

# CIENEGA IMPORTS



A passion for wines around the world  
of unique character and value



## Sourcing Great Wines Around the World

Cienega Imports is a company run by me, Alphonse DeRose, owner and winemaker of DeRose Winery and Alchemy Wines. It was my vision to create a company that not only produces top notch wines from Chile and beyond, but also sources unique wines from around the world that have something to offer that my wines do not. It ranges from value, uniqueness, and wines of special character in our import portfolio. This gives the distributors the rare ability to do one stop shopping and



pick up orders from many producers and countries all in one warehouse at the DeRose facility.





## Chile—Where it all Began!



Upon graduating from Fresno State in Dec. 2001, I left for my first trip to Chile in January of 2002 and began going to interview after interview, looking for a harvest job that suited me, and ideally a place to make a small amount of my own wine. I was almost ready to give up when I came upon El Huique through another interview at Canepa winery.

I began working for El Huique in March of 2002. Our original contract was supposed to last 6 weeks, but I stayed on for nearly 6 months and the relationship between us grew. I became the winemaker at El Huique and also made my Parrone wines in the same facility. I started with a Cabernet in 02, before adding Syrah, Malbec, and my premium Chilean brand, Alchemy, in 05. My Alchemy brand consists of Grand Cuvee Carmenere, Syrah, Malbec and Sauvignon Blanc. I stayed on as the winemaker at El Huique until 2009, when I started to get too busy with my own projects, and had to focus more on time towards these ventures.

This has led me to several projects, one of which is my latest addition of the Vina Los Chanchitos brand. I have been the consulting winemaker since 2020 and also manage the vineyards. They are all organically farmed estate wines focused heavily on the Rhone varietals such as Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre, Cinsaut, Rousanne, Marsanne, Viognier, along with Cab Sauvignon, and Cab Franc.





## France

Around the time I began importing my Chilean wine, I also began looking at an Alsatian producer from Northern France. My father and I found ourselves impressed at the stellar quality of their Cremants, a sparkling wine, and decided to start importing the Cremants initially, then adding their still wines as well. It is amazing what they are capable of producing for less than half of what you pay for true “Champagne”, made in the Champagne district.





## Italy

Italy has always been a country of interest for my father and I since my grandparents were born in a small town in Calabria called Cosenza which is located in southern Italy. I made a trip to Italy in June of 2008 for a vacation and decided to try several Tuscan wines that I immediately fell in love with. Upon returning home, I told my father what I had discovered, and we began to plan a trip for the following year, researching areas we wanted to visit. We spent about a week in Italy doing a whirlwind tour of Venice, Padova, Florence, Montepulciano, and Bologna. After tasting many, many wines, we determined to focus on the Montepulciano region of Tuscany, where we have made special arrangements with one of the top wineries there to bottle special small lots of the typical wines from that region under our



own private label, “Famiglia DeRose”. Since that wonderful experience, we have been adding additional wines from multiple other producers to add to our portfolio.





Cienega Imports is a company built on passion for wines of unique character and value. The ever-changing wine market, its demands, and its trends are what mold our selections. We continue to grow and make acquisitions based on our customers' needs and desires. Come take a tour of the wine world today and pick up one or several of what our portfolio has to offer. Our one stop shopping will help you round out your book without having to spend too much time or money on logistics. We are here to help both our businesses grow together. Salud!

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