

\_ A VIEW FROM THE WINEMAKER Wine Club Newsletter - Late Winter 2025 Issue #167

Greetings Wine Club Members,

With the holidays behind us, we are enjoying our last bit of quiet before the warm spring weather awakens the dormant vines and we find ourselves busy planning and preparing for another harvest. This is the time of year we are able to take our time being architects in the vineyard and in the cellar - pruning, maintaining our equipment, blending our young wines and preparing for bottling. There's always plenty to be done, but his time of year is a bit more methodical and calculated than the fast pace of harvest.

Your winter shipment includes two vintage 2023 Chardonnays. First, the 2023 inaugural bottling of our **Winner's Circle Vineyard Chardonnay**. This highly anticipated wine is comprised of 100% clone Mt. Eden 28. It is fruit-forward with abundant apple, pear, and peach flavors and a long, savory finish. It is a unique style that is reflective of the cool-climate and sandy loam soils of the Russian River Valley.

Next, the **2023 Wright Creek Chardonnay**. This wine is consistently one of my personal favorites. Expressive and layered flavors of baked pear, toasted marshmallow apple pie, and baking spices are woven through the rich, creamy texture. It is a wine that leaves you wanting more with each sip.

The first red in your shipment is the **2022 Carménère Cabernet Sauvignon.** This proprietary blend comes from two single vineyards located on the west end of our estate. The bold red and black fruit characters imparted by the Carménère marry beautifully with the blueberry and raspberry of the Cabernet. This wine is highly aromatic, displaying peppercorn, jalapeño, cherries, plums, and notes of dark chocolate and tobacco leaf supported by refined tannin.

The final wine in your shipment is the **2022 Malbec Petit Verdot**. This combination of varietals provides deep color and an ultra concentrated profile featuring leather, clove, mocha and dark chocolate with dark berry fruits adding depth and balanced acidity. Velvety tannins linger through the finish.

On behalf of myself and the entire Chalk Hill family, we look forward to hosting you at the estate soon. Be sure to follow us on social <u>@chalkestate</u> and visit our <u>website</u> to book one of our current experiences or upcoming events.

Cheers,

Darrell Holbrook, Winemaker

#### LATE WINTER WINE SELECTION

## 2023 Winner's Circle Vineyard Chardonnay

Comprised of 100% Mt. Eden Clone 28, this inaugural bottling of our Winner's Circle Chardonnay is packed with fresh fruit flavors apple, pear, peach, honeydew melon, vanilla, and a touch of oak. The palate is crisp, bright and energetic with a long, juicy finish.

## FERMENTATION / BARREL

CULTURED YEAST FERMENTATION IN BARREL 100% MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION WITH BI-WEEKLY BÂTONNAGE DURING MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION Cooperage: 13 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK, 33% NEW

WINE Blend: 100% CHARDONNAY pH 3.37 TA 6.0 g/L Alcohol 14.9%

# 2022 Carménère Cabernet Sauvignon

Our 2022 Carménère Cabernet Sauvignon opens with earthy aromas, raspberry, strawberry, plum, and spice. The palate offers rustic intrigue with tobacco and leather flavors leading to dark chocolate, peppercorn, and accents of raspberry lingering on the finish.

### FERMENTATION / BARREL

100% MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION WITH MONTHLY BÂTONNAGE Cooperage: 20 Months in French Oak, 67% New

WINE Blend: 78% CARMÉNÈRE, 22% CABERNET SAUVIGNON pH 3.73 TA 5.53 g/L Alcohol 15.0%

## 2023 Wright Creek Chardonnay

Our 2023 Wright Creek Chardonnay presents rich aromas and flavors of baked apple and pear, caramel, vanilla, toasted marshmallow, and baking spice. An elegant, concentrated palate reveals layers of complexity laced with oak and flinty minerality lingering through the finish.

## FERMENTATION / BARREL

100% NATIVE YEAST FERMENTATION IN BARREL 100% MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION WITH WEEKLY BÂTONNAGE DURING MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION, THEN MONTHLY *Cooperage:* 13 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK, 75% NEW

#### WINE

Blend: 100% CHARDONNAY pH 3.76 TA 5.5 g/L Alcohol 15.0%

# 2022 Malbec Petit Verdot

Our 2022 Malbec-Petit Verdot opens with a lovely bouquet of leather, blueberry, cedar, tobacco, violet, and sage. The palate entry is soft initially, developing layers of intricacy with hazelnut, vanilla, and mocha. Enjoy now or cellar for the next 10+ years.

#### FERMENTATION / BARREL

100% MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION WITH WEEKLY BÂTONNAGE Cooperage: 21 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK, 45% NEW

#### WINE

 Blend:
 80% MALBEC, 20% PETIT VERDOT

 pH 3.63
 TA 5.9 g/L
 Alcohol 15.0%





# JUNE 14, 2025

The White Party, our signature summer event, will be held Saturday, June 14, 2025. Be among the first to taste newly released white wines while taking in stunning 360-degree views of the estate. Dressed in your most elegant summertime whites, enjoy seasonal gourmet fare from our organic culinary garden, dance-ready live music, and delight in the stylish ambiance of this one-of-a-kind setting.

This event sells out quickly. If you haven't already, reserve your tickets now.

RESERVE TICKETS