

HILL FAMILY  
E S T A T E



SPRING  

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2023



## GREETINGS FROM NAPA VALLEY!

The 2023 growing season graced us with more rainfall than we could have ever imagined. While we were grateful for the much-needed rain, the results were devastating in many parts of California. Three straight weeks of heavy rain caused some flooding in our lower elevation vineyards, but fortunately Napa Valley was largely spared from the destructive floods witnessed throughout the state of California. Thankfully, California no longer falls into the “exceptional drought” category following our significant rainfall. We are grateful for the sunshine and warmer days ahead!

This shipment includes the new vintages of our Atlas Peak Sauvignon Blanc (mixed club only), Clarke Vineyard Syrah and Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. We are also thrilled to finally release the new vintage of our beloved Malbec (red club only), after being sold out for quite some time. We made just 150 cases of the 2019 vintage and look forward to sharing it with our members.

In this newsletter we've included a delicious and simple recipe for risotto, utilizing seasonal spring vegetables. The dish makes a beautiful pairing with either the Sauvignon Blanc or the Syrah in this shipment.

We invite you to visit Napa Valley this spring and take in the beauty of our rolling green hillsides and golden mustard fields. It is truly a magical time to visit!

Wishing you and your loved ones health and happiness in 2023.

All our best,

The Hill Family

MIXED CLUB ONLY

## 2021 ATLAS PEAK SAUVIGNON BLANC

*Napa Valley*

*Composition: 92% Sauvignon Blanc, 8% Semillon*  
*Production: 207 cases / Enjoy Between: 2023-2026*  
*Retail Price: \$55*

Although Atlas Peak is Cabernet country, Doug decided to plant Sauvignon Blanc to see if we could push the limits on what Sauvignon Blanc could be. In 2021 the rainy season was very short, with bud break in late April and bloom in late May. Summer was moderate until the heat and winds arrived in August, concentrating the fruit just before harvest. The wine was barrel fermented to create a richer more complex palate with breadth and interest. In 2021, the Semillon from Windy Flats was unusually elegant, so we blended in 8% before bottling. This Sauvignon Blanc has a distinct sense of its site up on Atlas Peak, and will reward cellaring for 3 to 5 years, and perhaps many more. The aromas are vibrant with lychee, peach, melon, light tangerine, and lemon blossom. The palate is well integrated, creamy, and elegant, with notes of lemon biscuit and white peach.

Date enjoyed: \_\_\_\_\_ Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

MIXED CLUB & RED CLUB

## 2020 CLARKE VINEYARD SYRAH

*Napa Valley*

*Composition: 96% Syrah, 4% Viognier*  
*Production: 401 cases / Enjoy Between: 2023-2028*  
*Retail Price: \$58*

The Clarke Vineyard in American Canyon has a cool breezy climate that brings out the depth and finesse of the Syrah grape. Clone 877 is used for body and raspberry chocolate fruit, and a little Clone 383 for extra color and smoky complexity. A small amount of Viognier was co-fermented with the Syrah to add its exotic appeal. Rich fruit and a soft palate characterize the Syrah from Clarke and in 2020, it again has the show-stealing exotic charm that it casts every time a bottle is opened. The nose opens with intriguing aromas of toasted marshmallow and black fig, with wafts of mescal, hoisin sauce, and iris flower. The palate follows the nose, with toasted marshmallow, ripe black fig, and black cherry. All this fun flavor and deep gentle texture make this Syrah a favorite every time.

Date enjoyed: \_\_\_\_\_ Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

MIXED CLUB & RED CLUB

## 2020 NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

### *Napa Valley*

*Composition: 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Malbec and 3% Merlot*  
*Production: 1,300 cases Enjoy Between: 2023-2035*  
*Retail Price: \$70*

The 2020 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is carefully blended to give power and balance. We appreciate the opportunity to use high elevations (Baker Vineyard in Atlas Peak is at 1,200 feet) with their intense tannins and color, then blend and civilize them with vineyards from the valley floor and cooler areas. The 2020 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon displays aromas of ripe berries, cassis, and mocha. Rich fruit and ripe tannins define the style of this wine, which was made possible in a challenging vintage due to the diversification of our vineyards. When a lot of vintners decided to pass on the vintage and take a year off, our persistence paid off and will reward our loyal followers.

