

2023 Holiday Wine Club Newsletter



A Very Memorable Vintage!

I'm sitting here writing this piece late October. That said, we are about 90% through a Crush that is providing us with fruit from what can only be described as a very special vintage. 2023 seems to be a growing year that harkens back to my earlier years in this business.

The year started with the most momentous winter and spring we've had in many years, complete with extraordinary amounts of rainfall that drenched the soils continually well into a late and cool spring. The transition took us ever so slowly into a very cool early summer. And only in July did we break out of the 80's and into the mid 90's with only a few rare periods of temps above 100F. Certainly the fear that it would stay hot and ripen grapes too quickly (especially considering the late start they got) was pretty tangible. But once we reached September we pretty much hovered in the mid 80's to low 90's...perfect vineyard weather.

Finally, as we rolled into mid October the weather gave us another two weeks of mid to high 80's temps and a few days in the 90's. All of these things added up to what we in the biz like to call "hang time". The last steady push to develop more complex flavors as opposed to a rapid increase of sugars resulting from hot weather triggered desiccation in the grapes.

I've been in this business a long time and it's been quite a few years since there has been a vintage as memorable as this. I expect the resulting wines to be very expressive, well balanced and with a complexity seen only in the finest of years!

Salud,

Scott Klann

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Last Supper Worthy Recipes



Sticky Baked Chicken Thighs

With Brown Sugar and Smoked Paprika

Pair With: 2021 Carignane



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Not So Petite, Crazy Good, Chocolate Bread Pudding

Pair With: 2021 Petite Sirah

Cozy Minestrone Soup *with Spicy Sausage and Pesto*

Pair With: 2021 Donner Party Zinfandel

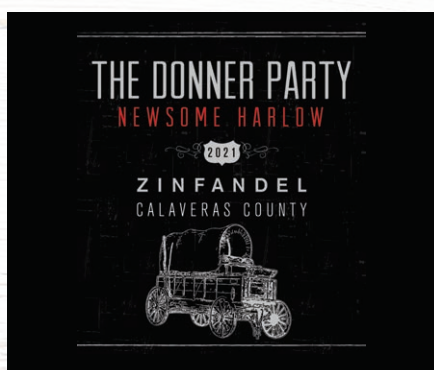
2023 Holiday Club Wines



2021 Carignane

Varietals: 100% Carignane
 Vineyards: The Dalton Ranch, Roland Rosario Vineyard
 Appellation: Calaveras County
 Alcohol: 14.8%
 Cellar: 5 – 8yrs
 Aging: 20 months in 10% new French oak, 90% neutral oak
 Cases: 226
 Recipe: Sticky Chicken Thighs with Brown Sugar and Smoked Paprika

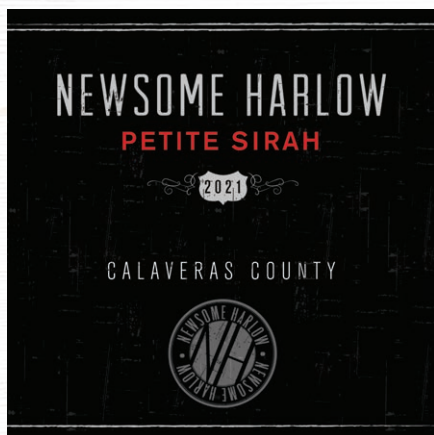
Dark plum aromatics hit first, followed by some exotic bright fruit and spicy aromas and a hint of blackberry. The flavors mirror the plum aromas and add some raspberry characters. The mouthfeel is medium to full bodied with just enough tannin to fill out the dark fruit finish.



2021 Donner Party Zinfandel

Varietals: 92% Zinfandel, 8% Petite Sirah
 Vineyard: 100% The Dalton Ranch
 Appellation: Calaveras County
 Alcohol: 15%
 Cellar: 5-8 years
 Aging: 18 months in 25% new French oak, 75% neutral oak
 Cases: 301
 Recipe: Cozy Minestrone with Spicy Sausage and Pesto

Deep black fruit and spice aromas. The flavors are ultra-strong blackberries, anise and clove with an earthy component. This is one super concentrated 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.



