$60 Wine Club Selections

**Nine Hats, Cabernet Sauvignon, Columbia Valley WA, 2017**

78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 5% Syrah

About the AVA - Columbia Valley

Established in 1984

Washington's largest viticultural region, covering 8,748,949 acres in Washington, represents a full third of Washington State's land mass. Columbia Valley is a cross border AVA, totaling 11,308,636 total acreage.

The Columbia Valley contains 99% of wine grapes grown in Washington State, 59,234 acres.

Columbia Valley's vast size allows for a number of meso- and micro-climates.

Vineyards are planted on predominately south-facing slopes, increasing solar radiation in summer and promoting air drainage in winter.

Riesling, Merlot, Chardonnay, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon are the most widely planted varietals.

Growing season of 180-200 days with annual rainfall averaging 6 to 8 inches (15-20 cm).

The Columbia Valley contains the American Viticultural Regions of Red Mountain, Yakima and Walla Walla Valleys, Wahluke Slope, Rattlesnake Hills, Horse Heaven Hills, Snipes Mountain, Lake Chelan, Naches Heights and Ancient Lakes within its borders.

With the exception of Lewis-Clark Valley, Puget Sound and Columbia Gorge, all other growing regions in Washington are subappellations of the Columbia Valley.

CHARACTERISTICS of Columbia Valley

Encompassing more than a third of the state, the Columbia Valley is by far Washington’s largest growing region at over 11 million acres. The appellation is located in central, south-central, and south-eastern Washington with part of the appellation spilling across the border into Oregon.

The Columbia Valley is home to over 99% of all of Washington’s vinifera acreage. Cabernet Sauvignon is the most planted grape followed by Merlot, Chardonnay, Riesling, and Syrah. However, over 30 vinifera varieties are currently planted in this region.

Variety typicity and pure fruit aromas and flavors are the hallmarks of wine from the Columbia Valley. For Cabernet Sauvignon, black cherry, cassis, and light, high-toned herbal notes are often the hallmarks. Merlots are redolent with red fruit aromas and flavors, such as sweet cherries, red currants, and raspberries, along with chocolate and, occasionally, mint. Chardonnays are mildly aromatic with aromas and flavors ranging from fresh green apple to stone fruit and tropical fruit depending on the warmth of the site. In terms of Riesling, cooler sites tend to produce aromas and flavors of lime, lemon, and green apple. In warmer regions this turns to stone fruit, particularly peach. Aromas and flavors for Syrah range from dark fruit, such as blackberries, to blueberries and cranberries. However, many are notable for being less fruit forward and more dominated by savory notes.

The relationship to the Missoula Floods, a series of cataclysmic events, defines the soil types of the vineyards in Washington. Most vineyards lie below the floodwaters with soils of loess—wind blown deposits of sand and silt—overlying gravel and slackwater sediment with basalt forming the bedrock. This provides a diversity of soil types that are well drained and ideal for viticulture.

The Columbia Valley lies in the rain shadow of the Cascade Mountain range. The region has an arid and semi-arid, continental climate, receiving an average of 6–8 inches (15–20 cm) of precipitation annually. Irrigation is therefore required to grow vinifera grapes.

This irrigation, along with consistently warm, dry temperatures during the growing season, provides growers with a large amount of control over grape development compared to many other regions of the world. This leads to minimal vintage variation and consistently high-quality wines.

Early and late season frosts along with hard winter freezes are the main environmental threats. Due to dry temperatures and sandy soils, phyloxera has not yet established itself in the area, so most vines are grown on their own rootstock in contrast to many other areas of the world.

About Nine Hats

In the beginning there was one wine, a 2007 red blend that was striking in quality, approachable and delicious. It was crafted with impeccable attention to detail and the benefit of top-quality grapes. People loved it. But not every occasion calls for the same wine, so Nine Hats brought their advantages of winemaking expertise and vineyard relationships to an expanded portfolio of affordable, sophisticated wines styled for the modern consumer.

