



## THE WINES

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Think Tank® Wine Company is dedicated to creating world class wines from select single-vineyard locations; wines that display both true varietal characteristics and promote environmental stewardship. Founded in 2007 by Michael Giarraputo, a marketing professional and home winemaker for over five years, Think Tank was born of the idea that producing world class wine should give back to the environment, not take from it.

From vineyard to winemaking to bottling, Think Tank seeks to serve as a steward of our environment. Grapes are 100% organically grown and sourced from some of California's best sustainably farmed vineyards. The wines are fermented with native yeasts and hand crafted in small, barrel-sized lots. They are aged in premium French and American oak barrels from top coopers selected for their commitment to responsible forestry management. And packaged with the very latest eco-friendly materials, including recycled, lighter-weight glass bottles, tree-free bamboo labels, and natural corks without capsules.



### **2007 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$60 SRP)**

La Encantada vineyard, the first certified organic site in Santa Barbara, was planted in 2000 by Richard Sanford, the “Godfather” of Pinot Noir. It is located on the cooler western edge of the A.V.A, and is often blanketed by fog, which curtails vine vigor and results in intensely flavored grapes. The 2007 growing season was long and dry, resulting in small, concentrated fruit. Cold soaked for five days prior to fermentation, the wine was aged for 10 months in new and used French oak barrels from Francois Frères.

### **2007 White Hawk Vineyard Syrah (\$45 SRP)**

White Hawk is located just outside the town of Los Alamos in Santa Barbara. One of the most highly regarded sites in Santa Barbara Co., White Hawk Vineyard's soil and climate are ideal for the production of world class Syrah grapes. The vineyard is planted on a southern facing slope at 900 feet elevation and benefits from the marine influence of the Pacific Ocean, which is just 20 miles away. The vineyard is committed to using sustainable and primarily organic viticulture methods. After a long, dry growing season, the 2007 harvest occurred in late October. Following fermentation with native yeasts, the wine was aged 17 months in 100% new French oak barrels from Ermitage before bottling. *This wine will be released in October 2009.*





## THE STORY

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Blessed with an Italian-American heritage, Michael Giarraputo began helping with family winemaking activities at a very early age, which sparked a lifelong commitment to wine. Before founding Think Tank Wine Company, Michael was a home winemaker for five years; in fact, his 2005 Metamorphosis Merlot took a Silver medal at the 2007 American Wine Society amateur competition.

Like many in the wine business, Michael has an additional career. A marketing professional for nearly 25 years, he has worked with top advertising agencies in New York City and served for 17 years as a Director in the Johnson & Johnson Global Marketing Group. It was at J&J that Michael learned the business benefits and personal satisfaction of corporate responsibility, and began to conceive of a world class wine that would use sustainable sourcing from vineyard to bottle.

Empowered by the availability of certified organic grapes and access to the state-of-the-art winemaking facility at Crushpad in San Francisco, California, Think Tank® Wine Company became a reality in the spring of 2007. Fittingly, the Italian name “Giarraputo” translates into English as “jar of knowledge”, or in other words, Think Tank. The inaugural releases include the La Encantada Pinot Noir and White Hawk Syrah. In 2008, the winery will add a Cabernet Sauvignon from 1540 Vineyard on Howell Mountain.

To underscore its commitment to corporate responsibility, a portion of the profits from the sale of the wines will be donated to Ecology Action, an education-based 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization promoting the use of Biointensive farming practices both in the United States and around the World.

Michael currently resides in bucolic Basking Ridge, New Jersey with his wife, JoAnn, and their two children, Justin and Olivia. He is pursuing certification in Winemaking from the University of California at Davis, and travels to California 5-6 times per year.