

**Walter Schug Has Seen it All**

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# sonoma

The Heart of Wine Country

From perfect heirloom tomatoes to the grapes that keep  
Sonoma humming, the land's rich bounty is ours to enjoy.

## Harvest Season

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TOMATO  
FESTIVAL**  
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**ZINFANDEL**  
*for Labor Day*



**IF YOU LIKE...**  
**Gamba Vineyards and Winery 2013 Starr Road Ranch Old Vine Russian River Valley Zinfandel (\$45)**  
The grapevines that produced this wine date to 1920 and offer the typical complexity and rusticity of the dry-farmed old-timers. Baked, jammy black plum and campfire smoke combine for a thick, ripe and soft impression on the palate, finishing with vanilla. This is a good go-to wine for barbecued and smoked foods.



**YOU MAY ALSO LIKE...**  
**Zin-Phomaniac 2012 Old Vines Sonoma County Reserve Zinfandel (\$23)**  
Various old-vine vineyards, including those in Sonoma and Dry Creek valleys, are the backbone of this Zinfandel blend. It's a sweet, viscous and jammy combination of cherry, raspberry and molasses flavors, with a layer of oak and black pepper on the finish.

**BLENDS**  
*for the Sonoma Harvest Wine Auction [Sept. 6]*



**IF YOU LIKE...**  
**Buena Vista Winery 2012 The Sheriff Sonoma County Red Wine (\$40)**  
The Sheriff combines a murderers' row of varieties, including Petite Sirah, Syrah, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache. Together, they become a medium-bodied wine with ripe plum and leather notes, finishing with a slight sweetness. This blend means business, with a gold star on the bottle.



**YOU MAY ALSO LIKE...**  
**Kokomo Winery 2013 Sonoma County Cuvée (\$26)**  
Aromas of toasty graham cracker and nutmeg invite one into this wine, a blend of Petite Sirah, Merlot, Carignane, Malbec, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre. Bold and concentrated in dark black fruit, and with soft, integrated tannins, it offers a big bang for the buck.

**LIKEWINE**

by VIRGINIE BOONE

With Sonoma's propensity for Indian summers, September and October are not always the time to switch to heavier, heartier red wines. We still eat from our summer gardens and hang outdoors near the barbecue or pool. Still, as the air cools and the sky darkens earlier, having a few reds on hand wouldn't hurt.

**PINOT NOIR**  
*for Changing of the Leaves*



**IF YOU LIKE...**  
**Jeff Gordon Cellars 2012 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir (\$52)**  
From the race car driver himself comes this tart, vivid expression of black cherry and strawberry character. It stays light and clear in color and texture, with a touch of savory leather and clove on the finish.



**YOU MAY ALSO LIKE...**  
**Corkscrew 2011 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir (\$30)**  
Cloudy and reddish-brown, this is a funky, spritzy wine with a taste of red cherry and cranberry that exudes a raw earthiness akin to a pile of leaves about to be raked. It's an intriguing, complex style of Pinot Noir.

**CHARDONNAY**  
*for National Nut Day [Oct. 22]*



**IF YOU LIKE...**  
**Schug Winery 2013 Heritage Reserve Carneros Chardonnay (\$40)**  
A standout from a longtime Carneros winemaker, the wine showcases deliciously light-bodied pear, apple and fennel flavors. Integrated in terms of oak and medium in body, it's crisp and floral, with a clean, lean finish.



**YOU MAY ALSO LIKE...**  
**Chloe 2013 Sonoma County Chardonnay (\$17)**  
Made from a predominance of Russian River Valley fruit, this Chardonnay has a lot to like. Dark golden in color, it's medium-full-bodied and has a richness balanced by bright notes of apple blossom and pear. Aged in new and used French and American oak barrels, it closes with a taste of hazelnut and vanilla.