



BOEGER

Welcome to the most historic and enchanting winery in the Sierra Foothills. Specializing in Barbera, unique varietals and artisan blends since 1972. Recipient of the CA State Fair 2018 **Wine Lifetime Achievement Award**

1709 CARSON RD., PLACERVILLE, CA.
WWW.BOEGERWINERY.COM 530-622-8094
TASTING ROOM OPEN DAILY 10-5




Lane and John Giguere have made their Matchbook Wine Company a destination winery in Zamora.

PHOTO BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

Matchbook sparks delight

Yolo County winery worth the trip

Slowly navigating narrow County Road 92B, 12 miles north of Woodland in Yolo County. Passing flocks of sheep and the rolling slopes of the Dunnigan Hills American Viticultural Area (AVA).

Suddenly, an oasis appears on the right, the sprawling Matchbook Wine Company. It may have a low profile because of its location, but it's a major player on the Northern California wine scene.

It sources estate-grown fruit from 1,700 acres of vineyards, processing and bottling it at a cutting-edge on-site facility. The portfolio offers 15 varietals and blends under four brands (for which some of the fruit is outsourced), for 200,000 cases a year.

"We were in the family wheat and livestock business, but we needed to do something else," said fifth-generation farmer John Giguere, co-owner with wife Lane.

The first incarnation was R.H. Phillips Winery, with 4,000 cases from 10 acres

in 1963. "We didn't know what we were doing," John Giguere said, "but the wine found a middle market between the high-end of Napa Valley and the jug wines of the Central Valley."

The business took off, moving away from the original sauvignon blanc and chenin blanc to focus on chardonnays, the heart of Matchbook today.

Then, in 1995, they launched Toasted Head. "The chardonnay was a rocket ship," John Giguere said.

Toasted Head was acquired in 2000 by a Canadian company, which hired the Giguieres to stay on and run the business. That relationship ended after five years.

The Giguieres debuted Matchbook in 2006, with a surprisingly affordable list, given the quality and complexity. "There's already too much wine, so you've got to stand out in some way," said John Giguere. "Our strategy is 90-point wines for \$10 to \$20. We do things in a different way."

The tasting room is one of the most attractive we've seen, but the outdoor patio is the real destination. Covered tables and chairs face an amphitheater-like lawn area where picnickers spread blankets in front of a concert stage that hosts local bands. The backdrop is acres of vineyards and the Pacific Coast Ranges. How about a "Wow!"

Matchbook Wine Company: 12300 County Road 92B in Zamora off Highway 5 north; 530-662-1032, www.matchbookwines.com.

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

Tasting room is open 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily; a flight of six tastes is \$10. A Cousins Maine Lobster food truck will be on-site Dec. 1 for the annual Holiday Toy Drive.

Join us for live music and wood-fired pizza in the tasting room!

MUSIC FROM NOON TO 3PM

Nov 10 - Jazz Asylum
Nov 24 - The Bottom Dwellers
Dec 8 - Misner & Smith
Dec 22 - Doug Pauly

CAPAY VALLEY ARTISTS CRAFT FAIR

Sunday, Dec 1
11am-5pm
Local Art, Food & Holiday Fun

OPEN FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY 11AM-5PM
FAMILY & DOG FRIENDLY! JOIN OUR WINE CLUB!



TABER RANCH VINEYARD & EVENT CENTER • INFO@TABERRANCH.COM

530.665.3691 • 16628 COUNTY RD 81 CAPAY, CA 95607 • WWW.TABERRANCH.COM

This column is produced by N&R Publications, a division of News & Review separate from SN&R Editorial. For more information, visit www.nrpubs.com