



Volume 36, Spring 2021

2019 Pinot Blanc Dutton Ranch 'Shop Block' Russian River Valley

This is our fifth release of Pinot Blanc and has now settled into the August Briggs portfolio as one of our favorites and definitely our customer's favorite for the Spring and Summer. We once again purchased the Pinot Blanc grapes from the Dutton family and one of their oldest properties, their famed Shop Block Vineyard. They name this vineyard after their shop where all their viticulture office and equipment is situated.... Hence the 'Shop'. This sustainable and dry-farmed vineyard has cool coastal air and moderate daytime temperatures which highlights the brightness of this European styled wine.

The wine is a beautiful, light straw color with hints of green around the edges. After pulling the cork you get aromas of tart lemon zest and a little nectarine mixed with a hint of minerals. Very inviting upon the first taste and its bracing acidity makes you want to keep filling your glass. A crowd pleaser if there ever was one. *185 Cases produced*

2019 Russian River Valley Pinot Meunier

Pinot Meunier is one of a few grapes that are more well-known for making sparkling wines than still ones. We have made a scintillating dry wine from these grapes for over 15 years and have found the wine to be very aromatic much like pinot noir, as well as exuding an exotic spicy aroma as found in Rhone varieties. This wine makes a great porch quaffer, and is a perfect match with light to medium menu items.

For the 2019 Pinot Meunier a complex medley of aromas and flavors greet the taster. There is raspberry, bright cherry, berry compote, violets and orange peel. This wine is pretty, fruity, elegant, and spicy, with a nice hint of wood on the finish. It is big for a Pinot Meunier and will improve with age but definitely can be consumed tonight. It would pair nicely with a nice grilled pork tenderloin or the always tasty chicken marsala. *Only 125 cases produced.*

2019 'Dijon Clones' Sonoma County Pinot Noir

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 which we brought in from Burgundy in the 1960's. They are known for their purity of fruit and focused structure. We searched endlessly to find a new source for the fruit and were lucky to find prestigious Kaufman Sunnyslope vineyard. This small five-acre site on the cooler north side of Sonoma Mountain produces Pinot Noir grapes of the highest quality thanks to fog-free daytime sun offset by cool mountain evenings.

For our first vintage from this vineyard we could not be more pleased or excited. The problem is we only were able to get enough for 2 barrels! There are forward flavors of black cherry fruit, strawberry jam, plum, and oak. On the palate the wine offers abundant rich, smooth mouthfeel leading to a perfectly focused finish of complex, supple tannins and

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IMPORTANT DATES

Allocation Orders - Due by March 5

Wine Club Orders Ship Date - Begin March 15

Wine Club Pickups – Begin March 19

2021 Club Member Events

All in person events for 2021 are on hold as we hope for the covid pandemic to subside to a level where state and county officials deem it safe for all of us to enjoy events again. Currently, we are still open for you to visit and enjoy a flight, glass or bottle out on our wine terrace. We hope you come by and enjoy some time with us enjoying some delicious wine and great hospitality.

2021 Virtual Tasting Schedule

Join owner, Matt Gacso for these fun and lively tastings online via the Zoom platform. These tastings are a great way to visit again with Matt and taste August Briggs from the comfort of your home. Please contact Matt at (707) 942-4912 for more info and any questions.

Friday, March 26 at 2:30 PM PST

Bordeaux Varietals - Big & Rich Reds

2018 Contra Costa County Malbec & 2016 Two Moon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

Friday, April 23 at 5:30 PM PST

Spring Wine Club Release

Taste all of these new releases with Matt!

Friday, May 21st at 2:30 PM PST

Pinot Noir Battle - Napa vs. Sonoma

2017 Carneros Pinot Noir & 2017 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir

Friday, June 25 at 5:30 PM PST

Summer White & Rose

2019 Leveroni Vineyard Chardonnay, 2019 Russian River Valley Pinot Blanc & 2020 Rose



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2019 'Dijon Clones' Pinot Noir (cont.)

interwoven flavors of black cherry, plum and savory spices, with accents of oak. The rich, smooth mouthfeel leads to a perfectly focused finish of complex, supple tannins and a gentle yet distinct acidity. *Matt's new favorite! Only 50 cases produced...that's 2 barrels!*

2019 Gunsalus Vineyard Russian River Valley Pinot Noir

The 2019 Gunsalus Vineyard Russian River Valley Pinot Noir is our fourth vineyard designate Pinot Noir from this meticulously farmed vineyard. We have found this treasured site in the cool Green Valley section of the Russian River Valley to produce some of the most distinct and scrumptious Pinot Noir grapes. We picked the smaller and more treasured N5 block to bottle on its own which resulted in a special 4 barrel production. This block which is planted on vigor-reducing rootstocks, resulting in fewer grape clusters of intense flavor, produces a wine that mirrors the unique land on which they are grown.

