

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 his "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 2022 Napa Valley Red Blend



A blend of fruit from Calistoga, Coombsville, Rutherford, and Howell Mountain. 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 5% Cab Franc, 5% Malbec. The wine spent 16 months in 50% New French oak cooperage.

Full-bodied with a smooth, velvety texture. Bold flavors of black fruit dominate—blackberry, ripe plum, and cassis, balanced by a touch of baking spices like cinnamon and clove. Rich, sweet tannins support the fruit, giving the wine structure and a round, plush mouthfeel. The oak adds a subtle layer of vanilla, mocha, and toasted wood, while the acidity keeps the wine fresh and balanced.

The Dude 2022/2023 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir



The 2022 Pinot Noir is a testament to the region's ability to produce exceptional Pinot Noirs. It strikes a harmonious balance between fruit-forwardness, structure, and a subtle complexity that evolves throughout the wine. On the nose the wine presents aromas of red fruits, dominated by wild cherry, black tea and raspberry notes. On the palate the wine reveals a silky and elegant texture, coating the palate with sweet tannin. Ripe cherries, vanilla and spice create depth and concentration with gentle undercurrents of Asian spice, black tea and a hint of earthiness provide depth and complexity on the finish.