

HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



SUMMER

2023

GREETINGS FROM NAPA VALLEY!

After experiencing one of the wettest winters (and springs) ever recorded in the state of California, we are embracing the sunshine, long warm days, and the beautiful green hillsides of Napa Valley as we approach the summer months ahead. We are anticipating a longer growing season due to the delayed budbreak and flowering, a result of the constant rainfall and colder temperatures earlier this year. This should allow our grapes to ripen evenly as they enjoy some additional hangtime this season.

We have been eagerly awaiting the releases featured in this shipment, which includes the new vintages of the Albariño, Pinot Noir, Red Door and Zinfandel. To complement these wines, we have included a very special recipe this month. Many of you know Erik Keilholtz, who works as a wine educator at both our tasting room and winery locations. In addition to his love and passion for wine, Erik is an incredible chef, after having spent many years in the catering business. He has crafted a delicious recipe for fresh halibut, which will pair particularly well with the 2021 Stewart Ranch Pinot Noir.

Garden tours resume in June, and if you haven't had the opportunity to visit our winery property, we encourage you to make an appointment to take in the views and enjoy the wines. We hope to see you this summer or for harvest in the fall!

Wishing you all our best,

The Hill Family

MIXED CLUB ONLY

2022 ALBARIÑO

Napa Valley

Composition: 100% Albariño

Production: 522 cases / Enjoy Between: 2023-2025

Retail Price: \$34

The Stewart Ranch in Carneros has its toes in the estuary south of Napa and stays cool and breezy. The 2022 season did not allow for much planning ahead: another drought year, then spring frosts, a cool summer, and in mid-August the first of 2 hot spells with intermittent rain. We were pleased to have brought in the Stewart Ranch Albariño on August 23, at 20.7 Brix on a nice foggy morning, though it reached 96 degrees by afternoon! The 2022 Albariño offers beautiful floral, pear and stone fruit aromas. Flavors include tart green apple and nectarine, with tangy lemon and lemon acidity on the long finish.

Date enjoyed: _____ Occasion: _____

Notes: _____

MIXED CLUB & RED CLUB

2021 STEWART RANCH PINOT NOIR

Napa Valley

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Production: 530 cases / Enjoy Between: 2023-2028

Retail Price: \$58

The Stewart Ranch vineyard in Carneros has a cool breezy climate that brings out the depth and finesse of the Pinot Noir grape. In 2021 we had low winter rains, with budbreak in mid-March and flowering in mid-May. The season unfolded with only moderate heat spikes and cool temperatures in the mornings. We brought in the Pinot Noir in 2 lots 6 days apart: the first lot was 3 tons at 22 Brix, and the second lot was 5 tons at 25.5 Brix. The wines developed as we had predicted, with the earlier pick having delicate characters, and the second having deeper, more powerful elements. The 2021 Stewart Ranch Pinot Noir has welcoming aromas of wild cherry, clove, baking spices and elderberry. The palate is graceful and balanced, with savory spicy plum, tart red currant, and a satiny texture on the finish.

Date enjoyed: _____ Occasion: _____

Notes: _____

MIXED CLUB & RED CLUB

2019 RED DOOR

Napa Valley

*Composition: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Malbec,
6% Petit Verdot and 4% Merlot / Production: 404 cases
Enjoy Between: 2023-2034 / Retail price: \$98*

Red Door is a wine blended to take advantage of our best lots that work together in the most rich and flavorful way, regardless of variety or sub-appellation. In 2019, Cabernet Sauvignon from Windy Flats vineyard had the most intense flavors, spice, and structure. Small lots of Malbec and Petit Verdot were also useful together building intensity and complexity. Merlot from Beau Terre Vineyard added boysenberry fruit and depth. From these outstanding lots we created a small quantity of amazing wine. The 2019 Red Door has an expansive nose of black licorice, fruity Halawi date, cassis, and dark chocolate. The palate rolls smoothly along with plushy blueberry and blackberry flavors, deep ripe texture, and a jammy cherry and mocha finish.

Date enjoyed: _____ Occasion: _____

Notes: _____

RED CLUB ONLY

2021 WINDY FLATS ZINFANDEL

Napa Valley

*Composition: 91% Zinfandel, 8% Petite Sirah and 1% Syrah
Production: 194 cases / Enjoy Between: 2023-2028
Retail Price: \$46*

The Windy Flats Vineyard is in Wooden Valley carved into the cliffs on the western side of the Vaca mountains. The Zinfandel comes from a section just below the highest point of the vineyard. Growing conditions were challenging in 2021 due to less than normal rainfall, but the canopy held up well through the season until we harvested the grapes on September 22 at 30 Brix. This variety is seen as a uniquely Californian grape with roots in eastern Europe, and with Windy Flats Vineyard, we have a great opportunity to create a small amount of high-quality Zinfandel. The 2021 Windy Flats Zinfandel offers aromas of milk chocolate, raspberry and thyme. The palate is balanced, and still has tannin showing under the raspberry, cranberry fruit, graham cracker and toasted almond flavors.

Date enjoyed: _____ Occasion: _____

Notes: _____

Recipe by Erik Keilholtz

FRESH HALIBUT

with asparagus and potatoes

The combination of fish and red wine might come as a bit of a surprise to some of you, but the combination of halibut and Stewart Ranch Pinot Noir is fantastic. While we are suggesting halibut for this recipe, a piece of salmon can work as well. However, if it is skin on, be sure to cook it skin side up, to ensure some crispiness. In this recipe we take a minimalist approach to seasonings, allowing the fresh ingredients to sing for themselves. The recipe written is for two, but it can be scaled up or down.

Ingredients

2 halibut filets

1 bunch of asparagus, (NOTE: Parboiling is optional, but it does wonders for the color: to do so, boil for three minutes in salted water, drain and refresh in a bowl of ice water)

12 small, boiling potatoes, cut into $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1-inch chunks

Extra virgin olive oil

Omnivore Salt (this can be found online or at specialty food shops. We recommend it highly, but Kosher salt or sea salt work well here, too)

Freshly cracked pepper

Cooking notes: _____

Directions

Preheat the oven to 375°. In a large bowl, toss the potato chunks with a coating of extra virgin olive oil, a pinch of Omnivore Salt and freshly cracked pepper. Spread them on a baking sheet and put them in the top third of the preheated oven for 12 minutes.

While the potatoes are roasting, toss the asparagus spears in olive oil, salt and pepper as above.

When the potatoes have been in the oven for 12 minutes, turn them, pushing them to one side of the baking sheet. If they are showing good browning, go ahead and place the asparagus spears on the other side. If they are not browning, let them roast for 4 more minutes before adding the asparagus. Roast together for 6 minutes.

While the potatoes and asparagus are roasting, sprinkle the fish with salt and pepper. Cook for 8 - 12 minutes, or until the fish is done to your liking, and there is good browning on the potatoes and slight browning on the asparagus. Check once the fish has been in the oven for 6 minutes and keep an eye on everything. If the potatoes and asparagus are done, they can be removed and held in a warm part of the stove.

When the halibut is done to your liking, plate and enjoy!

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