

Group of boutique urban wineries starts San Francisco Wine Association

San Francisco Business Times - by [Chris Rauber](#)

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A group of 16 boutique wineries located within San Francisco's city limits has started an association to promote "first-rate, hand-crafted wines" produced in town.

Currently, all 16 use the **Crushpad** custom wine-making facility in San Francisco to produce their wines, according to John Tarabini, president of the new **San Francisco Wine Association** and the owner (with his wife Sharol) of **Damian Rae Winery**, one of the wineries. He said Damian Rae's wines (the name derives from the two owners' middle names) already are sold in venues such as the **St. Helena Wine Center**, the Draeger's Supermarkets' store in Blackhawk, a posh East Bay suburb, and Forbes Mill Steakhouse restaurants in Los Gatos and Danville.

"California's newest wine country is San Francisco," Tarabini said, arguing that the city -- already a major player in the realm of wine drinking -- is taking the lead in the urban winemaking movement, "and wine enthusiasts everywhere will discover that our offerings are equal to the best wines from the more famous wine regions."

Of course, the grapes used to make those San Francisco wines generally hail from more-winegrape friendly climates, such as Napa, Sonoma, Oregon and Washington state, not the foggy shores of the city.

Tarabini said the 16 association members are small, independent operations, usually family run, that typically produce between 50 cases and 500 cases of wine annually. Some owners have other, full-time “day” jobs, and some live outside of San Francisco.

The consortium’s wines are sold via its web site, www.sfwineassociation.com. The association’s charter members include **Aver Family Vineyards, Canine Wines, Connor Brennan Cellars, Damian Rae Winery, Due Cani Cellars, Flying Wine Cellars, Guy Riedel Wines, Jazz Cellars, Joelle Wine Co., Mark Moretti Winery, Milliarium Cellars, Pug Wine, Ricardus Corculum, Seawind Wines, Think Tank Wine Co., and Townley Wines.**