

Steven Page

Steven Page, 35, is the front man for Canadian rock band *Barenaked Ladies*. Formed in 1988, the group is known for its lyrical wit and catchy music and has sold 10 million records worldwide. One of its songs was even used as the basis for a New York Lottery ad. Just as Page compulsively collected records as a child, he has developed a similar interest in wines. He even dreams of someday having his own vineyard, though he admits that's probably just a fantasy. Then again, so was becoming a rock star. Page was interviewed by *Wine Spectator* Online assistant editor Eric Arnold.



Wine Spectator: When did you first become interested in wine?

Steven Page: There was always wine around when I was growing up. Most of it was Manischewitz, unfortunately, but my parents were in a wine-tasting group, so there was always a sense that wine was something to be explored. In '93, my then wife-to-be, now wife, [Carolyn], and I went through the Southern Rhône. I saw how wine was so intrinsic to place in France.

WS: Do you visit wineries when you're on tour?

SP: We've taken some great tours around wine regions, especially in Canada. I'm pretty passionate about the potential of Niagara in Ontario, especially for some of their amazing Rieslings.

WS: What are some of your best discoveries?

SP: While we were recording *Everything to Everyone* in 2003, I realized that a lot of the wines I enjoyed were coming from the same vineyard, but different producers. It was *Bien Nacido* in [California's] Santa Maria Valley. It turned out there were some fans in the area, and the people at *Bien Nacido* were amazing hosts. They put on this great barbecue for me with about 20 different winemakers. I got to taste so many of the great Pinots and Syrahs of the Central Coast.

WS: How many bottles do you have in your collection?

SP: I probably have about 1,200 right now. I've done that thing

that my wife was dreading—I've rented a space outside house, too. Once you've made that step, there's no end to collecting, is there? When I was a kid, I'd get in trouble spending all my money on records, so I solved that by buying cassettes, which I could [hide] inside my coat pocket. It's kind of the same thing with wine now. It's: "Honey, what'd you buy home?" "Oh, nothing."

WS: If you had a million dollars, what kind of wine would you buy?

SP: I would probably buy cases of Salon Champagne, Sine Non and [Beaucastel's] *Hommage à Jacques Perrin*.

WS: Have you thought about making your own wine?

SP: I have a farm outside [Toronto], and how do you look at a piece of land and not imagine rows of vines? I certainly fantasize about it. I've hosted winemakers' events [where] I say, "I'm sure a lot of you play air guitar in the mirror, but when I stand in front of the mirror, I play air malolactic fermentation instead."

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