

Cardassian Kanar

Deep Space 9's Cardassian Kanar wine has been one of the most iconic and coveted bottles ever used on the Star Trek series being featured in twenty segments starting with a mention of it in one segment of TNG. The bottle has been referred to as the 'Genie' bottle or the 'Snake' bottle by many. The bottle used for Kanar has been elusive and difficult to locate by fans for many reasons with a lot of mystique around it. A few stealth fans found the bottles on eBay or in attics, attached the Cardassian label to the front, and kept them for their collections or resold them to collectors. You could purchase copies of the original label from John Harrington at Cedar Street Studio or copy them from a Google search. The bottles were highlighted and written about on the [Quark's Qantina](#) website, which first led us down the path to Italian Chianti where the bottles were originally sourced. Researching vinegar and oil bottles, which were suggested, we found some releases, but the bottle was mostly used for Chianti.

In partnership with CBS archives and the Star Trek team, the Wines That Rock team decided to recreate the original bottle of Cardassian Kanar wines and make them available to Star Trek fans. To create an authentic bottle with an accurate label design and excellent iconic wine, we needed to locate not only where these bottles came from but who could manufacture them these days, and what winery could fill and label the bottles, *one at a time*, as they wouldn't fit on any modern bottling line. We also needed to locate an original design of the label and necker (the square card hanging from the bottle's neck) as well as have an expert on the Cardassian empire to write about the history inside the 'necker' that was shown in the series. Oh yeah, what about that fancy 'cork stopper' that was shown in the series? That also needed to be made, with the same dimensions as the original show prop. A lot of moving parts, all very exciting for our team, who are Star Trek fans and avid collectors of vintage ephemera across many genres.

Craig Spurrier, Creative Director at Wines That Rock, first found the Stefani Chianti label which opened the mysterious door to this 50-70 year old bottle series search, thus we started learning where these bottles originated. From there we slowly found other companies who had made Chianti in the day and used the same or similar bottle design. Searching old archives, eBay, Etsy, Pinterest, Wayback Machine and old wine sites we slowly began to learn about the history of these unique wines and bottles.

In the 1950's & 60's Italian Chianti in fancy bottles was a trend. Chianti became a household name in the US with multiple companies producing and exporting this traditional Italian wine in 10', 12", 14", 20", 36" and even 48" bottles. We found several 'mentions' of this bottle being produced from the 50's but, in 1967, D'Aquino Italian Importing Co started importing many of these old chiantis under founder Gaetano D'Aquino. Efforts to speak with his daughter Patricia (now CEO) went unanswered. The enchanting part of the story of these chiantis were primarily three things, 1) the cool bottles the wine came in, 2) they were exotic from Italy, Spain and

Portugal (remember it is 1950-60) and 3) the straw basket bottoms which wrapped around some of the bases making them a traditional chianti.

The wineries that made these wines and used the 'spiral twist neck' style of bottles were mostly from Italy, based in the region of Empoli, with names like Stefani, Opici Toscano, Castellani, Bertolli, and others. The bottle that was used at Quark's Bar was initially made in Spain by Vidrierias Massip (closed) and in Italy by the SVE Company in the Tuscany region. SVE went bankrupt some years back and the whereabouts of the original molds are not accessible. Vetreria Etrusca informed us that they used to make it as well but didn't anymore. In recent years, two companies revived the traditional bottle still using the 'twist neck' design, but changed the original coiled design from that of a snake skin to more of a watery, vine type of appearance within the coils. They also took away the protruding smiling 'bunt' on the glass front that used to host the Stefani brand label. Opici Toscano made a twist neck in 2014 and Castellani SPA made Bottaro out of Tuscany within the IGP/IGT Indicazione Geografica protetta / tipica designation. Stefani in the day used this style of bottle for the years they were in business switching back and forth between the two designs. Today, no one we contacted still made or knew where the original molds are. Thus, our search deepened.

In speaking with numerous European and US bottle manufacturers like Covim, Stoelzle, Vetropack, Sklomoravia, Berlin Packaging, Varella, Anferi, Estal, Bunch, Saverglass, Vidrala, Vetreria Etrusca, Vetroelite, Bruni, New Genius Glass and more, they couldn't make it for differing reasons, or the minimums were so high it priced us out of the market as new molds had to be made. We worked with Era Balestrieri in Italy (through a friend) that helped us sleuth Italian companies in that country. The search was on to locate a company globally that could recreate the original bottle from a 3D rendering, using the handful of old bottles we had located in Canada, Italy, Germany and the US over a three-year search.

Numerous Chinese companies stated they could make the bottle which gave us hope. A major concern was the quality of the flint used in the glass, which we wanted to be 100% certain was of excellent quality. After months of daily searches across dozens of global companies, we were down to a few companies in Italy, Croatia and Spain that could make it. After several years of research and discovery, we finally decided to work with a company in southern Italy that was brought to us from 'Liquor Bottle' in the US to bring this iconic bottle back to life. After numerous reiterations and design discussions, because there were several companies over the years that made their own version with slight changes to the original design, we did a 3D rendering of one of the show prop bottles we located to get it exactly right. We strived to stay true to the ones that were seen on the DS9 series, especially after we were able to get the exact measurements from one of the show props. Barb Healy, from Quark's Qantina, was a good friend and excellent resource helping us source some original bottles and a show prop, and assisted us sleuthing the parts of this iconic bottle.

Doug Drexler, the original designer of the label gave us his original design as well as the back story behind the brand and the bottle.

Now to the wine. Living in wine country and having connections with wineries and wine industry people, we contacted numerous sources asking the same question - who can bottle with a design like this, hand label, hand cork, hand fill to our specs? Everything needed to be hand done, one at a time. As you can expect, laughter and smirks ensued with most conversations.... yet all were fascinated with what the end result was to be. Eventually the search led us to E2 Family Winery out of Lodi, CA who specialized in taking on projects no one else would and had the capabilities to do every task we asked for. Difficult, labor intensive and time consuming, but not impossible.

We found an original show prop 'top enclosure' with Barb's help, had it 3D rendered, and then made using 'Zanac' (a robust metal) with a rubber stopper base. It comes included with every Kanar purchase. We did not want to use a typical cork to seal the wine as the neck on this bottle was too short, so sought out every possible option globally and settled on a glass cork with the Cardassian logo emblazoned on the top.

We enlisted the universal expert on all things Cardassian, Una McCormick, to write the history of the Kanar and what it meant in Cardassian society for the inside of the necker. She did a great job!

The Cardassian Kanar is the real deal, down to the 'necker' on the top, the 'stopper' or 'enclosure' that accompanies every bottle to put on your bottle after it has been opened, original artwork and exact bottle replica just like on the show. And, each Kanar 'set' is hand numbered, as only a limited amount will be produced.

Wines That Rock