

Autumn Love at Trentadue

I had visited Trentadue many times over the years as one of my favorite wineries. This winery was always a tasty last stop of wine tasting to enjoy their luscious ports. They do have some tasty wines, but I adore the Chocolate Port and love picking up several bottles for gifts and special occasions. It was October 17th, 2019 when I visited in preparation for this painting. I was scheduled to fly to Denver Colorado to meet some 'new' cousins for the first time since learning about who my biological father is (long story!). I wanted to bring some wines from Sonoma County and the Chocolate Port was high on my list. Fun fact, October 17th coincidentally is also my Dad's birthday, the man who lovingly raised me and who passed away about 15 years prior (I didn't know he wasn't my father until 2019...long story).

It was a sunny fall day, pleasantly in the 70s. This time of year is spectacular in our area, where the vineyards are turning brilliant colors of orange, red, and yellow...with a sprinkling of green. Somewhere along the lines I heard that red vineyard leaves are an indication of unhealthy vines, but I'm not so sure. Regardless, this layman person still loves the fall colors! The winery is located in Geyserville, which is in northeast Sonoma County's Alexander Valley wine region. This area has the Russian River running through it and the Mayacama mountain range as a stunning backdrop. Just a mile or two down the road is the quaint little town of Geyserville, always a pleasant little stop.

The road entrance to the winery is lined with alternating Fruitless Plum trees and Olive trees, with an endless view of vineyards in the background and the Mayacama Mountains on the horizon. At this time of year, the plum tree leaves are a deep red violet and the vineyards are a spectacular showing of fall colors. Turn right into the parking lot, which in itself is quite pretty as it is not all completely gray asphalt, but is broken up with a large lot of warming sonoma gold gravel. The grounds include a large lush green lawn, statues, and an ornate water feature. One of the most unique features is the large green arbor covered in long hanging grapevines. I could only imagine all the beautiful weddings that took place under these vines! Oh my gosh, and lit up with a sprinkling of lights at night, wow, that would be awesome! Given this was fall, the winery itself was also decorated in fall colors. This may have been my first time visiting the winery in fall, but it surely won't be the last as it is absolutely gorgeous. I was treated to a tasting of the port and I purchased a couple of bottles, including not only the Chocolate Port but also the Muscat Canelli. I took pictures in and around the winery and waited outside for someone to come in or out of the doorway so I could get a good shot of the door ajar.

I didn't start this painting right away as I was still finishing up three other paintings and I wasn't yet ready to start this one. I did make lots of notes and came up with a couple of thumbnail sketches. Once I started the painting, I really struggled trying to get a layout that I was happy with. In the end, I was pretty pleased with the results. I was able to capture the fall colors, the essence of a wedding, the Chocolate Port, and the stunning arbor.

While I visited the winery in the Fall of 2019, I didn't start painting until May of 2020. This painting took me a year to finish (almost to the day!). While I was making pretty good progress during the pandemic, our home was hit by the wildfires in September 2020 which caused a 6 month delay. We were out of our home for 3 months and spent an additional 3 months recovering before I could get back to my paints. It felt so good to finally be able to pick up my paint brushes again!!

I hope you enjoy this painting and mostly I hope you visit Trentadue winery. You don't have to visit in the Fall to get the full experience, anytime is a good time as it's beautiful year round!!

Cheers!

Note: The original painting has elements of potential trademark infringement. As such, I digitally removed these particular elements from the items I am selling and replaced them with non trademark changes.