



Volume 40, Spring 2023

2021 Pinot Blanc Russian River Valley

This is our seventh release of Pinot Blanc and has settled into the August Briggs portfolio as one of everyone's favorites, especially for the Spring and Summer. We once again purchased the Pinot Blanc grapes from the Dutton family and one of their oldest properties. This sustainable and dry-farmed vineyard has cool coastal air and moderate daytime temperatures which highlights the brightness of this European styled wine.

The color is a light shade of straw with hints of green around the edges of the wine. This vintage is loaded with bright fruit flavors of grapefruit and pear and has a hint of minerals on the finish. It is a lovely and mouthwatering wine so be sure to order a bunch before summer is here!

The grapes were harvested by hand and immediately destemmed and sorted. The grapes were then gently pressed and raked into a stainless steel tank for fermentation. After primary fermentation completed it was raked into 3 – 75 gallon stainless steel barrels and one 55 gallon barrel for a partial malolactic fermentation. It then aged an additional 8 months in stainless steel then gently bottled. Due to the entire fermentation and ageing in stainless steel the wine is crisp and vibrant with a mouthwatering flavor. **195 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 grapes 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, as well as, 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 grilled pork tenderloin or the always tasty chicken marsala.

After hand sorting, the clusters were destemmed into a small open-top fermenter. After a two-day cold soak, the must was inoculated with Assmanhausen yeast. The cap was punched-down by hand, twice daily. Following primary fermentation the wine was inoculated for malolactic fermentation and barreled down to traditional burgundian barrels. The barrels used were 20% new French oak and 80% two year old French barrels. The wine was aged in barrel for 9 months. **Only 125 cases produced.**

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

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Spring Release Information

We have decided to shake things up a bit and rejuvenate our Spring release a little by adding the Malbec to this release. We think it provides some nice variety to the lineup. We hope you agree and as always, enjoy the wines.

IMPORTANT DATES

Allocation Order Forms - Due by February 24

Wine Club Orders Ship Date - Begin March 13

Wine Club Pickups – Begin March 17

Spring Release Pickup Party – April 2

2023 Club Member Events

SUNDAY, April 2

Spring Pickup Party

Taste the Spring 2023 wines with something tasty of the grill and enjoy the afternoon at our wine terrace! Reservations required. Watch your release emails for details.

FRIDAY, March 31

Virtual Tasting of Spring Release Wines

For those of you unable to visit the tasting room this Spring, please join owner, Matt Gacso, as he will lead you through a virtual tasting online of all the new wines and discuss each wine and the recent harvests for these bottlings.



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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. The flavors are very full, with more berries and star anise echoing the aromas. On the palate the wine's rich mouthfeel is supported with fruit through the mid-palate to the robust finish. 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 produced.**

2019 Contra Costa County Malbec

The 2019 Malbec once again comes to us from a small parcel of land from a long forgotten and remote vineyard in the town of Knightsen from the Cecchini family. This site offers the hot, sunny and dry weather that Malbec thrives in. This perfect climate can bring the grape to a very deep color and it then exhibits a rich, dark, and juicy flavor.

Upon pulling the cork, the nose reveals cherry, satsuma plum and black currant aromas layered with baking spice and vanilla. The supple palate weight is laden with plum, blackberry, brioche, and mocha flavors leading to an oak scented, enduring finish. Indulge in the plethora of fruit flavors and fresh aromatics, guiding you sip, savor and repeat, enjoying the sultry texture and incredible balance of this wine. A crowd favorite, do not wait as this will go fast! **125 cases.**

2021 'Old Vines' Zinfandel

Now in our 28th 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 2021 Old Vines Zinfandel is sourced from 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 vineyard with its hot, dry weather and wind swept sandy soil creates optimum flavor for the grapes and produces a dynamic and robust Zinfandel.

This 2021 vintage wine is one of the smoothest and most fragrant bottlings of our 'Old Vines'. It is very aromatic with scents of boysenberry and sweet clove followed by ripe berry, dried herb, and cacao on the palate, with a soft and luscious texture. Pairs well with a variety of foods including hamburgers and all things bbq. **291 cases.**

2017 'Dijon Clones' Sonoma County Pinot Noir (Cellar Pick)

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 are fortunate that our friends at Robert Sinskey winery were able to offer to us some amazing '777' Dijon Clone fruit from their Ramal Road Vineyard which is located at the southernmost end of the town of Sonoma.

For this cellar pick the wine is tasting wonderful right now. It is enticingly fragrant with an aroma of damson plum, dried spice, light oak and lavender. Pomegranate and a touch of tea leaves belie the fruit character. Flavors of cranberry and citrus mix with the earth notes adding depth and intrigue.

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 malo-lactic fermentation and barreled down to traditional burgundian barrels. The barrels used were 37.5% new French oak and 62.5% two and three year old French barrels and aged 9 months before bottling. **Only 200 cases produced.**

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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 or you may download it from our website on the Wine Club tab. 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 2023 Spring club release we may stagger our shipping dates based upon your residency. This is due to the various weather and temperatures throughout the U.S. at this time of year. **We will begin shipping club packages the week of March 13, 2023.**

Pickup members will have the wines available beginning on March 17, 2023. Pick up members will have nine months to make arrangements for pickup 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 2022 club release will be sent.

We also have available for optional purchase some of these 2022 Fall release wines. As always, please contact Matt directly at the winery (707) 942-4912 if you have any questions.

