

SOJOURN

NEWSLETTER AND WINE OFFERING

FALL 2015

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

Midway Through the Trifecta!

Last fall we spoke about good things coming in threes and the recent trifecta of truly outstanding vintages. We are now midway through three fabulous years of grape growing: 2012, 2013 and 2014. Earlier this year we released our first 2013 vintages of Pinot noir and Chardonnay to rave reviews from critics and customers alike. This fall we are very proud to continue that trend with five Pinot noir, two Chardonnay and two Cabernet Sauvignon wines.

The Fall 2015 Release brings the return of our small production West Sonoma Coast and Russian River Valley Pinot noir wines, as well as the second vintages of both our Durell and Campbell Ranch Vineyard Chardonnays. The Cabernet Sauvignon wines in this release hail from Napa Valley and live up to the hype of both the 2012 vintage and the renowned pedigree of the Oakville and Rutherford growing regions. We are especially thrilled to offer the return of our coveted Proprietary Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon – a remarkable wine that should not be missed.

Our Fall Release wines have already received high praise from *The Pinot Report*, Robert Parker and *Wine Enthusiast* with scores in the mid-90s. **Leading the way are two 95 point wines: the 2013 Wohler Vineyard Pinot noir and 2013 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay**, described by Robert Parker as "...a full bodied, complex, impressively endowed and multi-layered wine." We couldn't agree more. Other Pinot noir wines in this release include three impressive vineyard designates from the West Sonoma Coast: Silver Eagle, Campbell Ranch and Ridgetop Vineyards. Ridgetop has matured into a world-class site under the care of Thomas Rivers Brown and Ulises Valdez, and the wines continue to gain complexity with each new vintage (read more about Ridgetop on page 4). Finally, our **2013 Russian River Valley Pinot noir, which has been rated 94 points**, remains a tremendous value at \$42.

The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon wines are simply spectacular. This vintage rose to the top due to ideal weather conditions, and



"The 2013 Wohler Vineyard Pinot Noir reveals beautiful, sweet, Volnay-like strawberry and wild berry fruit, a lush, hedonistic texture, medium to full body and good purity." – Robert Parker

there was no better place for Cabernet Sauvignon in 2012 than Napa Valley. Our Proprietary Cuvée is a guilty pleasure blend of Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III on the Rutherford valley floor, complemented by the incredible texture and structure of the hillside Oakville Ranch Vineyard. This is an impressive wine. Rounding out the wine offerings in this release is our **2012 Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon, rated 93 points** by both Robert Parker and *Wine Enthusiast*. It is full-bodied, velvety, and as smooth as the summer day is long.

As we begin the Fall Release, we are already well into the 2015 harvest, which has started even earlier than the early 2014 harvest. We've had an unusual weather year, with a warm, dry winter, cold spring, and a roller coaster summer of both hot and cool temperatures. The dry start has resulted in grapes of high quality so far this harvest. Thank you for your continued support of Sojourn Cellars, and here's to a possible four-peat of excellent vintages!

Erich Bradley
Erich Bradley
Winemaker

Craig Haserot
Craig Haserot
Proprietor

2013 WOHLER VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

This wine is approachable now, with silky tannins and expressive aromatics reflective of a blending change. Pinot noir clones 667 and 828 form the foundation this vintage, providing a rich, lush core. A touch of Wadensville 2A clone adds focus and earthy aromatics. This subtle blending change resulted in a wine that Robert Parker described as revealing "...beautiful, sweet, Volnay-like strawberry and wild berry fruit, a lush, hedonistic texture, with excellent depth...this big-time winner should drink well for 6-9 years."

Wohler Vineyard is located at the junction of Wohler Road and Eastside Road just minutes from the iconic vineyards that originally established the Russian River Valley as a world-class growing region for Pinot noir.

95 Points – Pinot Report

2013 SILVER EAGLE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, SONOMA COAST

This is one of the most complex and deep wines we have made to date. It is a thinker's wine, with layers of aromas and flavors that evolve in glass and a texture that is silky smooth, yet has enough tension to remain focused on the palate. The vineyard is located north of Occidental at the western edge of the Sonoma Coast. Famed vineyard manager Ulises Valdez cares for this vineyard with an uncommon attention to detail. Mark Aubert helped develop this site into a world-class vineyard that is gaining acclaim.

Pinot noir clones Pommard, Calera and Vosne-Romanée were blended to create this complex wine with intense structure and distinctive character.

94 Points – Wine Enthusiast

2013 RIDGETOP VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, SONOMA COAST

Ridgetop Vineyard is owned by Fred Schrader and Thomas Rivers Brown and is located in the remote coastal mountains along the northern Sonoma Coast near Annapolis. Ulises Valdez tends to the vineyard diligently, and the resulting wines showcase his high-quality farming as well as this unique vineyard site.

