

NASWR.COM MAGAZINE



CLOS SOLÈNE WINERY

A Californian Dream Steeped in Rhône Passion: Our Visit to Clos Solène

Imagine stepping into a world where the warmth of California sunshine meets the soul of the Rhône Valley's grapes. This is the magic we discovered at Clos Solène Vineyard in Paso Robles, where exceptional wines are crafted with passion and dedication.

But before we uncork the delicious details, let me tell you about something that truly set our experience apart: the unparalleled personal touch. Forget about the usual hurried tastings and polite pours. At Clos Solène, we were met by Tyler, our dedicated guide who wasn't just present; he became an integral part of our visit.

Instead of simply rattling off facts about the wines, Tyler sat with us, engaged in conversation, and made us feel like the only guests who mattered. This personalized touch set the stage for an unforgettable afternoon, where each sip and story shared deepened our appreciation for Clos Solène's unique approach to winemaking.

Their story began in 2017 when they acquired a stunning 28-acre property. Nestled amidst rolling hills, 8 acres boast vines dating back to 1998, whispering tales of countless harvests. And the future holds even more promise, with expansion plans already underway.

But what truly excites the palate here is the incredible diversity. Imagine exploring a selection of 10 grape varieties and 16 different clones, a playground for both the curious and the connoisseur. Rhône classics like Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre bask alongside lesser-known gems like Cinsault, Terret, Clairette, Bourboulenc, and Macabeu.

And it's not just the grapes that sing of terroir. The estate's southwestern exposure and unique soil composition create a symphony of flavor. Imagine shale cradling the Rhône grapes, whispering of their French heritage, while deeper soils nurture Bordeaux varieties, offering a taste of the Old World in the New.

Speaking of Bordeaux, Clos Solène doesn't shy away from experimentation. Two dedicated acres showcase select Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot clones, adding another layer of complexity to their repertoire.

But their quest for excellence extends beyond their estate. They source additional fruit from the west side of Paso Robles, specifically the Willow Creek and Adelaida Districts, ensuring their wines capture the full tapestry of the region's terroir.

And then there's the Pacific influence. Imagine cool nights, foggy mornings, and warm days, all conspiring to create the distinctive characteristics that set Clos Solène's wines apart. Each sip is a testament to this meticulous attention to detail.

Their passion doesn't stop at Paso Robles. Their Bien Nacido connection allows them to explore beyond, meticulously crafting limited-production Pinot Noir, Syrah, and Chardonnay from the renowned Santa Maria Valley. It's a testament to their relentless pursuit of quality and their desire to showcase the unique fingerprint of each grape and vineyard.

In conclusion, Clos Solène Vineyards is a place where tradition meets innovation, where the Rhône Valley's soul dances with the Californian sunshine. The diverse grape selection, meticulous focus on terroir, and exploration of different Californian AVAs paint a picture of a winery constantly seeking to express the unique qualities of each grape and vineyard.

If you're looking for Rhône-inspired wines with a New World twist, Clos Solène Vineyard is a must-visit. Prepare to be swept away by their passion, dedication, and, of course, the exceptional wines they create.

2023 La Rose



Barefoot. The sun beats down relentlessly. Cicadas hum. Laughter drifts. And in your hand, a glass of La Rose. Born from sun-kissed grapes, hand-picked and pressed with care. A whisper of ripe berries, a hint of cool minerality, a salty tang that reminds you of the sea. This is no sugary rose. It's a taste of long, lazy afternoons and laughter shared with loved ones. What an experience, a reminder that the best things in life are often the simplest.

Hommage Blanc



This one pours a pale gold color with faint green reflections. On the nose, the scents are dominated by stone fruits like white peach and apricot, intertwined with hints of honeyed melon. The flavors mirror the aromas, with juicy stone fruits taking center stage, complemented by hints of citrus zest, exotic spices, and a touch of honeyed almond. It is a complex and balanced expression of the Rhône Valley, with a richness and depth that will appeal to both white and red wine drinkers. Let's pay tribute to Hommage Blanc

Fleur de Solène



A smoky whisper and pepper crackle open to a burst of blackberry jam and tart currants. Cardamom and clove make the Grenache's presence known, whilst the Cab reminds you that cedar and tobacco will visit in the end. The Syrah will not be ignored as it explodes with gripping tannins. It is sweet and savory, yet warm as the blackberry teases cassis liqueur.





Harmonie



Like a ruby ring under the light, this deep red has feathers of purple. The nose gives off cranberry and cherries complicated in a good way by a puff of pipe tobacco and a sprinkle of pepper and plum. Now, in the mouth, we go, immediately the sweetness balanced by spicy dark fruit and vanilla oak. The tannins provide a supportive structure without being harsh, as the finish lingers like a sweet encore, each note echoing in perfect unity. No single grape dominates, but they weave together, creating a more beautiful tapestry than any single thread.

Hommage à nos Pairs Reserve

WOW, let's start there. This distinctive blend of 96% Syrah, 2% Grenache, and 2% Viognier is crafted to hint at a remarkable wine experience dominated by Syrah. The blend presages aromas of dark fruits like plums and blackberries with pepper and leather nuances. The Grenache, though minimal, introduces a contrasting brightness with hints of red fruits, while the elusive Viognier subtly weaves in floral whispers. You'll find dark, jammy fruits and peppery spice on the palate, creating a full-bodied and intense profile. A dash of red fruit from the Grenache, no doubt, while the Viognier leaves a trace of floral spice in its finish.

