



2017

ARNOT-ROBERTS

GAMAY NOIR  
EL DORADO

## 2017 Gamay Noir, El Dorado

**Barsotti Vineyard, Gamay Noir, El Dorado** The Barsotti Vineyard is located at 2800' elevation above the historic town of Placerville in the El Dorado appellation of the Sierra Foothills. The vines here were planted in 2005 by talented local stonefruit grower Ron Mansfield for the legendary Bay Area winemaker Steve Edmunds. Steve and Ron are true visionaries who saw the potential for growing incredible Gamay in the decomposed granite soils of this rugged site. It was a well-calculated risk to plant some of the first true Gamay Noir in California in this receptive site, and in 2010 another few acres were added. The vineyard blocks slope gently towards the deepest section of the American River canyon which ushers cooling breezes down from the nearby snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Days in this region are bright and warm, punctuated by crisp evenings that help the fruit ripen slowly while retaining freshness and verve. The granitic soils are similar to those found in some of the top sites

for Gamay in its homeland, the Beaujolais region of France. We feel strongly that Barsotti is proving itself as a brilliant terroir to grow the Gamay grape and we look forward to many more years of working with Ron Mansfield and his son Chuck to produce wines of distinctive personality from the magic combination of Gamay and Granite.

Elevation: 2,800' \*Clone/Selection: 358 \*Soils: Musick Series;  
Decomposed Granite \*Vine Density: 5'x10' \*Farming: Sustainable  
\*Planted: 2010

**Witters Vineyard, Gamay Noir, El Dorado** At 3300' elevation, the Witters vineyard is one of the highest plantings in California. This surreal sub-alpine site was singled out by local El Dorado stonefruit grower Ron Mansfield when he and Steve Edmunds began to envision the first Gamay Noir planting in California in over a generation. The year was 1999 and the property was planted to Bartlett pears, but with dropping pear prices, the appeal of planting wine grapes was enough to convince Bob Witters to let Steve and Ron plant the site to Gamay Noir in 2000. Gamay was a gamble in this location. There was no track record for the variety in the area or even in California for that matter, but after a trip to tour and taste in the Cru Beaujolais regions of Fleurie and Morgon in Beaujolais, the duo became convinced of its potential at Bob Witter's remote site. At higher in elevation in this region, the vines would be crushed by frost in the spring. As it is, we continue to see the uneven fruit set effects of cooler years compared to just 800' lower in elevation. In subsequent years, Witters has proven to be a fantastic vineyard with its deep volcanic clay-loam soil, studded with Quartz and Feldspar crystals. The superlative northerly exposition and textbook airflow drainage patterns create a singular site that speaks with a strong voice for Gamay in California. The vines are planted on a gently sloping bench that looks North towards the snow covered peaks of the nearby Sierra Nevada Mountains. The days are bright and warm but nights are cold, allowing for an extended growing season that produces grapes loaded with character. The fruit we have harvested from this site since 2011 is bright and peppery, electrifying with bright acidity, light

pigmentation, and soaring, spice driven aromatics. There is a lean edge to this wine that harmonizes beautifully with the density and color produced in the fruit from the nearby Barsotti vineyard. Witters is grape growing at the outer edge and the wines tell that story well.

Elevation: 3300' \*Clone/Selection: 358 \*Soils: Aiken Series; Volcanic Clay Loam \*Vine Density: 6'x10' \*Farming: Sustainable \*Planted: 2000

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