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Wine & Beer

2016 Winemakers to Watch

By Esther Mobley | December 1, 2016

Each year, The Chronicle recognizes a number of West Coast winemakers who show extraordinary promise. Whether they're pursuing their passion project on the side of a day job or building an estate from scratch – and whether they've been at it for two years or ten – they fundamentally share a fearless desire to set new paradigms, a bootstrapping ambition and an attention to their craft. We believe their best work is still yet to come. — Esther Mobley

Brian and Stephanie Terrizzi, Giornata, Broadside

By no means newcomers, Brian and Stephanie Terrizzi of Paso Robles nevertheless don't get enough acclaim for their excellent work — both with Giornata, their Italian-grape label; and **Broadside, their inexpensive line of Central Coast wines that might represent the best value proposition in California.**

"I was told for a very long time that I'd never do anything interesting with Italian varietals in California," says Brian. But the couple — he the winemaker, she the viticulturist, both trained at Fresno State — loved the Nebbiolo grape too much to give up on it. They've now found a range of sites around Paso Robles — including the excellent Luna Matta Vineyard, which Stephanie manages — with compelling versions of Aglianico, Sangiovese, Fiano, Barbera and, especially, Nebbiolo. Giornata's structured, acid-driven wines belie the assumption that Paso is too hot to grow these grapes. Besides, the Terrizzis say, their vineyards' soil has a lot in common with that of Chianti.

The Giornata wines are at the highest quality tier of Italian-style wines in this state. But the Terrizzis, who both sold wine in restaurants and shops in the past, decided to tackle a very different challenge, too: "We have so many great, under-\$15 wines from Spain, Argentina," says Stephanie, "but it's hard to find that in California." Hence Broadside, a 30,000-case operation that they first launched with Chris Brockway of Broc Cellars. (The Terrizzis bought Brockway out two years ago.) Stylistically accessible and priced below \$30, even for single-vineyard wines, the Broadside Cabernet, Chardonnay and Merlot bottlings outshine many wines double their price.

More than anything, the Terrizzis believe in Paso. Stephanie, who will work only with vineyards that hold at minimum a Sustainability in Practice certification, is an outspoken advocate for improving environmental standards there. "I just want Paso to do better," says Brian. "I think Paso could be the best viticultural region in the whole state."

WINES TO TRY: The Terrizzis' portfolio is an embarrassment of riches. Look for Broadside's superb Chardonnays (the 2014 "Wild Ferment," \$18, tropical and full of brûléed pineapple; the 2013 White Hawk Vineyard, \$30, rich, mineral and saline) and Cabernets (the blue-fruited, dense 2014 Paso Robles, \$18; the mouthfilling, firm 2013 Margarita Vineyard, \$25). From Giornata, there's a succulent, peachy 2015 Fiano (\$25), a taut, lifted 2015 Barbera (\$25), and a leafy, cigar-inflected 2013 Nebbiolo from Luna Matta (\$45), bright with cherry and chewy with tannins.

BROADSIDE



Chronicle Winemakers to Watch Brian and Stephanie Terrizzi of Giornata and Broadside, with their children.



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