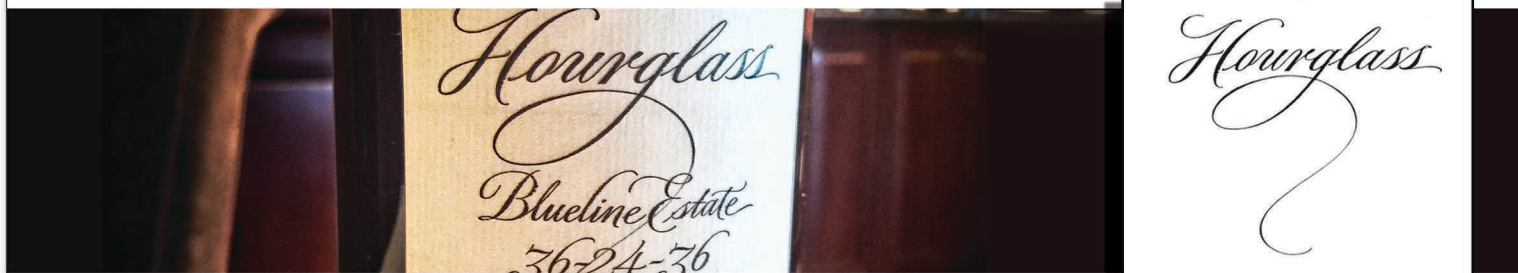


JEB DUNNUCK



The Wines of Anthony Biagi: Hourglass

by JEB DUNNUCK | JULY 12, 2017

This report focuses on wines from Anthony Biagi, who over his past 19 years in Napa Valley has been the talent behind labels such as Neal Family Vineyards, Duckhorn, PlumpJack, CADE and Paraduxx (among others). **Today, he's the winemaker for Hourglass, as well as Patria, which is a new personal label created in 2013 with longtime friend Kimberly Jones.**

Anthony (or Tony as he's more widely called) is a sixth generation Californian whose first memories of wine go back to his father making small amounts of wine in his garage. Earning a degree in Fermentation Sciences from U.C. Davis in 1995, Tony worked for numerous well-known estates before joining the Hourglass team in 2012.

Hourglass:

Looking at the Hourglass Releases, this estate was created in 1997, with Bob Foley being a driving force behind the wines for 15 years. Tony joined the estate in 2012. Today, the label focuses on two vineyards, the Hourglass Estate vineyard located in St. Helena, and the newer Blueline Estate Vineyard located in Calistoga. www.hourglasswines.com

Hourglass Vineyard

The Hourglass Vineyard is a valley floor site that was first planted to Zinfandel in 1977 by Ned Smith (who had first planted the site as an orchard). It was replanted to Cabernet Sauvignon in 1992 by his son, Jeff Smith. This is a cooler, east facing site consisting of mostly fractured bedrock soils. They release a single estate Cabernet Sauvignon from this site.

Blueline Vineyard

The Blueline vineyard is another valley floor site that was first planted to Merlot and Cabernet Franc in 1991. It was extensively replanted to Bordeaux varieties (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec) in 2007. Located in Calistoga, this 20-acre, west/northwest facing parcel was acquired by the Hourglass team in 2006. It too is a valley floor vineyard, yet is a slightly warm site compared to the estate Hourglass vineyard. The soils are gravelly and decomposed volcanic ash. They release a classic Cabernet Sauvignon, a Merlot and Cabernet Franc from this site, as well as a tiny production, cellar selection called 36-24-26 (a perfect hourglass figure). At the moment, the Hourglass estate appears to be the star of the show, yet all of the Blueline estate releases are unquestionably outstanding and beautiful wines.

- 97+** Hourglass
2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate
- 95+** Hourglass
2013 Cabernet Sauvignon
Blueline Estate 36-24-36
- 95** Hourglass
2014 Cabernet Sauvignon
Blueline Estate 36-24-26
- 93** Hourglass
2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate
- 93** Hourglass
2014 Cabernet Sauvignon
Blueline Estate
- 93** Hourglass
2013 Cabernet Sauvignon
Blueline Estate
- 92** Hourglass
2014 Merlot Blueline Estate
- 92** Hourglass
2013 Merlot Blueline Estate
- 90** Hourglass
2014 Cabernet Franc
Blueline Estate
- 90** Hourglass
2013 Cabernet Franc
Blueline Estate