



Bedrock Wine Co. Spring Release February 2017

Spring Newsletter- We Have A New Website!

It is both with great joy and relief that we are proud to launch our new website today!

It has been a long process, with the first work starting over two years ago. Why? Well, we did not really want to make just another version of the winery website. You know the type: slow panned images of fog rolling from the coast, probably some Vivaldi playing in the background, the cult of consulting winemaker X being played up, wines magically making themselves, etc. etc. Rather, our aim was to make a content rich site that will evolve over time with the winery and delve perhaps a bit deeper into the many aspects of making wine that we work so hard to perfect.

We invite everyone to browse our website sections below:

Grower Profiles Though a few of these were on the old site, we now have all the stories of growers up along with dramatic portraits captured by Thomas Sanders. The profiles, written by our friend and James Beard Award Winning author David Darlington, are a lot of fun and shed a deeper light on the technicolor dreamcoat of personalities that make up the Bedrock community.

Vineyards It is a simple thing but I am quite pleased with the map at the top of the Vineyards section that shows the precise location of all of our vineyards. You want to know why Evangelho Heritage Wine is so dramatically different from Gibson Ranch? Geography can tell you a lot.

Vintages We have collated every wine we have ever made, including those from this release, with their original newsletter description in an easily searchable manner.

The Study This might be my favorite part of the site and certainly should be the most dynamic and fun. Here we go a little more in-depth on particular topics. We are launching with a light history piece on the shifting nature of Oakley, a missive on the importance of Cover Crops, and a video of yours truly discussing dry-farming and California sprawl at Chuy Vineyard from the end of last harvest. Future features will be more videos of Chris and I discussing what makes Evangelho Vineyard unique, the trickiness of pruning old head-trained vines, looking at our first Chardonnay vineyard since 2010, and the challenges of old vine vineyard restoration. We will also soon have up-to-date tasting notes on past wines and drinking windows as well.



The A-Team For those of you who have attended our pick-ups you have already met the small group of lovely humans (and dogs) that make up the Bedrock family. For the great majority of you who have no, please learn more about them here.

Friends and Influences Here you can see our favorite fellow producers that populate our vibrant wine community.

Photographs in General All the great ones were done by the immensely talented Erik Castro and Thomas Sanders. Chris and I will take the blame for the others though we are indebted to a whole bunch of friends who contributed—“it takes a village” indeed!

Hopefully it gives a deeper glimpse into complex weave of personalities, skills and passions that make Bedrock winery what it is. We hope you enjoy it and always welcome thoughts and feedback as this site is meant for you.

Happy Happy!
Morgan and Chris

The Wines

2017 ODE TO LULU ROSÉ

The Great Golden State

The 2016 Lulu follows closely on the footsteps of the 2015: The vineyard and blend composition is similar and it is, as always, from old and low yielding vineyards. The Mataro element comes from two lovely but quite different vineyards. Live Oak Vineyard, planted sometime around the inauguration of William McKinley, is own-rooted in sand in Oakley. Pagani Ranch, which needs little introduction, was planted close to the onset of Prohibition in Kenwood. To compliment these two we blended in Grenache from the 1880s planting at Gibson Ranch in McDowell Valley (Mendocino). All lots were picked at low potential alcohol and whole-cluster pressed. This year's iteration is more aromatically explosive than I remember last year's being—the often times stentorian Mataro showing off a bit more playfulness and the Grenache providing oodles of crunchy bright fruit. \$19



2016 SONOMA VALLEY SAUVIGNON BLANC

Sonoma Valley

This wine is almost entirely from the lovely Uboldi Ranch, which is planted on some of the only Sandy Goldridge Loam outcroppings in Sonoma Valley. Located to the south of the town of Kenwood as the valley hills begin to creep towards Sonoma Mountain, the site is both steep and rocky, which helps balance the natural vigor of the Sauvignon Blanc vine. Our section of the vineyard is planted exclusively to Musque clone, which I prefer for its soaring aromatics. In order to give ourselves the most options when assembling the blend, we fermented the wine in a combination of stainless steel tank at cold temperature, cigar barrels (the same used by Dagueneau in the Loire) and smaller piece. Though normally we tend to get pretty close to 50% of each in the final blend, we found that the increased texture and expressiveness provided by the barrel-fermented lots were too hard to resist and the final wine this year saw 95% barrel fermentation. Of that just about 17% of it is new. It is so much fun to make Sauvignon Blanc! \$22

