



LIMERICK LANE
CELLARS



THE TED LINDSAY FOUNDATION CELEBRATING THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY WELCOMING

Karen Francis DeGolia, Winery Owner, Limerick Lane, Sonoma

Amazing California "CULT" winery estate run by an incredible entrepreneur and dynamo—Karen Francis DeGolia

Limerick Lane is a 53-acre estate located in the northeast corner of Sonoma County's Russian River Valley. Limerick Lane is a vineyard that dates back more than a century. They grow and produce world class Zinfandel and Rhone varietals. Sitting at an exact point where soil, water levels, rocks, sunshine, wind and fog meet. On top of, underneath, and in the midst of these earthly factors sit grapevines perfectly evolved in their composition, to thrive in this exact environment. Without any one of these individual factors, these wines wouldn't exist. The iconic Limerick Lane wines can only be made there.

Karen's late husband owned Limerick Lane nearly 3 decades earlier, but after selling to the famed Bilbro family in the 1990's, Karen moved to Birmingham, Michigan in 1996 to join General Motors to run the Chevrolet Venture minivan business. She was later promoted to General Manager of the Oldsmobile division (the youngest woman to ever fill a GM role), Karen later moved over to Ford Motor Company as a V.P. and ran their export business and corporate venture investments. As an avid golfer, and sitting on the Board of the LPGA and Senior PGA, Karen loved her time in Michigan, spending 8 years here and loves to still visit her friends in the Detroit and Harbor Springs area.

Destiny finally came full circle after a fateful lunch in 2017. Karen ended up going back to Sonoma and buying the neighboring vineyard to Limerick. Limerick Lane became for sale. Karen learned about this...and the rest is history. Almost 30 years after she had first walked amongst the vines, swam in the pool, and held her breath on late-night punch downs with her late husband, Karen is back as the owner of Limerick Lane.

Limerick Lane's motto is "hand's off, eyes on." (Pretty awesome) It would seem almost as if by serendipity they are the perennial underdog. Long before the over extracted, high alcohol fruit "bombs" that came to be the modern identity characterizing Zinfandel - L.L. doesn't make wines that conform or that are consistent with the appellation. They are located at the end of a dead-end road on the wrong side of the valley. Zinfandel and Syrah are viewed as "second class" when compared to Cabernet, Pinot Noir, and Chardonnay. Yet somehow, they consistently receive higher accolades than most of their "first class neighbors" and when compared to the great estates of the world the wines offer incredible value.

Stylistically, the wines they make are incredibly unique. Yes- they are rich, powerful wines but are simultaneously strikingly fresh, bright, and nimble. These wines are unabashedly expressive - a very hard combination to envision and impossible to fake. The winemaking approach closely mirrors the farming at Limerick Lane. In many respects, it is difficult to determine where one stops and the other starts. Both disciplines complement each other and in essence are geared towards accomplishing the same goal.

Their winemaker Chris Pittenger's approach is to let the vines, the dirt, the rocks, the fog, the wind speak. Intervene with as invisible a hand as possible and trust in the mystery of this extraordinary place and process. The resulting wines speak resoundingly of the soil from which they were born. They are full-bodied but with a core of beautiful fresh fruit and striking acidity.



Press 97Pts Vinous - "The 2021 Zinfandel 1910 Block emerges from the oldest vines on the property. Dense, dark, and beguiling, the 2021 packs a serious punch. Succulent black cherry, blackberry, spice, rose petal, pomegranate, and blood orange saturate the palate. The 2021 is distinguished by its density, power, and resonance. This is the essence of Limerick Lane.

What a wine!"



Ted Lindsay
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