



Boardroom Fall 2015 - Longboard 2
Mystery Wine

Groundwork: Viognier, Whitehawk Vineyard 2012

250 Cases, 100% Viognier from White Hawk Vineyard – Santa Barbara

Curt Schalchlin's single vineyard Viognier has us floored with its impressive characteristics of white peach, tangerine, and white flowers in a medium-bodied, fresh and sweetly fruited feel. There's plenty of Viognier richness, but it also stays fresh and focused. 17 months in 80% French oak and 20% stainless steel. It's a perfect winter wine!

Best: Now – 2018

Villa Creek: Bete Noir 2008

200 cases – 70% Syrah, 30% Mourvedre – Paso Robles – WA&WS: 93

Ready to go to the dark side? Seductive aromas of blueberry and boysenberry with complicating nuances of Indian spices, sassafras and violet. Gentle acidity picks up a smoky quality with air. The finish is supple, broad and very persistent, with an echoing note of candied violet. It's rich and powerful but surprisingly agile – according to The Wine Advocate.

Best: Now-2020.

Papapietro Perry: Russian River Valley Pinot Noir 2009

1120 Cases 100% Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley, Sonoma – WS: 94

This beauty spent 11 months in French oak, of which only 30% was new. 94 points and a coveted "Highly Recommended" from Wine Spectator really got our attention: "Aromas of hot rock and mineral lead to fresh, snappy flavors of vibrant wild berry, black licorice, graphite and cedar. A full-bodied, well-proportioned red, ending with a tightly knit core of berry and stone notes." – Wine Spectator

Best: Now – 2019



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Epoch Estate Wines: Estate Blend 2012

1349 cases – 45% Syrah | 24% Mourvèdre | 20% Grenache | 11% Tempranillo - Paso Robles WA: 94

This red blend was actually fermented in both concrete and stainless steel tanks, one-ton bins and ½ ton puncheons. Put together, it was aged for 18 months in 44% new French oak barrels and puncheons. “The 2012 Estate Blend is flat out gorgeous, with layered black raspberry, spice, crushed flowers and licorice all present in its full-bodied, seamless profile. It’s perfectly balanced, has juicy acidity, and chewy tannin that emerges on the finish. While it’s a full-bodied effort, elegance and refinement are the name of the game here.” - Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate

Best: Now – 2019

Quivira: Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley 2012

89% Zinfandel, 10% Petite Sirah, 1% Carignane – Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma – ST: 93

Sonoma is generally considered the best place to grow expressive Zinfandel with a core of tannin and spices – and Quivira is no different! New winemaker Hugh Chapelle came from the revered Flowers winery and turned things up another notch. Ripe, sweet, silky tannin and the perfect touch of earth and pepper, it is just California sunshine in a glass. With its brambly fruit and peppery, earthen tannins, Quivira’s 2012 is spot-on Dry Creek Zin. It feels concentrated yet fresh, lasting on a woody spice tone that seems to come from the fruit rather than oak. Try it with a hint of black liquorice!

Best: Now - 2017



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Keplinger: Mystery Wine 2013

Sierra Foothills - scores up to 95

Our final wine in this offering heralds from the district Sierra Foothills, a 2-hour drive east of Napa. Helen Keplinger meticulously works with individual farmers to get the most out of the different soils – and it has turned into great results. No matter which wine you got, you're sure to get a rare bottling of an extremely sought-after wine, and most of them would do best if cellared for a few years.

Lithic: 42% Grenache, 33% Mourvedre, 25% Syrah – all coming from Ann Kraemer's Shake Ridge Vineyard, which is situated at 1700' in the Sierra Foothills of Amador County. Aged in once-used and neutral French Demi Muids for 16 months before being bottled without fining or filtration. It has a tightly wound nose of boysenberry, graphite, violets, mandarin zest, black licorice, and jasmine tea. The dark fruit profile continues on the deep palate, with iodine, black peppercorn, five spice, and cacao. The mouthfeel is broad and plush, with beautiful length. 320 cases produced.

Best: Give the firm tannins a few years to soften.

Caldera: Aiken soils in El Dorado County at an elevation of 2900'. The fine red volcanic soil is strewn with lava pebbles and is almost completely dry-farmed, giving the wine more intensity and terroir. 65% Mourvedre, 28% Grenache, 7% Counoise. 175 cases produced.

Best: 2017 - 2020

Sumo: Sumo is a Cote Rotie twist on Petite Sirah - Petite Sirah co-fermented with Viognier, and blended with a small amount of Syrah. 76% Petite Sirah, 20% Syrah, 4% Viognier, all from Shake Ridge Vineyard. French Burgundian cooperage - 65% of which was new. This is a dark, spice-laden, massive, plush wine. It's hard to believe a wine of this size can have such a soft landing and sublime finish. 220 cases produced.

Best: Drink now through 2030

Eldorado: From two high-elevation, red volcanic sites in the Sierra Foothills. 55% Viognier, 23% Roussanne, and 22% Grenache Blanc is an aromatic music box of orange blossom, green almond, guava, beeswax, lanolin, and chamomile. It is bright and vivid on the palate. Fermented and then aged in a combination of concrete and oak for 8 months. Only 140 cases produced, so save it for an extra special occasion and share it with a true white wine lover.

Best: Now - 2017