

SOJOURN

NEWSLETTER AND WINE OFFERING

FALL 2016

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

A DECADE OF EXCELLENCE IN PINOT NOIR!

Ten years ago this past April, Sojourn released 210 cases of our first single vineyard Pinot noir from Sangiacomo Vineyard. To quote from our newsletter, "...our plan is to produce multiple, small lots of vineyard designate Pinot noir from the Sonoma Coast and Russian River Valley appellations. We feel these areas have the most potential to create complex Pinot noirs, and we have procured several new vineyard fruit sources starting with the 2006 vintage."

Since that initial release of Pinot noir, we have blossomed. In addition to the seven unique vineyard designate and two appellation Pinot noirs we are offering in 2016, we have expanded our Cabernet Sauvignon program into Napa Valley and have added four spectacular Chardonnay wines from the Sonoma Coast. **Nine of these wines are coming your way with the Fall 2016 Wine Release.** These wines are receiving high praise from *Wine Spectator*, Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*, and *Wine Enthusiast*. We are excited to unveil them to you, our most loyal customers.

Leading the way this fall is our inaugural release of two new 2014 single vineyard wines: **Riddle Vineyard Pinot noir (94 points) and Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay (93 points).** Riddle Vineyard is located in Green Valley near the town of Occidental. Situated high on a ridge with gentle, north facing slopes, the vineyard overlooks many of the iconic Pinot noir vineyards in the West Sonoma Coast region. Our new Gap's Crown Chardonnay comes from the same Petaluma Gap vineyard as our highly acclaimed Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot noir, and we are thrilled to add it to our growing portfolio of single vineyard Chardonnay wines.

Rounding out a spectacular selection are our **Reuling Vineyard (94 points) and Ridgetop Vineyard (94 points)** Pinot noirs from the West Sonoma Coast and two Russian River Valley releases: Wohler Vineyard (93 points) and our Russian River Valley appellation blend (93 points). We recommend you try them all.



2013 Cabernet Sauvignon wines are the cream of the crop - a full notch up from the 2012 vintage, and there was no better place in 2013 for Cabernet Sauvignon than Napa Valley. Our Proprietary Cuvée is a blend of Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III valley floor fruit complemented by the incredible texture and structure of Oakville Ranch Vineyard fruit. This carefully crafted cuvée yields a guilty pleasure, impress-your-friends, dinner party wine. Our 2013 Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon offers full body, velvety texture and smoothness, not to mention a terrific value at \$69.

Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge our stunning **2014 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay**. This lush and spectacular wine has already received a 94-point rating from *Wine Enthusiast*, and it just keeps getting better in the bottle. We love it, especially during these hot Indian Summer months.

Two partners with a hint of an idea, a shared love of great wine and a passion for Pinot noir started Sojourn Cellars with 125 cases of Cabernet Sauvignon and our Christmas card list. A lot has happened in these past ten years, and we sincerely thank all of you who have come along on this ride with us. We truly appreciate your continued support and patronage. Here's to the next ten years!

Erich Bradley
Erich Bradley
Winemaker

Craig Haserot
Craig Haserot
Proprietor

New!

2014 RIDDLE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR SONOMA COAST

We are thrilled to present our inaugural release of Riddle Vineyard Pinot noir – a compelling wine from the West Sonoma Coast. Riddle is located in Green Valley near the town of Occidental. Situated high on a coastal ridge with a gentle slope, this vineyard overlooks many of the iconic Pinot noir vineyards of the region. This wine showcases Sojourn's signature smooth texture, length and longevity.

Its foundation is the distinctive Mt. Eden Pinot noir clone, which was taken as original bud wood from a prominent vineyard planted along California's Central Coast. It provides intriguing brambleberry fruit flavors, concentration and silky tannins. Clones 115 and Pommard add layers of red fruit and earth to build complexity and balance.

94 Points – Wine Enthusiast

2014 RIDGETOP VINEYARD PINOT NOIR SONOMA COAST

Ridgetop Vineyard, owned by Fred Schrader and Thomas Rivers Brown, is located in the remote coastal mountains along the northern Sonoma Coast near Annapolis. The vineyard is located high above the Pacific, where ocean breezes are ever present and the vines produce miniscule yields with concentrated flavors and provocative aromatics as they struggle to grow. 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! Only 250 cases produced.

