

Wine Life in the SCV
Law Estate Wines, Paso Robles
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Two years ago, at the 2013 Rhone Rangers Tasting in Los Angeles I encountered a new winery by the name of Law Estate Wines. They were pouring their very first vintage, the 2010 versions of Audacious, Beguiling, Intrepid and Sagacious. What surprised me at the time was how good the wines were considering that they came from vines planted in 2008. I remember leaving the show thinking that it might be a good idea to get my hands on some of their wines, but never acted upon the notion.



Don and Susie Law at the 2013 Rhone Rangers Tasting in Los Angeles`

This year, in preparation for visiting the Rhone Ranger Tasting, I ran through the list of wineries in attendance and was happy to see that Law Estate Wines was again pouring at the show. I was anxious to see if they could build on their strong first year performance so I marked them down for a visit. It is fair to say that the 2011 vintage I tasted was a serious step up from the excellent wines they poured the year before. Not only were they better, but they each had unique character that allowed them to stand as individual wines and not simply family members. Leaving the tasting that day, plans were forming for a visit to their winery in Paso Robles.

The opportunity to visit Law Estate Wines came with an anniversary weekend trip to Paso Robles in late November. As it turned out, the Bed and Breakfast we were staying at, Belvino Viaggio was a short distance away on Peachy Canyon Road. So on a pleasant, overcast day, we drove the short distance to Law and encountered a simple winery sign and a plain gate guarding a pea gravel drive. At this point, I have to say, I had seen a few pictures of the winery and it looked like a nice tasting room situated on top of a hill. New, contemporary and likely to have a good view, but what I discovered was so much more.

After traveling a short distance past the gate, we turned into a large parking and there it was, Law Estate Winery. My first thought, it might be the most impressive winery in Paso Robles. The winery is of contemporary styling and in colors that allow it to blend into its natural surroundings. It makes use of a central cut in the hill to hide some of its size, but make no mistake, this is a large facility.



From Back of the Parking Lot, Only Half of Law Estate Wines is Captured in this Photo

Passing through the front door, we found ourselves in a large hallway facing floor to ceiling windows that looked into a barrel storage area and small tasting room. To our left, stairs led up to the wine tasting area. The tasting room was furnished in an open, modern style with an abundance of windows insuring great views for all.



As You Enter Law Estate Wines, the First View is of a Barrel Room with Private Tasting



Tasting Room at Law Estate Wines

We sat down with our host and were immediately served all four wines in individual glasses. In this fashion, the wines had time to breath and with all four at once, we could compared them at our leisure. The tasting was low key, with plenty of time to taste and compare each wine. Our host was knowledgeable about wines and fluent in all things Law. At the end of our tasting, we had the opportunity to purchase wine, which we did and was informed that our name would be placed on their allocation list for future buying opportunities.

From the tasting room, we ventured outside and crossed the length of the winery via an outside walkway. On the other side of the building was the functional winery. The fermentation tank room was not the largest or most modern I have seen, but for the space dedicated and organization of equipment, it was very impressive. Designed for gravity flow, it was very modern and appeared to make excellent use of space. The upper deck appeared to be supported by the tanks below with only the top opening exposed in the second story floor. By the number of tanks available, it would appear that they will be able to manage fermentations on a small block basis.



Fermentation Tank Room at Law Estate Wines

After wandering around a bit more, it was time to move on. My impressions:

Don and Susie Law have done a tremendous amount of work in a short period of time. From what I can gather and what I have seen, they have made every effort to create a winery that is in harmony with its surroundings while basing their decisions on sound fundamentals and with the help of knowledgeable, local resources. If the trend continues, their wines will be some of the best available in Paso Robles and likely will start to garner national and international attention. Having said that, it is likely that their wines will soon be available only via their allocation list.

If you are interested in finding out more about Law Estate Wines or to schedule a tasting, the web site is:

<http://www.lawstatewines.com/>

In addition to the pictures I have included, Law has recently released a drone fly over video that shows a lot more of the winery.

<http://youtu.be/A8opssYNQsQ>

Cheers

Lee Fining