This wine offers explosive aromas of red and tropical fruits and burnt orange overlaying a bold strength and complexity at its core. The texture is rich and supple. It is a pleasure to drink! The vineyard is located high above the Pacific where ocean breezes are ever present, and the vines produce miniscule yields with concentrated flavors, provocative aromatics, and silky texture.

93 Points – Wine Enthusiast

PURCHASING OUR WINES

The best way to acquire our wines is to purchase them directly from the winery. We have implemented a secure online ordering system accessible at www.sojourncellars.com.

We also welcome orders via phone, fax and snail mail using the personalized order form included with this newsletter. To ensure fulfillment of your allocation, please log in 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 your requests.

2013 DURELL VINEYARD CHARDONNAY, SONOMA COAST

Both Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate* and *Wine Enthusiast* rated this wine at 95 points, claiming it as one of the top 2013 Chardonnay wines produced in California. We are thrilled with the accolades. Durell Vineyard has been the source behind some of the most sought-after Chardonnay wines, and we feel fortunate to work with two outstanding vineyard blocks that combine to make something special. Our 100% Old Wente clone Chardonnay was harvested at night and pressed to extract only the highest quality juice.

The Sojourn 2013 Durell Chardonnay is lively and exotic with rich flavors, complexity and smooth texture. We fermented in French oak barrels to produce an expansive wine that illustrates the balance and exceptional character of the vintage.

95 Points – Robert Parker

2013 CAMPELL RANCH VINEYARD CHARDONNAY, SONOMA COAST

The Campbell Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay has been a Sojourn team favorite wine this summer. It is lively and refreshing, with flinty aromas and notes of green apple and honeysuckle. The texture is smooth, with medium weight and exceptional persistence.

This vineyard sits a stone's throw from the Pacific Ocean and benefits from cool coastal wind and foggy mornings that clear to warm afternoons, providing excellent temperature variation between night and day. The extremes in temperature are ideal for retaining acidity, while the phenolic ripeness and flavors flourish in the afternoon heat. Renowned grower Ulises Valdez farms our block of Old Wente clone with precise attention to detail, resulting in a concentrated Chardonnay with depth of character.

94 Points – Wine Enthusiast

2013 CAMPBELL RANCH VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, SONOMA COAST

This vineyard is located in the northern coastal mountains near Anapolis, at a 750 foot elevation and is surrounded by redwood forest. In 2013 we fermented Pinot noir clone 777 with stems included and blended it with clone 115, which was fermented entirely destemmed. The resulting wine offers compelling aromas of crushed dark red berries and spice that draw you into the glass. It is smooth and refined, with delicious flavors and earthy tones.

Winemaker Erich Bradley describes the grapes from Campbell Ranch as "the best fruit I have ever tasted!" Famed grower Ulises Valdez manages this cool coastal vineyard with exceptional care and farms it for the highest quality, which certainly comes through in the glass.

93 Points – PinotFile

2012 PROPRIETARY CUVÉE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

2012 marks the return of the Proprietary Cuvée. This wine is our optimal blend of Cabernet Sauvignon from renowned Napa Valley hillside and valley floor vineyards. We produce a Proprietary Cuvée only in vintages when we can create a blend of exceptional quality and ageing potential. The 2012 vintage provided ideal weather conditions in Napa Valley. This wine showcases two exclusive vineyards – famed Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III in Rutherford and the exclusive, hillside Oakville Ranch Vineyard.

The resulting wine is balanced and impressive. It possesses gorgeous red and dark fruit aromas that lead to flavors of dark cherry, earth and mouth-watering chocolate. Enjoy now or sock it away to enjoy for years to come. Only 150 cases produced!

94 Points – Wine Enthusiast

2013 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

Our 2013 Russian River Valley Pinot noir is a blend of three vineyards. Wohler and Riddle vineyards make up the majority and, in 2013, we included a small amount of a special Vosne-Romanee clone from the renowned Reuling Vineyard. This wine offers provocative aromatics and is smooth and silky with multiple layers of red fruit and earth. It is a tremendous value at only \$42!

Wohler Vineyard is located in the heart of the Russian River Valley and serves as the foundation. Located in Green Valley, Riddle is a young vineyard with exceptional Goldridge soils and sits high up on a ridge. Riddle adds deep complex layers of red and dark fruits. Reuling is an iconic vineyard near Graton that adds depth and intrigue to the blend.

94 Points – Wine Enthusiast

2012 OAKVILLE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

This wine was made primarily from grapes grown at Oakville Ranch Vineyard, located in the hills among famous neighbors Dalla Valle, Pedregal and Backus vineyards. 2012 provided ideal weather conditions for the grapes to ripen optimally under the care of esteemed organic viticulturist Phil Coturi. This wine spent nearly four weeks fermenting on skins to ensure that the tannins and fruit flavors were balanced. The resulting wine is rich and vibrant, offering vivid flavors of blackberry, raspberry and mocha, with hints of graphite.

