

620+ WINES  
REVIEWED PAGE 85

CHILEAN WINE  
WHAT TO DRINK NOW PAGE 58

LOIRE VALLEY  
WINE & FOOD PAGE 76

# WINE ENTHUSIAST®

MAY 2016

## THE SPORTS ISSUE

### Exclusive Interviews

Dwyane Wade  
Roger Federer  
Jeff Gordon  
and more

Perfect Wines for  
the Sports Fan



4 Fun  
Takes  
on the  
Margarita PAGE 32

A New  
Style of  
Syrah PAGE 72

\$5.99 US & CANADA



Winemag.com



Dwyane  
Wade of the  
Miami Heat  
and Wade  
Cellars



THE WINE ENTHUSIAST

# GUIDE TO WINE & SPORTS

**W**hen it comes to global phenomena with passionate fans taking pride in what's local and national, wine and sports share a great affinity. From upstarts and underdogs to well-established icons, there's always a reason to cheer for what's in your glass and who's on the field. And with more of the world's most famous athletes getting involved with wine, it's never been a better time to cheer for the home team...and vineyard. So let the games begin. Just don't forget the wine.

DAVID PRINCE



**Jim Nantz** EMMY AWARD-WINNING AMERICAN SPORTSCASTER FOR CBS; CO-FOUNDER OF THE CALLING WINES

**Did you have an “a-ha” moment with wine, where it became something more than just a drink?**

I would have a hard time pinpointing an “a-ha” moment. Mine was more of building my love for the grape as my career was building.

**When did you decide you actually wanted to get involved in the wine business?**

I have three different lives. I cover the NFL, college basketball and the PGA Tour. When my life is involved with golf, about 40 percent of the year, I realized more and more that pro golfers were developing their own brands and putting their names on labels, and it stirred my interest. My competitive nature said, “If they’re doing this, I’m capable of doing this.”

I want what’s inside the bottle to be the trigger point for people to fall in love with it and become followers of The Calling for life. If I’m going to be involved in the wine business, I’m going to own it all the way through, from the dirt up.

**Talk about that personal involvement in The Calling as you travel the country.**

I’m going to the restaurants that carry The Calling to go in and thank them for carrying [the wine]. I want people to know how much I appreciate the fact that they support us. I do staff trainings. Say I’m in Cincinnati at Jeff Ruby’s Steakhouse, a phenomenal chain of restaurants. Next thing you know, I have 40 minutes free, and the staff



would be showing up around that time. I called and said I’ve got a free half-hour and I went in and just thanked them for carrying the brand and educated them on the brand and what they’re carrying.

“I have so many things I enjoy eating. [...] I’ll give you one: Joe’s Stone Crab and our Dutton Ranch Chardonnay.”

**What was it about Sonoma that made it right for The Calling?**

We did some site surveys out in California and Peter [Deutsch, partner in The Calling and CEO of Deutsch

Family Wine & Spirits] thought that Sonoma would be the best place to go. He liked the opportunity to really develop some great Chardonnay and Pinot [Noir]. One of our first stops was to visit with Steve and Joe Dutton and the great folks at Dutton Ranch. Obviously, they have a tremendous pedigree there, stand for nothing but excellence and quality. If we could start off with a relationship with them, we could get off to a running start.

**You’re a big proponent of enjoying wine at the dinner table. Do you have a favorite food pairing with one of your wines?**

I have eclectic tastes. I have so many things I enjoy eating. I do love to have a glass or two

of wine with virtually every meal. I’ll give you one: Joe’s Stone Crab and our Dutton Ranch Chardonnay. I’ve long loved Joe’s, and to have our Chardonnay at Joe’s in Miami is a big deal. And that’s a reflection on the power of the brand and where we’ve gotten in a short time frame.

**The Calling was a host committee sponsor for Super Bowl 50. What was the atmosphere like in regards to wine?**

It was a perfect confluence of the Super Bowl being in Northern California, Sonoma taking a position as one of the sponsors for the local Super Bowl committee, and the co-owner of the brand was calling the 50th Super Bowl in history. —Jameson Fink