

# SOJOURN

NEWSLETTER AND WINE OFFERING

FALL 2011

*"Life is but a Sojourn. Enjoy the best of it."—Plato*

**INDIAN SUMMER IS UPON US** here in the Northern California wine country. School has started, veraison is complete, and **THE SOJOURN CELLARS FALL 2011 WINE RELEASE** has arrived! After a successful Spring Release and a series of stellar scores, we are proud to bring you six smaller production wines from the Russian River Valley, Sonoma Coast and Napa Valley appellations. Each of these wines has received over 90 points from either the *Wine Spectator*, Robert Parker or Greg Walter's *Pinot Report* (and in many cases, all three).

The Fall 2011 Release includes one Sonoma Coast and two Russian River Valley Pinot noirs, as well as three Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons.

- **2009 Ridgetop Vineyard Pinot noir**
- **2009 Wohler Vineyard Pinot noir**
- **2009 Russian River Valley Pinot noir**
- **2008 Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon**
- **2008 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon**
- **2008 Proprietary Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon**

We are thrilled to present two fabulous new vineyard designate Pinot noirs from the Sonoma Coast and Russian River Valley appellations. The Ridgetop Vineyard lies in the remote coastal mountains at the northern edge of the Sonoma Coast AVA. It is owned by Thomas Rivers Brown and Fred Schrader and is the source for their highly acclaimed Aston Estate Pinot noir wines, which are offered to Schrader Cellars customers. Sojourn is fortunate to be one of only a few producers accessing this extraordinary fruit, and this wine is already drawing accolades, including a 94 point rating by the *Wine Spectator*.

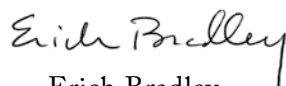
The Wohler Vineyard Pinot noir is our second vineyard designate wine from the Russian River Valley AVA. This

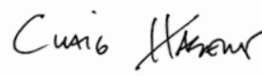
young vineyard has the potential to deliver exceptional wines for years to come, and we expect its following to grow accordingly. Both Robert Parker and the *Wine Spectator* have awarded this wine 92 points. The final Pinot noir in this Fall 2011 Release is the Russian River Valley appellation blend—a terrific follow-up to its 2008 predecessor.

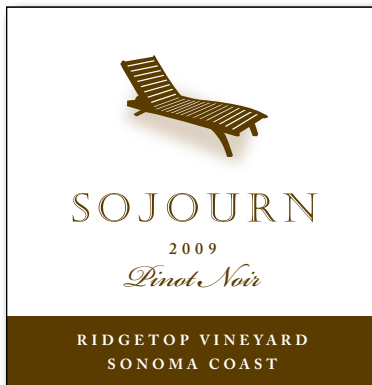
Our Sojourn Cellars Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon program continues to thrive with the release of 2008 vintage wines from Spring Mountain District and Howell Mountain, as well as a very special new blend, the 2008 Napa Valley Proprietary Cuvée. All three of these wines are stunningly rich and complex, while maintaining the smooth tannins and silky mouthfeel that Sojourn fans have come to love and expect.

In the Spring we launched a Where Do You Sojourn? contest and invited you to submit photos and stories detailing your adventures with Sojourn wines. We would like to extend a special thank you to all of you who made the time to enter. Your creations impressed and entertained us. We want to congratulate the Goldman group, whose sojourn to France with a bottle of our 2008 Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III Cabernet Sauvignon took the top prize. We look forward to seeing them in Sonoma!

Our **TASTING SALON HAS GARNERED ATTENTION AS A TOP DESTINATION** for very high quality Pinot noir and Cabernet Sauvignon in Sonoma County. Tastings are conducted by appointment in a relaxed, sit-down setting. We hope you will refer your friends or schedule a visit the next time you are in wine country. Whether it's in our Tasting Salon or on the road, we look forward to sharing our Fall 2011 wines with you over the coming months. Cheers!

