

Artisan Uprising, Blood into Wine Part 1

February 14, 2015

12:26 AM MST



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The Artisan Uprising Rosé of Merlot 2014 is delicious, full body and good acidity, with a long finish.
Patricia Decker

Brothers David and William Vondrasek have winemaking in their blood. Memories of watching their grandfather make Sangiovese and Moscato wine in their Santa Monica home's basement as they were growing up inspired the brothers to return to their roots. **David and William** tinkered with the winemaking process in their own house, buying grapes and making wine for family and friends. What started as a hobby in 2001 grew into a more serious passion, when David left his hospitality career behind and embraced winemaking in the **Paso Robles** region, with the inaugural vintage of **Artisan Uprising** in 2012, a release of four different wines.

Sourcing fruit from two vineyards, the **Petit Verdot**, **Malbec**, and **Petite Sirah** grown on the East Side, and the **Merlot** harvested from the West Side, David crafts wines that he feels are made in the vineyard, because he "doesn't believe in intervention". Holistic in approach, the brothers developed their own style, that meshed well with the artisan theme. Although trained in the science of making wine, they believe that "art is what you do with science". Multiple punchdowns to coax the maximum flavor from the grapes, stainless steel ferment for the rosé, and oak barrel ageing for the reds is the science, but deftly blending the unfiltered reds for a ripe, smooth, and expressive style is the art. The Artisan Uprising wine label, created by one of the Vondrasek

sisters, depicts an artist “leaving everything behind him except the tools he needs to create his art”. It is this sacrifice by the brothers, who do all the work themselves, and adjust their technique to each year’s vintage, that makes Artisan Uprising deeply personal, an homage to family, and open to interpretation, just like a work of art.

On a shoestring budget, as William says “paycheck to paycheck”, Artisan Uprising is crafted in the brothers’ spare time, keeping their day jobs to float their dream.

They “do it for the love of wine”, and if they failed to sell all the wine they produce, their extended family would gladly drink their labor of love. As word gets out about their truly artisan wines, that won’t be a problem.

Continued in [Part 2](#)



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