

# SOJOURN

NEWSLETTER AND WINE OFFERING

SPRING 2015

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

**HAPPY 2015!** This release showcases the second year in the "Sojourn Wine Trifecta," a series of three remarkable wine vintages in a row brought on by timely, moderate weather that helped produce spectacular fruit, combined with masterful winemaking. Like 2012, the 2013 vintage was marked by near perfect weather, especially in the final month before harvest.

If you liked our 2012 Pinot noir and Chardonnay wines, you'll love our 2013s! In our opinion, the 2013 vintage is a noticeable step up from 2012. These wines are already showing rich color and excellent flavor concentrations.

Our 2015 Spring Release marches down a familiar path for many of our longer-term customers. Our flagship **2013 Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot noir** has a touch more density than its 2012 counterpart but retains its earthy profile, along with the well-known super creamy texture and great balance. From the vineyard right next door, our **2013 Gap's Crown Pinot noir** flexes its broad shouldered and concentrated frame with a darker, rich fruit profile. The 80% Pommard clone makeup of the **2013 Rodgers Creek Vineyard Pinot noir** showcases an earthy mushroom and forest floor profile with superb mouthfeel. The **2013 Sonoma Coast Pinot noir**, with its delicious multi-vineyard blend, continues to be a tremendous value at \$39.

2013 marks the third vintage for Sojourn Chardonnay, and these wines are a notch up in terms of focus and purity of Erich's winemaking vision. The **2013 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay** is fruit-forward with a lemon-lime profile on a rich palate with balanced structure. Our **2013 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay**, a three-vineyard blend, is layered, lush and ready to drink now.

Much has already been said and written about the magnificent 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon vintage. The **2012 Home Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon** was recently awarded a 94 point rating by Robert Parker. This wine shows lovely aromas and flavors of blueberries and Mexican chocolate. And it's back to business as usual with the strength and power of the



*2013 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir rated 95 points by Robert Parker. "It stood out as one of the finest Pinot Noirs I tasted on this trip."  
- Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate*

**2012 Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III Cabernet Sauvignon.** Parker also liked this wine, giving it a 93 point rating. Plush, nicely integrated tannins and a monster long finish dominate the wine profile from this famous vineyard.

**SNEAK PREVIEW**—2015 also marks the addition of a new, very small lot Pinot noir release! Later this year we will be releasing our **2013 Reuling Vineyard Pinot noir** from a site in the Sonoma Coast appellation between Graton and Forestville. In previous vintages, Peter Michael and Mark Aubert produced highly acclaimed wines from this vineyard (Aubert produced a vineyard designate for eight years). More on this vineyard and its very unique clonal makeup shortly.

December was very wet (20 inches of rainfall in Sonoma), and everyone is encouraged that the 2015 winter and spring will put a solid dent into our very serious multi-year California drought. In spite of the weather, the Sojourn travel calendar is chock-full of new cities we plan to visit, and we hope to see you on the road or in the Sojourn Tasting Salon here in Sonoma soon.

*Erich Bradley*  
Erich Bradley  
Winemaker

*Craig Haserot*  
Craig Haserot  
Proprietor

## 2013 Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast

2013 was our 10th vintage producing a Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot noir. This vineyard is situated on Roberts Road at the western base of Sonoma Mountain. We source fruit from six distinct blocks, with each one adding a layer of texture and flavor nuance. Climate is key to this vineyard's ability to produce noteworthy Pinot noir. Cool ocean breezes and Petaluma Gap fog keep the heat in check. In 2013 the vines woke up early, yet the moderate weather allowed flavors to mature slowly with long hang times and even ripening, allowing for ideal acid retention. This wine is deep with lush, dense, creamy texture and dark red fruit flavors. It is nicely balanced with seductive aromas of dark cherry, black tea and earthy forest floor.

