

2021 Fall Cellar Club Tasting Notes

2019 Dry Riesling, Hollister Hill Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain "Rich's Cuvee"

Lovely, subtle, and refreshing. This is a nuanced wine with the finesse of delicate crab apple aromas and Asian pear, sweet cinnamon, and clove on the palate. This wine was only aged in stainless steel. Our winemaker, Mike, says this wine is "suited for floating in the middle of deep blue Tahoe." Jeffrey agrees to say, "I would love to take this wine to Hawaii, pair it with fresh mahi-mahi topped with mango salsa or fish tacos with pineapple and cilantro; that would be beautiful."

2018 Riesling, Hollister Hill Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain, "Cuvee Willi"

A very German-style Riesling, off dry with 2% residual sugar, that was harvested a few weeks earlier in the season. It has the tell-tale nose of just a hint of diesel among aromas of pine. The nose and palate pull a bait and switch in the most surprising and enjoyable way. The essence of dusty persimmon and tangy sweet-tart, green apple & pineapple flavors.

2018 Chardonnay, Laurel Hill Vineyard, Sonoma Valley "Estate"

Our Flagship Chardonnay is like goldilocks. It's not unwooded, not super oaky, it's "just right." Fermented in stainless steel, then aged in older and used French oak barrels. This wine is always consistent, year-in and year-out, and a favorite all around. Citrus, green apple, lime zest, and lychee aromas are balanced perfectly by the sweet toast notes from the oak with a perfectly crisp finish.

2019 Chardonnay, Laurel Hill Vineyard, Sonoma Valley "Reserve"

The upper 13 rows of our Estate Vineyard bring this beauty to life. This is a hillside block with a lower yield. We then ferment and age this wine in French oak, half new oak, and the other is one-year-old. If you like the more oaky buttery style of Chardonnay then this is your vino. Toasty, match stick char on the nose, and enough Meyer lemon citrus hints in this wine to balance it out from being overly oaked. There is an enjoyable long, lingering finish to remind you why this is a Reserve wine.

2018 Pinot Noir, Laurel Hill Vineyard, Sonoma Valley "Rafa's Cuvee"

Gold Medal Winner at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair

Courtney and Rich agree, "We love this wine!" And, if you love it too... order more! We didn't produce very much of this beauty. This block of grapes was planted in 2001 with 3 different Dijon clones for spiciness and one Pommard clone that brings a supple mouthfeel. This Pinot has blackberry, black currant fruit on the palate with a finish that is substantial with spice and cocoa. Besides pairing it with the typical roast chicken or duck, consider an entree of elk or venison with this wine.

2018 Zinfandel, Ricci Vineyard, Russian River Valley, Old Vines, "Karen's Cuvee"

Gold Medal Winner at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair

You bring the toast and we will bring the jam! Plummy, ripe, & jammy, this wine has flavors of delicious fig jam and Italian golden plum. 2018 was a hot and dry year that made for a very low yields of ripe and concentrated wines. However, this Zin has hints of acidity to balance the concentrated flavors of this wine.

2018 Alicante Bouchet, Kunde Ranch Vineyard, Sonoma Valley "Klein's Cuvee" *Double Gold Medal Winner at the Sonoma Harvest Fair*

Known as the "Noir de Noirs," this is one of the few grapes in the world that has red juice as well as red skins. That is why this wine has an absolutely stunning dark, rich, and almost black color. On the palate, this wine is gripping, drying, and chewy with tons of black pepper spice on the finish. The tannins are a bit overpowering for some, but the fruit will begin to show with a little time in your cellar to mellow.

2018 Syrah, Page/Nord Vineyard, Napa Valley, "Lillian's Cuvee"

We've been buying grapes from this vineyard for 20 years. We find its Southern Napa location, close to Yountville, is perfect for Syrah. It offers a nice long growing season, so the grapes are fully ripe, not overripe. This perfect ripeness brings great mature flavors that are fleshy, with notes of black pepper accompanied with deep blue and black fruit flavors with hints of leather. After tasting this Syrah, it will become clear why we've had such a longstanding relationship with this vineyard.

2017 25th Anniversary Blend, Sonoma County, "Guillermo's Cuvee"

Gold Medal Winner at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair

This wine was made to celebrate our 25th anniversary of making wine. This one-of-a-kind blend was created to represent all the vineyards we've been working with throughout Sonoma County... Zinfandel from the Russian River, Malbec from Sonoma Mountain, Cabernet from Alexander Valley, Barbera from Sonoma Valley, Sangiovese from Dry Creek. This is a medium-bodied and balanced blend, that you can hang on to it for 5 years. Our winemaker, Mike Berthoud says, "If I'm stuck on a deserted island with a case of this, I'm a happy man for at least the first two days."

2018 Petite Verdot, Windsor Oaks Vineyard, Chalk Hill, "Jan Marie's Cuvee"

Double Gold Medal Winner at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair

Usually, Petite Verdot is used to blend with other wines to add color and tannin, but we think it is worthy of the spotlight. There is no appellation in France that solely makes 100% Petite Verdot. Red fruit strawberry, cherry, pomegranate, and gripping tannin. This is a wine that will also age for a long time... or keep that decanter handy, if you lack discipline, and want to enjoy it now.

2018 Zinfandel, Ricci Vineyard, Russian River Valley "The Francis Reserve"

Double Gold Medal Winner, Best of Class at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair

If you don't like this wine, you don't like Zin. Sexy cherry, righteous raspberry, and justifiably jammy. There's a delicious essence of cherry-vanilla cobbler. There is something baked, ripe, and soft about this. There is no wonder this holds a Double Gold Medal and Best of Class Titles.

2018 Grenache, Rossi Ranch Vineyard, Sonoma Valley, "Jeffrey's Cuvee"

Gold Medal Winner at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair

Known for its lightness and red fruit flavors, Grenache won't compete with its big brother Syrah. If you tend to like lighter reds like Pinot Noir, then give this a try. A nice balance of oak and fruit, this wine is a bit heavier than a Pinot Noir but still has light luscious red fruits and supple tannins. This is from the truffle block of the Rossi Ranch, and it's clear why it is one of our Gold Medal winners at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair.

2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Delaney Family Vineyard "Reserve"

What a beautiful nose. Definitely give this wine the time it deserves to open up. It's a classic Cabernet. Not too jammy, with gripping tannins, dark blackberry and black currants flavors. We think it is necessary to either cellar this wine or pull out the decanter. Also, this is a food wine... cassoulet, peppered steak, rack of lamb is a must with this.