banker on Wall Street brought him to California in the early '90s, he became consumed with a passion for old-vine Zinfandel and head-trained vines. He was so inspired that he founded Renwood Winery, named for his wife, Rene. Crafting wines from head-trained vines in Amador County, he soon became America's premier old-vine Zin producer. But after nearly two decades, he was ready for his next adventure.

"After 19 years of making wine at Renwood, we were looking for a new challenge," says Robert. "My daughters wanted to open an urban winery, and I wanted a small, boutique winery where we could produce wines from the best vineyards and control the process." Cabana Winery, born in 2011, became his new dream: a family winery he runs with his wife and daughters. "The name Cabana came from our thought that 'making wine is like a day at the beach,'" says Robert. "Being from New England, where we don't get many beach days, makes it extra special. Our first seven years were based in Sacramento, but as the focus became on expanding our production, we moved to Lodi."



Founders Robert and Rene Smerling are ready to welcome you to their Lodi tasting room.

## Taste Experience in Your Glass

"Our grapes come from vineyards in Napa, Sonoma, Amador, and Lodi," says Robert. "Each vineyard produces high quality grapes to our specifications. Low yield, hand-picked fruit allows us to make extraordinary wine. We ferment in small lots and barrel age the red wines in French oak. My focus is traditional fermentations, with high extractions. Then, I use my more than 35 years' experience in winemaking and my vast knowledge of wines to blend. Blending for balance is our trademark. Balanced wine, with the right amount of fruit and tannin, makes any Cabana wine a great experience."

Our featured Petite Sirah fermented in small lots over 10 days. "To tame the wine, we barrel aged it for 14 months, then filtered it at bottling to ensure smooth drinking," says Robert.



The Smerling Family is proud to share their wines with you.

"No need to go to New Zealand for great Sauvignon Blanc," says Robert about our featured white wine. "We made this wine crisp and clean in stainless-steel. The grapes were destemmed and pressed with a bed of nitrogen gas to keep the flavors from drifting away. The juice fermented for nine days, then the wine was allowed to rest for six months before bottling."

(Continued)

## WINERY SNAPSHOT

**Name:** Cabana Winery

**Location:** Lodi

**Owner & Winemaker:**  
Robert Smerling

**Established:**  
2011

**Annual Case Production:**  
28,000



"Making wine is like a day at the beach!"  
— Founder/Winemaker Robert Smerling



## 2021 California Petite Sirah

**Aromas & Flavors:** Lovely aromas of allspice and black pepper waft through the wine. It's a big, bold wine, ripe in flavors of blackberries, coffee, and dark chocolate. Its full body, nice acid and big tannins make this a "plush" feel on your palate. The dark berry and big oak flavors leave your mouth full of flavor, with a smooth finish.

**Pair With:** Barbecue, Mexican food, grilled meats, and spicy, bold cooking.

- Cases Produced: 1,400
- T.A.: 6.5 g/L
- Final Blend: 97% Petite Sirah, 3% Merlot
- Brix: 25°
- pH: 3.55

**Hold Time:** Enjoy now or hold up to 8 years.

**Appellation:** All fruit for this wine came from Lodi. The 2021 vintage was lush and well balanced. The grapes were picked at 25° brix.

## Taste Experience (continued)

At the friendly Lodi Tasting room, Robert and his staff enjoy letting you taste many of their 18 different varietals from Lodi, Napa, and Amador Counties. They have been known to take visitors into the barrel room to sample wines. "We look forward to sharing the Cabana wine experience with you," says Robert. "Stop by our tasting room today!"



The small family wineries we feature love to share their time-honored family recipes. Don't miss these special dishes. Be sure to browse the Recipes & Tips page on our website.

## 2021 Lodi Sauvignon Blanc

**Aromas & Flavors:** Light gold in color. Fresh Meyer lemon aromas, with just a touch of lemongrass, make this a flavorful wine. The middle palate is soft and supple with just hints of green apple and citrus flavors. A crisp and a smooth finish.

**Pair With:** Shellfish, marinated meats, sushi, summer salads or cheeses.

**Awards/Reviews:**

• 88 Points, *Wine Enthusiast*

- Cases Produced: 2,400
- T.A.: 6.6 g/L
- Final Blend: 100% Sauvignon Blanc
- Brix: 22°
- pH: 3.45

**Hold Time:** Enjoy now or hold up to 5 years.

**Appellation:** All fruit for this wine came from Lodi. Our 2021 is a stellar example of how Lodi can make incredible wines.



Punching down the fermenting fruit by hand is part of handcrafting at Cabana Winery.