94 Points – PinotFile

2014 REULING VINEYARD PINOT NOIR SONOMA COAST

Reuling is an iconic vineyard located between Graton and Forestville, and we are excited to produce wine from a vineyard with such distinctive terroir. It is planted to three unique clones: Calera and two different "suitcase" clones from the Vosne-Romanée region of Burgundy. Mark Aubert helped develop the vineyard and produced highly rated Reuling Pinot noirs for nearly ten years.

The rare mix of Burgundy clones yields a wine of exceptional character. This Pinot noir is impressive, with complex aromas of earth and forest floor that open up to dark cherry, mushroom and truffle notes that are unusual and intriguing for a California Pinot. "It really pushes the savory aspects ... it's Pinot noir as I like it." – Erich Bradley

94 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.

2014 DURELL VINEYARD CHARDONNAY SONOMA COAST

Durell Vineyard has been the source behind some of the most sought-after California Chardonnay wines and is often named one of the top 5 Chardonnay vineyards in Sonoma County. The unique character of this wine begins with rocky, volcanic soils, along with cool winds and fog that blanket these hills each evening. Our two blocks of 100% Old Wente clone Chardonnay combine to create an exceptional, balanced wine. We harvest at night and press to extract only the highest quality juice.

The Sojourn 2014 Durell Vineyard 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.

94 Points – Wine Enthusiast

New!

2014 GAP'S CROWN VINEYARD CHARDONNAY SONOMA COAST

As our most mineral-driven Chardonnay, this wine offers layers of depth and nuance. The Price Family Vineyards team farms Gap's Crown to exacting standards of quality and precision. We source Chardonnay grapes from two distinct blocks within the vineyard, each providing key pieces of the profile. Clusters are typically small and dense with prominent hen and chick berries. The final wine is blended just before bottling to achieve optimal balance.

Zesty aromas of citrus, flint, and floral notes lead to flavors of stone fruit. The texture is smooth and persistent. 2014 is our inaugural release of this vineyard designate Chardonnay, and it will appeal to Francophiles and new-world Chardonnay fans alike.

93 Points – Wine Enthusiast

2014 WOHLER VINEYARD PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Our Wohler Vineyard Pinot noir has become a fan favorite and sells out quickly on release. 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.

This wine has a rich, lush core with Pinot noir clones 667 and 828 forming its foundation. A touch of Wädenswil 2A clone adds focus and earthy aromatics. The 2014 blend resulted in a fabulous wine that Robert Parker described as, "lovely currant, ...acidity is present, tannins ripe, and the wine generous, round and juicy. Drink it over the next 5-6 years."

93 Points – PinotFile

2013 PROPRIETARY CUVÉE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY

Proprietary Cuvée 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 with aging potential. The 2013 vintage provided idyllic weather conditions in Napa Valley. This wine features 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. This vintage is truly exceptional. Enjoy now or sock it away to enjoy for years to come. Only 150 cases produced!

2014 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

Our 2014 Russian River Valley Pinot noir is a blend from three vineyards. Wohler and Riddle vineyards make up the majority, and, in 2014, we included components from the famed Pratt Vineyard located in the Freestone Hills. Pratt provides additional layers of dark fruit and notes of forest floor, in addition to depth and structure on the palate. It balances out the red fruit profiles and lush textures from Wohler and Riddle Vineyards.

The resulting blend has a firm, balanced structure and multiple layers of red and dark fruit, earth and floral notes. This Pinot noir exudes intriguing aromatics that lead to a lush, silky texture. It has medium-ruby color and is drinking exceptionally well right now.

93 Points – Wine Enthusiast

2013 OAKVILLE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY

This wine was made primarily from grapes grown at Oakville Ranch Vineyard, located in the hills among famous adjacent neighbors Dalla Valle, Pedregal and Backus. The lauded 2013 vintage provided ideal weather conditions for the grapes to ripen optimally under the care of esteemed organic viticulturist Phil Coturri. This wine spent three 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 1,400 feet overlooking Napa Valley. The sprinkling of clay over volcanic rocks, high elevation and western exposure combine to produce powerful, rich, structured wines.

