



S O J O U R N

CELLARS

WINTER 2025

WINE RELEASE NEWSLETTER

HANDCRAFTING MEMORABLE WINES SINCE 2002



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We approach 2025 with humble hearts and optimism. Our team is grateful for the opportunity to make wines from a distinctive collection of renowned vineyards. Wine brings people together through shared experiences and enjoyment, and it is especially rewarding to offer memorable wines from standout vintages. Thank you very much for your continued interest in our wines.

This year we are splitting up our wines to be released in three separate seasons. We will offer a Winter, Spring, and Fall Release. This allows us to release the wines in a thoughtful cadence.

2023 was an exceptional vintage, and the wines offer complexity and nuance. A cool, rainy spring led to a late bud break. Summer was also cooler in Sonoma with no major heat waves, resulting in a harvest schedule three weeks later than usual. The cooler weather allowed for longer hang times as the grapes achieved optimal maturity. We are thrilled to share several 2023 Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wines in this release from our most sought-after vineyards.

Gap's Crown, Walala and Sangiacomo vineyards headline our Winter Release (formerly Spring Release). 2023 was our 20th vintage producing a Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir. It is a rewarding milestone, as these mature vines are showing their best, producing deep flavors and textures. Rodgers Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir is also not to be missed, celebrating its 16th vintage.

This Winter Release also includes fabulous Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon wines. The 2023 Sangiacomo Vineyard and Sonoma Coast Chardonnays are both fresh and flavorful with ideal balance. Lighter toast barrels from Burgundy provide exceptional texture and length while the natural fruit flavors shine.

The Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III and Home Ranch Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon wines in the release hail from the 2022 vintage. Clusters were light with tiny berries, resulting in concentrated wines. After an early heat wave, the weather moderated, allowing the later ripening Cabernet Sauvignon grapes to hang well into October at lower sugar levels. These wines are stunning, however, we could only produce a small amount of each due to the light crop size.

It has been rewarding to meet many of you in person at various wine events as we traveled across the country this year. We are planning more events throughout the U.S. in 2025 and hope to see you at one of them or at the Sojourn Tasting Salon in Sonoma. Thank you again for your support.

Cheers to a great 2025!

*Randy, Rob, Kim, Megan, Stacie,
Sarah, Joe, Tracy, Colette,
Lisa, Greg, Joan, Amanda, Cec*

SOJOURN CELLARS WINTER 2025 WINE RELEASE

PINOT NOIR

2023 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast

This 2023 vintage wine offers tremendous depth and nuance. Gap's Crown Vineyard responded well to the cooler weather conditions and matured at an even pace, allowing us to pick each block at optimal maturity. We again fermented the clone 828 block with stems included, adding verve and spice notes to the finished blend. The 2023 vintage has a mix of red cherry and darker berry flavors with baking spice notes. This exceptional vineyard and distinctive volcanic soils delivered a beautiful wine again with the 2023 vintage.

Rated 96 Points

2023 Walala Vineyard Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast

Walala Vineyard's remarkable character stems from its 1,200-foot elevation, gravelly loam soils and close proximity to the Pacific Ocean. Walala vines benefited from the cooler 2023 vintage, allowing for long hang times and development of complex flavors and ripe tannins. It offers layers of deep and bright red fruit aromas with tropical notes. Clone 113 shined in the cooler conditions of 2023 offering layers of amazing aromas and flavors. Clone 115 provided the structural backbone and clone 828 was fermented whole cluster, adding complexity and length.

Rated 95 Points

2023 Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast

2023 is the 20th vintage of our Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir. This is a stunning wine with all the depth and complexity our fans enjoy from this exceptional vineyard. It is located on Roberts Road at the western base of Sonoma Mountain in an old creek bed with well-draining soils. Pinot Noir clones 115 and Mt Eden comprise the blend, with a touch of Swan clone adding another layer of texture and flavor. This wine offers an intriguing blend of dark red fruits and forest floor with the signature Sangiacomo creamy texture.