  
Erich Bradley  
Winemaker

  
Craig Haserot  
Winetaster

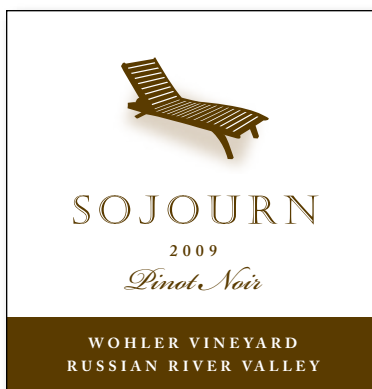


## 2009 Pinot Noir, Ridgetop Vineyard, Sonoma Coast

We are thrilled to present our inaugural 2009 vintage Pinot noir from the Ridgetop Vineyard, owned by Thomas Rivers Brown and Fred Schrader. Ridgetop is located in the remote coastal mountains along the northern Sonoma Coast near Annapolis, and famed vineyard manager Ulises Valdez cares for this extreme vineyard site with precise attention to detail and meticulous farming practices. Surrounded by redwoods at approximately 1100 feet above the Pacific, the salty sea air and ocean breezes are ever present, with thick fog receding each day to present ideal ripening conditions for Pinot noir.

The vines produce miniscule yields with concentrated flavors, provocative aromatics and silky texture as they struggle to grow in Goldridge loam soils and a collection of old silt, sandstone and remnants of ancient seabed. We blended clones 115, 667 and 777 from separately fermented lots to produce this wine with exotic red and orange fruit aromas overlaying a bold strength and complexity at its core.

**94 POINTS WINE SPECTATOR**    **93 POINTS PINOT REPORT**

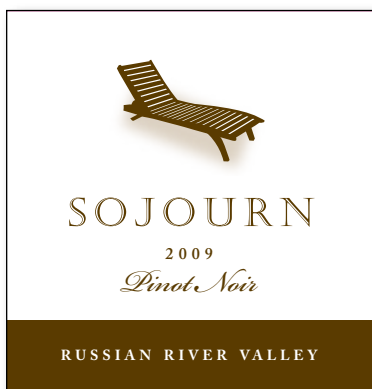


## 2009 Pinot Noir, Wohler Vineyard, Russian River Valley

We discovered the Wohler Vineyard, located near Forestville in the heart of the Russian River Valley AVA, in 2009. The vineyard was replanted in 2005 to Pinot noir clones 115, 667 and 828. Despite their youth, the vines produced outstanding fruit for us in 2009, and we believe this vineyard has the potential to produce distinctive Pinot noir for years to come. This is a reflection of a combination of the renowned terroir and Goldridge loam soils, together with aggressive farming designed to limit yields and strengthen the vines for subsequent vintages.

Because of the low yields, we produced only 215 cases of this acclaimed wine, which we expect to sell out quickly. The aromas are of bright red fruit with hints of sassafras and forest floor. Classic cherry, cola and earthy flavors lead to textures balanced by a mix of lush depth and firm tension.

**92+ POINTS ROBERT PARKER**    **92 POINTS WINE SPECTATOR**



## 2009 Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley

The Russian River Valley appellation became a more important fruit source for us beginning in 2008 as we looked to expand our Pinot noir program. This scenic wine region is cool and foggy, and 40 degree daily temperature fluctuations are common. The Russian River Valley has been the epicenter for high quality Pinot noir in California since the 1970's and remains a prominent source for several benchmark New World Pinot noirs. Our 2009 Russian River Valley Pinot noir is a blend of two vineyards, and for the second year in a row, offers a beautiful expression of the varietal and the cool climate and loamy soils it excels in.

We sourced fruit from two vineyards in 2009 that complement each other to create a concentrated, complex blend that screams classic Russian River Valley. Pinot noir clone 115 from Suacci Vineyard along the southern border of the AVA provides a core of fine-grained tannins and bright aromatics. Clones 115 and 667 from Sapphire Hill Vineyard, situated further north, add body, lush texture and darker flavor components. The resulting blend has a firm, balanced structure with multiple layers of fruit and earth.

