

HILL FAMILY  
E S T A T E



W I N T E R  

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2023



## SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM NAPA VALLEY!

The saying, “Good things come to those who wait” certainly rang true for us this harvest season! A very cool, wet winter and spring led to delayed budbreak, bloom and veraison, and a late start to the harvest season, which lasted through the first week of November. The delayed start allowed the fruit to develop nicely and enjoy some extra hang time on the vines. Winemaker Alison Doran noted that there were very interesting varietal differences this year; some of our vineyards still produced powerful, ripe fruit, while the cooler sites were more restrained, which will result in lower alcohol wines from milder sugar levels. Alison and Doug are very pleased with the quality of the fruit, and we look forward to sharing the 2023 vintage with you in the coming years!

The holiday club shipment includes our two flagship wines (Origin and Beau Terre Merlot), and we have been eagerly anticipating this release as the previous vintages have been sold out since this spring. The Beau Terre Vineyard in the Oak Knoll district is one of the first sites that Doug Hill developed in the late 1980s. Originally an old walnut orchard, the soil was incredibly fertile and loamy, with lots of sand and gravel. Doug, who had just returned from a trip to France, aptly named the vineyard “Beau Terre” (“beautiful earth”), having immediately recognized that this soil was special. Since Hill Family’s inaugural vintage in 2001, we have produced these two core wines, with most of the fruit sourced from this incredible site.

Both wines are perfect additions to holiday meals this season (check out the recipe on the last page for an easy showstopper), and we hope you enjoy them with friends and family.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season.

All our best,

The Hill Family

MIXED CLUB ONLY

## 2021 RESERVE CHARDONNAY

*Napa Valley*

*Composition: 94% Chardonnay, 5% Sauvignon Blanc and 1% Semillion  
Production: 351 cases / Enjoy Between: 2023-2028  
Retail Price: \$65*

The 2021 Reserve Chardonnay shows both its cool climate pedigree and the advantage that great sites have on Chardonnay character. The growing season was a bit mild due to the second year of drought, with some fog and windy afternoons. As the temperatures and the winds picked up in August, flavors began to ripen and the acids began to fall, and the three vineyards were picked on September 25, October 4, and October 2. Though we used a lot of new oak barrels on this lot, 60% of them were Billon Acacia light toast, and we have found they add depth and texture without the overt oaky notes of toasty French oak. The 2021 Reserve Chardonnay has lovely aromas of honeyed fruit with pears, melon, and ripe golden delicious apples. The palate is ripe and tangy, with rich citrusy flaky pastry flavors, and a long mouth covering stride.

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

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

MIXED CLUB & RED CLUB

## 2020 ORIGIN

*Napa Valley*

*Composition: 46% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon,  
14% Malbec, 3% Petite Sirah, 1% Cabernet Franc / Production: 408 cases  
Enjoy Between: 2023-2030 / Retail Price: \$60*

Blending Origin is always an interesting adventure. Ascertaining which lots play well together and support each other is different every year. In 2020 with all of the challenges we had during harvest, we needed to persist in using our best scientific attitude and all of our tools to make our wines. After a year and a half, we blended our best lots and made the 2020 Origin close to a Bordeaux blend, with four of the major players. We added a small amount of Petite Sirah as a stand-in for Petit Verdot, as fire on the mountain prevented us from harvesting Petit Verdot in 2020. The 2020 Origin has billowing aromas of ripe black cherry, plum and vanilla. The palate is ripe and velvety, with cherry and deeper berry flavors along with milk chocolate on the finish. So easy to drink!

