



RODRIGUE MOLYNEAUX WHERE BORDEAUX MEETS ITALY

by Laura Ness

RODRIGUE MOLYNEAUX ESTATE WINERY AND VINEYARD

3053 Marina Avenue, Livermore
(925) 443-1998
rmwinery.com
Sat & Sun 12:30pm-5pm

BACKGROUND

Established: 2005
Owners: Garry & Nancy Rodrigue
Winemaker: Garry Rodrigue
Varietals: Pinot Grigio, Sangiovese, Nebbiolo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Barbera, Merlot, Cabernet Franc
Production: 1,500 cases
Cooperage: Sequin Moreau

HARVEST WINE CELEBRATION

Wines: Il Pavone (blend of Barbera and Cab-estate grown and Merlot) and Pinot Grigio (grapes grown by a Club Member in Sunol)

Special/Reserved

Wine flights: \$5 for a full Tasting Room flight for Harvest Festival Participants (General Public is \$10 tasting fee)

Activities: On Sunday, Sept. 4 wines are set up under a tent in the Vineyard. A brief discussion of the cycle of the vine by our assistant winemaker Jeff Finch Jr.

Food: Olive Oil tasting

Monday: TR is open and Harvest Festival wristbands will get the Il Pavone and Pinot Grigio free and the \$5 full flight - a discount of \$5. No vineyard activities.



Nancy and Garry Rodrigue, assistant winemaker Jeff Finch Jr. and marketing manager Leslie Mladinich.

If the row of eucalyptus trees seems a bit less intimidating, the estate vineyard looks more beautiful and there appears to be more parking, your eyes are not deceiving you. Reluctantly, Garry Rodrigue removed a few of the majestic eucalyptus, both to reduce their influence on the vineyard and to prevent them from keeling over. Change has come to Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery. You can see it, smell it and taste it.

Assistant winemaker Jeff Finch Jr. is now fastidiously tending to the estate vines here and at the nearby Nebbiolo vineyard. The wines keep getting better with each vintage at this place that creatively blends French Bordeaux varieties with Italians to create unique beauties like Il Pavone, a blend of Cab, Merlot and Barbera.

Co-owner and chief gardener Nancy Rodrigue says they're seeing more visitors than ever at this beckoning

oasis. "People are constantly telling us that the Livermore Valley is the way Napa used to be," she says.

Marketing Manager Leslie Mladinich, who studied wine business at Las Positas college, concurs. She recently changed their tagline to "Our Vines, Our Wines," to emphasize their commitment to estate grapes.

She adds that their club is growing rapidly, due not just to the quality and originality of the wines, but to the fun wine club meetups they've started. They've also introduced a highly popular "Sip by Sunset" event on the last Friday of each month.

Then, there's the incomparable tranquility of the setting. Come check out the bliss-inducing gurgling fountains while enjoying a glass of Jeff's provocative Nebbiolo.

Adds Leslie, "Our brand is serenity." ■