

IL ♥ CUORE®

“The Heart”

Wine Cellars

Mendocino County

Since the first vintage in 1989, **IL CUORE** wines have been produced from premium grapes grown in the North Coast, the viticultural *heart* of California. Our emphasis is small vineyard parcels in Mendocino County that accentuate bright fruit character, subtle floral and spice aromas, and the approachable style that has been the signature of **IL CUORE** wines over the past decade. **IL CUORE** means “*The Heart*” in Italian, the language of romance. The name is derived from the original watercolor featured on all four of our wines and is a fitting tribute to the Italian immigrants who first planted this area to vines in the late nineteenth century.

A hallmark of **IL CUORE**'s style is the gentle use of oak to allow the natural fruit qualities of our grapes to become the focal point of the wines. Our goal is to produce wines of quality and character at a price suitable for daily consumption. Our hope is that **IL CUORE** wines will be consumed with fine cuisine as part of a healthy and passionate lifestyle!



Our elegant **Chardonnay** is grown in Mendocino County and includes a component of **Viognier** to enhance floral-citrus aromas and fresh apple-pear flavors. The fresh, bright style results from stainless steel fermentation combined with a very small quantity of barrel fermentation in small French oak cooperage. This minimal use of oak offers versatility with a wide range of foods including fresh fish, shellfish, light pasta dishes, and especially crab cakes.

“...a great bargain, this is an exotically fragrant Chard with peach blossoms and tropical fruits; fresh and lively...90 points.” Beverage and Food Dynamics

Rosso Classico is our “classic red” Cal-Ital Tuscan style blend. Varietal composition changes with each vintage. The wine is an exuberant expression of ripe cherries, plums and berries produced with premium grapes from Mendocino County. For example, **Zinfandel** adds a rich blackberry and spice quality. **Sangiovese** provides forward aromas and lively acidity for pairing with a wide variety of foods. **Syrah** and **Malbec** contribute plummy flavors while **Carignane** adds deep color and texture. The spicy flavors of **Rosso Classico** marry nicely with Mediterranean fare, grilled meats, and pastas with abundant amounts of garlic.

“...a richly fruity, sweet, round delicious quaffing wine with real character. There are copious quantities of berry fruit, along with spice and pepper in this supple-textured, pleasing mid-weight red.” Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate



Our **Cabernet Sauvignon** is usually blended with **Merlot** or **Zinfandel** for full red ripe fruit flavors. **IL CUORE** focuses on a style that is approachable and a great **VALUE**. **Cabernet** offers sturdy black cherry flavors supported by supple tannins and a hint of cocoa. Small components of **Merlot**, **Malbec** or **Syrah** add delicious ripe jammy notes, while **Zinfandel** infuses spice aromas and lingering complexities. Modest use of oak aging allows the wine to express the natural bright fruit. The suggestion of sweet heritage rose blossoms is a character associated with the microclimate and terroirs of Mendocino County and complements **IL CUORE**'s complex yet elegant style.

“It is hard to find a high class, concentrated Cabernet Sauvignon of this quality under \$20 a bottle.” Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate

The newest member to our family is **Barbera**, the robust dry red wine grown in the fabled Piedmont region of Northern Italy. The vintages are very limited by the grape crop from old vines, that produces a ripe concentrated style, seasoned by barrel aging in sixty-gallon oak cooperage. The **Barbera** was grown above Redwood Valley in well-drained soils resulting in low yields and concentrated flavors.



The original artwork for **IL CUORE** was created by acclaimed contemporary artist Dan Rizzie.

IL CUORE Wine Cellars ♥ www.ilcuorewines.com

Telephone (650) 851-9448 ♥ Toll Free (800) 682-8268 ♥ Fax (650) 851-3268