Rated 94 Points



2023 Rodgers Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast

The cool 2023 weather was ideal for ripening Pinot Noir at Rodgers Creek Vineyard. The grapes matured at an even pace, resulting in a mix of vibrant red and dark fruit flavors with hints of mushroom and earth. This vineyard sits high on a ridge in the heart of the windy Petaluma Gap. Its climate and steep slopes are well suited for growing exceptional Pinot Noir. This 2023 vintage is a blend of Pommard clone and 667, with 20% of the grapes fermented whole cluster to add verve and layers of complexity to the final wine.

Rated 95 Points

2023 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

This wine represents the phenomenal Sonoma Coast growing region and the moderate weather patterns of the 2023 vintage. It has layers of complexity and strength while offering elegance and nuance as Pinot Noir does at its best. This wine was made with lots from eight unique vineyards spread across the vast Sonoma Coast, from Annapolis in the north, to Occidental in the west, and down to the tip of the Petaluma Gap. Walala, Riddle, Sangiacomo, and Gap's Crown vineyards are some of the key components. At only \$48, this wine delivers outstanding value.

Rated 93 Points

CHARDONNAY

2023 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast

Our 2023 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay is a blend of two unique blocks, each adding layers that combined to create a special wine that is a pleasure to drink now yet will age with grace. Old Wente clone from Green Acres offers rich flavors and concentration while clone 95 from Roberts Road adds focus and intensity. Both blocks were picked at night and immediately pressed whole cluster to retain freshness. The finished wine offers intense aromas and bright acidity with compelling flavors of stone fruit, citrus and apple.

Rated 94 Points

2023 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay

The moderate weather in 2023 was ideal for growing Chardonnay in the Sonoma Coast. The grapes developed complex flavors while holding onto their acidity and freshness. Our Sonoma Coast Chardonnay showcases three of the top vineyards in the region – Sangiacomo, Durell, and Gap's Crown. They combine to create a blend that illustrates the varietal's exceptional character. Each block was fermented in 30% new French oak barrels and kept separate until final blending. An expressive nose of stone fruit and apple leads to vibrant flavors and lively acidity.

Not Yet Rated

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2022 Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, Rutherford

The 2022 vintage was a year of contrasts. A September heat wave pushed many vineyards to ripen early while some, including Georges III, handled the heat wave well due to its deep soils and the excellent farming practices of the Beckstoffer Vineyards team. The heat ripened the grapes while these old vines remained strong and allowed us to hang into late October at moderate brix levels. F-block was again the star and comprises most of this Cabernet Sauvignon. The classic Rutherford Dust profile shines in the wine's layers of dark cherry, blackberry, earth and mocha flavors.

Rated 94 Points

2022 Home Ranch Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma Valley

Home Ranch Vineyard was planted by Sojourn founder Craig Haserot in 2002 and is located in the southwest corner of Sonoma Valley just north of the Sonoma Golf Club. The Cabernet Sauvignon clusters were tiny in 2022 with small berries resulting in greater depth and concentration in the finished wine. To produce this complex cuvée, we blended the Home Ranch lot with Cabernet Sauvignon from neighboring vineyards. The signature blue fruit aromas fill your nose and combine seamlessly with notes of mocha, spice, and red fruits.

Rated 93 Points



VISIT US IN SONOMA!

The Sojourn Tasting Salon in downtown Sonoma includes an outdoor garden and elegant lounge. Our guided tastings feature flights of Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Chardonnay wines presented in a side-by-side format. We encourage you to visit us in Sonoma as well as send us your friends, family, and business colleagues who will appreciate terroir-driven, artisanal winemaking. We also offer curated virtual wine tasting experiences for individuals, groups and corporate events.

Email salon@sojourncellars.com, text 707.609.4302 or call 707.938.7212 to schedule a tasting.



SANGIACOMO VINEYARD - THE SOUL OF SOJOURN

Making Sojourn Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir Since 2004

The Sangiacomo family has always felt a deep connection to the land. It all began in Genoa with their grandfather Vittorio Sangiacomo when he voyaged to America in 1913 on the advice of his great grandfather. In 1927 he purchased a 52-acre fruit tree ranch in Sonoma Valley. Today, that original ranch serves as headquarters for Sangiacomo Family Vineyards.

