

# 2021 Spring Club Tasting Notes

## 2012 Reserve Sparkling Brut, Laurel Hill Vineyard

**\$65**

Our Brut is a blend of 70% Chardonnay and 30% Pinot Noir all from our estate vineyard, made in the traditional Methode Champenoise. Aged for 6 years, the extra time brings richness while maintaining those wonderful bright fruit characteristics that we love in a glass of sparkling. You'll see the small, active bubbles that are usual for a sparkling aged this long. There are no sharp edges to this Brut. Aromas of Brioche toast are followed by strawberry, apple, vanilla flavors. There is also a subtle elegance, racy acidity, and below the surface a purity and harmony to this extraordinary wine. Only 145 cases produced.

## 2018 Pinot Gris, Windsor Oak Vineyard, Sonoma Valley "Courtney's Cuvee"

**\$30**

This lovely libation is your Summer wine! This is unwooded, light, and crisp without being sharp and biting. Bright fruit like melon, peach, and apricot with a lovely grapefruit zest finish. This will pair perfectly with an antipasto plate this summer. You'll also find everyone's favorite Tasting Room Manager, Courtney, sipping this beauty as it is her namesake "Courtney's Cuvee."

## 2018 Dry Rosé, Meyer Family Vineyard, Sonoma Valley "Dolores' Cuvee"

**\$30**

The most unusual Rosé you will have all year! Stroll through the rose garden with this wine. The floral and baked apple aromas leap out of the glass. The nose of this wine made it to us before we could truly appreciate the incredible pink salmon color. It is tart and lip-smacking. The long complex finish is from the Petite Sirah. This is one of the few Dry Rosés that you can enjoy with a more substantial meal like poultry or pork, you might even try it with a spicy dish! 72% Petite Sirah, 28% Grenache

## 2017 Chardonnay, Laurel Hill Vineyard, Sonoma Valley "Reserve, Henry's Cuvee"

**\$45**

This is our flagship Reserve Chardonnay which we love for its smooth Meyer lemon and creamy hazelnut flavors. We pulled out all the stops for this wine. Harvested from the top 13 rows of our Laurel Hill Vineyard, only bilateral cordon trellised which limits the crop to 3 tons per acre producing richness and concentration. 100% French Oak barrel fermented, and barrel-aged, we used 50% brand new, 50% one-year-old oak. Full malolactic fermentation, aged Sur Lie Batonnage (stirred on the lees), this is the perfect recipe for creamy softer acidity and a long finish. Suggested pairing: Seared Scallops and summer corn succotash.

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

**Gold Medal Winner at the 2020 Sonoma County Harvest Fair**

**\$45**

Smooth, supple, creamy. The aromas are reminiscent of a maple bar with toasted oak notes and hints of clove. The texture of this wine is what has us raving. It's voluptuous, with deep red fruit flavors. All of the components in this wine are perfectly balanced: oak, fruit, texture, acidity. This is a great alternative to a Pinot Noir, and will be a perfect pairing for your Easter ham or lamb.

### **2018 Merlot, Los Chazimal Vineyard, Sonoma Valley, "Gary P's Cuvee"**

**\$40**

We have made wine from this vineyard on and off for almost 25 years. This vintage, in particular, is the perfect example of why people fall in love with this varietal. Soft, fleshy plum and blueberry, with proper tannin but not painstakingly dry. There is a hint of gamey and peppery notes that come through on the nose. This is exactly the smoky, meaty texture you'd expect when using 10% American Oak and 90% French Oak.

### **2017 Zinfandel, Ricci Vineyard, Russian River Valley, Old Vines "The Francis Reserve"**

**Gold Medal Winner Sonoma County Harvest Fair**

**\$55**

These old vines assure low yields which maximize flavor and concentration. This Reserve Zin is made completely from free-run juice (the juice from fermentation, but before pressing). This creates a delicious and intense wine with aromas of pepper, spice, cedar, and cigar box followed by a jammy dark cherry and raspberry mid-palate with a toasty oak and vanilla finish. For aging we used 40% new oak, half of that is American, and half French.

### **2017 Cabernet Sauvignon, La Cias Vineyard, Napa Valley "Antonio's Cuvee"**

**\$50**

Now this wine is right up our winemaker, Mike Berthoud's, alley. This is a Bordeaux-like Cabernet for those who are looking for elegance, not a ripe and jammy Cab that is more like a Zinfandel. This is a cool vineyard in Congress Valley in the Southern end of Napa where the grapes struggle a bit to get ripe. And, the struggle pays off with this old world-style wine. The bread, leather, and toasty qualities on the nose are balanced by soft raspberry and cherry flavors on the palette. A little tannin, and fleshy mid-palate, with enough complexity to make it interesting.

### **2018 Alicante Bouchet, Kunde Ranch Vineyard, Sonoma Valley "Klein's Cuvee"**

**\$35**

**Double Gold Medal Winner Sonoma County Harvest Fair**

This is one of the few varietals of grapes that has red juice when you crush it. Take a look at that rich color! The black pepper aromas are a perfect balance to the fruit, oak, and tannin that are packed on the palate. This wine is not for the faint of heart. If you like gripping tannins, this is for you. Lay this bottle down to cellar-age for a few years or pull out the decanter to enjoy this a bit sooner.

### **2018 Barbera, Kunde Ranch Vineyard, Sonoma Valley "The DeMartini Cuvee"**

**\$35**

This wine holds the record at Mayo Family Winery for the latest harvest. We harvested these grapes on November 17. Barbera is naturally high in acidity and can be a one-dimensional wine if it picked too young. Thanks to the extra hang time - and incredible weather of the 2018 vintage - we were able to really give it the time it needs on the vine. Patience paid off in this case. Fully ripe grapes helped lower the acidity and create a creamier mouthfeel. There is a clean, wet wood component on the nose and a subtle orange peel and sundried tomato flavors that linger on the finish. It coats your palate with tannin, reminiscent of a soft Cabernet. Enjoy with a wild boar ragu over pasta.

**2018 Reserve Sangiovese, Unti Vineyard, Dry Creek Valley "Christo's Cuvee"**

**Gold and Best of Class, Sonoma Country Harvest Fair**

**\$50**

Harvested from a terraced hillside vineyard located in Dry Creek, which yields very ripe fruit. The wine is exceptionally balanced. Creamy vanilla on the nose, ripe red fruits on the palate, a slightly tangy finish. The balance of this wine is what kept us talking. There is enough acidity to keep it light and food-friendly but rich enough that you can enjoy next to the fire without any food at all!

**2018 Reserve Cabernet Franc, Hollister Hill Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain**

**\$60**

**Double Gold Medal Winner Sonoma County Harvest Fair**

This wine is reminiscent of freshly picked blackberries on a hot day with the runoff juice at the bottom of the bowl. Dark fruit and brown sugar aromas explode from the glass which leads to a blueberry pie flavored mid-palate that hangs on the palate. There is no controversy here, this is a delicious wine! Only 5 barrels produced that can be enjoyed now or will easily aged for 5 to 10 years.