

*Our goal with the Wine Club is to provide you a wide diversity of wine to showcase the styles of the world. This month we include 2 iconic wines. The wines of Peter Lauer are so pure and electric... they highlight the character traits of Riesling that makes it so coveted. And, we've included the last gasp of a Cali Natural wine icon, Dirty & Rowdy.*

# THE CELLAR D'OR WINE & CIDER

Wine Club • November 2021

## Dirty & Rowdy — Enz VYD Mourvedre 2017

Key Words: Lime Kiln VLY AVA (CA), USA 100yr Old VYD Ungrafted Dry-Farming Organic Viticulture Spontaneous Fermentation

Dirty & Rowdy is a staple of West Coast natural wine. Or *\*sadly\** was a staple. While their Mourvedre have garnered heaps of praise through the years — taking an overlooked variety and giving it new clothes and a makeover — this summer, Dirty & Rowdy decided to disband their long running partnership. Although, I think it was more of a 'Mission Accomplished.'

The pair behind Dirty & Rowdy is Hardy Wallace (The Dirty) and Matt Richardson (The Rowdy). Hardy (winemaker) doesn't sport the list of experience and accolades customary of his California peers. He didn't learn to make wine from anyone else — Dirty & Rowdy was his first project. Rather, Hardy Wallace grew into his role at Dirty and Rowdy, inspired by the wines he'd drunk over the years. He employed techniques in use in many regions of the world (like whole cluster fermentation) which were often passed up for modern-styles of winemaking in California. Hardy will continue producing wines under his new family label: *Extradimensional Wine Co. Yeah!* The wines will feel similar to Dirty and Rowdy, but with a more varied stylistic direction. Dirty and Rowdy helped put California natural wine on the map years ago. I think Hardy's intention with his new venture is found in its namesake — to show new dimension of wine. With Dirty & Rowdy, Hardy now has the track record to prove he can successfully break the standard mold of California winemaking.

The Mourvedres of Bandol in southeastern France are densely tannic wines with bitter herb and dark currant. In Spain, you'll see Mourvedre referenced as Monastrell where it takes on an overripe — veering into sappy — fruit character. Dirty & Rowdy's Enz VYD expression is soft and fresh — shaking off the structural tannin ubiquitous to Bandol and the intense fruit extraction of Spain. This is a natural wine, but it's not 'natty'. It's fun supple fruit feels very Californian, regardless.



Matt & Hardy



## Peter Lauer — Riesling Fass 6 'Senior' 2020

Key Words: (Saar) Mosel, Germany 70yr-Old Vines Partly Ungrafted Practicing Organic Hand-Harvested Spontaneous Ferm

Not gonna lie... this is one of the greatest wines we've included in this wine club. Before we get into what Florian Lauer is up to in the Mosel, I want to set the premise for Riesling, specifically German Riesling. Riesling hits differently than other grapes. It starts with its backbone of acidity. This acidity gives Riesling its feeling of freshness and energy and helps it carry fruit through a finish. We can think of sweetness as pushing fruit and acidity as pulling fruit. It's also the chiseled, electric profile of this hallowed grape — its purity and elegance — that mesmerizes. If this sounds like a lot of highfalutin wine speak — it's because what Riesling does is somehow so very straightforward and hard to describe at the same time. Its hedonistic, juicy flavors feel inescapable and hit with such presence... precision... but somehow feel impossible to categorize. It's why we use all of these 'not flavors' to describe it. Riesling also provides a peak expression of minerality. Whereas sweetness can at times get in the way of a wine's perceived minerality, sweeter Riesling can carry mineral notes without a problem. There are as many great examples of dry as their are sweet Rieslings.

Lauer's Rieslings highlight what we love about the grape. They feel super-charged, powerful, and chiseled. They fill an archetype Riesling is solely capable of filling. 'Senior' is part of Lauer's village-level lineup, but the fruit actually comes from a single vineyard, Ayler Kupp. This wine is technically off-dry with 13g/L of sugar. Senior drinks like a dry wine, nonetheless. Florian Lauer is a producer that needs to be on your radar. Riesling is a grape that deserves to be at the top. And, you deserve this wine.



Florian Lauer

