

2013 Lieb Cellars Pinot Blanc Reserve

The 2013 Pinot Blanc Reserve is interesting and a bit different. Bottled in April, 2014, it was not put into the marketplace until March, 2015, for further "integration of flavors and to tame acidity." It is all unoaked, dry and comes in at 11.9% alcohol. Now, about that acidity—Long Island does a pretty good job when it comes to making crisp wines. This is another. Focused, pure, piercing and more than a little mouthwatering, this is rather invigorating. It is a perfect Summer refresher and a fine food wine for certain types of cheeses, too. Unlike some easy summer whites, though, this has intensity and precision. It is not for the shy in some respects, but there is fruit here, which it easily proved as it warmed and aired. It should age reasonably well—but let's take that in stages.

The Bridge Lane series here is Lieb's entry-level, ...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

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2013 Lieb Cellars Merlot Reserve

The 2013 Merlot Reserve was aged for 10 months in used Hungarian oak. Coming in just a hair under 13.0% alcohol, it is not in fact a monovarietal: it also has 10% Malbec, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petit Verdot. Showing finesse and restraint, this has caressing texture, reasonably ripe tannins, tasty fruit and an attractive overall demeanor. Once I figured out how to get it open (a twist-off underneath the capsule), it drank well. It does not have a lot of concentration, but unlike some, it doesn't try to do too much, either. The balance is very good. It won't be a "wow" wine, but it is real easy to like and to drink. There were 415 cases produced.

The Bridge Lane series here is Lieb's entry-level, a second label meant to be affordable and available in various formats. The screwcapped bottles can usually also be had in 3-liter boxes ...

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2010 Leo Family Red

The 2010 Red is a mostly Merlot, with 8% Syrah, 4% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon blended in. It was aged 18 months in a mixture of French and Eastern European oak (80% French), only 30% new. It comes in at 13.9% alcohol. This is just the second vintage of this wine. It is superb. Nicely crafted, refined and well balanced, it is admirable for its finesse, but it has plenty of depth and structure, too. Already going on five years old, it is youthful and vibrant. It should have many years of life in front of it—but let's be a little conservative and see what it does in the cellar over the next several years. There were 285 cases produced.

John Leo, East End Vineyards, is also the consultant winemaker at Onabay Vineyard and Clovis Point.

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2013 Lieb Cellars Bridge Lane Red Blend

The 2013 Bridge Lane Red Blend is a blend of 70% Merlot, 15% Malbec, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Petit Verdot, coming in at 12.9% alcohol. It was aged for six months in used Hungarian oak. Fruity and friendly, this is quite attractive in its straightforward fashion. It has good flavor, impeccable balance and it tastes just great. There is also reasonable structure, a certain freshness and moderate tannins. On the whole, Lieb demonstrated to me in this issue's array that it is offering some nice value in its Bridge Lane series, including this offering. Just drink them younger for best results because wines like this won't always stay quite so long at peak. This will also benefit from being drunk a touch cooler, say, low to mid-60sF.

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2014 Lieb Cellars Bridge Lane White Blend

The 2014 Bridge Lane White Blend is an unoaked blend of 35% Chardonnay, 26% Pinot Blanc, 20% Riesling, 15% Sauvignon Blanc and 4% white Pinot Noir, coming in at 12.9% alcohol. Adding the entry-level position to the kitchen sink blend and then looking at the advice that this sometimes can be ordered in boxes and kegs, it is fair to say that I had modest expectations here. Yet, it is actually quite fine, at least now and in a bottle. In its youth, it is impressive relative to its level and price point. Fresh, perky, clean and moderately fruity on the very tasty finish, this drinks well and finishes with some tension. There is a little zing and zest. Let's grant that it is a 2014 and very new; at the moment, it shows great. Although the Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc combined are only about one-third of the blend, they seem to be doing wonders...

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2013 Lieb Cellars Bridge Lane Chardonnay

The 2013 Bridge Lane Chardonnay is a dry and unoaked monovarietal coming in at 12.9% alcohol. Showing fine precision and a certain steely note in its youth, this inexpensive Chardonnay is a bargain. As it warms, it sacrifices some steeliness for fruitiness, but all incarnations are quite fine and it remains a bit intense and focused. Overall, this exceeds expectations at the moment, but it should be drunk young and fresh. It may last longer, but for best results this is best consumed young, no matter how long it theoretically lasts.

The Bridge Lane series here is Lieb's entry-level, a second label meant to be affordable and available in various formats. The screwcapped bottles can usually also be had in 3-liter boxes and 19.5-liter kegs. Although they sound like mass market wines, everything is relative as the production levels are sti...

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