



CLAUTIERE VINEYARD

Wine (and Cheese), Wigs and Whimsy!

ALLISON LEVINE

Entering the ornate gates of Clautiere Vineyard you quickly realize you are in for a different wine tasting experience. It starts the moment you drive by the bent steel fence and into the beautifully landscaped gardens with art that will make you smile. And it doesn't stop there, once you step through the tasting room doors, you enter a winery tasting room that is playful, whimsical and friendly.

Clautiere Vineyard is named after its owners, Claudine Blackwell (aka Director of Fantasy) and Terry Brady (aka Director of Reality). Originally from Northern California, by way of Los Angeles, the couple bought the property in 1999 and today they have 57 acres planted with grapes. Dedicated to premium Rhône, Bordeaux and Port style wines, Clautiere is serious about their wine. With 13 grape varieties planted, they produce 16 different estate wines, for a total of 3000 cases. Their 2007 BDX was awarded both the "Best Bordeaux Blend" at the 2012 Critics Challenge International Wine Competition in San Diego as well as a Gold Medal at the 2012 Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition, with an over-all score of 94.

While they take their wine seriously, their vibrant and colorful tasting room is a place for fun and is "like no other." The tasting room, opened in 2003, is a converted farm house originally built in the 1930s. Today, it is a place where people can "don a hat or wig and find their child-heart," explains Operations Manager Susan West. Just past the tasting room is the "Playroom" where guests will find dozens of wigs and hats that they can try on and take photos with. Just outside of the tasting room, past the meditation garden is the converted barn, otherwise known as Clautiere Too. Clautiere Too is available for groups "over 12" (people, that is). With fun mirrors and more wigs and hats to play with, it is a great place for large groups to taste wine and have fun.

The fun with wigs began before they opened the tasting room. Claudine and Terry had started bringing wigs to parties after being inspired by friends. They found that with wigs, people of all ages relax and have fun. "There is a transformation," Claudine explains, "everyone engages and immediately becomes friends." It was only natural that their tasting room would be filled with the wigs for guests to connect with each other and embrace the spirit of the winery.

Tastings are \$10 per person and guests enjoy six wines paired with six different gourmet cheeses. The wine list rotates every month so every time you return, you will taste a different line-up of wines and cheeses.



Owners Terry Brady and Claudine Blackwell

Join Clautiere for their
Harvest Party
on October 20th at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$30 per person
(free for wine club members).

*The Harvest Party is a costume party, so
pick your costume and be prepared to have fun!*

CLAUTIERE VINEYARD

Open Thursday - Monday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

1340 Penman Springs Road in Paso Robles

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