96 POINTS PINOT REPORT

## 2013 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast

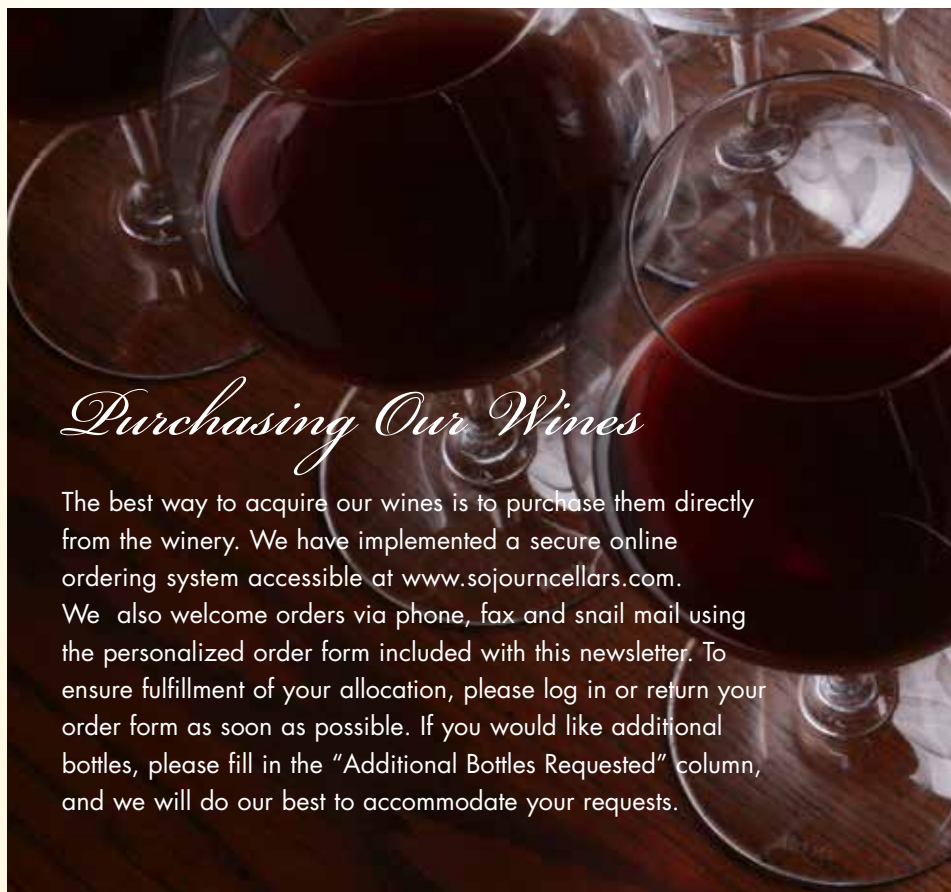
Gap's Crown Vineyard is situated on Roberts Road just above the Sangiacomo Vineyard. This is a high-end hillside vineyard that is now considered in the top echelon of California Pinot noir vineyards. Steep slopes and rocky soils cause significant vine stress, and the resulting wines are concentrated, with complex flavors and phenomenal structures. The exceptional 2013 vintage allowed for perfect hang-time and picking conditions: flavors were bursting as optimal ripeness was achieved. Dark cherry and boysenberry aromas lead to hints of baking spice and thyme. This is a complex wine that makes a stunning first impression with its explosive aromatics, plush texture and excellent structure. In 2013, we fermented 10% of the grapes whole-cluster adding to the wine's rich character and aromatic complexity.

96 POINTS PINOT REPORT

## 2013 Rodgers Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast

Rodgers Creek Vineyard is well suited for growing Pinot noir. It sits high on a ridge right in the heart of the Petaluma Gap and takes the full brunt of the wind and fog that define this cool climate zone. The vines grow in light, chalky, volcanic ash soils on steep inclines. This causes natural vine stress and gives the wine high concentration levels. In 2013, we whole-cluster fermented 15% of the grapes to add aromatic complexity and verve. The resulting wine is a fabulous expression of the vineyard site and its unique soils. It is a showy wine—very expressive and forward, with smooth texture and a lingering finish. Distinctive aromas of mushroom and soy overlay layers of red fruit flavors, earth and hints of rosemary.

