

tasting with the expert

Peter Stolpman, Owner/Winemaker Stolpman Vineyards
Ballard Canyon, Santa Barbara County
\$18 per wine flight

Stolpman Vineyards began with Tom and Marilyn Stolpman, who purchased their Ballard Canyon property in the early 1990s after recognizing the potential of its limestone soils, steep hillsides, and cool Pacific influence. What started as a farming project became one of the defining estates of Santa Barbara County, helping shape Ballard Canyon's reputation for wines with both California generosity and real structure.

Peter Stolpman, Tom and Marilyn's son, now leads the family estate alongside winemaker Sashi Moorman and the vineyard team. Under Peter's direction, Stolpman has become known not just for serious Rhône-inspired bottlings, but also for wines that feel immediate, joyful, and deeply connected to how people actually drink. That balance between farming intensity and playful hospitality is a huge part of what makes the wines feel so recognizable.

The '*Love You Bunches*' line grew out of Stolpman's work with carbonic and whole-cluster fermentation, especially Sangiovese. The name is a joke with real technique behind it: the grape bunches have to be handled gently and kept intact so fermentation can begin inside the berries. That extra care creates wines with bright fruit, crunchy texture, lifted aromatics, and the kind of chillable energy that made the line one of Stolpman's most beloved projects.

Tonight's lineup shows three sides of that same idea. The white is crisp and citrusy, the rosé is bright and breezy, and the Sangiovese carries the original Love You Bunches spirit in its most iconic form. The special LA Fires magnum adds another layer: an extremely limited bottling tied to community, generosity, and a one-night-only sense of occasion.

featured flight

Stolpman Vineyards ‘*Love You Bunches*’

2024 sauvignon blanc [*stainless steel*]
\$47|~~\$64~~ \$12|~~\$43~~ [*additional 30% off tonight only*]



citrus peel • white peach • electric

Lime zest, grapefruit, white peach, and fresh herbs lead the aromatics, with a clean mineral edge underneath. The palate is bright and snappy at first, then rounds into a juicy, lightly tropical middle before finishing crisp, dry, and lifted.

This is Sauvignon Blanc through the Love You Bunches lens: less about aggressive green sharpness, more about freshness, texture, and sheer drinkability. Stainless steel keeps the fruit vivid and direct, while the wine’s acidity gives it the same nervous energy that runs through the rest of the lineup.

Stolpman’s Ballard Canyon fruit often balances ripe California sunshine with cool coastal tension. Here, that means a white wine that feels easy and refreshing, but not forgettable. It has enough citrus bite to wake up the palate, enough texture to hold interest, and enough charm to disappear dangerously fast.

featured flight

Stolpman Vineyards 'Love You Bunches'

2025 grenache rosé [*stainless steel*]

\$14|\$50



strawberry • lemon-lime • breezy

Fresh strawberry, cool peach, watermelon rind, and lemon-lime come through first, giving the wine a bright, breezy lift. Mourvèdre brings a little more savory structure than many California rosés, adding subtle texture and a faint herbal edge underneath the fruit while still keeping the wine crisp and energetic.

The Love You Bunches rosé is built from the same spirit as the red: whole-cluster freshness, early aromatic lift, and a focus on drinkability over heaviness. Stainless steel preserves the vivid fruit profile and keeps the palate clean, while the naturally darker personality of Mourvèdre gives the wine a little more shape and character than softer Provençal-inspired styles.

What makes this wine work is how much energy it carries without feeling sharp or austere. It has the fruit people want from rosé, but the structure keeps it from sliding into softness. It's sunny, bright, and unserious in the best possible way, while still clearly made with intention.

featured flight

Stolpman Vineyards ‘*La Cuadrilla*’

2023 syrah blend [*neutral oak*]

\$16|\$58



blueberry • lavender • cracked pepper

Blueberry, fresh blackberry, and crunchy red fruit lift immediately from the glass, followed by cracked pepper, dried herbs, and a lightly savory edge underneath. The palate opens juicy and energetic before broadening through the middle with darker Syrah-driven fruit and soft, fine tannins that give the wine more weight and seriousness than the bright aromatics first suggest. Aging in mostly neutral oak preserves the freshness of the fruit while allowing Ballard Canyon’s peppery, herbal character to stay front and center.

La Cuadrilla is one of Stolpman’s most important vineyard projects, named after the estate’s vineyard crew and built around the idea that farming and community should be inseparable. Vineyard manager Ruben Solorzano created a training program where crew members managed their own small vineyard blocks, eventually evolving into a profit-sharing wine program that returns bonuses directly to the workers and their families.

The blend shifts slightly from vintage to vintage, but the 2023 is led by Syrah with Grenache, Mourvèdre, and Sangiovese layered underneath, balancing plush fruit with savory spice, freshness, and a little more structure than many similarly playful California blends.