



## LA CHERTOSA™ WINES: A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

**La Chertosa™** derives its name from the magnificent 14th-century monastery located in the Tuscan valley of **Farneta, near Lucca, Italy**, where the Sebastiani family's roots originated. It was in this picturesque setting that **Sam's grandfather, Samuele Sebastiani**, learned the art of winemaking from the monks, embracing the "Old World" style. In 1895, Samuele journeyed to Sonoma and discovered that it bore a striking resemblance to distant Farneta with its mild Mediterranean climate, mineral-rich red-soils, and gently rolling hills. He established Sebastiani Winery, one of California's earliest wineries, utilizing the traditional techniques passed down by the winemaking monks of Farneta. The monks' motto, *"The cross is steady while the world is turning,"* resonates in Samuele's legacy, which Sam continues to honor through the crafting of La Chertosa wines in Sonoma.

### AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

La Chertosa's recent achievements include several award-winning wines that have set new benchmarks in the industry. The Eye of the Swan™ Aleatico Rosé, Don Silvio Reserve Sangiovese, Reserve Chardonnay, and The Winemaker Remembrance™ Reserve Superior Barbera have all earned prestigious accolades. Notably, all La Chertosa's current releases have been honored with a Gold Medal Award or higher, a testament to the exceptional quality and craftsmanship that goes into each bottle.

### GRAPES AND TERROIR

The success of La Chertosa™ wines can be attributed to the high-quality grapes grown in the red-soil vineyards of Sonoma Valley. These soils, reminiscent of the winegrowing regions of Italy, provide the perfect environment for cultivating grapes that produce wines of exceptional character and distinction. Sam's dedication to selecting the best vineyard sites has been instrumental in the winery's achievements. His decades of experience and expertise have ensured that La Chertosa™ wines are the offspring of superbly cultured vineyard sites by Wildwood Vineyards, Serres Ranch and Van LobenSel Vineyards.

### PHILOSOPHY AND HERITAGE

La Chertosa's philosophy is deeply rooted in its Italian heritage and the principles of traditional winemaking. Sam's approach emphasizes the importance of long-established vineyards and the advantages of red-soil cultivation. This alignment with old-world Italian winemaking traditions is evident in our wines' complex flavors, balance, and elegance. Sam's commitment to quality and his passion for creating wines that honor his family's legacy are apparent in every bottle produced by La Chertosa™.

*For more information about La Chertosa Wines visit our website at [LaChertosaWines.com](http://LaChertosaWines.com) or contact Jane Schneider at (707) 935-2942.*

## RECOGNITION AND ACCLAIM

Year after year, La Chertosa™ wines continue to receive recognition and acclaim from top wine judges. This consistent acknowledgement validates the winery's dedication to red-soil wine growing and its adherence to the highest standards of winemaking. Sam's remarks underscore the significance of such recognition: *"Recognition and acclaim from the top judges year after year validate our preference and history with red-soil wine growing."*

## LEGACY OF VINEYARD SELECTION

Sam elaborates on the importance of vineyard selection in achieving excellence in winemaking. He states, *"Many of the top old-world European wines, whether from Italy or France, have two factors in common: long-established vineyards and great winegrowing red soil. Whether it is Cherry Block at Sebastiani, Wildwood Vineyards or Serres Ranch, we have held true to our Italian heritage by selecting vineyards planted in the most valuable soils. Thanks to my six decades of selecting the best locations, La Chertosa wines are the offspring of superbly cultured vineyard sites. And their taste shows it."*

## EXCLUSIVE AND LIMITED PRODUCTION

One of the defining characteristics of La Chertosa Wines is their limited production. By producing small quantities, the winery can maintain an unparalleled level of attention to detail and control over the winemaking process. This exclusivity ensures that each bottle is a rare and coveted treasure, offering wine enthusiasts a unique and memorable experience.

The limited production also allows La Chertosa Wines to focus on sustainability and environmental stewardship. The winery employs eco-friendly practices, such as organic farming and minimal intervention, to preserve the natural beauty and health of the vineyards for future generations.

