



IPO WINES

COUNTRY
USA

REGION
California

APPELLATION
San Luis Obispo County

SOIL TYPE
Sandy

VARIETAL(S)
100% Syrah

FARMING
Sustainable

WINEMAKER
John Alban



2020 Alban "Reva" Syrah

IMPORTED BY IPO Wines

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Starting in 1985, John Alban planted grapes for other people until he bought an estate in 1989. Alban Vineyards' is the first American winery and vineyard established exclusively for Rhone Varieties. Alban came to be a pioneer of the Rhone Rangers movement, and is considered one of the most influential American Rhone producers. Robert Parker's declared in The Wine Advocate that John Alban is "...the spiritual and qualitative leader of the movement..."

On beginning to grow Viognier, Alban stated "I almost single-handedly doubled the world's acreage," referring to a time when its cultivation was reduced to 50 acres (20 ha) in two areas of the Rhône Valley, Condrieu and Château-Grillet. Alban's work, along with that of Josh Jensen of Calera Wine Company in San Benito County, helped to significantly expand plantings of Viognier in California at a time when the varietal was near extinction.

WINE NOTES

In the earliest years of Alban Vineyards, I lived in a rented green house propagating cuttings. When I wasn't making vines, I was busy looking for the future home for all the vines in my nursery. I spent 7 years looking at possible vineyard sites all over the Central Coast of California. Whenever I found a promising site, I negotiated a due diligence period during which I could do soil and site analysis. While mapping out the last piece I'd ever evaluate (because it was the one that turned into Alban Vineyards) I happened to name a little ridge on one part of the ranch 'Reva's Ridge'. It was a play on words incorporating the name of a Kentucky Derby winner: Riva's Ridge, and my mother's name which is Reva. Clearly I'd been in the sun too long and I will admit that I am a total 'mama's boy'. Years later, after calling the vineyard Reva and tagging the first barrel as Reva, I embraced the obvious: I named the wine Reva.

The grapes that go into Reva (97-100% Syrah with the balance Viognier) are from neutral sandy soils and portions of ranch that are chalky and quite alkaline. This combination makes for a wine with dark color, concentrated flavors of black fruits, fennel, and graphite. Perhaps the most distinguishing note of Reva is a unique iodine and oyster shell aromatic that is unlike anything in our other Syrahs. The wine is aged 3.5 years in barrels before bottling unfinned and unfiltered.

97-99 points, "Leading off the three Syrahs, the 2020 Syrah Reva has classic kelp and marine-like iodine nuances (which are the hallmarks of this cuvée) to go with full-bodied richness, a deep, layered mouthfeel, beautiful tannins, and a great core of darker cassis and meaty, blue fruits. It's a ripe, powerful, classic Reva." - Jeb Dunnuck