



A year ago I was trekking through the Rhone Valley doing some "RESEARCH" on some of the most sought after Syrah wines in the world. This year isn't quite as glamorous. But tasting through and writing notes for the 2022 white wines for the 2023 Spring White Wine Gang release and the 2021 Single Vineyard Zins for the 2023 Spring Zinstitution release is one helluva consolation prize.

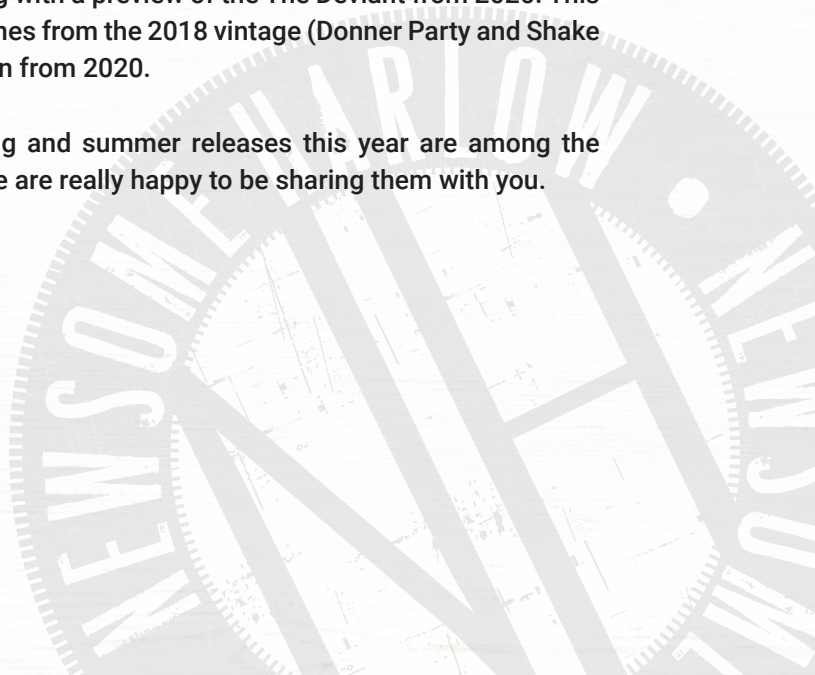
Though the yields were low for the 2022 white wines we were able to capture loads of expression and character in the wines as to give them a sort of...Joie de Vivre, if you will. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the 2022 Chenin Blanc. Just a wonderful expression of traditional varietal characteristics. The Chenin is flanked by a classic NH Rosé with those perfect spring/summer strawberry and bubble gum notes and the always crisp and clean 2022 Sauvignon Blanc, which has only been out for about 8 weeks. I hope you enjoy these beauties as much as I will be.

The Zinstitution new release contains a few brand new 2021 Single Vineyard Zin releases that are pretty tasty themselves (Big John and Herbert Vineyard) along with a preview of the The Deviant from 2020. This Club Package also has some beautifully aged library wines from the 2018 vintage (Donner Party and Shake Ridge) along with the most recent release of Foothill Zin from 2020.

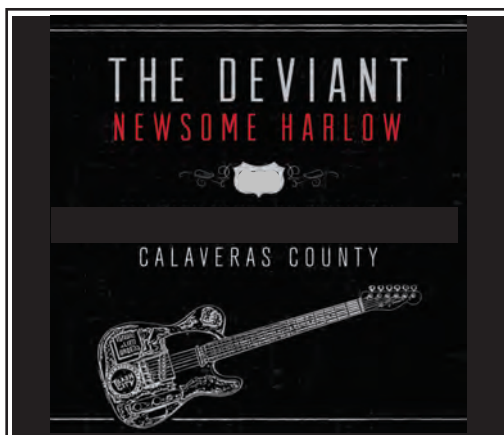
I'm pretty excited about all of these wines. The spring and summer releases this year are among the strongest we've bottled over the past few years. And we are really happy to be sharing them with you.

Best,

Scott Klann



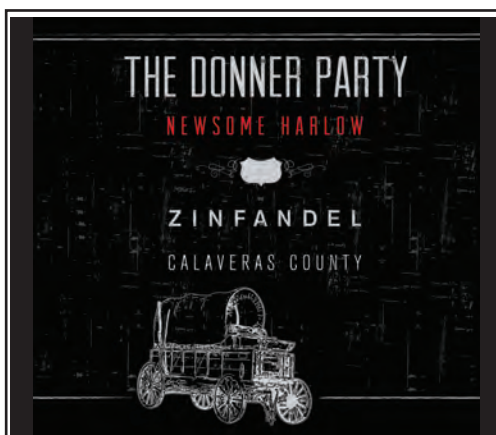
SPRING 2023 ZINSTITUTION WINE SELECTIONS



2020 THE DEVIANT

Varietals: 38% Carignane, 25% Petite Sirah, 25% Zinfandel, 12% Alicante Bouschet
Vineyards: 88% The Dalton Ranch, 25% Grant Family Vineyard
Appellation: Calaveras County
Aging/Cooperage: 22 months in 3yr old French oak
Alcohol: 15%