Oakville Ranch Vineyard sits at 1400 feet overlooking Napa Valley. The sprinkling of clay over volcanic rocks, high elevation and western exposure combine to produce powerful, rich, structured wines.

93 Points – Robert Parker

METEOROLOGY OF TWO GREAT VINTAGES

WINEMAKER UPDATE

The 2013 growing season started off with rains through late winter and early spring, saturating the soil to capacity. We were able to hold off on irrigation and keep the fruit concentrated later into the season. The weather cleared and warmed during May, allowing for healthy flowering and impressive fruit set. The summer was warm with typical morning fog clearing to hot afternoons that allowed the grapes to retain natural acidity while the tannins and flavors matured on schedule.

Veraison took a bit longer than usual, but a heat spike in September pushed the grapes to optimal maturity. All of the Pinot noir and Chardonnay fruit was picked at perfect ripeness in September, and there was no rain to affect picking decisions. The resulting 2013 vintage wines are spectacular, with ripe fruit flavors, fabulous acidity, concentration, finesse and superb elegance.

2012 began with rain in the winter and occasional drizzle during spring. In late May the weather cleared and warmed for fantastic flowering and fruit-set. There was one final sprinkle of rain in early June that gave way to a spectacular summer of consistent heat that enabled our Cabernet Sauvignon vines to develop pristine, full bunches. September brought weather challenges in the form of a few small rain showers that cooled and extended the ripening season. Fortunately, this allowed the grapes to develop more nuanced flavors without causing any rot. We picked in October after the weather settled and the fruit developed optimal flavors during the final few weeks of hang time. The resulting wines exhibit brilliant fruit, robust tannins and lively site characteristics.

RIDGETOP VINEYARD SPOTLIGHT

Ridgetop Vineyard was born from a shared passion for exceptional Pinot noir wines and represents a dynamic collaboration between winemaker Thomas Rivers Brown and vintner Fred Schrader. Even though Thomas Brown is best known for crafting highly rated Cabernet Sauvignon wines, Pinot noir is his first love. His passion for Pinot noir has had an unmistakable impact on the quality of Ridgetop Vineyard farming as well as on the site selection itself.

The combination of superb marine-influenced climate and a proven track record for producing top quality grapes have catapulted this region into the spotlight and West Sonoma Coast wines are a “must have” for Pinot noir lovers.

The journey began in 2001 when Thomas Brown discovered a spectacular piece of land near the town of Annapolis, in the heart of California’s West Sonoma Coast. The estate was developed and planted with three premium Dijon clones: 115, 667, and 777. These three clones combine to create the balance, integrity, character and nuance that defines our Sojourn Cellars Ridgetop Vineyard Pinot noir.

Today, under the direction of renowned vineyard manager Ulises Valdez, Ridgetop Vineyard produces beautiful, small, loose clusters with tiny berries that become elegant, richly flavored, and classically styled Pinot noirs. Located two ridgelines in from the Pacific Coast, the vineyard possesses a unique microclimate that perfectly balances cool marine mornings and evenings with warm afternoons to achieve optimal ripeness. The vineyard is surrounded by redwoods at approximately 1,100 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.

2013 was our fifth year sourcing fruit from Ridgetop Vineyard. The vines produce minuscule yields each vintage, 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. The resulting wine is an exceptional, showy, full-bodied Pinot noir.



PAIRING FOR RIDGETOP VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

MISO SALMON WITH ORANGE AND FENNEL

The fennel and orange give the salmon amazing aroma. They also serve another purpose – to keep the salmon elevated so that heat can circulate more effectively. If you do not have fennel, substitute with thinly sliced onion and fresh herbs of your choice (parsley, basil, thyme, oregano, etc.) The miso marinade pairs perfectly with salmon and the Sojourn Ridgetop Vineyard Pinot noir.

Ingredients (Serves 2) – 45-60 minutes total time

4 salmon fillets	½ orange
2 tbsp miso paste	2 tbsp sake (or white dry wine)
1 tbsp honey	1 bulb fennel
½ tsp grated fresh ginger	Salt and pepper to taste

1. Marinate the salmon with the pepper, miso paste, honey, sake and ginger for at least 1 hour or overnight in the refrigerator. It is easiest to do this in a resealable bag.
2. When ready to cook, preheat oven to 375F. Thinly slice the orange (you can keep the peel on) and the fennel bulb. Layer the orange and fennel slices on a baking sheet.
3. Place the marinated salmon on top (discard the leftover marinade). Cover the salmon with several sprigs of the fennel fronds.
4. Bake for 15-18 minutes or until desired level of doneness. Serve with rice.

Recipe from: SteamyKitchen.com

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, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. To ensure a quality, educational and intimate experience, we offer tastings daily by appointment only.

CONTACT US

Tasting Salon

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