



Cartograph Circle News: August 2024

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Hello

It's our favorite time of the year! We're picking cucumbers, tomatoes and eggplants like mad. [The cucumber guy on TikTok](#) has provided some new ways to enjoy cucumbers, and we've discovered a couple of new eggplant pasta recipes that we love ([Smoky Eggplant Spread](#), [Roasted Eggplant and Tomato Pasta](#), [Pasta alla Norma](#)).

In the vineyards, we're sampling grapes, getting Brix readings, sharpening our pick knives and cleaning our pick bins. We can't wait to start picking fruit and getting the new vintage underway.

In the meantime: Updates on the wines we're releasing this fall and an introduction to the newest member of the Cartograph team!

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FALL RELEASE WINDOW OPENS SEPT. 3rd

We're very excited to be releasing four new wines this fall, plus two olive oils! It's time to think about what you'd like in your fall release shipment - read on for important dates.

- **Sept. 3 - 13:** The window for making your choices opens. Please check your email on **Sept. 3** so you can make your choices, update your credit card and make sure your shipping address is correct.
- **Sept. 24 - 27:** We're shipping the new fall wines! If the weather doesn't cooperate and temps are too hot, we'll hold off shipping until late October — we'll keep you posted.
- **Oct. 1:** New wines and olive oils arrive on the tasting room menu. Stop by to taste and pick up your order!
- **Nov. 9:** End-of-harvest celebration (watch your email for an invitation in Sept.)

New releases: (tasting notes will be included in the Sept. 3rd email)

- 2023 Cartograph Estate Olive Oil
- Non-vintage Cartograph Estate Olive Oil (blend of five harvests)
- 2022 Gould Family Vineyard Riesling
- 2022 Transverse Pinot noir
- 2022 Cartograph Estate Vineyard Pinot noir
- 2022 Perli Vineyard Pinot noir





WELCOME BRAD TO THE CARTOGRAPH TEAM!

Brad is our new tasting room manager — please stop by to say hello.

I grew up in the San Fernando Valley, raised by parents who loved good food and great wine and exposed me to both from a very young age. Every summer after my baseball season ended, we would take a two-week trip up to Point Reyes/Marshall and stay at various Airbnbs on Tomales Bay.

While most days were filled with whole-family activities, Mom and Dad would always set aside one day to go to wineries for a day of tasting. My sister and I would inevitably get dragged along and sit in the car waiting for them to finish. I, however, always found enjoyment simply being around the beautiful vineyards and scenery. This is likely where the seed that would blossom into my love for the wine industry was planted.

When it came time to apply to college, Sonoma State University was high on my list and would eventually become my alma mater. My bachelor's degree with a focus on the wine business required an internship at a winery, so in my final year at SSU I interned at a small family-owned winery in the Russian River Valley. I graduated in 2016 and the rest is history.

Joining the Cartograph team has been nothing short of an incredible experience thus far, even in the short amount of time I've been here. I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of our awesome Cartograph Circle members!



P.S. I'm a huge Star Wars nerd, so if you are too I know we're gonna get along! May the Force be with you!



FROM THE WINEMAKER: HARVEST UPDATE

The Northern California harvest season is underway and is looking ... wonderfully normal.

The last few years have presented odd patterns, with varieties ripening out of sync and throwing winemakers and wineries off in planning for tank space. This year, we're on track for a more drawn-out season. As expected, Sauvignon blanc is coming in first and Pinot will follow soon. We're putting a lot of miles on the truck as we're out and about sampling sugars. Crop loads are balanced with some regional variation, as is typical.

This will be an interesting harvest for us, as we've added several new vineyards and new varieties to our portfolio. The new property has two acres of Syrah; in addition to the Cab franc we added last year, we're also pulling in some Grenache. There is new Petaluma Gap Pinot in the mix as well. I'm excited to work with these new vineyards and also a little daunted, since this will be a pretty long harvest window.

There are lots of valley bins already flying up and down the roads, so the big players are pulling fruit from warmer locations as Sonoma County is just starting with sparkling. We'll be going full speed by mid-September.

I hate to jinx myself by talking too soon, but I think there's a lot of optimism in the vineyards right now. For us, this is the strange window where we've cleared our schedules of everything for harvest duties but no grapes are ready yet.

I was blown away by the massive clusters in the Grenache as I made my first sugar sampling pass through the vineyard. This photo shows a Grenache cluster on the left and Pinot cluster on the right:



Cheers,

Alan



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 21: Green Music Center, [Global Roots Sonoma Festival](#)
- Oct. 1: New fall wines released to the Cartograph tasting room
- Nov. 8: Pouring with Patagonia in San Francisco (details tbd)
- Nov. 9: Cartograph Circle members: End-of-harvest celebration in Healdsburg (watch for invitations the first week of September)



BACK TO WORK WE GO

Time for us to make sure the trailer and tractor are ready. We're doing a bunch of meal prep, freezing healthy and delicious meals to make it easy to feed ourselves and the crew throughout harvest. If you have meals that you love freezing, please let us know — the more variety we can have during harvest, the better!

Cheers,

Alan and Serena

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