Originally blended from the declassified wines created for Long Shadows’ portfolio, Nine Hats stepped *out of the shadows* to put tasty, easy drinking, everyday wine in a bottle. They still rely on Long Shadows’ talented winemaking team to craft their wine, and friends like you to drink it. richly structured Cabernet Sauvignon. It is a multi-layered wine with expressive flavors of black and red berries complemented by notes of savory spice. Its luscious mouthfeel persists across a lengthy finish. Several vineyard sites throughout the

**Fiddlehead Cellars, Happy Canyon Sauvignon Blanc, Santa Barbera, 2014**

100% Sauvignon Blanc

Happy Canyon

Fiddlehead’s signature, Loire-styled Sauvignon Blanc. This silky-textured wine illustrates the beauty of the blend and tames this varietal into amazing elegance: 1/3 fermented in stainless steel for bright aromatics and zinginess, 1/3 fermented in new French oak barrels for layered textures and persistent flavors and the final third fermented in neutral French
oak barrels to achieve marriage and grace. A chic, less herbal style, with little hints of cloves (according to Maya in Sideways!). Intentionally given a few years of bottle age prior to release to assure a seamless entrance onto your palate. Named for both its style and its AVA source, Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara.  A very versatile crowd pleaser!

The 2014 Vintage: Continuing climate changes in CA shaped a memorable vintage. Early budbreak followed a dry, mild winter, with less than 10” of annual rainfall. With the addition of moderate August temperatures, they experienced their earliest SB harvest to date on August 14. To their delight, the small berries offered concentrated flavors with excellent intensity.

• The Vineyards: They blended two esteemed vineyards in Happy Canyon: 65% McGinley Vineyard which contributes varietal clarity, and 35% Vogelzang Vineyard which adds spicy charm from its two clones, Musque Clone and Clone 1.

• The AVA: “Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara”. This bucolic canyon is cherished for its warmer growing days that favorably tame herbaceous expressions in favor of more elegant fruit-based flavors. The cool, fog laden evenings foster the preservation of natural grape acidity.

• The Wine: An expressive assortment of fresh clove and lemon zest. Rich and graceful with undertones of lemon cream and vanilla, while precise notes of coriander dot the palate. A lasting pleasure of tangerine dazzles to the end with lively lingering flavors.

• The Winemaking: Whole clusters pressed to preserve freshness and delicacy. This supple and texturally rich wine shows the beauty of the blend: ½ fermented in stainless steel for aromatics and bright finish, 1/3 in neutral French oak barrels for fruit tone and elegance, and the remainder from new French oak for aromatic contributions and added viscosity. Aged sur lie in 100% Damy French oak for 9 months and entirely non-malolactic.

The Story

Kathy Joseph established Fiddlehead Cellars in 1989 to capture the pure essence of two distinguished grape varietals – Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir. Her quest was simple. Besides a lesser important desire to satisfy her own palate, her intent was to incorporate European beauty into these domestically grown varietals by working with grapes grown in the right place and wines managed with respect in the cellar.  Both varietals are celebrated for their successful old world pedigree; both have the potential to convey sensory elegance; both have proven to gratify a broad range of discriminating palates.

Today, Kathy is recognized as a pioneer among women winemakers as she passionately and enthusiastically creates stylistic Sauvignon Blanc and silky, textural Pinot Noir. At Fiddlehead, she annually produces about 5,000 cases of wine, with personal interest in each grape cluster, each barrel of wine and every bottle that finds its way to your table.

The wines are made at FiddleHeadquarters, her Winery in the Lompoc “Wine Ghetto”, and Kathy lives in a little farm house on the Estate Vineyard, Fiddlestix.  Kathy stays connected to other important grape growing regions by maintaining a business office in Davis, CA – her administrative and marketing base, and home during non-farming activities.  She takes great pride in connecting a broad range of contributing forces to create eloquence in her wines.

KATHY’S CORNER This signature style of Sauvignon blanc pays tribute to the unique region that shares its distinctive name. The place, Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara AVA (since November 2009), is located within the Santa Ynez Valley AVA, butting the eastern border. During Prohibition, a simple alcohol was produced in Happy Canyon and legend has it that folks would “take a trip up Happy Canyon” to purchase the beverage … and the name stuck. Soils are low in nutrients, containing a mixture of loam and clay loam with red and yellow chert and serpentine cobbles. Morning fog lifts to plentiful sunshine, and it is the ideal home to Bordeaux and Rhone varietals. In the Fiddlehead Portfolio, it is my most versatile, richer-style Sauvignon blanc “with a French twist”. It marries fresh, ripe fruit with creamy, silky textures, much like the Pouilly-Fumé style of the Loire Valley. It is non-grassy, and hence complements a huge range of food flavors. As a crowd pleaser for many palates, it certainly lives up to its name!

