

Y. ROUSSEAU.

Y. Rousseau Wines is the realization of a dream that began long ago in the South-West of France and evolved as Yannick Rousseau, French native, founder and winemaker, followed his heart and passion for winemaking.

Gascony roots

Yannick was born in the Gascony region in the South-West of France known for its delicious, rich food, daily wine consumption and impressive longevity of the inhabitants. His life-long journey in wine started when he was 5 years old and drank his first glass of homemade wine with P  p  , his grandpa. P  p   hunted his own food, made his own wine, and was an artisan butcher.

French Heritage

The first wine Yannick ever made was Colombard, a white variety native to Gascony. Yannick was then studying for his winemaking degree at Toulouse University and interning in C  tes de Gascogne. Not surprisingly, Colombard became Yannick's 'founding wine' when he established Y. Rousseau Wines in Napa in 2008. Yannick was elated to find older Colombard vines in a small Russian River Valley vineyard. The dry, refreshing Old Vines Colombard has been one of Yannick's most popular wines since.

Tannat is another wine that Yannick first made in France. He was truly fortunate to work as an intern winemaker at Chateau Montus and Chateau Bouscass  , the top Tannat estates in the Madiran appellation. Both are owned by the Tannat guru, Alain Brumont, who enlightened Yannick on the art of blending and a perfectionist approach to winemaking. At Y. Rousseau Wines Yannick now makes not one, but two award-winning Tannats.

California Dreamin'

Moving to Napa from France in 1999, Yannick spent the first three years as an assistant winemaker at Newton Vineyards. Under the guidance of the talented winemaker Luc Morlet and one of the world's best-known consultants Michel Rolland, he further honed his skills in traditional French winemaking and blending techniques.

During the next six years, which Yannick spent working as winemaker at Chateau Potelle Winery, he got to know the Mount Veeder *terroir* very well and fell in love with it. Unable to resist his new-found passion for mountain-grown grapes, Yannick now makes several wines, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Tannat, from high-elevation vineyards.

Dreams come true

In 2008, Yannick and his Texas-born wife and accomplice Susan started their own brand - Y. Rousseau Wines, in which they have put all their knowledge, experience, and passion. In the past years, their small-batch, handcrafted wines have received multiple awards and recognition.

Yannick stays deeply connected to his French roots. He will always remain the son and grandson of a farmer, home winemaker, and country butcher. His down-to-earth, respectful approach to the vineyard is obvious when you taste his balanced, food-friendly wines.

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All for Wine, Wine for All!

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