This nose offers enticing flavors of black cherry, plum, and nutmeg with hints of cinnamon. This wine is lush with flavor but has laser-like clarity and balance. The nose leads with aromas of Bing cherries, crushed raspberries, baking spices and oak. Opulent in the mouth, with luscious flavors of black cherry and blueberries framed by modest tannins. As is typical of our richer Pinot Noirs we used a higher percentage of new oak to give the wine the richness it deserves. This wine was significantly better the next day after opening. Patience might be required to achieve full enjoyment. Drink now through 2030. *100 cases were produced*

2019 'Old Vines' Zinfandel

Now in our 25th bottling of 'Old Vines' Zinfandel we realize this wine is not only about an enjoyment of the senses but also a tribute to the magical old vines located around us here in California. The 2019 Old Vines Zinfandel is sourced from two incredible old vine vineyards. The main source comes from our old friends the Luvisi family whose grapes were planted here in Calistoga in 1908 and has been the building block of our Old Vine Zinfandel since our beginning. The second vineyard is the historic Del Barba vineyard located in the delta town of Oakley and has own-rooted, dry farmed Zin grapes that were planted in 1910.

This 2019 vintage wine displays the classic aromas of old vine zinfandel. It is very aromatic with notes of ripe boysenberries, blackberry pie, licorice, cinnamon, and sweet spices. On the palate, it is flashy and expressive with flavors of wild berries, currant, and mocha. This multi-dimensional, complex Zin exhibits unparalleled flavor concentration and character. *250 cases*

Library Selection 2015 Russian River Valley Pinot Meunier

A close relative of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier is traditionally grown in the Champagne region of France to lend added body and complexity to sparkling wine cuvees. We have found that when Pinot Meunier is allowed to fully ripen, it creates an elegant, aromatic wine with pretty fruit flavors, along with much of the silky complexity of its Burgundian brother. We were fortunate to find the Derbes Vineyard located in the prime Russian River Valley which is a great location to grow this finicky varietal. We are one of only 10 wineries in the U.S. that produce this grape as a still wine. Ultra-rare!

With the 2015 RRV Pinot Meunier, a complex medley of aromas and flavors greet the taster. This wine has exotic aromatic notes in the form of orange peel, cranberry, tea leaves and plum. This wine is fruity, elegant, and spicy. It is moderately full bodied for a Pinot Meunier and will improve with age. It would pair nicely with lightly seasoned fowl dishes, as aperitif with mild cheeses or just as a succulent sipper on its own. Now with some wonderful bottle age, this wine is velvet for your taste buds. *Only 25 cases left!*

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Online Ordering, Allocation Orders, and Shipping/Pickup Info

A quick note to remind you that you now choose your allocation wines online. If you would like a paper form to add or revise your order please contact us where we can send you an allocation form. Please be on the lookout for an email that will provide you with the necessary information to log in to your account and allow you to choose your additional wine easily and securely. You can place your order and update information such as your credit card and shipping information all online. If you have questions or problems with the website don't worry...we are still here and happy to take your information over the phone. Just keep an eye on your email for these reminders. This is a completely optional purchase and if you just want the club wines no further action is needed.

All August Briggs club packages are shipped from a temperature-controlled facility. Please note your shipping rate for four bottles (Sampler Club) and six bottles (Big Club). We recommend shipping to a business where someone can sign for the package as wine can be received only by a person who is 21 years of age or older. It is your responsibility to make sure someone is present to sign for the package. You will be notified via email of your tracking information. For the 2021 Spring club release we may stagger our shipping dates based upon your residency. This is due to the various extreme weather and temperatures throughout the U.S. at this time of year. **We will begin shipping club packages the week of March 15, 2021.** We will notify you of any changes.

Pickup members will have the wines available beginning on March 19, 2021. Pick up members will have nine months to make arrangements for pick up or we will automatically ship to the address on file at your expense. As always, please contact Matt or Colette directly at the winery (707) 942-4912 or via email at matt@augustbriggswinery.com if you have any questions.

Specialized Fall Only Club

Please note we have updated the options for some club members where the club package is customized. For these members the Spring release wines will not be shipped but preferably a second package of the Fall 2020 club release will be sent.

We also have available for optional purchase some of these 2020 Fall release wines which include our 2018 vintage Charbono, Malbec and Two Moon Cabernet. As always, please contact Matt directly at the winery (707) 942-4912 if you have any questions.

