

THE DUDE

Year Founded: 2008

Region: Napa Valley, Russian River Valley

Owner(s): Mark Canepa & Neil Koch

Winemaker: Neil Koch

Fun Fact: Neil has worked for and has relationships with many of the top winemakers and wineries in Napa Valley, including Phillippe Melka and Thomas River Brown.

Fun Fact #2: Neil also produces wine under "Thread Feathers" label.

Canepa Koch Wine Cellars is a partnership between Mark Canepa and Neil Koch. Together Mark and Neil have over 25 years of wine industry experience. Mark and Neil have known each other since 2004 and both were recruited by Seguin Moreau (cooperage in Napa Valley) and they both took sales positions. They quickly realized that if they combined their skills and resources, they could launch something exciting. Their goal is to create wines that are well rounded, enjoyable and affordable. They strive to make wines with incredible depth, richness and length. They do this by implementing small lot winemaking techniques, berry sorting and minimal fermentation interventions. Basically, they let the vineyards they select speak for themselves and the end result is selected for "The Dude". Most of the winemaking is done in one ton bins and barrels converted for fermentation. This "small lot" fermentation techniques gives the wines color, depth and beautiful texture. After fermentation, all of the wines proceed to barrel, where they go through malolactic fermentation. Approximately 50% of the wines go through this process in new French oak, which allows for early integration of wood and wine. We are excited to share our wine, and passion with you.



Mark has been in the wine business since 2004 and since 2010 with Seguin Moreau, one of the premiere cooperages in the world. He works daily with winemakers in the Napa Valley and greater bay area to select the specific oak barrels for their wines. Neil has over 12 years of wine industry experience including 6 years working on the production side. He trained under Philip Melka at Seavey Vineyards, Bryant Family and Vineyard 29. Based on his winemaking background he was appointed as the Enologist and Assistant Winemaker at Lewis Cellars where he facilitated the production of highly acclaimed Napa Valley Cabernet, Merlot, Syrah and Chardonnay.

The Dude 2021 Napa Valley Red Blend



A blend of fruit from Calistoga, Coombsville, Rutherford, and Howell Mountain. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon 14% Cab Franc, 12% Merlot, 12% Malbec. The wine spent 16 months in 42% New French oak cooperage.

Displays excellent structure and balance. The medium to full body carries a velvety texture that coats the mouth. Ripe black fruits dominate the palate, providing a burst of flavors reminiscent of blackberries, dark cherries, and plums. The wine's firm tannins lend a pleasing grip, contributing to its age-worthiness. Notes of dark chocolate, toasted oak, and a hint of baking spices add layers of complexity and sophistication to the wine's profile. The acidity is vibrant, offering freshness and ensuring a long, elegant finish.

The Dude 2021 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir



Sourced from 2 vineyard sources within the Russian River Valley of Sonoma County, southwest of the city of Sebastopol, in an area known as the Sebastopol Hills. Located just 9 miles from the Pacific Ocean and featuring the ideal sandy loam soils, which make for an ideal climatic for beautiful expressive, cool-climate Pinot Noir. These 2 western sloping vineyards feature Calera, Swan, Dijon 777 and Pommard 4 clones, all of which complement each other in the final blend. The Pinot Noir grapes were harvested at night, hand sorted and gently de-stemmed to small open-top fermenters. After a 7 day “cold soak” to extract maximum fruit character, and gentle maceration through fermentation, the wine was drained without pressing and aged in 35% new French oak barrels for 16 months. This Pinot Noir possesses deep aromas of wild strawberries and ripe raspberries accentuated with exotic notes of sandalwood and rose petal. Rich and luscious palate it is focused with layers of ripe red fruits, fresh forest floor and fine-grained tannins that linger through the finish.