



CHALK HILL

ESTATE VINEYARDS & WINERY

A VIEW FROM THE WINEMAKER

Wine Club Newsletter - Holiday 2024 Issue #166

Greetings Wine Club Members,

With harvest now behind us, we are enjoying a much welcomed respite from the demands of the season. In the cellar, we are barreling down our 2024 red wines, performing bâtonnage on the white wines, and planning for the upcoming bottling of our 2023 Chardonnays. While the vines are dormant, our vineyard team will be pruning and preparing for budbreak come early spring.

Your holiday white wine selection starts with the **2022 Carol Ann Chardonnay**. Fermented in neutral French oak, this wine is fruit-forward, bright, lively, and refreshing. It exhibits aromas and flavors of apple, peach, and ginger with white floral notes. It is a perfect apéritif or hostess gift this holiday season.

Next, the **2021 Founder's Chardonnay**. The Founder's Block Chardonnay is the pinnacle Chardonnay in the Chalk Hill portfolio only made in truly exceptional vintages on our estate. Due to our commitment to quality, we chose not to produce a 2022 vintage, but we held back some 2021, aging it to perfection in our cellar to re-release just in time for the holidays. This Chardonnay is big, rich, and creamy. Well-integrated French oak and layers of baking spice, toasted marshmallow, apple pie, and baked pear make this wine an excellent choice for a variety of main course dishes including fresh crab or turkey.

We are excited to share with you the 2023 inaugural vintage of our **Winner's Circle Pinot Noir** from our recently-acquired Winner Circle Vineyard in Russian River Valley. This special blend was selected from two blocks planted to clones 943 & Calera. This Pinot has a rich, vibrant color with aromas of cherry, plum, cranberry, baking spices and well-integrated French oak. The palate is savory with a touch of sweetness and soft, velvet-like tannins through the long, juicy finish. If you're looking for the ideal wine to share at your holiday gathering, this is it. It is a feature-worthy wine that is sure to elevate any meal.

Lastly, the **2022 Estate Red**. Primarily comprised of Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec, this wine is a powerhouse. Black currant, barrel spice, plum, and a touch of earth complement abundant dark fruit, leather, and black tea over a silky-tannin backbone. A touch of clove lingers on the finish. Enjoy with braised beef short ribs, steak tartare, or prime rib.

On behalf of the entire Chalk Hill family, I wish you a wonderful holiday season and New Year.

Cheers,

Darrell Holbrook, *Winemaker*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for our annual 'Holiday at the Estates' celebration, featuring 'Holidays Around the World'. This seated tasting experience will include a curated selection of wines along with Mediterranean-inspired bites. December 7th and 8th.

[RSVP HERE](#)

FESTIVE GIFT GUIDE

Whether you're hosting for the holidays or travelling to see friends and family, make sure you bring the perfect gift for your loved ones. Discover our holiday catalog today to choose the perfect gift this holiday season.

[FESTIVE GIFT GUIDE](#)

HOLIDAY WINE SELECTION

2022 CAROL ANN CHARDONNAY

THIS WINE WAS ESPECIALLY UNIQUE AS WE WORKED WITH PROPRIETOR CAROL ANN FOLEY TO CREATE HER “PERFECT” CHARDONNAY — A FRESH, ROUND, FRUIT-FORWARD, AND BALANCED, YET LIGHTER STYLE WITH NOTES OF APPLE, PEAR, PEACHES, A HINT OF CITRUS, AND A SLIGHT MINERALITY. IT FINISHES LONG WITH A BEAUTIFULLY BALANCED ACIDITY.

FERMENTATION / BARREL

100% NATIVE YEAST FERMENTATION IN BARREL
100% MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION WITH WEEKLY BÂTONNAGE
FOR 5 MONTHS, THEN MONTHLY
Cooperage: 15 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK, 41% 1-YEAR, 59% 2-YEAR

WINE

Blend: 100% CHARDONNAY
pH 3.54 TA 5.73 g/L Alcohol 15.1%

2023 WINNER'S CIRCLE PINOT NOIR

WELCOME TO THE WINNER'S CIRCLE. THIS INAUGURAL BOTTLING OF EXQUISITE PINOT NOIR COMES FROM THE WINNER'S CIRCLE VINEYARD LOCATED IN THE PICTURESQUE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY. ABUNDANT DARK FRUIT AROMAS WITH NOTES OF SPICE, VANILLA, AND A SUBTLE EARTHINESS WAFT FROM THE GLASS. ON THE PALATE, THE WINE IS BOLD YET THE BALANCE OF RUSTIC TANNINS AND ACID ARE IN PERFECT HARMONY. THE FLAVOR PROFILE IS DEEPLY LAYERED, WITH EVOLVING CHARACTERS FROM ENTRY THROUGH THE LONG FINISH. DRINKING WELL NOW, WITH PROPER CELLARING THIS WINE IS EXPECTED TO AGE WELL FOR 5-7 YEARS.

FERMENTATION / BARREL

CULTURED YEAST FERMENTATION IN BARREL
BI-WEEKLY BÂTONNAGE DURING FERMENTATION
Cooperage: 9 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK, 55% NEW

WINE

Blend: 100% PINOT NOIR
pH 3.59 TA 5.7 g/L Alcohol 14.5%

2021 FOUNDER'S CHARDONNAY

THE 2021 FOUNDER'S BLOCK CHARDONNAY COMES FROM A SPECIAL PARCEL ON OUR ESTATE THAT PRODUCES EXTREMELY SMALL YIELDS OF BERRIES THAT ARE NOTEWORTHY FOR THEIR GREAT CONCENTRATION, BALANCE AND COMPLEXITY. THE 2021 WAS MADE WITH 100% NATIVE YEAST AND IS UNFINED AND UNFILTERED. ON THE PALATE, A CREAMY RICHNESS, MARKED BY RIPE PEAR, BAKED APPLE, AND BAKING SPICES, PRODUCE ROUNDED LAYERS AND TEXTURE.

FERMENTATION / BARREL

100% NATIVE YEAST FERMENTATION IN BARREL
100% MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION WITH BI-WEEKLY
BÂTONNAGE FOR 5 MONTHS, THEN MONTHLY
Cooperage: 15 MONTHS IN 100% FRENCH OAK, 92% NEW

WINE

Blend: 100% CHALK HILL PROPRIETARY CLONE 97 CHARDONNAY
pH 3.5 TA 5.64 g/L Alcohol 15.1%

2022 ESTATE RED

THIS 2022 ESTATE RED IS A BLEND OF CABERNET SAUVIGNON, MALBEC, PETIT VERDOT, AND SYRAH. IT OPENS WITH SAVORY AROMAS OF BLUEBERRY, BLACKBERRY, CIGAR BOX, TOBACCO LEAF, BLACK TEA, AND AN UNDERLYING EARTHY/HERBAL TONE. THE PALATE IS DENSE AND COMPLEX WITH BLACK CHERRY, VANILLA, AND ROASTED COFFEE BEAN FLAVORS LACED WITH SUPPLE TANNINS. THIS WINE WILL AGE BEAUTIFULLY OVER THE NEXT 15 YEARS.

FERMENTATION / BARREL

STAINLESS STEEL FERMENTATION WITH MONTHLY TOPPING
Cooperage: 20 MONTHS IN 100% FRENCH OAK, 56% NEW

WINE

Blend: 57% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 25% MALBEC,
15% PETIT VERDOT, 3% SYRAH
pH 3.7 TA 6.11 g/L Alcohol 15.1%