With Cheers, Kathy

**Eduardo Garrido Garcia, Crianza Rioja Spain, 2015**

80% Tempranillo, 20% Grenache

The Tempranillo grapes used in making this wine are from 40-year-old vineyards of the upper Rioja region, located approximately 500 meters above sea level and characterized by predominately loamy, calcium-rich soils. The Grenache grapes used in making this wine come from the lower Rioja region at least 60 years and sandier, alluvial soils.

This wine has been aged for 16 months in French and American oak, decanted periodically in the cellar and given an additional 6 months to refine in the bottle while awaiting release from the cellar.

The wine displays a deep, rich, cherry color and medium body. To the nose, this wine offers clean, fruity aromas with hints of balsam and fine wood. Taste is smooth and balanced with hints of ripe fruit lingering long but delicately on the palate.

**About the region**: RIOJA

Rioja, located south of the Cantabria mountains in north-central [Spain](https://www.winemag.com/region/spain), is the country’s best known and most historic wine region. The emphasis in Rioja is squarely on [Tempranillo](https://www.winemag.com/varietals/tempranillo), although [Garnacha](https://www.winemag.com/varietals/grenache), [Graciano](https://www.winemag.com/varietals/graciano) and [Mazuelo](https://www.winemag.com/varietals/mazuelo%22%20%5Co%20%22Mazuelo%20Wines) (all red grapes) are also grown and frequently blended with Tempranillo. As for white wines, [Viura](https://www.winemag.com/varietals/viura%22%20%5Co%20%22Viura%20Wines) (a.k.a [Macabeo](https://www.winemag.com/varietals/macabeo%22%20%5Co%20%22Macabeo%20Wines)) yields a basic, crisp wine with apple and green melon characteristics. [Rosé](https://www.winemag.com/varietals/rose) wines made from Tempranillo and/or Garnacha also play a significant role in Riojano winemaking. Rioja is divided into three subzones: Rioja Alta, Rioja Alavesa and Rioja Baja, with many of the region’s best wines hailing from Alta and Alavesa while the warmer, more southerly Baja region specializes more in Garnacha and darker, fuller-bodied Tempranillos. Today, Rioja produces many of Spain’s best wines as well as many good values.

**The Winery**: The Eduardo Garrido Winery is located in the village of Abalos of La Rioja Alta region of Northern Spain and enjoys more than five hundred years of viticulture history.

 Abalos rests at the base of the Sierra Cantabria mountains at 600 meters above sea level, in a highly unique geographic locale of the Rioja Alta.

The region is blessed by winds of the Cantabria Sea that create an ideal microclimate for the grapes.

This climate, in conjunction with the calcium-rich clay soils that dominate the region, helps produce some the best winegrowing conditions in the entire Rioja region.

Thus, our wines are consistently elegant, fruity and of strong bouquet.

***Food Pairing:*** Legumes, beef, Lamb, veal, poultry, cured or semi-cured cheeses, sausages

**$90 Wine Selections**

**Clos Berenguer, Clos de Tafall Priorat, Catalonia Spain, 2018**

**60% GRENACHE NOIR, 28% SAMSÓ, 12%CABERNET SAUVIGNON**

**Organic/Biodynamic**

The region of Priorat

Priorat is one of the stand-out Spanish wine regions, with an extraordinary leap in wine quality, reputation and price over the last decade or so. This small wine appellation, with 1,700 hectares of vines and just over 60 *bodegas*, lies to the west of the province of Tarragona in Catalonia.

