

I. BRAND & FAMILY

MONTEREY COUNTY



Le P'tit Paysan is a small producer focused on showcasing the quality and diversity of the wines that Monterey and the nearby AVAs can create. Innovative, experimental and eager to push the envelope in the Salinas Valley and beyond, Brand is known for his progressive approaches to plantings, commitment to organic farming and tireless promotion of Monterey as the next region to watch in California.

Brand says on the impetus for the Le P'tit Paysan wines, “We did not set out to make these wines. We discovered great vineyards at the edge of sensible farming and decided to bring them to light. The farther we looked, the more we found – remote, challenging vineyards, with hard depleted soils, and intense sunlight tempered only by the coastal breeze. Vineyards capable of producing only the most idiosyncratic wines. Our goal as winemakers is to lightly polish the roughest edges and leave the idiosyncrasy intact. It is here in the back country, filled with individual character, where Le P'tit Paysan comes to life.

In their growing sites Brand looks for shallow, rocky soils, good site selection and proper varietal match with the soil and climate. The often overlooked greater Monterey Bay Area has a plethora of underappreciated, rocky vineyards, many of which contain a high proportion of limestone.

Ian Brand bottles under three labels.

- ◇ **LE P'TIT PAYSAN** for French inspired wines.
- ◇ **LA MAREA** for Spanish inspired wines.
- ◇ **I. BRAND** for California inspired wines.

Spur Ranch is an 11,000 acre cattle, vineyard and walnut ranch in and around the Topo Valley in the southern Gabilan Mountains. Our portion of the vineyard is at 1000-foot elevation, fifteen degree south facing slope on the south of Chalone Peak. The soils are high calcareous content clay over the same mica shist substrate that dominates the Chalone appellation.

The San Antonio Valley is in remote southwestern Monterey County, on the leeward side of the Ventana Range.

We pick Petite Sirah from two blocks in the Y-Ranch section of the **Pierce Vineyard**. Block 1 is a west facing rocky hillside littered with chunks of white limestone. Block 3 is a southeast facing slope where decomposed granite dominates the soils.

The Arroyo Seco AVA is comprised mainly of alluvial deposits from the Ventana Range. **The Cedar Lane Vineyard**, on a mesa overlooking the river, is protected from the Salinas Valley breezes, which is important for the shy-setting Viognier. Rhone whites from this region ripen late in the season and show river-stone minerality and focus uncommon in the varieties.

The Chardonnay block at **LaBelle Rose** is tucked up against the base of Jack's Hill, a geologically distinct iron-rich granite formation with limestone deposits. It is among the most northerly Salinas Valley vineyards, yielding late ripening, low sugar grapes beguiling for their mix of breadth and focus on the palate and intense minerality.



“The more you know about wine, the more you'll want to know about us.”

www.ahdvintners.com; (586) 552-1414