

## Janzen, Cloudy's Vineyard, Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

- Janzen's silkiest, most elegant Cabernet Sauvignon
- Reflects its cool climate vineyard, perched in the hills above Dutch Henry Canyon in Calistoga
- Masterfully blended by star winemaker, Kirk Venge

### The Producer

It's unusual to find a Napa Cab producer who can walk the line between serious and fun, and Claus Janzen is that rare exception. Janzen set the tone in 1993 with his first label, Bacio Divino ("The Divine Kiss"), which featured pedigreed Napa Cabernet in a seductive red blend. The wine was an instant success, and allowed him to launch the Janzen label featuring single vineyard Napa Cabernets. The common thread in all of his wines is their superior breeding, quality worthy of the finest tables, and unpretentious friendly style.

Originally from Winnipeg Canada, Janzen escaped the brutal winters to find work in the equally cold but picturesque Swiss Alps where he was exposed to the great wines of Europe and in particular great Italian wines. This sparked a passion to work in wine and he relocated his family to live in Napa. There he parlayed his international connections, to land a position marketing Caymus Vineyards worldwide.

After a dozen years of building the Caymus brand internationally, Janzen answered his calling to make his own wine. He set his sights on making a wine that was elegant and yet joyful in the tradition of European culture, particularly the Super Tuscan blends which dominated the world wine scene at the time. He activated his wide network in Napa to quickly find the best talents and vineyards and went to work. In 1993, Bacio Divino was created to merge the elegance of Sangiovese with the star of Napa, Cabernet Sauvignon. A few years later, the blend was successfully reversed for the playful blend, Pazzo.

Claus' experience in Napa led him to be an early client of superstar grower, Andy Beckstoffer. This enduring relationship has allowed Janzen to access prime blocks of Beckstoffer's Heritage vineyards including the prized To-Kalon vineyard. He also acquired his own estate vineyard in the hills above Dutch Henry Canyon in Calistoga.

While he used Cabernet as the core of the Bacio Divino blend, it rapidly became apparent that the quality was too good not to celebrate as stand alone bottlings. Thus was born the Janzen label, which features these great sources in single vineyard wines including To-Kalon, Missouri Hopper and Janzen's Cloudy's Vineyard Estate. The line also includes an entry level Napa Cabernet, which combines fruit from the Janzen estate and Beckstoffer vineyards.

Kirk Venge, son of legendary Napa winemaker Nils Venge and a lifelong Napa resident, came on board to craft Bacio Divino and has continued to expand the lineup since. Venge makes the wines to be approachable and joyful, yet with great depth and complexity deserving of the finest wine lists.

### The Wine

While the Janzens source from several of Napa Valley's most prestigious vineyards the quality of the fruit coming from the small vineyard on the home estate provides a different profile and a great contrast to the valley floor vineyards which led them to bottle it separately as a vineyard designate. Cloudy's sits on the slopes of Dutch Canyon above Duckhorn's Three Palms, Hourglass' Blue-line and Switchback Ridge vineyards. At 450-500 feet elevation Cloudy's sits high above the floor but under the marine layer keeping the vines cooler throughout the day. The varying soils and exposures of the small steep vineyard allow for significant diversity among the various blocks. The resulting wine is a silkier more elegant counterpart to its powerful stablemates from the Oakville bench. This wine will really shine in dining environments with its lush ripe fruit and polished texture.



**Region:** Napa Valley

**Appellation:** Calistoga AVA

**Vineyards:** Cloudy's estate vineyard planted in 2000

**Altitude:** 450-500 ft above Dutch Henry Canyon

**Soil:** Sandy loam, volcanic rock and obsidian

**Alcohol:** 15.1%

**Varietals:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Production:** 600 six-packs

**Vinification and aging:** 26 months in 100% new Taransaud, Gamba and Sylvain French oak barrels

**Tasting Notes:** rich and balanced with ripe fruit and judicious use of oak

*We provide great restaurants and retailers with wines they are proud to serve and keep their guests coming back for more.*