UPDATE FROM THE VINEYARDS

The 2016 vintage is just starting to shape up as we write this update. Veraison is in full swing and sparkling wine producers are already picking. The Sojourn harvest will be early again this year due to warm winter weather. Vines are healthy, with strong canopies. Yields will be lighter than normal with small, loose clusters – this pattern typically results in wines of high concentration and good aging potential. We are visiting each vineyard 1-2 times each week to monitor progress and direct farming operations.

Your allocation this release includes several Pinot noir and Chardonnay wines from the 2014 vintage. The 2014 growing season also began very early with winter drought conditions leading to early bud break. These conditions were very similar to what we are seeing now in 2016. Thicker grape skins and even ripening resulted in robust, complex wines of depth and nuance.

BEST NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON VINTAGE! Robert Parker of *The Wine Advocate* rated the 2013 vintage of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 98 points, making it the highest rated vintage in the history of the region. Our 2013 Proprietary Cuvée and 2013 Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon share a common blending component from the famed Oakville Ranch Vineyard. These wines showcase the deep concentration and rich character of this phenomenal Napa Valley vintage.

- Erich Bradley & Randy Bennett,
Winemakers, August 2016



EL DORADO
HOTEL

DUCK CONFIT WITH CREAMY POLENTA, SEASONAL VEGETABLES, & CHERRY SAUCE

From El Dorado Kitchen Executive Chef Armando Navarro

Duck (substitute chicken for duck if desired)

4 duck legs	2 cups duck fat
2 sprigs rosemary	2 sprigs thyme
6 peppercorns	1 bay leaf

Put duck legs, duck fat, and herbs in roasting pan, cover with foil, and cook at 200 degrees for 2-3 hours until the bones come out easily. Sear duck skin side down in skillet for golden brown color.

Polenta

1 cup polenta	4 cups water
½ cup Parmesan, grated	¼ cup butter

Salt to taste

Gradually add one cup of polenta for every four cups of water. Stir frequently for approximately 25 minutes. Finish with butter and Parmesan. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Cherry Duck Sauce

2 cups port wine	¼ lb duck bones
2 cups duck stock	½ orange
¼ cinnamon stick	¼ cup cherry juice

Reduce Port wine by one half. Add browned duck bones, duck stock or chicken stock, orange peel, cinnamon, and cherry juice. Reduce again. Cook sauce for 45 minutes on low.

Vegetables

½ head romanesco	8 king trumpet mushrooms, halved
½ onion, julienned	½ head purple cauliflower

2 tbsp butter

Blanch romanesco and cauliflower. Sauté onions, add mushrooms, cauliflower, and romanesco. Finish with 2 tbsp butter, season with salt and pepper to taste.

Enjoy with a bottle of Riddle Vineyard Pinot noir.

RIDDLE VINEYARD SPOTLIGHT

Riddle Vineyard is located in Green Valley within the West Sonoma Coast. It sits on a coastal ridge overlooking the legendary Pinot noir vineyards of the area. The elevation, cool ocean breezes and abundant sunshine combine to develop Pinot noir grapes of exceptional flavor and texture. The vineyard is perched 750 feet above sea level, which allows it to escape the blanket of fog, thus resulting in optimal growing conditions for Pinot noir. James Riddle planted this vineyard to a mix of Pinot Noir clones over several growing seasons in the early 2000's, and the vineyard has been steadily building acclaim for yielding outstanding wines ever since.

This is Sojourn's inaugural release of a Riddle Vineyard Pinot noir, and it has received a 94-point rating. However, prior to 2014, Sojourn had been purchasing fruit from this immaculate parcel for several years, and over time, it became obvious that a distinctive wine of exceptional quality could be produced as a vineyard designate. Clones 115, 828, Pommard and Mt. Eden perform exceptionally well on the Franciscan-series Goldridge soils that compose this unique hillside, and the canopies are managed meticulously by Riddle's team. Mt. Eden clone is the superstar and forms the foundation of the wine. Small clusters produced from Riddle Vineyard are loose, with tiny berries that are full of character and are a winemaker's dream. The grapes were handled with the utmost care, and once vinified, reveal their own distinct flavors and personalities. Wines produced from each Pinot noir clone were kept separate until blending, at which time we crafted the final blend to yield more elegance and flavor intensity than the sum of the parts.

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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