



## IPO WINES

**COUNTRY**  
USA

**REGION**  
California

**APPELLATION**  
San Luis Obispo County

**SOIL TYPE**  
Loamy

**VARIETAL(S)**  
100% Syrah

**FARMING**  
Sustainable

**WINEMAKER**  
John Alban



## 2020 Alban "Lorraine" Syrah

IMPORTED BY IPO Wines

### ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Starting in 1985, John Alban planted grapes for other people until he bought an estate in 1989. Alban Vineyards' is the first American winery and vineyard established exclusively for Rhone Varieties. Alban came to be a pioneer of the Rhone Rangers movement, and is considered one of the most influential American Rhone producers. Robert Parker's declared in The Wine Advocate that John Alban is "...the spiritual and qualitative leader of the movement..."

On beginning to grow Viognier, Alban stated "I almost single-handedly doubled the world's acreage," referring to a time when its cultivation was reduced to 50 acres (20 ha) in two areas of the Rhône Valley, Condrieu and Château-Grillet. Alban's work, along with that of Josh Jensen of Calera Wine Company in San Benito County, helped to significantly expand plantings of Viognier in California at a time when the varietal was near extinction.

### WINE NOTES

Adjacent to the original Reva's block is a small swath of land that is almost identical to the surrounding dirt except for a vein of fist sized stones that run through out the soil profile. For years I dreamed of making a wine solely from this little parcel. 1995 was the first year there would be sufficient grapes to keep the tiny spot separate and make a barrel of wine. It was also the year I met an intriguing Irish girl named Lorraine. The day before I would harvest this block separately for the first time, Lorraine called to ask if I could join her and some of her friends who were visiting from Scotland for dinner that night. I told Lorraine I would be picking grapes by 3 a.m. so...by then she interrupted with delight, "That's perfect, you can wear your harvest gear out with us and we'll drop you off at the vineyard in time to start! You'll have so much fun you'll end up making the best wine you've ever made." I am a big believer in omens, and it was this last phrase that compelled me to take the chance and join them (or maybe I was smitten by the girl).

Over the next two years, I fell in love with, proposed, and married Lorraine. Not really knowing what I wanted to do with the one barrel harvested the night after (or of) my adventure with the Scots, I made what I thought would be a singular bottling labelled Lorraine and served almost all of it at our wedding. Lorraine works in wine distribution so many of our friends are in food, wine, and hospitality related businesses. We returned from our honeymoon to a number of messages asking where and when they could get their Lorraine. Perhaps not an appropriate question for a newlywed groom, but I was actually quite touched.