

Awards & Accolades

## "A Proper Claret"

2015 Wine Enthusiast: 91, Matt Kettmann - "Fresh-pressed boysenberry meets with jammier plum-sauce aromas on the nose of this blend...This wine offers light herbal, spice and wood aromas while the palate proves very versatile and lively, with bright, tart pomegranate flavors and a touch of purple flowers"
 2014 JamesSuckling.com: 90 Points - "A balanced and rich red with plum and spice character. Hints of dried fruits and dried meat. Medium to full body, round and soft tannins and a delicious finish." Wine Spectator: "Fresh, bright and vibrant ,this is notably herbal, with savory sage and underbrush notes amid taut berry flavors. An easy-drinking style." Sommelier Challenge, International Wine Competition: Gold Critics Challenge International Wine & Spirits Competition: Critics Gold The Tasting Panel Magazine: "... it blooms with raspberry juice, cherries and black currants. Great for a cheese plate."

# Syrah, Bien Nacido Vineyard, "X-Block"

- 2014 Wine Enthusiast: 95, Matt Kettmann Editor's Choice "This is a tremendous example of a cool-climate Syrah, enhanced by 12% Viognier, with cracked black peppercorn, gamy lamb meat, tarragon, rosemary, soy sauce, mint and black currant all present on the nose. The pepper-crusted meat flavor with blackberry jam shows strongly on the sip, finishing with hints of butterscotch and vanilla."
  2013 Wine & Spirits: 90 Year's Best Syrah & Grenache, Best Buy
- JamesSuckling.com: 93 Points "This is a real syrah with dried meat, walnut, dark fruit and black pepper character. Medium body, round and soft tannins and a flavorful finish. Fantastic."
- 2012 <u>Wine Enthusiast</u>: 91, Matt Kettmann "Pressed olallieberry, menthol and a forest floor tartness on the nose...The palate is quite tight, with espresso, underripe elderberry and plum-skin flavors, but the incredible energy and slight gamy character keeps it quite intriguing."
- 2011 Wine Enthusiast: 94 Buyer's Guide, Editors' Choice, Matt Kettmann: "Aromas of gravel, just-crushed peppercorns and blueberries lead into a lighter, airy, mineral-driven palate of black rocks, black pepper and boysenberry fruit. It's one of the better cool-climate Syrahs around right now."
- 2009 Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar: 92 points "Wild, intensely perfumed... Spicy and youthfully fruity..."

#### Clos de Gilroy

2017 Wine Enthusiast: 92, Matt Kettmann - "...loads of crushed carnation, rose petal, cranberry and raspberry on the nose. There is a compelling freshness to the palate, with potpourri and lavender flavors meshing into a background of pomegranate and rosewater." <u>The New York Times</u>: 20 Wines Under \$20: A Little More Money for a Lot More Wine

## "Gravitas"

- **2015** JamesSuckling.com: 90 Points "Plenty of sliced apple and lime aromas with hints of stone and citrus leaf undertones. Medium body and bright acidity."
- 2014 <u>WineReviewOnline.com</u>: 90 points "Flavorful, Fun, and Comestible-Friendly" <u>Dan Berger</u>: Wine of the Week - "One of the finest "concept" wines I have ever tasted..."

## I Am Not Drinking Any \$%&\*#! Merlot

2015 <u>Wine and Wisdom</u>: "Fruit on the palate, juicy plum... Really, really nice wine. Velvety character..."

## La Bulle-Moose de Cigare

2017 <u>Wine Enthusiast</u>: 90, Matt Kettmann - "This bubbly pink blend is one of the better canned wines on the market, regardless of style...it shows rounded watermelon, nectarine and grapefruit-rind aromas on the nose. The palate is crisp with strawberry, melon, red-apple and tart plum-skin flavors."

Washington Post: Dave McIntyre - "Bubbles are bulles in French, and with mousse, for foam, we get a pun on 'Bulle Moose' in English. I love puns. And I love this wine."

<u>VinePair</u>: 10 Best Canned Wines of Summer 2018 - "Showing rich aromas of maraschino cherries, strawberries, and rose petals, as well as an attractive peach-pink hue, everything about La Bulle-Moose invites you to drink it...perfect for food pairing, too."

#### Le Cigare Blanc

2014 <u>Wine Enthusiast</u>: 92, Matt Kettmann - "Crisp and clean aromas of chalk and lime pith meet with riper touches of honeydew and Anjou pear on the nose...The freshness extends to the palate, where riper guava tones are deftly cut by citrus peels and finished with a minty lift. The structure is tense and ideal, while the acidity is available but not overwhelming.

<u>JamesSuckling.com</u>: 93 Points - "Very pretty dried apple, pineapple and mango follow through to medium to full body with fresh acidity. Mineral, stone and limestone undertones. A serious white."

# Le Cigare Blanc Réserve

2014 Wine Enthusiast: 93, Matt Kettmann - "...pecan and cashew aromas, as well as more tart scents of key lime peels and lemon mousse. It lands heavily on the palate with roasted banana flavors and a buttery midpalate, but it is cut immediately by a kumquat tartness. Fascinating sipper."

