

AUGUST BRIGGS TASTING NOTES



2013 Chardonnay Leveroni Vineyard • Carneros

This wine was produced from the great Leveroni vineyard located on the Sonoma County side of Carneros, just south of the town of Sonoma. This is year number 18 from which we have made wine from this acclaimed vineyard. The long, cool growing conditions of the Carneros produce lively apple and citrus flavors in chardonnay. This is a classic Carneros Chardonnay, crisp and bright, the flavors of pear, green apple, and honeydew melon mix with mild oak flavors and lead to a fruity yet bracing finish. The grapes for this wine were picked at 23.3 brix then whole-cluster pressed, cold settled, inoculated with yeast, and racked to barrels for fermentation. Barrels used were 100% French, with 30% being new and 70% being a mix of 2 year old barrels from the previous vintage. After completion of fermentation the wine was inoculated with a malolactic culture, stirred weekly, and sur-lees aged 8 months. 200 cases produced.

2013 Pinot Noir Dijon Clones' • Napa Valley *Available in select markets.*

One of the factors improving the overall quality of Pinot Noir in California is the planting of the so-called 'Dijon Clones' of Pinot Noir. A clone is a genetically distinct sub-type of a grape variety created by taking cuttings from an original mother vine with desirable characteristics and propagating new, identical vines. The Dijon Clones originated from vines in Burgundy, France and were brought to the United States by a group of winemakers in the 1960's and 70's and are now one of the premier clones of Pinot Noir in the U.S. This vintage once again is sourced from the Green Island Vineyard which is located in the very cool, south end of the Napa Valley. This vintage offers an earthy style which is a bit lighter in body than previous vintages of our 'Dijon Clones' Pinot Noir. The wine offers a very complex and unique nose of tart raspberry, cranberry, earth and peat. Pure, precise and concentrated with great finesse this wine lingers for an extended period after first sip. After hand sorting, the clusters were de-stemmed into a small open-top fermenter. After a two-day cold soak, the must was inoculated with Assmanhausen yeast. The cap was punched-down twice daily, by hand. After a gentle pressing, the wine was inoculated for malolactic fermentation and barreled down to traditional burgundian barrels. The barrels used were 25% new French oak and 75% two and three year old French barrels. The wine was aged in barrel for 9 months. Only 287 cases produced.

2014 Pinot Noir Russian River Valley

Since this is our 20th bottling of Pinot Noir from the great Russian River Valley this wine needs no introduction! We believe that the quality of wine we produce is only as good as the fruit we start with and the fruit for our 2014 vintage comes from the Gunsalas Vineyard in the very cool Green Valley of the Russian River Valley AVA and the Rockin' B vineyard in eastern Santa Rosa. This is quintessential Russian River Valley Pinot Noir and shows off its true Pinot character. Upfront effusive aromas of Bing cherry, forest floor and toasty oak make the bouquet intoxicating. Fleshy on the palate, there is weight without heaviness, owing to the balanced acidity. It has ample fruit flavors showing plenty of zesty raspberry and candied cherry flavors, accentuated by a hint of truffle along with a juicy, but nicely structured finish of red-fruit and hints of dried spice & orange peel. As a complex and robust wine, make sure to let this one breathe for a bit before being enjoyed. All our Pinot's are destemmed into open top fermenters for daily punch downs which gently extract all the flavor and body. After a gentle pressing the wine was inoculated for malo-lactic fermentation and barreled down to traditional burgundian barrels. The barrels used were 30% new French oak and 70% two year old French barrels. The wine was aged in barrel for 9 months. 320 cases produced.

2013 Zinfandel Old Vines • Calistoga

This wine is a combination of two local historic vineyards and we are excited at the addition of the famed Canard Vineyard for our 'Old Vines' bottling. The Canard Vineyard (formerly named Tucker Ranch) is one of the oldest in Calistoga and we source fruit from a mix of vine plantings from the 1920's and 1870's! We add that fruit in with our amazing 1906 Luvisi vineyard zinfandel and well... its dynamite in a bottle! The effusive aromas of this wine jump out and grab you letting you know that your mouth is in for a special treat! Dark ruby in color with aromas of raspberry jam, boysenberry, clove and brambleberry. This is what you can call an old style Zinfandel. This is a Zin that will drink tonight but will improve with another 4-7 years of aging. The grapes for this wine were picked between 25 and 28 brix, de-stemmed into a small open-topped fermenter, and punched down by hand. After completion of fermentation the wine was drained, pressed, and inoculated with a malolactic culture. Completion of ML was allowed while aging in 30% new hybrid French/American oak barrels and 70% two and three year old French barrels. Barrel aging lasted 16 months prior to bottling without filtration. 350 cases produced.

2013 Petite Sirah Calistoga • Napa Valley *Available in select markets.*

The 2013 August Briggs Napa Valley Petite Sirah is sourced from the Meyer vineyard located right here in Calistoga. We have sourced Charbono from this vineyard and thought the perfect foil to the rich but smooth Charbono would be to purchase some bold and decadent Petite Sirah grapes. From this vineyard, Petite Sirah can perfectly ripen due to the long, hot summers which bring depth of flavor, ripeness and bold fruit flavors that dominate a rich mouthful of wine. Petite Sirah is known for its deep color and powerful flavors and this offering fits the bill. This 100% single vineyard, single varietal, has an inky black color, with a hearty nose of rich black plum, boysenberry, molasses and roasted coffee bean. A solid blackberry fruit core is framed by oak and spice flavors, with tannins coming in on the finish. This petite has great complexity, good tannins and is deep, dark and concentrated. Only for the bold! 100 cases.

2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Monte Rosso • Sonoma Valley

These grapes are sourced from the famed Napa Valley wine pioneer Louis Martini who purchased the vineyard in the 1930s and named it Monte Rosso (Red Mountain) after its red soils. The combination of mountain soils, cool breezes, elevation, and good sun exposure give Monte Rosso its uniqueness. This vintage is a spectacular version of our Monte Rosso Cabernet and the staff believes it is the best ever produced by August Briggs. The wine offers up a dark ruby color with complex aromas of crushed berry, currants, and smoky oak. On the palate, fruit flavors of mixed dark berries, plum, and vanilla integrate nicely. The velvety and smooth texture fools you into thinking this wine is not so rich...but you would be so wrong. It is powerful and dense with amazing body and length on the finish. Enjoy this vintage to the fullest; few are better than the 2012. This wine is big and drinkable now, but will mellow and soften with time. Drink thru 2020. As with all our Cabernet, before destemming and crushing, the fruit was scrutinized cluster by cluster across our sorting conveyor, allowing only the best fruit to pass through. After a two day cold soak, the must was inoculated with yeast and allowed to warm. At dryness the must was gently pressed, the wine inoculated with malo-lactic culture and put to barrel. The wine was barrel aged for 20 months (25% new American Oak, 75% 2 & 3 year old American and French Oak) prior to bottling. 225 cases produced.