



CHALK HILL

ESTATE VINEYARDS & WINERY

A VIEW FROM THE WINEMAKER

Wine Club Newsletter - Fall 2024 Issue #165

Greetings Wine Club Members,

The 2024 crush is officially upon us! We spent the last several weeks preparing the team and the winery for the long days and nights harvest brings. Hours of training interns and staff, sanitizing equipment, and general maintenance were the primary focus for the cellar team until the first grapes arrived. As I write this, we have received most of our Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc, Sauvignon Gris, and Chardonnay and they are in various stages of primary fermentation. The Chardonnay for our Founder's Block, Wright Creek, and Felta bottlings will be picked shortly, followed by the transition to harvesting our reds.

Wine lovers always enjoy visiting us during harvest. The vineyards and winery are bustling with team members and visitors alike. The energy of crush is contagious and you can almost feel it blowing in the fall breeze. If you happen to catch a glimpse of the cellar, you'll see us weighing and sorting fruit upon arrival, performing pumpovers, racking, inoculations, and barreling down some of our wines. There is a distinct smell to the cellar during harvest as well - ripe fresh fruit, cherry, raspberry, and blueberries, and of course yeast fermentation.

With this shipment, we are excited to share with you a few of our favorites, perfect for the transition to fall. Our **2022 Little Patch Chardonnay** comes from our Little Patch Vineyard, using exclusively clone 15. This wine is 100% French oak barrel fermented and aged, yielding a soft, creamy texture with plenty of richness and depth. The **2021 Syrah** is a deep, inky color, with layers of complexity, dark fruits, leather and tobacco. Lastly, the **2021 Estate Red** packs a serious but elegant punch. Rich and savory, this wine delivers dark chocolate, cigar box, cherry, and black raspberry with intricately laced velvety tannins. Decant this one for 30-45 minutes before serving to allow the characters to open up.

Finally, next time you visit us you'll find we have been secretly refreshing our estate tasting room. We look forward to sharing our beautiful new space with you soon! *Reservations are recommended* - [book here](#).

Cheers,

Darrell Holbrook, *Winemaker*

UPCOMING EVENTS

The **Fall Garden Harvest Pick-up Party** will be held **Saturday, October 12 from 11AM - 1PM**. Enjoy the pavilion and the organic estate gardens as you taste new wine club releases. Each fall release will be paired with a delectable Chalk Hill garden bite. [Confirm your reservation here](#).

Holiday at the Estate, our annual holiday celebration is right around the corner. [Book now](#) or contact our [concierge](#) for more information.



FALL WINE SELECTION

2022 LITTLE PATCH CHARDONNAY

EACH CHARDONNAY BARREL IS UNIQUE TO BEST SHOWCASE THE SITE FROM WHICH IT WAS GROWN - FROM VARIATIONS IN THE BARRELS THEMSELVES TO THE PARTICULAR NATIVE YEAST POPULATION THAT FERMENTS THE JUICE IN THAT BARREL. THE 2022 LITTLE PATCH CHARDONNAY IS MEDIUM-BODIED WITH A ROUND, RICH AND CREAMY TEXTURE THAT IS BALANCED BY GENEROUS NOTES OF APPLE PIE, BAKED BREAD, PINEAPPLE, AND A HINT OF VANILLA SPICE. FRESH ACIDITY CARRIES IT THROUGH THE FINISH.

FERMENTATION / BARREL

100% NATIVE YEAST FERMENTATION IN BARREL
100% MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION WITH WEEKLY BÂTONNAGE DURING FERMENTATION, THEN MONTHLY
Cooperage: 15 MONTHS IN 100% FRENCH OAK, 56% NEW

WINE

Blend: 100% CHARDONNAY, CLONE 15
BOTTLED UNFINED & UNFILTERED: DECEMBER 12, 2023
pH 3.52 TA 5.79 g/L Alcohol 15.1%

2021 SYRAH

THIS 2021 SYRAH DISPLAYS AROMAS OF CLOVE, VIOLET, LEATHER, SPICE, BLACKBERRY, BOYSENBERRY, AND FOREST FLOOR. ON THE PALATE, INDULGENT FLAVORS OF LICORICE, PEPPER, DRAGON FRUIT, AND TOBACCO LEAF DELIGHT THE SENSES. THIS WINE IS BOLD, OFFERING A BEAUTIFUL INKY COLOR AND DENSE LAYERS OF RICH CHARACTERS MELDING SEAMLESSLY WITH VELVETY TANNINS.

FERMENTATION / BARREL

STAINLESS STEEL FERMENTATION WITH PUMPOVERS
100% MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION
Cooperage: 100% FRENCH OAK, 56% NEW
Barrel Aging: 21 MONTHS

WINE

Blend: 75% SYRAH, 25% VIOGNIER
BOTTLED UNFINED & UNFILTERED: JULY 24, 2023
pH 3.75 TA 5.66 g/L Alcohol 15.5%

2021 ESTATE RED

OUR 2021 ESTATE RED OPENS WITH SAVORY AROMAS OF BLACK CHERRY, BLACK RASPBERRY, CIGAR BOX, AND BLACK TEA. THE PALATE IS DENSE AND RICH WITH LAYERS OF DARK CHOCOLATE AND SPICES, FRAMED BY VELVETY TANNINS. THIS WINE WILL AGE BEAUTIFULLY OVER THE NEXT 15 YEARS.

FERMENTATION / BARREL

STAINLESS STEEL FERMENTATION WITH PUMPOVERS
100% MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION WITH BÂTONNAGE
COOPERAGE: 23 MONTHS IN 100% FRENCH OAK, 52% NEW

WINE

BLEND: 54% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 23% MALBEC, 21% PETIT VERDOT, 2% SYRAH
BOTTLED UNFINED & UNFILTERED: JULY 2023
pH 3.62 TA 6.17 g/L ALCOHOL 14.8%