

DAOU

Family Estates

Paso Robles | USA



CARSON & CARNEVALE

DELIVERING BETTER

Imported by Carson & Carnevale Wines

INTRODUCTION

Almost 15 years ago, brothers Georges Daou and Daniel Daou set forth across California to find an unrivaled terroir for producing Cabernet Sauvignon, a search that led them to a place of foretold greatness: DAOU Mountain in the Adelaida District of Paso Robles. Here, their vision is to make California "first growth" wine, fulfilling the district's promise as the world's next benchmark for Bordeaux varieties. DAOU continue to go from strength to strength, having amassed over 400 scores of 90+ points over the last decade, and the Daou brothers have undisputedly put Paso Robles on the map for Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux varieties including founding the Paso Robles Cabernet Collective. The estate was named a "jewel of ecological elements" by the father of modern American winemaking, André Tchelistcheff, and was recently nominated and shortlisted for Wine Enthusiast's American Winery of the Year.





HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

After growing up in Lebanon, then France, in the early 1980s Georges and Daniel moved to California to pursue their American dream. They both enrolled at UC San Diego and studied Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering. Industrious and driven to succeed, Georges and Daniel followed in their family's entrepreneurial footsteps and started their own company, DAOU Systems, a networking technology company that would revolutionize hospital computer systems.

In 1998, after taking DAOU Systems public, Georges and Daniel sold the company, and a new dream arose, a dream with its roots in France. For years, Daniel had been making wine in his garage in rural San Diego, tending to a one-acre vineyard of Cabernet Sauvignon, and reading every book he could find about winemaking. He knew he was destined to be a winemaker and knew it was time to start a winery. Everyone told him he was crazy, but with Georges as his business partner, Daniel told his father, "I'm going to buy this property in Paso, and I want to become a winemaker, and I think I can make one of the best wines in the world." Without hesitation, his father said, "Go and don't look back. Go full throttle."

Daniel combines the training of an engineer with the touch of an artist. These gifts have enabled him to master both the science and creativity necessary to make transcendent wines. Upon discovering DAOU Mountain, he set out to elevate Paso Robles to a new level by becoming the region's ambassador of Bordeaux varieties. His heart ultimately lies in the vineyard, where he spends the majority of his time living amongst the vines—attentive to every possibility for cultivating the purest expression of terroir. Georges Daou is a creative visionary and a man of many interests. Yet it was only on DAOU Mountain that he discovered his true calling. Here, he became the shepherd of a dream: that the mountain's wines would one day bring joy and pleasure to people around the world. "The raw jewels of this mountain have been here for thousands of years, but they can only be unlocked through great imagination," Georges says. "This is the quest we are wholly engaged in— and it is the journey that we invite you to walk with us."



VINEYARDS & ESTATE

The DAOU estate stands at an elevation of 2,200 feet sharing similar soil to Bordeaux's Right Bank and climate mirroring St. Helena in Napa. This combination provides the ultimate potential terroir for making fine Bordeaux style wines. The Santa Lucia Mountain range in the Paso Robles AVA is highly regarded for its unique viticultural qualities, and DAOU Mountain's special characteristics make it one of the most unique vineyard locations in California. A combination of southeast and southwest orientation, a 2,200 foot elevation, steep slopes, a cooler microclimate, and marine influence from the renowned Templeton Gap (14 miles from the Pacific Ocean) create perfect growing and ripening conditions for high quality grapes. For most of the summer, DAOU Mountain's vineyards stand above the frequent morning fog line, allowing the vines up to 14 hours of nourishing sunlight. The mountain also receives two to three times the rainfall of downtown Paso Robles.





WINEMAKING & THE WINEMAKER

The winemaking vision of DAOU is to seek absolute purity in the flavors of the wines, and in how those flavours portray a true reflection of the land. Winemaker Daniel Daou is relentless in his pursuit of this ideal, implementing an array of proprietary techniques and technologies to create one of the most rigorously innovative winemaking programs in the world.

DAOU subscribes to true dry farming where possible, and deficit irrigation when needed an approach that maximizes fruit intensity while conserving a precious resource. Daniel Daou collects intensive daily data through both manual field measurement and wireless sensor technology—to cultivate an optimal vine growth ratio during the crucial early days of the growing season. DAOU Estate wines are made with the proprietary “D20” yeast cultured from DAOU Mountain, which is prized for its remarkable ability to maintain acidity; extract color; amplify flavor and texture; and produce lower alcohols.

Daniel Daou employs cutting-edge technologies for testing wine phenolics during fermentation, enabling him to precisely meet his vision for each wine’s color, mouthfeel and tannin profile. Daniel also supervises the coopering of his own proprietary French oak barrels. The DAOU 5-Year is made from a rare fine-grain pink oak known as bois rosé, which imparts an array of complex yet subtle flavors to the DAOU Soul of a Lion. The DAOU Hybrid is composed of oak from the Tronçais and Jupille forests, and is designed specifically for maturing the DAOU Estate Cabernet Sauvignon.



RANGE



DAOU Chardonnay



DAOU Rosé



DAOU Cabernet Sauvignon

RESERVE RANGE:



DAOU Reserve Chardonnay



DAOU Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon



Eye of the Falcon

RANGE

ESTATE RANGE:



DAOU Soul of a Lion

EXPRESSIONS RANGE:



DAOU Pessimist



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