

## Sixth Sense

*VISUALS, a new wine brand from the brewers behind Asheville's Burial Beer, offers a faceted perspective on natural wine*

BY KATHRYN DAVÉ

■ The name Burial Beer is a celebration of the fleeting, cyclical nature of life, an acknowledgment that “as things die, they go into the ground and feed the next thing that grows,” says Tim Gormley, co-founder of Burial. Surprise is as much a part of life as death, however, and the newest thing growing for Burial is not beer but their venture into natural wine. VISUALS began as the name for the Burial founders’ side project, producing small-batch, single-barrel beers. But as their personal interest in natural wine grew, so did their desire to try making their own. After some slow experimentation and some cross-country grape shipping, VISUALS now makes ciders and aperitifs in Asheville, North Carolina, and wine in Healdsburg, California, where natural winemaker Evan Lewandowski helps supervise the wine production.

“Perhaps I was always meant to be a winemaker,” laughs Gormley, explaining that saison, his favorite style of beer, has much in common with wine: the romance of the narrative, the focus on terroir, the local ingredients, the variation. Natural wine is known for being funky and unpredictable, but Gormley and his business partners, Doug and Jess Reiser, bring a unique perspective and precision to their winemaking. “As brewers, we’re extremely sensitive to off flavors,” explains Gormley. That’s one way to describe the technical fermentation expertise that influences their wines, from their tight quality standards to the choice of grapes. The result is a portfolio of beautiful, nuanced wines with a story to tell about place, time, and process. Every VISUALS wine—like every Burial beer—is intended to be a full experience to savor, and in that way, the path leads right back to where they began.

The founders of Asheville's Burial Beer explore natural wine with VISUALS, a new portfolio of wine, ciders, and aperitifs.



VISUALS products are available to purchase online and at any Burial taproom (Asheville, Charlotte, and Raleigh, NC), as well as in select bottle shops throughout North Carolina and South Carolina; [drinkvisuals.com](http://drinkvisuals.com)