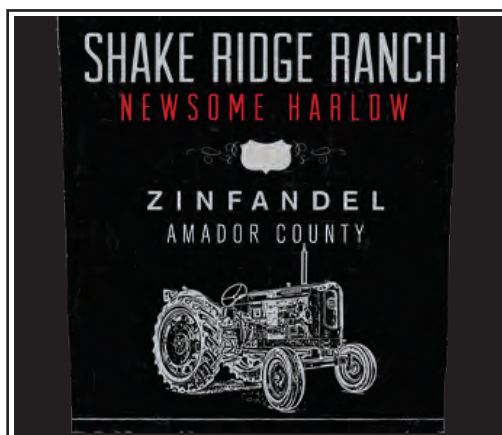
Deep purple in color, this new Deviant blend begins with dark red and black fruit aromas like boysenberry and blackberry, clearly brought on by the Carignane. Also some spicy pepper and rhubarb along with a touch of clove spice from the Zin. The Petite Sirah gives it real bright and rich blueberry fruit flavors to fill up the mouth with a full-bodied mouthfeel. The Alicante fleshes out the wine and this unique red blend finishes very long with those same consistent red and black fruit flavors that the wine began with.



2018 DONNER PARTY ZINFANDEL

Varietals: 94% Zinfandel, 6% Petite Sirah
Vineyards: 100% The Dalton Ranch
Appellation: Calaveras County
Aging/Cooperage: 18 months in 20% new French oak, 80% neutral oak
Alcohol: 14.9%

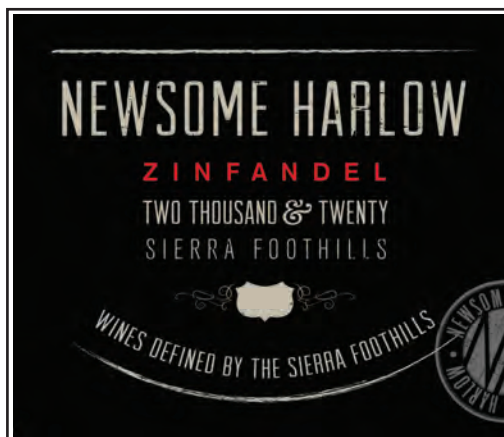
Deep black fruit and spice aromas. The flavors are ultra-strong blackberries, anise and clove with an earthy component. This is one big Zin with broad mouthfeel and spicy leathery characters. The tannins are firm but structured. The wine finishes with long dark blackberry and plummy characters.



2018 SHAKE RIDGE ZINFANDEL

Varietals: 93% Zinfandel, 7% Petite Sirah
Vineyards: 100% Shake Ridge Ranch
Appellation: Amador County
Aging/Cooperage: 18 months in 20% new American, 80% neutral
Alcohol: 14.7%

Classic black pepper aromas with raspberry and currants. The flavors mirror these aromas but add a bit of chocolate characters. The wine is medium to full-bodied with lots of structure. 2018 was yet a very warm season and as a result the tannins were well structured from the get-go. The wine is showing Sierra Foothill peppery characters integrated with the tannins, it finishes long with the dark berry flavors.



2020 FOOTHILL ZINFANDEL

Varietals: 90% Zinfandel, 10% Petite Sirah
Vineyards: Potter Vineyard, Roland Rosario Vineyard and The Dalton Ranch
Appellation: Sierra Foothills
Aging/Cooperage: 17 months in 20% new American, 80% neutral oak
Alcohol: 14.7%

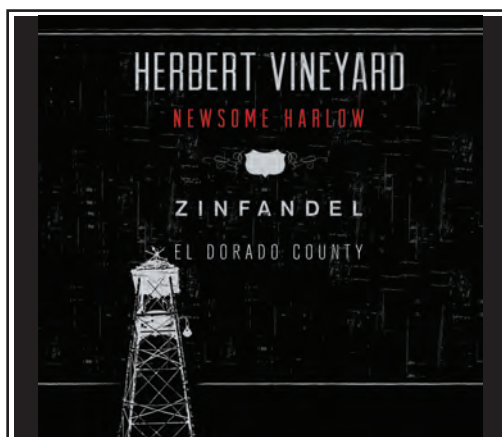
Deep raspberry and plum aromas with black pepper characters combine with a slight chocolate aroma. The flavors mirror the raspberries and add a spicy component of cloves. This juicy Zinfandel finishes firm and fruity with lingering dark berry flavors and a peppery spiciness.



2021 BIG JOHN ZINFANDEL

Varietals: 100% Zinfandel (Deaver clone)
Vineyards: 100% Big John's Vineyard
Appellation: Calaveras County
Aging/Cooperage: 18 months in 3yr old French oak
Alcohol: 14.7%

Strong raspberry and black cherry aromas combine with brambly flavors and some black pepper. Also juicy raspberry and blackberry flavors with spicy tones. This classic Sierra Foothills style Zin finishes long & spicy with black pepper and lingering berry characters.



2021 HERBERT VINEYARD ZINFANDEL

Varietals: 87% Zinfandel, 13% Petite Sirah
Vineyards: 100% Frank Herbert Vineyard
Appellation: El Dorado County
Aging/Cooperage: 18 months in 2yr old French oak
Alcohol: 14.8%

Supple black fruits and spicy anise aromas combined with classic Sierra Foothill peppery Zin aromas and flavors. The mouthfeel is full-bodied and has a deep dark focused supple character that heavily compliments the black fruit characters. The wine has a great mid-palate with classic foothill black pepper characteristics. Finishes soft but long with dark berries.