Date enjoyed: \_\_\_\_\_ Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

RED CLUB ONLY

## 2019 NAPA VALLEY MALBEC

### *Napa Valley*

*Composition: 99% Malbec, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon*  
*Production: 151 cases / Enjoy Between: 2023-2029*  
*Retail Price: \$68*

Malbec has become a quiet cult favorite, and we have made some wonderful varietal Malbecs that normally go into our Cabernet Sauvignon, but we wanted to let our club members share some of the excitement. We made four Malbec lots in 2019, and we found that the structure of the Baker Vineyard from Atlas Peak blended beautifully with the ripe concentration of the Windy Flats and the fruitiness of the Villagio Vineyard. We only made a small quantity for the adventurous, and we hope it catches on, because it is so much fun to drink! Its youthful nose opens to boysenberry and raspberry, with deeper black licorice, mocha and vanilla. The palate is balanced and smooth, with rich chocolate raspberry flavors and a plummy finish.

Date enjoyed: \_\_\_\_\_ Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipe by Allison Negrón

# SPRING RISOTTO WITH MUSHROOM AND PEAS

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*Serves 2-3 people. This dish pairs deliciously with the 2021 Atlas Peak Sauvignon Blanc or 2020 Clarke Vineyard Syrah.*

## *Ingredients*

4 cups chicken stock (use vegetable stock to make vegetarian)  
2 tbsp olive oil  
½ yellow onion, diced  
12 oz cremini or white button mushrooms, thinly sliced  
1 tsp fresh thyme or rosemary, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced/pressed  
1 cup Arborio or Carnaroli rice  
½ cup dry white wine  
1 cup frozen (thawed) or fresh English peas  
½ cup grated parmesan cheese  
Salt and pepper, to taste

\*Note: One of the biggest misconceptions about risotto is that it should be stirred the entire time, which results in gluey, thick risotto. Minimize the stirring to each addition of stock and just occasionally as needed to ensure it doesn't stick to the pan. This method will result in a deliciously creamy, velvety texture.

*Cooking notes:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### *Directions*

Heat the chicken stock in a medium stock pot and bring to a low boil. Once simmering, reduce the heat to low and cover until ready to use.

Meanwhile, in a large Dutch oven or wide saucepan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the diced onions and sauté until they begin to soften, about 3 minutes. Add the sliced mushrooms, tossing briefly with the onions before allowing to rest and cook until they begin to sweat, about 4-5 minutes. Season with salt, then add the thyme and minced garlic and stir until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in the rice and sauté occasionally for a few minutes to toast the grains. Add the wine, stir briefly and allow to simmer until almost all of the liquid is absorbed.

Add ½ cup (about a ladle full) of chicken stock to the risotto, stirring briefly to incorporate it and then allow it to simmer until the liquid is mostly absorbed. The heat may need to be reduced slightly at this point to prevent it from sticking to the bottom of the pan. Continue adding the stock in ½ cup increments until the risotto is creamy and cooked to al dente, adding salt as needed. When finished, the consistency should be slightly soupy, not sticky or firm (see note\*).

Stir in the peas until warmed through. Remove from heat and allow to rest for a few minutes. Stir in the grated parmesan cheese and taste, seasoning with salt and pepper if needed. Serve immediately.

# 2023 WINE CLUB SCHEDULE

## **FEBRUARY 2023**

Billing Date: February 20

Shipping Date: February 27

### *Featured Wines*

2021 Atlas Peak Sauvignon Blanc (mixed club only)

2019 Napa Valley Malbec (red club only)

2020 Clarke Vineyard Syrah

2020 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

## **MAY 2023**

Billing Date: May 1

Shipping Date: May 8

### *Featured Wines*

2022 Albariño (mixed club only)

2021 Windy Flats Zinfandel (red club only)

2021 Stewart Ranch Pinot Noir

2019 Red Door

## **SEPTEMBER 2023**

Billing Date: September 18

Shipping Date: September 25

### *Featured Wines*

2021 Tiara Sauvignon Blanc (mixed club only)

2021 Dolcetto (red club only)

2021 Like a Hawk

2021 Alison Cabernet Sauvignon

## **DECEMBER 2023**

Billing Date: December 4

Shipping Date: December 11

### *Featured Wines*

2021 Reserve Chardonnay (mixed club only)

2021 Cabernet Franc (red club only)

2020 Beau Terre Merlot

2020 Origin