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

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

MIXED CLUB & RED CLUB

## 2020 “BEAU TERRE VINEYARDS” MERLOT

*Hoot Owl Creek Ranch, Alexander Valley*

*Composition: 92% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc  
Production: 442 cases / Enjoy Between: 2023 and 2030  
Retail Price: \$58*

Hill Family Estate takes Merlot quite seriously, and we believe the Merlot grape has an elegance to offer that is different from Cabernet Sauvignon. The Beau Terre Vineyards are centerpieces for Doug Hill's accumulated viticultural knowledge. From the row spacing to the trellising, the row direction and the clones selected, everything has been carefully thought out to give Merlot its best expression. There were many challenges that came with the 2020 vintage, but with science and careful tasting on our side, we pulled together this lovely Merlot. It came out of barrel after 16 months, ready to enter the next phase of its progress. The 2020 Merlot has big aromas of ripe berry jam, black cherry, toasted hazelnut and toffee. The palate is loaded with boysenberry and plum fruit, then gets deeper with cassis and elderberry as it begins to open up. Good acidity in the center keeps everything balanced, allowing the ripe fruit to swell over the palate.

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

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

RED CLUB ONLY

## 2021 CABERNET FRANC

*Napa Valley*

*Composition: 90% Cabernet Franc, 6% Malbec,  
3% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Merlot/ Production: 219 cases  
Enjoy Between: 2023 and 2028 / Retail Price: \$78*

Doug Hill enjoys producing Cabernet Franc so he replanted a few rows in the Beau Terroir Vineyard a few years ago. 2021 was another drought year with a short growing season and hot spells. Fortunately, the weather moderated a bit after September 30 to give us some great hang time and the grapes were harvested on October 16 at 27 Brix. It was fermented and barreled, and after a year, we blended in a small amount of a nice fruity Malbec and a little Cabernet Sauvignon, then put it back to barrel for a total of 20 months. The 2021 Cabernet Franc has aromas of cocoa and vanilla, followed by anise and coriander. More mocha begins wafting as the wine spends time evolving in the glass. The palate has a soft balanced entry that expands out to a lively mid-palate with buoyant acidity, rose petals and thyme.

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

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

Recipe by  
Executive Chef Jacob Leatherman, Triple Creek Ranch

# DUCK CONFIT

## *with Sweet Potato and Black Truffle Gnocchi, Sage Brown Butter Sauce*

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### *Ingredients for 4 servings*

2 legs and thighs of shredded duck confit

#### *Gnocchi:*

1 cup cooked sweet potato, mashed

¼ cup all purpose flour

1 ½ eggs, whipped

1 tbsp white truffle oil and fresh truffle if available

2 tsp fresh sage, chopped, plus 1 tbsp for finishing

¼ cup butter

Fresh grated parmesan

Salt and pepper, to taste

### *Directions*

Fold all gnocchi ingredients together until well incorporated. Do not overmix, or gnocchi dough will get too tough. Once you have formed a ball of dough, wrap it with plastic and let it rest for at least one hour in the fridge. Take out of the fridge and cut dough into equal quarters. Roll each quarter of dough into a snake shape, about one inch thick. Cut the dough into small one-inch sections with a pastry scraper. Bring salted water to a boil and drop in gnocchi. Let them cook for about 5 minutes, or until they start to float to the top. Place the gnocchi on a plate and put in the fridge to cool.

Place a large sauté pan on high heat. Melt a quarter cup of butter in the pan until it is a light brown color. Add the gnocchi and cook until they turn golden brown on both sides. Add the shredded duck confit, some more fresh sage, a bit more truffle oil and some salt and pepper to taste. Heat everything through. Place in a large serving bowl. Garnish with fresh grated parmesan and sliced truffle. Serve immediately. Enjoy with the 2020 Beau Terre Merlot!

# 2023 WINE CLUB SCHEDULE

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## 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

SHARE YOUR HILL FAMILY  
EXPERIENCES!



*We encourage you to share your personal Hill Family stories and photos, as we will be featuring member stories in upcoming newsletters and social media posts. Photos can be shared via email at [info@hillfamilyestate.com](mailto:info@hillfamilyestate.com) or shared through our social media platforms, listed below.*

**Instagram:** @hillfamilyestate | **Facebook:** Hill Family Estate  
**Twitter:** @HFEWines



TASTING ROOM:

Open daily: 11:00am - 6:00pm  
6512 Washington Street. Yountville, CA 94559

WINERY:

Open daily by prior appointment  
6155 Solano Avenue. Napa, CA 94558