



Preview of the Press Club



A View of the Press Club

The long-awaited and tony tasting room on Yerba Buena Lane, right behind the Four Seasons Hotel, is not yet open but the 9,000-square-foot space is pretty impressive. Bottles of wine line the walls and a staircase cascades down to a high-ceilinged room deck out in warm wood tones. Oddly there's no natural light inside the space, which undoubtedly will make it easier to imbibe at any hour of the day.

The **Press Club**, which pours labels from eight different producers, is a joint venture between Andrew Chun and Jan Wiginton, in partnership with Millennium Partners, the developers of the adjoining Four Seasons Hotel & Residences. It has yet to get its liquor license and is due to open in July and when it does will also feature food and winemaker dinners.

I took a sneak peak the other night with a few friends from the Northwestern and Cornell Clubs. If you attended our respective schools or want to befriend us, please reach out for us. I did a great wine event with my alma mater **Northwestern** in April and am slated to do a great wine event with **Cornell** in October.

According to co-founder Chun, the concept behind the Press Club was "to create a taste of the wine country for people who didn't have time to drive up there." He says the space's focus is on "independent, premium Northern California wine." He said he expects his customers to be a mix of tourists and locals.

It is high time that a tasting room opened in the City offering a wide selection of varietals, one that isn't controlled by a handful of producers or just one big one. The **Cellar360** space in Ghirardelli Square is gorgeous and has divine views, but only features the wines from the import, production and marketing portfolio of the Foster's Group, which is not something they publicize.

At least the Press Club features eight different producers, from Napa, Sonoma and Santa Cruz, but unfortunately they are the usual suspects that most people have tasted before up in Wine Country or at other wine bars. In all fairness though, a high-volume couldn't actually pour small volume wines without quickly running through their supply. However it might be fun for them to offer a wine of the week from some of the lesser-known players.

In Good Spirits,

Liza the Wine Chick

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