95 POINTS PINOT REPORT



### *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](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 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 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

This wine is a blend of eight unique lots produced from Sonoma Coast vineyards spanning from the northern-most Annapolis region, to western Occidental, to the Petaluma Gap in the south. Gap's Crown, Sangiacomo, Campbell Ranch and Riddle vineyards represent key components used to produce the blend. The 2013 vintage of this wine is balanced and vibrant with the lush texture characteristic of the Gap's Crown and Sangiacomo Vineyard wines. This blend is deep and layered. It shows bright aromas of crushed berries and dark cherries with hints of nutmeg and earth, leading to lush texture and a long finish. Our Sonoma Coast Pinot noir continues to be a fan favorite and a tremendous value at \$39.

95 POINTS PINOT REPORT

## 2013 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast

Our Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay is produced from the same vineyard as our highly-rated Pinot noir. This vineyard is situated in the very cool northern Petaluma Gap, and it is perfectly suited for growing Chardonnay with high winds, fog and well-drained soils. Small clusters and low yields provide concentrated flavors, great acidity and length. We sourced fruit from three distinct blocks in 2013. This is a serious Chardonnay with distinctive aromas and layers of texture. Aromas of citrus, pear, fig and hints of crème brûlée lead to concentrated flavors. Excellent natural acidity gives the wine length and depth. The grapes were pressed whole-cluster and fermented in French oak barrels utilizing 30% new oak.

90 POINTS ROBERT PARKER

## 2013 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay

Our 2013 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay is a blend of several unique lots from three distinct vineyards spanning the far reaches of this cool-climate appellation. We sourced grapes from Sangiacomo, Durell and Campbell Ranch vineyards. Dry weather in both winter and spring resulted in smaller berry sizes with high levels of concentration and detailed aromatics. A lovely nose of stone fruit, apples and white flowers leads to rich flavors and an intriguing mix of depth and vibrancy on the palate. Refreshing and layered, this wine is a fabulous blend of old-world style and new-world eloquence. It is fruit-forward with a touch of minerality and crisp acidity. Each lot was fermented in French oak barrels utilizing 30% new oak.

91 POINTS ROBERT PARKER

## 2012 Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

This wine was produced from famed Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III in Rutherford. This vineyard is the former Beaulieu Vineyard No. 3, originally planted by Georges DeLatour in 1928. Soils are primarily sandy loam with a fair amount of rock from the old creek bed that runs through F-Block. The 2012 vintage provided idyllic weather conditions in Napa Valley with moderate heat and dry conditions to ripen the Cabernet Sauvignon grapes at an even pace. This is one of Beckstoffer's premier Napa Valley vineyards, and this wine showcases the signature "Rutherford Dust" aromatic profile, as well as layers of dark fruit and lush textures. The wine is impressive and complex with silky tannins, full body and a lingering finish. Red and dark fruit aromas lead to flavors of dark cherry, earth and mocha.

93 POINTS ROBERT PARKER

## 2012 Home Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma Valley

This vineyard was planted by Sojourn proprietor Craig Haserot in 2002 and is located at the southwestern edge of the Sonoma Valley. The 2012 vintage is the eighth from this vineyard. The weather patterns in Sonoma in 2012 were perfect for ripening Bordeaux varietals. This is a showy style of Cabernet Sauvignon, with complex aromas of blueberry and cocoa popping out of the glass. It has a pleasant, sweet entry with seductive, silky tannins and flavors of blue fruit, licorice and chocolate. The dark fruit aromas express themselves early with just a hint of mint from the neighboring Eucalyptus trees. The texture is big and lush with fine tannins that linger on the finish and keep you longing for another taste. This wine is a superb value at only \$48!

94 POINTS ROBERT PARKER

## *Back-2-Back*

### **WAS 2013 AS GOOD AS 2012?**

Robert Parker thinks so. He has rated the 2013 vintage as the Best Yet, matching 2012 for Sonoma Coast Pinot noir and Chardonnay. However, if you ask local winemakers, the 2013 vintage wines have a leg up on 2012 in terms of depth, concentration and ageability.