**90 POINTS WINE SPECTATOR**    **90 POINTS ROBERT PARKER**



*Let Sojourn Help with  
Your Holiday Gift List!*

Sojourn Cellars offers a personalized Corporate and Holiday Gift Program. Although the leaves are just beginning to fall, the holidays are rapidly approaching. We invite you to consider our wines for your corporate contacts, friends, family and holiday entertaining needs.

Gift options include single bottles, verticals, wooden boxes branded with your corporate logo, and large format bottles (1.5, 3, 5 and 6 liter bottles available), or we invite you to create your own custom gift packs. Contact us at 707.933.9753 for options and pricing.

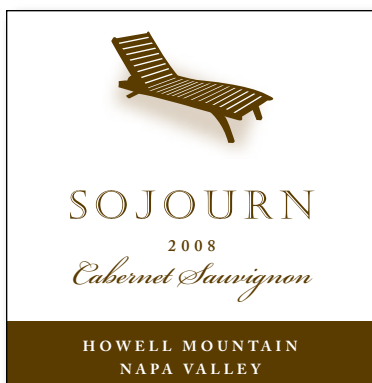


## 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, Spring Mountain District

For the 2008 vintage, we blended 14% Merlot with 86% Cabernet Sauvignon from separate vineyard blocks straddling the ridges of Spring Mountain. Spring Mountain lies in the Mayacama mountain range dividing Santa Rosa and St. Helena, and the Spring Mountain District AVA is a sub-appellation within the larger Napa Valley AVA. It is a wild place with varied terrain, steep slopes, redwoods and some very interesting characters and critters alike!

We sourced grapes for our 2008 Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon from a vineyard situated near the top of Spring Mountain. Planted in 1972, the vines are dry farmed and grow on steep, southern-facing slopes that produce, along with many of their famous neighbors, concentrated flavors and bold mountain structure. The 2008 vintage shows increased depth and character, with strong aromatics of blackberry and dark chocolate leading to ripe cassis and tobacco framed by broad shoulders and fine tannins.

**91 POINTS WINE SPECTATOR 91 POINTS ROBERT PARKER**

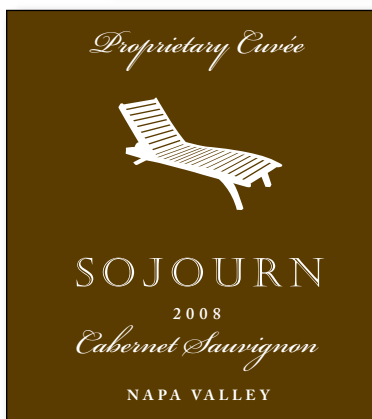


## 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain

Our 2008 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon once again lives up to the promise of its exceptional appellation. Howell Mountain is famed for producing stellar Cabernet Sauvignon with characteristic black fruit, incredible varietal intensity and excellent ageing potential. Rocky, well-drained soils of decomposed volcanic ash and red clay deliver wines with excellent balance and complexity.

In 2008, we again sourced fruit from the historic Polaris Vineyard located at 1750 feet near the town of Angwin. The vineyard sits above the clouds where it receives plenty of sun to ripen the fruit and cool nights to retain acidity. Soils are gravelly with limited nutrients, causing significant vine stress. The 2008 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon is even more concentrated than its predecessor and structured with layers of complex black fruit, surrounded by that ever-present Sojourn silky mouthfeel. This is a very pleasing wine with classic Howell Mountain structure and new world freshness.

**90 POINTS ROBERT PARKER**



## 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, Proprietary Cuvée, Napa Valley

The 2008 vintage is notable for very high quality Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. This was especially true for our Napa Valley vineyards, providing us a unique opportunity to create an exceptional cuvée of Cabernet Sauvignon. This new wine, the Sojourn Cellars Proprietary Cuvée, is our optimal blend of Cabernet Sauvignon from renowned Napa Valley hillside and valley floor vineyards.

This phenomenal blend combines the lush textures and vibrant fruit of Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III in Rutherford with the darker fruit and firm structure of Spring Mountain and Howell Mountain fruit. The resulting wine has excellent balance and an explosive mix of cassis, red fruit, chocolate and sweet spice, while retaining the seductive textures and silky tannins from the Georges III component. Spring Mountain provides broad shoulders and blackberry, while Howell Mountain balances the wine with touches of fresh acidity, minerality and cocoa.

