

Someone's In The Cellar

A Piece of the Wine Country Right Next Door

By Richard and Amanda Payatt, Special to VOICE

WE ALL LOVE TO GO UP TO SANTA YNEZ OR SANTA RITA to get that out-in-the-country winemaking and wine tasting enjoyment. But you don't

have to drive half an hour or an hour to have the

same environment and some super wine. Samsara Wine Company has its winemaking facility and tasting room in Goleta, and it feels like Santa Ynez; but only ten minutes away. Although nestled near the freeway and in an industrial park setting, the location is quiet and feels rural with a lovely view of lots of greenery from both the indoor and outdoor tasting areas. You can pop in after work and still be home for dinner.

Matt Brady is the winemaker at Samsara. We have been fans of Matt's work for a long time. He started out over at Jaffurs back in 2005, and made his way up to being head winemaker by 2015. He made memorable Syrahs and Grenaches while over at Jaffurs.

In 2017 an opportunity to take over Samsara wines came upon the horizon, and with the Szkutak family, they made a go of it. In 2018 they opened a tasting room with a living room feeling within the Goleta winery workshop. "We found our groove," Brady shared.

He has made the most of his winemaking experience.



Photos by Amanda and Richard Payatt

Lily Hays, Director of Hospitality, and Winemaker Matt Brady

It has been said that Brady is a New World winemaker making Old World wine. He picks the harvest late, uses largely neutral oak barrels for aging the wines, relies on native yeasts, uses sustainable or organic farming and whole cluster fruit. He even uses foot stomping of the grapes, which is gentle and allows the benefits of including

the stems while avoiding the bitterness which can come from crushing them. Best of all, he makes the wine in very small batches. This way he can give every barrel his best attention. Old school. As Brady puts it: "I'm not the kind of winemaker who makes wines I can't believe in."

Brady's wines are no let down from the Jaffurs days when Jaffurs was a hot commodity nationally. The 2020 Zotovich Vineyard in Santa Rita brings in a lovely Chardonnay. It is full of lemon zest, vanilla yogurt, a hint of pineapple. The 2021 Rosé is 65 percent Mourvedre and 35 percent Grenache, but they are co-fermented, which is unusual.

The flavor that results from that fermentation is elegant: canteloupe, roses, strawberries, and fraises-du-bois.

The 2018 Pinot Noir was our favorite. From Las Hermanas Vineyard in Santa Rita, it was all sweet strawberry jam, red raspberries, white mushrooms, black pepper, tobacco, arugula, and a hazelnut finish.

And the 2019 Grenache is no let down from the days

he was making his own label Grenache at Jaffurs. It is full of dusty dark plum, strawberry compote, leather,

and oregano notes. It is very fruit forward, despite what our description might suggest.

The 2018 Syrah was foot stomped and is full of blueberries, black plum, black olives, mint, and tobacco. It is once again, a wonderful expression of all the grape can be when handled in the Old World manner.

If you are very lucky when you are at the winery, you might grab a bottle of the 2020 carbonically pressed Syrah. Handled in the manner of Beaujolais, Brady throws a fascinating curve ball at a traditional grape and a traditional winemaking method. It adds a range of flavors that you don't often find in Syrah. Yet, the style of winemaking brings the natural flavors from the grape. Give it a try if they offer it.

Samsara is so convenient, and so comfortable, and so easy to get to. It may be in the middle of Goleta, but the wines aren't middle of the road.



Richard and Amanda Payatt have 40+ years of publishing experience between them. With decades in the food and wine industries (both are sommeliers), they bring readers "In the Kitchen/In the Cellar" with a focus on the people that create the food and wine we enjoy.

BROADWAY MUSICAL Cruise

Deborah Bertling
Adam Phillips
Renee Hamaty

Broadway Musical Cruise Aboard The Condor Express

Enjoy the best of Broadway on a smooth Saturday evening cruise aboard the Condor Express. Soprano Deborah Bertling and tenor Adam Phillips will perform accompanied by pianist Renee Hamaty.

When: Saturday, August 13, 2022, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, boarding @ 6:30 pm
Where: Departs from the Landing dock in Santa Barbara Harbor
Cost: \$75 boarding pass includes complimentary appetizers and no host bar
Reservations: Go to condorexpress.com/broadway-musical-cruise or call (805)882-0088 / 1-888-779-WHALE

CONDOR Express

NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION AND LA CASA DE MARIA

invite you to

THE 28TH ANNUAL SADAKO PEACE DAY

Tuesday, August 9, 2022
6:00 - 7:00 pm

Poetry • Music • Reflection
 Remembering the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all innocent victims of war

Sadako Peace Garden
 La Casa de Maria
 800 El Bosque Road
 Montecito, California 93108

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
www.wagingpeace.org/upcoming