The Sojourn team certainly agrees, and we think you will as well. The 2012 Pinot noir and Chardonnay wines have wonderfully complex flavors and smooth textures, and you can expect the same from the 2013 wines. However, you can also expect to find deeper, more robust wines with the 2013 vintage. These Pinot noir wines show darker fruit aromas and earthiness, while the 2013 Chardonnays are rich and focused with layers of texture.

### **This release also debuts our 2012 Cabernet Sauvignons.**

Robert Parker rated the 2012 vintage 96 points, tying it with 2007 as the best vintage yet for Cabernet Sauvignon in Napa and Sonoma. These are some of the finest Cabernet Sauvignon wines Sojourn has produced to date.



# Winemaker Update

**THE PETALUMA GAP** is one of the top regions within the Sonoma Coast AVA<sup>1</sup> for growing Pinot noir and Chardonnay, and just might be one of the best kept secrets in California winegrowing. “The Gap” is home to Sojourn’s flagship wines from Sangiacomo, Gap’s Crown, and Rodgers Creek Vineyards, which comprise the Pinot noir and Chardonnay wines included in our Spring Wine Release. Recently, Petaluma Gap winegrowers began the process of applying for AVA status. This would allow wineries the right to place “Petaluma Gap” on the front label, instead of the larger, more varied “Sonoma Coast” AVA currently being used. There has already been chatter in the press regarding the hopeful AVA designation, and you will likely hear more as the story unfolds.

The Petaluma Gap, named after a coastal mountain opening, is actually a wind tunnel that runs east from the Pacific Ocean near Bodega Bay, through the town of Petaluma, and then roars south to San Francisco Bay. The extreme wind and fog are its iconic trademarks, and this weather creates ideal growing conditions. Soils are diverse, making the defining variable the wind. The proposed criteria for the new AVA includes an hourly average wind speed exceeding 8 miles per hour during the growing season. This is the strongest hourly average in all of Sonoma County. Wind speeds frequently exceed 20 miles per hour at Sojourn’s Petaluma Gap vineyards. What does this mean for you? The wines from this region possess high levels of depth and concentration, while retaining natural acidity that keeps the wines in perfect balance. It provides the best of both worlds, and this region will continue to gain acclaim as the secret is slowly revealed.

You can experience this for yourself with our 2015 Spring Release wines. All of our single vineyard Pinot noir wines come from this magnificent region.

## *Cheers!*

Erich Bradley, Winemaker & Co-Founder  
Randy Bennett, Associate Winemaker & General Manager  
Tom Gendall, Assistant Winemaker

<sup>1</sup> AVA is short for American Viticultural Area, a designated wine grape-growing region defined and enforced by the federal government

## Grilled Rack of Lamb with Gremolata

Gremolata is a simple way to elevate roasted spring rack of lamb. The combined freshness of the parsley, garlic and lemon zest brightens the dish and pairs beautifully with the Sojourn Spring Release Pinot noir wines.

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

- 1 Rack of lamb (1.5-2 lbs)
- 3 Fresh garlic cloves, divided
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- ¼ Teaspoon salt
- 4 Tablespoons flat leaf Italian parsley, rinsed, dried, chopped
- 1 Tablespoon minced lemon zest
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Pat rack of lamb dry with a paper towel and generously season with salt and pepper. Rub lamb with one garlic clove cut in half.
2. Heat oil in heavy sauté pan over moderately high heat. Brown lamb on all sides for approximately five minutes total. Transfer to roasting pan and roast for 15-20 minutes.
3. To make gremolata, crush remaining garlic cloves, lemon zest, and salt into a paste using the side of a large knife or a mortar and pestle.
4. In a small bowl, stir together garlic paste and parsley leaves.
5. Let roasted lamb rest at room temperature for five minutes then, slice between rib bones. Transfer chops to serving plate and sprinkle with gremolata.

## *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*

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