**92 POINTS ROBERT PARKER 91 POINTS WINE SPECTATOR**

## *Spring 2012 Wine Releases*

2010 Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot noir

2010 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot noir

2010 Rodgers Creek Vineyard Pinot noir

2009 Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III Cabernet Sauvignon

2009 Home Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon



## ULISES: THE TALE OF LEGENDARY PINOT NOIR

Legendary Pinot noir can only be made from grapes grown in extraordinary soils, in ideal locations, under optimal growing conditions, and farmed by meticulous souls striving for greatness. In the Ridgetop Vineyard, we have found such a place. And we have found a meticulous soul and master Pinot noir farmer —*Ulises Valdez*.

When Ulises Valdez came to the U.S. in 1985 after leaving his home state of Michoacán, his goal was to work hard and make enough money to start a small business back in Mexico. He didn't imagine that he would eventually manage 1,000 acres of prime Sonoma County vineyards as the owner of a successful vineyard management company, or become a successful vintner. He is now the **most sought after vineyard manager along the Sonoma Coast**.

Ulises is best known for growing grapes for highly-rated Pinot noir and Chardonnay wines produced year after year by Mark Aubert and Paul Hobbs. **Ridgetop Vineyard owners Thomas Rivers Brown and Fred Schrader** are wine legends themselves, producing multiple 100 point Napa Cabernet Sauvignon wines under the Schrader Cellars label. They developed the Ridgetop Vineyard for their Aston Estate label that is marketed to the Schrader customer base, and they sought out Ulises Valdez to manage the vineyard for the highest possible quality. The resulting Pinot noirs speak for themselves, and it is obvious that the soils, location, conditions and Ulises' farming combine to achieve greatness.

Sojourn Cellars began making wine from Ridgetop Vineyard with the 2009 vintage and received 94 points from Wine Spectator in this debut bottling. Starting with the 2011 vintage, Sojourn will also be making Pinot noir from two additional vineyards managed by Ulises Valdez, the famed **Silver Eagle Vineyard** in the Russian River Valley and **Campbell Ranch Vineyard** near Annapolis, only a few miles from Ridgetop.

"If you want quality, you gotta be aggressive," Valdez says. "You can't be afraid to drop crop yield to get quality." Ulises is uncompromising, and it shows in the high quality of grapes and wines produced from the vineyards he farms.



## *Purchasing Our Wines*

The best way to acquire our wines is to purchase them direct from the winery. We have implemented a secure online ordering system accessible at [www.sojourncellars.com](http://www.sojourncellars.com). We also welcome orders via phone, fax and snail mail using the personalized order form included with this newsletter. To ensure the fulfillment of your allocation, please log on or return your Order Form as soon as possible. If you would like additional bottles, please fill in the "Additional Bottles Requested" column, and we will do our best to accommodate these requests.

## *Visit Us in Sonoma!*

We welcome the opportunity to host you at our Tasting Salon located just off the Plaza in downtown Sonoma. Sojourn Cellars offers a unique, comparative tasting where guests explore the nuances of terroir and distinctive vineyard sites. Our seated tastings feature flights of single vineyard and appellation Pinot noir and Cabernet Sauvignon served in elegant Riedel stemware and shared in a relaxed setting. To ensure a quality, educational and intimate experience, we offer tastings daily by appointment only. To schedule your tasting, please contact us at **707.938.7212** or [salon@sojourncellars.com](mailto:salon@sojourncellars.com).

## *Contact Us*

Tasting Salon  
141 East Napa Street  
Sonoma, CA 95476  
T: 707.938.7212

Mailing Address  
PO Box 1953  
Sonoma, CA 95476  
T: 707.933.9753  
F: 707.940.0303

*Order Wine Online:*  
[www.sojourncellars.com](http://www.sojourncellars.com)

*Join Our Mailing List:*  
[mailinglist@sojourncellars.com](mailto:mailinglist@sojourncellars.com)

*Follow us on* **FACEBOOK**