

2021 Fall Wine Release: Half Case Selection - Red Wines

Vintages

2019

The 2019 vintage will go down as a classic year in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Some unsettled weather in the spring resulted in poor flowering, lower yields in some blocks. The summer was warm, but not oppressively so- the lack of extreme heat events was a welcome change. Harvest began in mid September, finishing up in mid to late October – relatively late compared to the recent string of early harvests. The wines are concentrated with a fine balance of structure and fruit intensity. Site expression seems amplified; low yields and moderate temperatures often lead to some of our most singular and terroir driven wines. The wines drink surprisingly well in their youth and have all the components for a long life ahead. The only downside to the year are yields; the wines will be sought after and rare.

2018

2018 was another dry, but not particularly warm winter. This changed in early February. A system of high pressure brought daytime temperatures into the 70's, warming the dry soil and initiating bud break in the earlier sections of some of our vineyard sites. In March an arctic cold front settled in and brought nighttime temperatures down to freezing, risking frost damage to the new shoot growth. The Summer was mostly mild, leading to a normal to later harvest than other recent vintages. The wines are poised and complex with depth and structure.

2017

The 2017 vintage was another year of record setting heat, continuing our string of record setting temperatures. Luckily, Spring was mild and allowed us to set the best crop we have seen since 2012. A torrid heat spike over the labor day weekend started the growing season with a bang and had us off and running at sprinter's pace. The weather following was mild and allowed for the latest harvest we have seen in some time. It will go down as a vintage with good yields and potentially great quality.

2016

The 2016 Vintage was another drought year, with early bud-break, bloom and veraison. Poor weather during the early bloom caused shatter and millerandage. Vine stress became an issue late in the year with many of our dry farmed vines showing water and nutrient stress for the first time. The resulting wines are bright and energetic with mid-weight personalities. They are profoundly aromatic and balanced wines that are site expressive and pure.

Wines

2018 Mindego Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir

Mindego Ridge Vineyard is located at the western end of Alpine Rd. near the town of La Honda. It is a perfectly exposed south facing hillside in a very cool spot. Planted in 2009, the nine acres of Pinot Noir here are lovingly farmed by Dave and Stacey Gollnick. The clay loam over shale soils produce wines of great intensity.

Tasting Note: A generous mix of plum and cherry fruits with sage, damp earth, and violets. This juicy, Pinot has plenty of upfront appeal and will drink well over the next ten years.

95 points, Wine Enthusiast

Member Price: \$61.20

Retail Price: \$72

2016 Rapley Trail Vineyard Pinot Noir

The Rapley Trail Vineyard (avg. elev. 1650 ft.) was planted in 1981, consisting of six contiguous acres of Pinot Noir vines on our Estate's rugged southeastern slopes. It has long been the backbone of our past "Estate Reserve" Pinot Noir, but beginning in 2002 we have begun to bottle portions of the vineyard separately. This "deconstruction" displays the unique aspects and interactions of soil and climate that accounts for grapes whose flavor is a direct product of where they are grown; this is terroir.

Tasting Note: The Rapley Trail Vineyard has a unique aromatic incense of North-African spice and forest floor. The '16 vintage is red fruited with great texture, harmony and richness.

96 pts, Jeb Dunnuck

Member Price: \$66.30 Retail Price: \$78

2019 Razorback Vineyard Pinot Noir

The Razorback Vineyard was planted in 1986 and is the lowest elevation vineyard on the Estate at 1400 ft. Featuring a cool northeastern exposure, this 2 acre hillside is planted to four clones (115, 667, 777 and Swan) of Pinot Noir on fractured sandstone and shale. We ferment the clones together as we believe this encourages more complexity and intrigue in the finished wine. This rather steep vineyard is dry farmed and gets some of the cooling fog that settles below our other Estate vineyards. 2011 is the first vintage we have chosen to bottle as a stand alone, single-vineyard wine.

Tasting Note: High toned orange peel and spice notes frame the nose. The mouth is well structured with good acid/tannin balance, great red fruit and more spice notes.

Member Price: \$66.30 Retail Price: \$78

2018 Walker's Nebbiolo

We farm two Nebbiolo at two dramatically different sites. Our newest planting at Gist Ranch is just over an acre situated on heavily fractured Vacqueros Sandstone. High in elevation and mostly above the fog, this site consistently ripens this fickle variety and is the backbone our Nebbiolo wines. Our Winery Estate Nebbiolo is sourced from a small 0.3 acre hillside perched just above the Rapley Trail Vineyard.

Tasting Note: The wine reveals notes of dried strawberries, licorice, rose, and spice aromas. On the palate, the wine is ample, with minerality, cranberry, juicy acids and a firm finish.

95 points, Wine Enthusiast

Member Price: \$52.70 Retail Price: \$62

2017 Lexington Gist Ranch Estate Cabernet Franc

The vineyard was densely planted in the year 2000 at elevations reaching 2300 feet above sea level, 17 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. The heavily fractured, Vaqueros Sandstone soils and unique mountain micro-climate produce singular, deeply concentrated wines that demonstrate the power and elegance of the Santa Cruz Mountains appellation.

Tasting Note: A mountain structured Cabernet Franc with aromas of red berries, floral, and spiced tones.

91 points, Wine Enthusiast

Member Price: \$55.25

Retail Price: \$65

2017 Lexington Gist Ranch Estate 'Apex'

The vineyard was densely planted in the year 2000 at elevations reaching 2300 feet above sea level, 17 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. The heavily fractured, Vaqueros Sandstone soils and unique mountain micro-climate produce singular, deeply concentrated wines that demonstrate the power and elegance of the Santa Cruz Mountains appellation.

Tasting Note: A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot expressing aromas of blackberry and thyme.

90 points, Wine Enthusiast

Member Price: \$85

Retail Price: \$100