

THE
BOARDROOM

*Fall 2019 - Longboard 2 NorCal
Single-Vineyard Ranch Party*

Long Meadow Ranch: Farmstead Brut Sparkling

50% Pinot Noir 50% Chardonnay – Certified organic – <400 cases - Sonoma County

Long Meadow Ranch is a small, full-circle organic producer and farm in Napa Valley. This sparkler spent 18 months on the lees, making it well-rounded with a creamy touch and nice, bright acidity. Toast in the New Year, accompany it with oysters, sushi or caviar blinis – or simply enjoy on a quiet evening.

Best: This New Year's Eve!

Argot: Chardonnay Simpatico Ranch 2014

100% Chardonnay – Simpatico Ranch Vineyard, Bennett Valley, Sonoma – 175 cases - Parker: 94+

Justin Harmon came out to California to work for none other than Russell Bevan in 2007. He caught the winemaking bug (and Parker's keen eye) and has quickly risen to micro-producer fame, having been featured in Wine Spectator and other prominent magazines. Burgundy is his style of choice, which is evident in this cool Sonoma hillside wine (only 13.7%!). It was raised for 19 months in 50% new, French oak. 94+ from Parker says it all: "The palate is tightly-knit and medium-bodied with plenty of intensity and savory / citrus layers, finishing long and yeasty ... I just loved this wine."

Best: 2020-2024

Peirson Meyer: Pinot Noir, Bateman Vineyard 2015

100% Pinot Noir – Bateman Vineyard, Russian River Valley – 70 cases - Galloni: 95, Parker: 93

From another of our Pinot / Chardonnay darlings, we picked the highest-scoring Peirson Meyer Pinot of the 2015 vintage (95 by Galloni), sourced from a small, low-yielding vineyard in the luscious Green Valley AVA in Russian River. 14 months in 35% new, French oak. Lisa Perrotti-Brown (Parker) called this a "beautiful, bright, exuberant crushed raspberries and Bing cherries with hints of cranberries, rose hip tea, lavender and dusty soil with a waft of cinnamon stick." Galloni followed up with, "There is a sense of energy and tension to the Bateman that play off the natural richness of the year very nicely." This will age beautifully in the coming years.

Best: 2021-2028

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Bedrock: Papera Ranch Heritage 2014

*Field blend of Carignan, Zinfandel, Valdiguié, Petite Sirah, Syrah and more
Papera Ranch, Russian River Valley - Parker: 92, Wine Spectator: 92, CellarTracker: 92*

For the last of our “Ranch” wines, we picked one of the 25+ vineyards Morgan Twain-Peterson works with on his quest to bring California back to the roots. Planted in 1934, almost lost to the Pinot Noir firing squad a few years back, most of the Zinfandel fruit goes to luminaries such as Williams-Selyem. However, the highly mixed block 6 is a perfect fit for Bedrock. Look for a rustic profile with coffee, a bit of smoke, good texture and bright acidity. Surprise everyone and enjoy this with your Christmas dinner, pork chops, or baby back ribs.

Best: 2021 -2025

Honig Cabernet Sauvignon Bartolucci Vineyard 2014

*100% Cabernet Sauvignon - Bartolucci Vineyard, St. Helena - 450 cases
Wine Spectator: 94, Suckling: 93, CellarTracker: 92*

This is as excellent as Napa Valley gets. The St. Helena-based vineyard with Italian roots dates almost 100 years back to 1921. Pressed for over 30 days (!) on the skins, it spent 20 months in new, French oak. Wine Spectator said, “Aromas of lead pencil, graphite and juicy plum and cherry form the core, giving this complexity. Given the supple tannins, this is an easy-to-enjoy offering.” Suckling called this “a delicious and subtle wine.” This demands a well-aged steak – but don’t forget to lay it down first!

Best: 2025-2032

Keplinger: Basilisk 2015

*100% Grenache - Greywacke Vineyard, Russian River Valley - 100 cases
Dunnock: 95, CellarTracker: 95*

For our shop stopper we chose a wine with a production of only 100 cases (what??). What’s not to love about everything Helen Keplinger does? Aged in neutral demi-muids (600 liter barrels), it’s hard to believe it’s 100% Grenache with everything that’s going on. Look for a Chateauneuf du Pape-style with dark berries, spice box, and Provençal herb. Dunnock: “Its deep ruby/purple color is followed by a rocking bouquet of blackberries, raspberries, spice-box, and Provençal herb. Ripe, concentrated and sexy, with terrific purity as well as elegance on the palate, it’s a great Grenache”. Think of it – only 100 cases produced, and you own a bottle! Decant for 2 hours.

Best: 2022 - 2026