2016 STAVES OF WAIDHOFEN SAUVIGNON BLANC

Sonoma Valley

Aged completely in barrels from the centuries old Stockinger cooperage located in the Austrian Alps. Though this sees a fair amount of new oak as the barrels from Stockinger are some of the most perfect for white wine I have ever worked with. Remarkably, this wine is a bit more high-pitched and taught than the Sonoma Valley SB this year. This is in part due to the inclusion of Judge Vineyard in Bennett Valley along with a single barrel of Alder Springs Sauvignon Blanc from the northern wilds of Mendocino. If the Sonoma Valley Sauvignon Blanc is a bit richer and more Bordeaux or “California Fumé Blanc-esque” this wine has a bit more in common with the Loire, which is a bit counter-intuitive given the new oak. But hey, that’s the beauty of wine for you! \$28

2016 WIRZ VINEYARD RIESLING

Cienega Valley

It’s back! From the second oldest Riesling Vineyard we know of in California located in (get out the wine atlas!) the Cienega Valley planted in 1963. It is heartening to see a few wines coming from this vineyard these days, which is a testament to the patience of owner Pat Wirz who somehow kept the vineyard in the ground while getting paid a pittance from larger wine operations. These vines are own-rooted in the unique mix of limestone and decomposed granite found around the Gabilan Range. There is also a trace of interplanted “Franken Riesling” aka Sylvaner in the blend. The fruit was whole-cluster pressed and fermented with native yeasts in a neutral oak tank to complete dryness. This is Riesling with a savory inflection, replete with the garrigue of the Cienega Valley along with the grapes signature florals. Based on the progress of the 2014 this should continue to evolve nicely in bottle for a while—gradually taking on a hint of classic petrol. \$19



2015 LIMERICK LANE ZINFANDEL

Russian River Valley

From vines planted in 1910 at Jake Bilbro's perennial All-Star vineyard. The only problem with this wine is there is so little of it! Jake is nice enough to sell us a little block of dry-farmed fruit towards the back of the 1910 block at his estate. Though predominately Zinfandel there are small amounts of interplanted Carignan and Negrette. This vineyard is always one of the first we bring in from Sonoma County, in large part due to its very low cropping. I think what we all love so much about this wine, year in and out, is how its laser-like acidity to balance the wealth of expressive fruit. This wine makes me so happy. \$42

2015 LORENZO'S HERITAGE WINE

Dry Creek Valley

From the killer Teldeschi Ranch on the Dry Creek Bench, this is one of the strongest wines we have made from this vineyard. My father started working with Frank Teldeschi back in 1984. To this day my father and I still work off a handshake deal that has lasted for three decades. The ranch, which lies high on the eastern bench of the Dry Creek Valley, is dry-farmed and low-cropping. We are lucky enough to work with three blocks of fruit from the vineyard including the oldest "mother" block of Zinfandel on the ranch planted around 1900, a stellar block of Carignan planted on gravelly soils, and a unique block of very old Petite Sirah that also contains Cinsault, Peloursin, and even a bit of Vaccarese (one of the minor grapes of Chateaufort-du-Pape). The finished wine is a blend of these three blocks. As always this is a muscular wine, possessing beautiful fruit balanced by good brightness and beautiful structure. I see this as very similar to the 2008 version of this wine, which is drinking beautifully right now. \$38

