

2012 Elena Catherine



A new blend can be an interesting, but a difficult task. At the beginning of harvest, the winemaker may have an inkling of the new blend's intended structure, as well as the organoleptic aspects that appeal to both the winemakers, and his or her potential wine purchasing clients. Consequently, we are faced with the task of vinifying each potential variety into an individually good wine that is true to the variety. Once that is accomplished, we did a number of "bench" trials – blending different small lots to ascertain which of the wines available to us, when blended in larger lots, will provide the best flavors, mouthfeel and finish. That's what De Angelis Wines 2012 Elena Catherine is – a new blend that we usually refer to as the EC Blend.

Who is Elena Catherine? Elena is our Mom, and this wine was developed for her 100th birthday. (She passed away at 102 Years old!) We wanted a wine that reflects the feisty, peppery, Italian Mom that she was! The 2012 Elena Catherine is a 13.6% alcohol wine blend containing 50% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Syrah. All of these wines are Estate fruit harvested from the Dry Creek Vineyard in Paso Robles, CA. The pH of this wine is 3.60, and the TA is 0.72. The wines in the blend were all vinified between September and October in 2012. Each of the wines aged in barrel for 18 months. We bottled Elena Catherine on May 3, 2014, and bottled aged the wine until the release date – December 6, 2015, Elena's birthday.

This wine has soft tannins, a wonderful mouthfeel, and a long finish. Cedar and Tobacco aromas as well as berry flavors make the EC blend a well-rounded wine that complements any meal. The small amount of Syrah in the blend adds hints of pepper and spice. That allows this wine to complement highly flavored dishes.