

Dear Wine Club Members,

One thing I love about my job is that it changes with the seasons. Occasionally, someone will ask me what my typical workday looks like and the only answer is that "it depends on the month." In the winery, Spring is a flurry of activity in the barrel cellar. The assistant winemaker and I are deciding which barrels should be racked to tank to make various blends and deciding which barrel lots are topped with a little more wine and bedded back down for continued aging.

Of all the activities in the barrel room, choosing which barrels make it into each single vineyard wine in the Rugged Elements line is the most rewarding. The wines from each vineyard block get an assortment of barrels—not only French or American oak but different coopers and toasts of each—and which barrels work best with each wine is sometimes surprising. Finding the right combination can be a slow process and also a little nerve wracking but it's a labor of love.

I'm excited to present the first ever bottling of a varietal Petit Verdot by Kenwood Vineyards. This wine originates in a vineyard atop a hill high above Long Valley in Lake County. Because of its often-powerful tannins Petit Verdot is often relegated to a supporting role in Bordeaux based blends but the vineyard in 2019 produced a wine of such elegance we couldn't blend it away into another blend.

I hope you enjoy!



Zeke Neeley  
Kenwood Vineyards Winemaker



## JACK LONDON ZINFANDEL 2019

APPELLATION	ACIDITY/PH	ALCOHOL	
<b>SONOMA MOUNTAIN</b>	<b>6.4 G/L / 3.85</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	□

### TASTING NOTES

**Aroma:** Ripe blackberry and dried blueberries with notes of cinnamon, rosemary, and peppercorn.

**Palate:** Rich palate with flavors of a red plum reduction, nutmeg, and a hint of rhubarb pie.

for Sonoma Mountain, leading to even ripening. The fruit was harvested in the cool morning of October 15th. The tannin developed quickly in the tank and the Zinfandel was pressed off after an unusually short maceration of only 10 days. The finished wine was then aged in French and American oak barrels, 30% new oak, for 19 months.

### FROM THE WINEMAKER

The 2019 vintage had a wet spring followed by beautiful summer temperatures typical

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MAY 2022



## THE BARN CHARDONNAY 2019

APPELLATION <b>SONOMA COAST</b>	ACIDITY/PH <b>3.34/5.9 G/L</b>	ALCOHOL <b>13.5%</b>	♥ ■
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### TASTING NOTES

The wine opens with aromas of ripe citrus, baked, pear, apple tart, cashew, and a hint of vanilla wafer. The palate has a bright entry leading to a rich and well-structured mid-palate with flavors of fresh apricot, guava and lemongrass. Most impressive is a seemingly never-ending lemon cream finish.

### FROM THE WINEMAKER

Our winemakers review all Chardonnay wines from our various vineyards and choose the finest of that vintage. Once they find that special vineyard that outperformed all others, the next task is to taste through the 200 to 400 barrels and find the finest 10 which not only need to be delicious and represent the vineyard but blend perfectly with each other—a difficult task but a labor of love. This wine comes from a single vineyard located in the Sonoma Coast appellation.

RETAIL: \$65 | REORDER: \$46



## ROSÉ OF PINOT NOIR 2021

APPELLATION <b>SONOMA COAST</b>	ACIDITY/PH <b>6.96/L / 3.69</b>	ALCOHOL <b>12.5%</b>	♥♥ ■□
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### TASTING NOTES

**Aroma:** There are many layers of aroma in this wine, some rhubarb, pink watermelon rind, with a little peach and lychee character that smells like summer.

**Palate:** Fresh with good body for such a light wine, ruby red grapefruit and a subtle flintiness that adds complexity. It has mouthwatering acid and a little sweetness in the finish to make this a very easy drinking wine.

