



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exploring the Best Cabernet Sauvignon Clones in Paso Robles

*Paso Robles's growing list of top-scoring and award-winning Cabernet Sauvignon wines are made up of several historic strains, or "clones," of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape. The **2016 CABs of Distinction** event in April will include an expert panel that will help attendees understand the unique clones used in the region's signature wine.*

March 15, 2016 (Paso Robles, California)—The **Paso Robles CAB Collective** has long understood that great wine begins with great farming—and great farming begins with choosing the best wine grape clones.

Although the word “clone” may evoke science fiction flicks and research laboratories, wine grape clones are created in the field by simply taking cuttings from a mother vine, replanting them, and then repeating the process until a farmer has filled a small lot, a vine row or even an entire vineyard with a single strain.

Winemakers and wine farmers choose clones for many different reasons, from their resistance to certain local crop diseases, to their sugar concentrations and flavor profiles. This farming art dates back hundreds of years. As a result, most of the wines you enjoy boast clone lineages that date back several centuries.

For instance, Cabernet Sauvignon Clone 8 comes from cuttings originally clipped in 1893 at the famed Chateau Margaux in Bordeaux. Since then, the clone can be found in some of the best vineyards in California, including **Cass Vineyard & Winery** in Paso Robles.

“Clone 8 provides a solid backbone for many of our Cabernet Sauvignons, which are often a mix of several distinct clones,” says Cass Winemaker Sterling Kragten. “Clone 8 has those traditional qualities: dark color, good tannin structure, and flavors of dark fruit, spice, and slight herbal character.”

The other key clones in Paso include Clone 169, Clone 7 and Clone 337, among many others, and carry equally rich histories, and unique flavor characteristics.

To help better understand these unique clone qualities, how they're blended and why they're essential to the award-winning and top-scoring Cabernet Sauvignon coming out of Paso Robles, the **Paso Robles CAB Collective** is proud to host the expert panel “Know Your Cab Clones” at this year's **CABs of Distinction** April 12-14.

The annual **CABs of Distinction** invites the world to discover and gain a ‘boots-in-the-vineyard’ understanding of why Paso Robles continues to win accolades and gain ground on celebrated appellations like Napa Valley and Bordeaux.

Other **2016 CABs of Distinction** highlights include:

The Judgement of Paso Panel Session: A double-blind, sommelier-guided tasting of Cabernet Sauvignons from Napa, Bordeaux and Paso Robles.

The Other Cabernet Panel Session: In-depth exploration of the deliciously complex glories of Paso's next big Bordeaux-style wine: Cabernet Franc.

To learn more about the “Know Your Cab Clones” panel, and other events at the **2016 CABs of Distinction**, please visit pasoroblescab.com.

If you’re a member of the media or wine industry and wish to attend the **2016 CABs of Distinction**, please contact info@pasoroblescab.com

Sponsors of the Paso Robles CAB Collective include: Smurfit Kappa Orange County / Orange County Container Group; *The Tasting Panel Magazine*; *The SOMM Journal*; FIJI Water; Bruni Glass Packaging; Enartis Vinquiry; Seguin Moreau; Travel Paso Robles Alliance; Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance; Nomacor; Martinez Farming; Glenn Burdette; Portocork; Farm Credit West; Saury USA; Lafitte Cork & Capsule; Heritage Oaks Bank; Umpqua Bank; Cork Supply; Vintage Nurseries; Parker Sanpei; Cellotape Inc./Landmark Label; The Blueprinter & Graphics; Butlerz Events; Breakaway Tours; Allegretto Vineyard Resort.

ABOUT THE PASO ROBLES CAB COLLECTIVE

Formed in 2012, the Paso Robles CAB (Cabernet and Bordeaux) Collective (PRCC) is an independent collaborative effort of leading Paso Robles growers and producers of Cabernet and red Bordeaux varietals specific to the Paso Robles AVA in California. The PRCC strives to promote the full potential of the Paso Robles region in producing superior quality, classic and age-worthy Cabernet and red Bordeaux varietals that compete with like varietals on a global stage to consumers and media worldwide. For more information, please visit www.pasoroblescab.com.

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