## SIGNATURE WINES

La Chertosa Wines offers a curated selection of varietals, each with its own distinct personality and allure. Some of the winery's most celebrated wines include:

- ✦ Eye of the Swan Aleatico Rosé™: A standout wine that embodies the elegance and structure of its Italian counterparts, the Aleatico from Sonoma Valley has received numerous accolades for its refined flavors and floral aroma.
- ✦ The Winemaker Remembrance™ Reserve Superior Barbera: Known for its rich and robust character, this Barbera has captivated judges with its deep color and complex aroma, securing a place among the finest Italian wines in the world.
- ✦ Reserve Chardonnay: Our classic oaked Chardonnay boasts a rich and creamy texture, highlighted by elegant notes of vanilla, butterscotch, and toasted almond. The oak aging imparts a delightful complexity, melding seamlessly with flavors of ripe apple, pear, and hints of tropical fruit.
- ✦ Don Silvio Reserve Sangiovese: This exceptional red wine has been praised for its vibrant fruit flavors and balanced acidity, earning top honors at international wine competitions.

## COUNTING THE MEDALS

In reflecting on the winery's latest awards, the team at La Chertosa™ decided to tally the total number of medals received over the years. The result was a pleasant surprise, revealing a substantial collection of accolades that highlight the winery's consistent excellence. In the past ten years, wines produced by La Chertosa™ have won over 300 awards, 115 of these are Gold Medal or higher. For a "Micro" winery, the number of awards amassed is impressive and speaks volumes about the quality and dedication that defines La Chertosa Wines.

## CONCLUSION

La Chertosa Wines' journey is a testament to the unwavering commitment to quality, tradition, and excellence. Under the leadership of Sam Sebastiani, the winery has achieved remarkable success, earning prestigious awards and accolades that reflect the superior craftsmanship of its wines. As La Chertosa™ continues to produce exceptional wines from the fertile red soils of Sonoma Valley, it remains a shining example of the art and science of winemaking, rooted in heritage and driven by passion.

La Chertosa Wines' future looks bright, with each new release promising to uphold the legacy of excellence established by Sam Sebastiani and his family. The winery's dedication to producing wines that honor tradition while embracing innovation ensures that La Chertosa™ will continue to be celebrated for years to come.



## LA CHERTOSA WINES - LEADERSHIP



### **SAM & ROBIN SEBASTIANI**

Sam Sebastiani has been known for his contributions to premium California wine production for many decades. He joined Sebastiani Vineyards in 1967, after earning an undergraduate degree and an MBA from Santa Clara University, as well as completing a two-year service in the Army. After his father, August, passed away in 1980, Sam took over management of the winery. In 1985, Sam utilized his expertise to establish Viansa Winery & Italian Marketplace, paying homage to his family's Italian roots. Sebastiani focused on Italian grape varieties and introduced direct-to-consumer sales and a wine club, which were uncommon at the time.

In collaboration with his former Viansa Enologist, Derek Irwin, Sam continues his work with La Chertosa wines, currently producing less than 1,200 cases annually. The wines are named after the monastery in Farneta, Italy, where his grandfather, Samuele, learned winemaking.

With over 40 years in the Hospitality and Wine industries, Robin Sebastiani contributes to her husband's enterprises by focusing on label design, marketing, wine blending, and hospitality. She spends much of her time developing food pairings for Sam's wines. Robin values the experiences she shares with Sam within their combined family life.



### **JANE SCHNEIDER**

Jane is a Northern California resident who has spent her entire life in Sonoma County. She began her career in accounting and administration as the Controller of Dowling Magnet Company. Jane expanded her expertise to include hospitality and Human Resources when she was appointed Director of Human Resources for Viansa Winery & Italian Marketplace in 2001.

She subsequently joined Hutchinson Consulting as a hospitality recruiter while also overseeing the company's database and websites. Jane became part of La Chertosa Wines several years ago, where she takes pride in being a

versatile Business Manager. In her current role, she manages accounting, administration, compliance, inventory, production, purchasing, marketing, and sales.



### **DEREK IRWIN**

Derek graduated from the University of California at Davis. He has worked with Cosentino Winery and Bouchaine Vineyards. In 1998, he became Chief Winemaker and Vineyards Manager at Viansa Winery & Italian Marketplace.

Now, Derek is the principal and managing partner of Madura Consulting, providing vinicultural and enology services in Sonoma, Amador County, and the Sierra Foothills. He brings extensive expertise to all aspects of La Chertosa's winemaking process.