### FROM THE WINEMAKER

Lighter rains in the winter and a warm spring led to an early budbreak and, ultimately, a second earlier harvest in a row. 2021 had a warm growing season and a lighter crop which also contributed to the early harvest and we picked the grapes for our Rosé of Pinot Noir on September 9<sup>th</sup>. We gave it a shorter time in the press this year to achieve a beautiful salmon and grape fruit pink color. We fermented the

RETAIL: \$22 | REORDER: \$16

KEY: ♥ VINTNER'S CHOICE MIXED   ♥ VINTNER'S CHOICE REDS   ■ CLASSIC MIXED   □ CLASSIC REDS



## CROSS SPRINGS RANCH PETIT VERDOT 2019

APPELLATION <b>LAKE COUNTY</b>	ACIDITY/PH <b>6.1 G/L / 3.82</b>	ALCOHOL <b>14.1%</b>	♥♥ ■□
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### TASTING NOTES

Our Rugged Elements Cross Springs Ranch Petit Verdot is visibly dense in the glass with aromas of black cherry, chocolate, tarragon, and a hint of grilled citrus. The palate is dominated by dried blueberry, grainy tannin, with a hint of blackcurrant.

### FROM THE WINEMAKER

Heavy winter and spring rains recharged the

soil after years of drought and a moderate summer made for a steady growing season. In spite of ample rain, the well-drained soils of Cross Springs Ranch led to a September pick for a variety that typically doesn't reach ripeness until mid-October. After 13 days on the skins the wine was drained and pressed then sent to barrel. The wine was matured two years in barrel and 10 barrels chosen for this blend.

RETAIL: \$42 | REORDER: \$30



## RUGGED ELEMENTS YOAKIM BRIDGE VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2019

APPELLATION <b>DRY CREEK VALLEY</b>	ACIDITY/PH <b>5.9 G/L / 3.67</b>	ALCOHOL <b>14.8%</b>	♥♥ ■
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### TASTING NOTES

Our Rugged Elements Yoakim Bridge Vineyard Cabernet has a core of ripe dark plum and blackberry with hints coriander and rosemary. Rich and textured on the palate with chalky tannins, the palate is dominated by ripe dark berry and chocolate with a slight hint of leather. This is a wine built to age.

### FROM THE WINEMAKER

2019 started with heavy Spring rains which led

to a healthy crop and an extended growing season for the Cabernet Sauvignon vines. We harvested the vineyard at night in early October and the grapes were in the winery pre-dawn. The wine was drained and pressed after 18 days on the skins. As a powerful wine when it was young, we kept it in barrel for 24 months until the wine had softened and turned into the beautifully balanced wine we bottled.

RETAIL: \$52 | REORDER: \$37



## RUGGED ELEMENTS ARROWHEAD VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2019

APPELLATION <b>SONOMA COUNTY</b>	ACIDITY/PH <b>6.1 G/L / 3.69</b>	ALCOHOL <b>14.9%</b>	♥♥ □
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### TASTING NOTES

An elegant and powerful Cabernet Sauvignon with aromas of blackcurrant, thyme and toasty oak underscored with hints of vanilla and burnt sugar. The palate display rich, layered flavors of currant, pipe tobacco and black olive tapenade with plenty of complexity for this wine to age a decade.

### FROM THE WINEMAKER

The grapes were hand-harvested in the early

morning hours of October 30, 2019 and processed through a special destemmer and optical sorter—allowing only perfectly ripe berries to make it to the fermentation tank. After 19 days on the skins, the free run was drained to tank, settled, then barreled down. After 14 months in barrel, the winemakers selected the best barrels for the blend—45% new oak, 85% French and 15% Hungarian oak barrels.

RETAIL: \$52 | REORDER: \$37



## SINGLE VINEYARD SANTA NELLA PINOT NOIR 2018

APPELLATION <b>RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY</b>	ACIDITY/PH <b>6.6 G/L / 3.70</b>	ALCOHOL <b>15.2%</b>	♥
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### TASTING NOTES

Aromas of dried raspberry, dark chocolate cherry, cinnamon and anise. This wine has density and gravitas with a soft, rich entry, spicy mid-palate with clove and flavors of ripe raspberry, toasty pastry leading to a roasted marshmallow finish.

### FROM THE WINEMAKER

The 2018 vintage was mild and dry leading to a more historically average picking date.

Our Santa Nella Pinot Noir grapes were night harvested on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We destemmed the grapes into stainless steel tanks and cold soaked them before undergoing fermentation for 3 weeks. The young wine was then pressed off the skins, settled and racked into 35% new oak barrels where the wine aged for 15 months.

RETAIL: \$42 | REORDER: \$30