2021 Donner Party Zinfandel

Varietals: 100% Petite Sirah
 Vineyards: The Dalton Ranch, Aix Sponsa Vyd & Mayben Family Vyd
 Appellation: Calaveras County
 Alcohol: 14.8%
 Cellar: 5-8 years
 Aging: 21 months in 3yr old French and American oak
 Cases: 300
 Recipe: Not So Petite, Crazy Good, Chocolate Bread Pudding

The PS is deep purple in color. Deep and dark plum and blueberry Petite Sirah aromas are followed up with spicy characters and just a touch of oak. The flavor profile mirrors the aromatics, especially with the dark plum flavors. An earthy flavor subtly creeps in about midway through the palate. The mouthfeel is full yet tannins are just now beginning soften and round out the long plummy finish.

Current Wines

2021 Donner Party Zinfandel	\$30	2021 Carignane	\$24	2019 The Deviant*	\$36
2021 Herbert Vyd Zin*	\$30	2021 Barbera	\$24	2022 Sauvignon Blanc	\$15
2021 Big John Zinfandel*	\$30	2021 Petite Sirah	\$21	2022 Drama Queen	\$19.5
2021 Foothill Zin	\$18.75	2021 Meritage	\$24	2022 Rosé	\$15
2021 Derailed	\$19.5	2020 Syrah*	\$27	2022 Viognier	\$21

Prices above reflect Club Member Discount. *Very limited production, get yours now!

Petite Sirah + Our Holiday Wine Packs. . . *You're Welcome!*



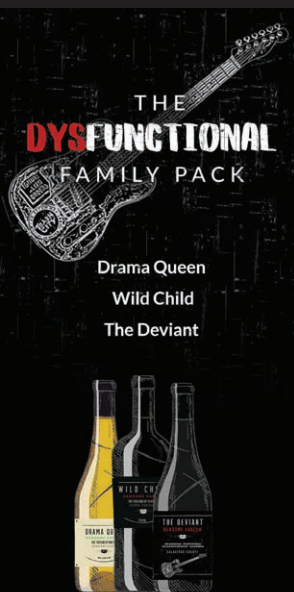
Of course it is true that we've spent the last 20 years building a life (and our reputation) around Zinfandels. But along with that zest for Zin comes a healthy brotherly love for Zinfandel's eternal support staff, Petite Sirah.

About 150 years ago a French botanist named Francois Durif discovered a new varietal in his greenhouse. In fact a Syrah vine had spontaneously been cross-pollinated by a much rarer vine in the greenhouse called Peloursin. The resulting vine produced a grape that was small and intense with high acidity and tannin structure. Durif further propagated this vine and the new varietal was called Durif until it was brought to the Americas in 1884 by Charles McIver who planted it in the southern part of Alameda County near the Santa Clara county border. Aware of the parentage of the new grape, McIver began calling it Petite Sirah.

Our first release of Petite Sirah was in 2005. And since then we have crushed quite a bit of it. What I love most about PS is how expressive it is. And how its characteristics can change dramatically based on the soils it grows in. We now purchase three lots annually (occasionally 4). These three blocks make up our Newsome Harlow Petite Sirah blend. By design, they range in characteristics. The silty soils of the Aix Sponsa ranch sit in the Northeastern corner of Angels Camp. The granitic based soils of the Dalton Ranch are located east of Fourth Crossing between Angels Camp and San Andreas. And the rich, nutrient based soils of the Mayben Family ranch are just west of Vallecito. We occasionally bottle very tiny lots of these three wines separately, giving you the opportunity to taste the difference between these vastly different soils. Ask us about them and ENJOY!

Holiday Wine Packs will soon be available online!

Available November 10th



Available on BLACK FRIDAY, November 24th

