



Clemintina Biale

April 9, 1929 - April 5, 2017

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of the matriarch of our family, Clementina Biale, four days before her 88th birthday.

Clementina was the oldest of nine children, born to Filippo and Cecilia Calvi in Prunetto, Italy. Her youth was spent tending to her siblings, vineyards, silkworms, cows, goats, and outdoor bread ovens; mending clothes, shucking chestnuts, and making sure the traveling olive oil salesman didn't cheat her family by adding water to the 5-gallon jug!

As was typical for Italian peasants growing up between the World Wars, Clementina finished school at 5th grade. Despite her personal aspirations to become a teacher, she then worked full-time on the family farm. Hardships and very physically demanding work notwithstanding, Clementina speaks with great fondness of the agrarian life and the joy of a large family—which is a good thing, because she would soon marry Aldo!

In 1953 Aldo and his mother traveled to Italy to visit family, and within three weeks of meeting the pretty girl who attended one of the dinners thrown for these American cousins, Aldo asked for Clementina's hand in marriage. Three weeks later they were married!

After a very brief honeymoon in Venice, Aldo returned to Napa and waited six months for his bride's visa to come through so she could begin her new life in America with him.

There was no easy life awaiting Clementina. She had to work every bit as hard as Aldo and his mom. But he had chosen well, for she was up to the task, and together they grew their ranch through blood, sweat, and tears, and raised four children who also know how to work, and work some more. The children also learned their Catholic faith from their parents, a devotion to which has sustained them through thick and thin, including the loss of their brother John in 1984.

Like her mother-in-law Cristina, before her, Clementina managed the daily demands of ranch and child-rearing with a shrewd business savvy and compassionate discipline—and some darn tasty cooking!

In 1991 their son Bob hatched the hair-brained idea of starting their own wine label. After decades of making a little wine for personal consumption and then selling the rest of their grapes—often at a loss—to the local co-op winery, Aldo and Clementina jumped at the

chance to fulfill their dream of bringing their love for Zinfandel to the wider community. Newly “retired”, Aldo and Clementina worked tirelessly with their son Bob and their partners to grow Robert Biale Vineyards into the thriving wine company it is today. While they both continued to derive great pleasure from their continued, though diminishing, work on the ranch, the growing demands of the social side of the wine business delighted them more and more. Meeting the people who enjoyed their wines at tastings, dinners, or winery-sponsored cruises was most edifying to Aldo and Clementina. You would find Clementina “holding court” at the winery’s tasting room on most Sunday afternoons when she checked in on the sales of her handmade aprons and totes.

Clementina is preceded in death by her son John and husband Aldo. She leaves behind her daughter Sandra and her husband Tony Rossomando; her son Robert and his wife Wendy Biale; her son Mark Biale and his fiancé Vicki Rister; as well as grandchildren Peter and Tim Rossomando, Michelle Middleton and her husband William, Alex and Michela Biale; and great grandchildren Amelia and Anthony Middleton.

The family owes a huge debt of gratitude to Clementina’s caregivers Sheyla Ramirez Miller and Margaret Schloezer for their years of companionship and care of our beloved matriarch, and of their cheerful and generous support of us, especially in the final months. The rosary will be Monday 4/10, 7:00 at Claffey & Rota. The Mass of the Resurrection will be Tuesday 4/11, 10:00am at St. Apollinaris Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the John Biale Scholarship Fund at Justin-Siena High School, or to St. Apollinaris Catholic School.

Previous Events

Rosary

APR 10. 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (PT)

Claffey and Rota Funeral Home
1975 Main Street
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 224-5210
services@claffeyandrota.com
<http://www.claffeyandrota.com>

Mass

APR 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Apollinaris Catholic Church
3700 Lassen St
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 257-2555

Tribute Wall



“ *Clemintina Biale*

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Clemintina Biale*

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM



“ *Dear Biale family,*

Many condolences to you. My parents have shared some nice times with both Aldo and Clementina. Maybe they'll all dance together at the best ICF dinner-dance once again.

With love,

Teresa Lundholm

Teresa Lundholm - April 14, 2017 at 01:50 PM



“ *Bobby (Biale family) , your mother, and father, provided such a great foundation.... Your human kindness is proof of their success.. Our thoughts are with you all... Peace, Love, Hope.. Always*

joe mcdermott - April 11, 2017 at 10:05 AM



“ *Dear Bob and family,*

You and your families are in my thoughts and prayers. I have fond memories of your Mom and Dad - St. Apollinaris and Justin-Siena. God Bless

Kay paniagua

Kay Paniagua - April 10, 2017 at 09:13 PM

EB

“ Mark, Bob and Sandra,

The Bruno's send our condolences and share in the sadness of the passing of your Mom. A great lady with such a caring heart she was and I know we all carry some of her within us. I hope you know how much it has meant to me to have an occasional opportunity to stop in and visit your Mom through the years. She was simply a remarkable lady and your family is so close to me. While I share in this grieving time, I am also thankful to know that with her faith she is now in a great place. I pray that she and Aldo are doing a long awaited dance together or sharing a great story over a glass of wine with my parents like old times up there. You and all of your families are all in my thoughts and prayers. Ernest Bruno

Ernest Bruno - April 10, 2017 at 08:11 PM

LM

“ Dear Sandra and family,

*We are sorry to hear about your Mom's passing. You are in my prayers and may her soul Rest In Peace. Your Mom was so sweet and kind.
Leony Manansala*

Leony Manansala - April 09, 2017 at 08:00 PM

SC

“ Dear Sandra, Bob and Mark, (and of course, spouses grandchildren and great grandchildren) -

It it with deep sadness that I learn of your wonderful Mom's death. May God grant her the light, love, peace and joy of Heaven. She, together with your Dad Aldo were like

family to the St. A's Sisters. I could write a book of memories on the many shared experiences we had, especially in the early days!

On all my trips back to Napa over the years since 1985, when I left for Rome, a visit to the Biale household was a highlight. How I enjoyed Clementina's Christmas card and letter each year. also. She was so faiithful!

Know, dear friends that you are in my thoughts and prayers at this time as you celebrate Clementina's life with Rosary and Mass. I will be there in spirit!

Loving, prayerful wishes to each of you!

Sister Mary Corcoran

Sister Mary corcoran - April 09, 2017 at 06:02 AM

DO

“ Dear Bob, Wendy, Alex, and Michaela,
Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. It is such a time of mixed emotion
- the sadness of your mom/grandma's loss and the celebration of her life. She is
already dancing with your dad in heaven!
Much love to you all,
The O'Tooles

Dori O'Toole - April 08, 2017 at 07:25 PM