It includes the municipalities of Scala Dei, Gratallops and Falset, where vines grow on steep terraces at varying altitudes of 100 to 700 metres. The climate is continental, and the region blessed with an exceptional schistous terroir (mostly llicorella with layers of slate and quartz). This schist is part of the same stratum found in the finest vineyards of the [Douro](https://www.bbr.com/region-591-douro), [Toro](https://www.bbr.com/region-1469-toro) and [Ribera del Duero](https://www.bbr.com/region-1466-ribera-del-duero). It provides ideal conditions for growing vines and also contributes to the much-lauded mineral-rich character of Priorato’s wines.

The region’s wines were revolutionized through the efforts of René Barbier. In 1989 he joined forces with a group of eight other winemakers to produce wine from eight plots (or clos), planting the best grapes using modern methods, and harvesting at extremely low yields. This original group included such distinguished bodegas as [Alvaro Palacios](https://www.bbr.com/producer-6500-alvaro-palacios) (Finca Dofi), Costers del Siurana and Mas Martinet.

The group later split up, but the legacy and the international acclaim their wines generated has attracted significant interest and investment in the Priorato region. It is now recognised as one of the great fine wine regions in Spain, rivalling [**Rioja**](https://www.bbr.com/region-240-rioja) and [**Ribera del Duero**](https://www.bbr.com/region-1466-ribera-del-duero). The Priorat wines are typically powerful and full-bodied, with a warm, ripe fruitiness and impressive levels of concentration and minerality. The wines are made in all categories from Joven to Gran Reserva, undergoing the same oak ageing as Rioja.

The efforts of the Barbier group proved that old-vine, low-yielding **[Cariñena](https://www.bbr.com/grape-cr-carignan)** and [**Garnacha**](https://www.bbr.com/grape-gr-grenache-garnacha) is the most planted variety here, followed by Garnacha. Both provide the backbone of the region’s wines, augmented by international varieties such as [**Merlot**](https://www.bbr.com/grape-me-merlot)**,**[**Cabernet Sauvignon**](https://www.bbr.com/grape-cs-cab-sauvignon) and [**Syrah**](https://www.bbr.com/grape-sy-syrah-shiraz).

White varieties (i.e. Chenin Blanc, Macabeo, Garnacha Blanca, Viognier and Pedro Ximénez) occupy less than five percent of the vineyard area.

**Clos de Tafall**

**Their wines combine tradition and modernity, a reflection of unique orographic and climatic characteristics of the D.O.Q. Priorat which give their wines a maximum expression of Mediterranean character that combines balance and elegance with a marked personality.**

**TASTING NOTES:** Intense wine, where it reigns the notes of ripe fruit, balsamic, aromatic herbs, light toasted notes, good volume and a perfect balance transporting all the load of fruit until the end of its journey. Long and persistent.

Food Pairing: Ideal with delicious meats, all kinds of cheeses and pasta.

**Smith Devereux, Red Wine, California, 2017**

**Syrah, Zinfandel, Cab Franc**

**Their story . . .**

The Smith Devereux story began, as many great stories do, with music and wine. A travel and wine writer, a farmer with some of Napa Valley’s best grapes, and a music industry insider with a love for wine and need for change; we were an unlikely trio. But a nearly impossible opportunity at just the right time brought us together, and together we have stayed.  Weeks after meeting we shook hands backstage at the Greek Theater in Berkeley, CA and took on the deal that would lead us into a life-long friendship, the founding of a winery, and a plan to conquer the world. Well... the wine world. True world domination may actually be outside of our skill set.

We blended our backgrounds in music and wine, paired them with partner John Anthony Truchard’s wine industry and farming expertise, and formed Smith Devereux. We are driven by the simple goal of making world-class wines at modest prices.

Every bottle tells a story. We hope that our wines will become a part of yours.

# **Tasting Notes:**

# **93 POINTS AND 2 GOLDS!**

The California Red Blend is the 3rd release in the Smith Devereux portfolio of wines and pays homage the 3 founders of the company. They also believe “3” is the magic number (yes it is, Schoolhouse Rock and De La Soul confirm this), just think about how many great things come in 3s, and without 1 and 2, you can’t make “3”.

3 is a crowd-pleasing blend that delivers with the perfect balance of full-bodied, luscious syrah with the fruit and smoke of zinfandel and structure and spice of Cabernet Franc.

ripe red fruit, blackberry pie, raspberry, dark chocolate, vanilla, toasty oak, vineyards dust (graham cracker)

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