GIBSON RANCH HERITAGE WINE

McDowell Valley, Mendocino

From the oldest plantings in McDowell Valley (1880s) this is a unique field blend of Syrah, Petite Sirah, Peloursin, Trousseau Noir, and Grenache that I have seen nowhere else in California. As wild as the blend and higher elevation site would indicate, this wine refuses to obey to normative standards. There is an element of light meeting dark here—with the more ethereal perfumed varieties of Grenache and Trousseau meeting the imposing darkness of the Syrah family tree (Syrah and Peloursin crossed to create Petite Sirah). Feral, ferrous, anise and almost amaro-tinged aromatics lead to a dark core of fruit. This wine changes immensely with a few hours of air and I suspect it will also age gracefully for a very long time. My favorite wine we have made from this vineyard. \$38



PAPERA RANCH HERITAGE WINE

Russian River Valley

Who sprinkled the pixie-dust on this vineyard!! Ever since we started working with this vineyard in 2011 (thank you Mr. Officer!), it is easily one of the most consistent and delicious wines we make each year. Our unique block at the vineyard is composed of a dozen varieties, though Zinfandel (around 50%) and Carignan (around 40%) dominate the blend. Somehow this blend works, despite a location normally considered pretty cold for Carignan, and the combination of pure and voluptuous Russian River Zinfandel combined with savory and crunchy Carignan makes for something utterly satisfying. In the warm and early 2015 this site seemed to even kick it up a notch! \$38

2015 MONTECILLO VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Moon Mountain District

OLD SCHOOL! From vines planted at 2000' on the Sonoma side of Mt. Veeder in the 1960s this is the type of Cabernet I love. This is dry-farmed, widely-spaced Cab grown on Cali-sprawl—what can happen when you take away the silver spoon feeder of irrigation and the corset of Stepford-wife vertical shoot positioning. This wine should last for a very long time. Unfortunately, we only got about 25% of the fruit as we normally get due to rain and subsequent shatter at bloom so there is not as much of this to go around as we would like. \$60

WEILL A WAY MIXED BLACKS

Sonoma Valley

Weill Vineyard lies at the mouth of Sonoma Valley and technically lies within the boundaries of the sprawling and gerrymandered Sonoma Coast appellation. It is certainly a much cooler site than would normally be able to effectively ripen Zinfandel, Grenache, Mataro, Syrah, Petite Sirah, Alicante Bouschet and Tempranillo effectively but by severely limiting crop we are able to ensure effective ripening—particularly in a warm year like 2015. This is forward and tasty stuff that will reward earlier drinking with a good decant. \$38



2014 HUDSON VINEYARD T'N'S BLOCKS SYRAH

Napa Carneros

Mmmmm, pepper and bacon fat deliciousness from Lee Hudson's Carneros jewel. One of our most consistent vineyards and wines, our Hudson fruit comes predominately from the oldest block of Syrah on the ranch that was planted in 1993. In 2014 we included 50% whole-cluster to amp up the already rather explosive aromatics. Always one of my favorite wines that we make. This is what Mr. Parker had to say about it:

You would think that Morgan Twain-Peterson would be content with his whites and Heritage wines, but this young professional has an extraordinary touch with Syrah, and it's there that perhaps some of his greatest winemaking done today is centered. The 2014 Syrah Hudson T 'n' S comes from the famous vineyard in Carneros. It was John Kongsgaard who first put me on to some of the great Syrah that Lee Hudson had planted. Fifty percent whole clusters were used in this wine, which was aged in a combination of smaller barriques and larger puncheons. This is Côte Rôtie on steroids, with notes of bacon fat, black olive tapenade, violets, marmalade, lychee and loads of black raspberry and black cherry fruit. It is a heady, fleshy, super-complex wine that is so good now, I can't believe it is actually going to improve much more. Drink it over the next 5-7 years. **96 Points \$42**

2009 REBECCA'S VINEYARD PINOT NOIR(Library Release)

Russian River Valley

Yeah, so I forgot to order enough labels when we originally bottled this back in 2010 and more cases than I care to admit have been sitting in our temperature-controlled warehouse for more years than I would like to think about. The good news is that this wine, the last Pinot Noir we made, is absolutely singing right now. The grapes came from a vineyard located right across the street from Joe Swan Winery in the Laguna-Trenton part of Russian River Valley planted on the signature Sandy Goldridge Loam soils. This is satisfying stuff, full of signature black cherry and bergamot. **\$55**
