



THE **tastingpanel**  
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## **BEST HOMETOWN HERO: GEHRICKE WINES**

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**Impressions: 200,000**

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While Gehricke Wines proprietor August Sebastiani attributes the success of the winery's Sonoma-focused 2016 releases to his lifelong reverence for the region, he's also quick to credit the talents of veteran winemaker Alex Beloz, whose knowledge of Sonoma varieties helps elevate the family-owned label to the next level.

"I remember the excitement of discovery I experienced thoroughly studying our small town, the outskirts, and the dusty roads that lead to forgotten vineyards and properties when I was young," Sebastiani, a fourth-generation vintner, explains. "We're vested in finding fruit from the finest vineyards located in the best winegrowing subregions throughout Sonoma County. When

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crafting small-lot wines made from these special varietals, we do so with minimal intervention so one can enjoy the truest expressions of each appellation and terroir.”

**Gehricke 2016 Zinfandel, Russian River Valley:** A vibrant blend of old-vine Zinfandel and a whisper (5%) of Petite Sirah grown in Ponzo Vineyard’s iron-rich soils. After 17 months of aging in French oak, the final, well-structured wine displays the best of Zinfandel’s fruity and jammy sensibilities balanced by dark fruit flavors and density imparted by the Petite Sirah. A nose of berries and brambles leads the way as white pepper and cinnamon serve as seasoning for a maple-cedar core. Plum and mulberry are joyfully fruity with an addition of earthy tonality. **92 – M.M., December 2018**

**Gehricke 2016 Chardonnay, Russian River Valley:** The nose opens with the cheerful scents of lemon meringue, lime oil, floral jasmine, and tuberose. As the 100% Chardonnay wine, aged for eight months in French oak, rest in the glass, it transitions into a more tropical expression with pineapple and mango notes. This white draws you in with its intensely sensual aromas of lemon or lime tart, jasmine and chamomile. Mouth-filling flavors then enter the light as this Chard shines with notes of pineapple upside-down cake, toffee, pear, and Rainier cherries. The beautiful acidity balances it all out: This is the best yet for Gehricke. **95 – M.M., April 2018**

**Gehricke 2015 Pinot Noir, Los Carneros, Sonoma County:** This marvelous, small-production 100% Pinot Noir wine’s deep garnet hue is enhanced by seductive fragrances of blood orange, red plums, and rhubarb. With time, aromas of cherry pie laced with vanilla, cinnamon, and nutmeg come forth. While the first flavors on the palate are savory and spicy hints of clove and nutmeg, the palate ultimately blossoms with ripe plum flavors and a dried-cranberry center. Twenty months of aging in French oak shows through the nose and palate, rounding it out and caressing with vanilla bean and cinnamon stick. Cherry-cobbler notes accent a savory mid-palate alongside a ringing of clove-scented orange peel. **93 – M.M., January 2019**

**GEHRICKE**