JamesSuckling.com: 93 Points - "Plenty of cooked apple, lemon and cream aromas follow through to a full body, round and soft texture and a rich finish. Layered and almost decadent. An opulent white. "

## Le Cigare Volant

- 2013 Wine Enthusiast: 93, Matt Kettmann "...subtle mulberry fruit on the nose, a spicy peppercorn kick and plenty of gamy meats. That funky meat quality, from raw to jerkied, is prominent and pure on the sip, surrounded by exotic plums and Middle Eastern spices." Wine Spectator: 91, Tim Fish - "Elegant and open-knit, with accents of game, licorice, raspberry and pepper that build richness toward polished tannins. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault."
- **2012** <u>JamesSuckling.com</u>: 91 Points "Lots of dried berry as well as bramble berry and orange peel undertones. Medium to full body and a fresh finish."

## Le Cigare Volant Réserve

2012 Wine Enthusiast: 92, Matt Kettmann - "This beloved annual bottling by Randall Grahm blends 39% Mourvèdre, 33% Grenache, 26% Syrah and 2% Cinsaut to create a very savory, Old World-style expression, with aromas of roasted game, pencil shavings, dried red fruits and blood. The palate is very iron-rich and rustic, with uncrushed black peppercorns and raw and dried meat flavors." JamesSuckling.com: 90 Points - "A linear and fine textured red with berry, strawberry and clove character. Medium body, firm tannins and a fresh finish."

<u>VinePair</u>: Best 50 wines of 2016 - #2 - "This is a serious, age-worthy red wine that showcases why Randall is one of this country's best winemakers. A Rhone-style red blend, the wine is deep and dark with the Syrah playing the dominant role. Flavors of dark berries marry with leather to create a delicious wine."

2011 Wine Enthusiast: 90 - "The palate shows lots of verve but not much overt fruit... great finish of purple flowers." <u>Planet Grape</u>: 93 Points - "Round, sultry and savory with notes of blackberry, boysenberry, cherry, dried herbs, leather and mushroom. Drink now or hold."

#### Syrah "Le Pousseur"

2013 Wine & Spirits: 90 - Year's Best Syrah & Grenache JamesSuckling.com: 92 Points - "Tight and structured with green peppercorns, dried flowers and dark fruits that follow through to a medium to full body, firm tannins and a fresh finish."

# Viognier, "Vin de Glacière"

**2017** Wine Enthusiast: 90 - "...shows candied red apple, dried honeydew and a hint of tuberose on the nose. The palate is viscous but balanced by zesty acidity that penetrates deep into the finish, offering flavors of lime spritz and apple syrup."

## Vin Gris de Cigare

2017 Wine & Spirits: 90 - Best Buy, Year's Best Rosés

<u>Vinous</u>: 90 Points - "Brilliant onion skin. Vibrant red berry, peach and blood orange aromas are complemented by suave floral, fennel and mineral notes. Silky and energetic on the palate, showing seamless texture and subtly sweet strawberry, white peach and melon flavors that firm up and become spicier on the back half. Weighty but dry and gripping; the long, floral-tinged finish leaves a hint of succulent herbs behind. I'd love to throw this complex, uncompromising wine into a blind tasting of pink Bandols." <u>The Tasting Panel Magazine</u>: 91, Anthony Dias Blue

2016 <u>The New York Times</u>: "This is a dark rosé, relatively full-bodied and not at all shy, with aromas of red fruit and flowers, all within a savory framework that provides shape and energy." <u>JamesSuckling.com</u>: 91 Points - "A fresh and beautiful grenache with strawberry, cherry blossom, lemon and cream character. Medium

body. A clean and bright finish." <u>Food & Wine</u>: Best Rosé Wines Under \$20 to Drink All Year - "A superbly pleasing rosé from the inimitable Randall Grahm."

<u>Jeb Dunnuck</u>: 90 Points - "...terrific, classically styled rosé... Grapefruit, strawberries, spice and hints of rose petal all emerge from this medium-bodied, supple, elegant and straight up delicious rose."

# Vin Gris de Cigare Réserve

2016 <u>Vinous</u>: 92 Points - "Vivid orange-pink. Vibrant, mineral-accented red berry and pit fruit scents, along with suggestions of jasmine, orange zest and succulent herbs. Smooth, seamless and energetic on the palate, offering concentrated raspberry, tangerine and peach flavors and a hint of fennel. Powerful yet graceful as well, showing impressive energy and cut on a very long, sappy finish that leaves behind juicy citrus fruit and smoky mineral notes."

#### Vin Gris Tuilé

2013 <u>The Drunken Cyclist</u>: "Even if you consider yourself rather well versed in beverages vinous, this is probably unlike any wine you have had before...This is certainly one for the wine geeks out there." <u>Now and Zin</u>: "In the glass, [it has] a nutty, savory note. It is quite unusual, and quite delightful...On the palate, it's a cross between rosé and dry sherry. A definite caramel note is a great surprise."