The Sangiacomo family are third generation grapegrowers with a passion for sustainability and stewardship. At every step of the way they seek to produce the highest quality fruit with the lowest environmental impact possible. They have been a wonderful partner since 2004.

Sangiacomo Roberts Road Vineyard

Amongst the most prestigious vineyards cultivated by the Sangiacomo family is one that sits off Roberts Road. As pioneers in the Petaluma Gap AVA, the Sangiacomo family planted this highly acclaimed vineyard in 1999, establishing this site as one of the first vineyards in this area.

Location: The vineyard resides at the base of Sonoma Mountain on the northern edge of the Petaluma Gap. The fog from the ocean near Bodega Bay pours into this region first and exits last. Mornings are spent in fog and afternoons in windy conditions, resulting in loose grape clusters with small berries and low yields.

The grapes ripen slowly and develop deep, rich flavors making for rare wines with natural acidity and suppleness.

Vines: A pioneer vineyard in the region, this 130-acre ranch is planted exclusively to Pinot Noir and Chardonnay with over 20 different clonal and rootstock combinations. Cool, foggy mornings make for a long growing season. Certified Sustainable by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance.

Soil: Well-drained cobblestone and alluvium soils were developed from the nearby Copeland Creek which meandered over the property for centuries.

“This is where the magic started for Sojourn back in 2004. Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir is the soul of Sojourn.”

- Randy Bennett, Winemaker

“The Sangiacomo Family vineyards are like family heirlooms. They all have a story and an emotional connection.”

– Steve Sangiacomo

We produce five wines from Roberts Road:

- Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir, first vintage 2004
- Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay, first vintage 2011
- Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir, first vintage 2004
- Sonoma Coast Chardonnay, first vintage 2011
- Petaluma Gap Pinot Noir, first vintage 2020

PURCHASING OUR WINES

The best way to acquire our wines is to purchase them directly from the winery. Sojourn sells wine to our mailing list customers through release allocations. If you are not already a Sojourn list member, join now to get access to our wines.

Order Wine Online: www.sojourncellars.com
Join Our Mailing List: mailinglist@sojourncellars.com

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Photo credit: Richard Wood Photographics

LIBERTY DUCK BREAST WITH LENTILS

Pair with 2023 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir
Makes 4 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 2 duck breasts
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 cup black beluga lentils
- 1 tablespoon of sherry vinegar
- 1 onion (finely chop ½ cup, reserve the other half whole)
- ¼ cup carrots (finely chopped)
- ¼ cup celery (finely chopped)
- 1 bay leaf
- 4 cups chicken stock
- Seeds from one half pomegranate for garnish
- Frisée lettuce for garnish
- 20 endive leaves

INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare the Lentils

1. Rinse the lentils under cold running water.
2. In a medium pot, combine the lentils, the half onion (reserve the chopped half for later), and the bay leaf. Cover with 4 cups of chicken stock.
3. Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium. Simmer for 20-25 minutes, or until the lentils are tender. Remove the onion and bay leaf. Drain any excess liquid.
4. While the lentils are cooking, finely chop the remaining ¼ cup carrots, ¼ cup celery, and ½ cup onion to make a mirepoix (a classic vegetable base).
5. Stir the mirepoix and sherry vinegar into the cooked lentils and set aside.

Cook the Duck Breast

1. Score the skin of the duck breasts in a crisscross pattern and season with salt and pepper.
2. Heat a medium-sized skillet over medium heat. Place the duck breasts skin-side down to render the fat, cooking for about 6-8 minutes, until the skin is golden brown and crispy.
3. Flip the duck breasts and cook for an additional 3-4 minutes, or until the meat reaches your desired level of doneness (medium-rare is recommended).
4. Remove the duck breasts from the skillet and let them rest for 5 minutes before slicing.

PLATING

1. Spoon ½ cup of lentils into the center of each plate.
2. Slice the duck breast and arrange the slices on top of the lentils.
3. Place pomegranate seeds and frisée lettuce around the plate.
4. Garnish with 5 endive leaves per plate for a fresh, crisp contrast.

EL DORADO

EST. HOTEL & KITCHEN 1851

Recipe courtesy of Chef Armando Navarro
El Dorado Hotel & Kitchen, Sonoma, CA