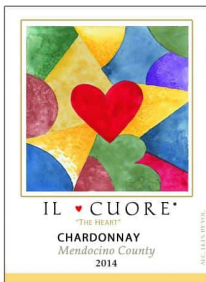


IL ♥ CUORE

“The Heart” Mendocino County *Foggy, cool and moody.*

IL CUORE (eel quarry) wines were first produced in 1989 from premium grapes selected from our vineyard partners who grow along the North Coast, the viticultural heart of California. Our emphasis is working with small parcels in Mendocino County which produce wines that accentuate bright fruit character, subtle floral and spice aromas, and an approachable style, the signature of IL CUORE wines. IL CUORE means “The Heart” in Italian, the language of romance. The name is derived from the original watercolor featured on all of our wine labels and is a fitting tribute to the Italian immigrants who first planted this area to vines in the late nineteenth century. A hallmark of our style of winemaking is the subtle use of oak to allow the natural fruit essences to be the focal point of our wines. The goal is to produce wines of great quality and character at a price suitable for daily consumption.



The fresh, graceful style of IL CUORE Chardonnay results from cold fermentation in small stainless steel vessels and small components of barrel fermentation in mostly neutral small oak cooperage. The balanced use of oak in our winemaking offers versatility with a wide range of foods.



IL CUORE Cabernet Sauvignon is combined with Petite Sirah and Merlot varieties and offers black cherry flavors and plenty of plush tannins. Petite Sirah contributes lush ripe plum and berry flavors and adds body. The Merlot brings us lovely floral scents and a smooth mouth feel. The blend was aged in 60-gallon neutral oak barrels to develop complexity without overwhelming the wine with aggressive oak flavors.



IL CUORE Zinfandel grapes were harvested from a premier vineyard we are partnered with in Lake County, just north of Sonoma County. We selected Petite Sirah to accentuate the deep rich red color and dark fruit flavors and to enhance the mouth-feel. A true Californian native, the Zinfandel grapes we chose for this blend abound with generous dark fruit aromas and flavors. Traditional winemaking techniques and artful barrel selections make this wine drinkable now yet with potential to age in your cellar for the next several years.

The label features an original watercolor by Dan Rizzie, whose bold cubistic works are in the permanent collections of both The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Museum of Modern Art in New York.