



Hello

In early October, we were just about to send out a newsletter — and then, on Oct. 8, an unprecedented firestorm hit northern California. Over the next couple of weeks, we watched nervously as the fires changed directions and popped up in new areas. Many of our friends and Cartograph Circle members lost their homes.

As devastating as these fires were, our community pulled together in an amazing show of support. And we continue to organize and find ways to help our friends and their families as they start the long road to rebuilding. We were not directly affected by the fires, and while the production facility where we produce Cartograph wines was behind the evacuation lines in Santa Rosa, we were able to get in and save the fermentations that were wrapping up. We made every effort to keep the tasting room open during those nervous days — many of our friends who had to evacuate needed a hug as well as a place to share their stories and provide support to others who stopped in. It was a heart-warming thing to watch as folks offered a hand, even when they weren't sure of the status of their own homes.



To everyone who extended thoughts and prayers in our direction, we thank you deeply for your support. Now more than ever, on the heels of the fires and other recent weather tragedies on the coasts and in the Caribbean, we understand the power of community here and through our network of friends.

The good news is that Sonoma County is as vibrant as ever. Our shops, wineries, and restaurants are eager to welcome you. If you're wondering how you can help the recovery in Northern California, think about sharing a Sonoma County wine with friends to celebrate the upcoming holidays. We do, indeed, have a lot to celebrate.

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We often get asked about the quality of the harvest while it's underway; the reality is that we have a decent guess, but until we start tucking wines in for their winter's nap it's hard to really take stock of the vintage. And we're just about ready to start that, so I'll have some vintage notes in the next newsletter.

What we can say at this point in the season is that harvest wasn't boring. You know the saying: May you live in interesting times.... My conversations with fellow winemakers this year often start out with how we're all getting great color and some wonderful aromatics coming off fermentations. (After worrying and working nonstop to get the damn grapes into the winery in good shape, we do take a moment to celebrate the little wins once they're in.)



After that, talk shifts to the hard work it took to get the grapes to the finish line. We saw extremes in temperatures late in the season that had everybody moving fast, then second-guessing and rescheduling picks as several heat spells drifted through. How hot is too hot? Will the rain materialize, and will it matter? It was a good lesson that Mother Nature always wins. The battle this year was in the vineyard, not the winery. The conditions were perfect for botrytis at several moments this harvest, and in the end it barely registered as a bother. Sometimes you get lucky.

After all the struggles to pick at just the right time, we've been rewarded in the winery so far. I've had the most predictable and evenly paced Pinot fermentations from any season I can remember, with very complex aromatics and flavors that cover a wide swath of the Pinot noir flavor spectrum. I'm excited to work on these blends next spring. The Riesling is just about dry and the Gewürztraminer is wrapped and aging. The aromatics on Rosé and both whites are pretty exciting.

(Author's note: I wrote the majority of this before the fires, so I figured I'd let it stand and put the major news up top)

Cheers, Alan



OUR THANKSGIVING TABLE



Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and we're thankful to be able to share our home with friends this holiday season. The question we get asked most frequently: What wines should we pair with the Thanksgiving meal?

While we're cooking on Wednesday and Thursday, the 2016 Riesling and 2016 North Coast Rosé are staples for us. They're crisp and bright, they let us taste the foods we're cooking — and they're fun to share with the friends who are sitting at our kitchen counter helping us peel and chop. (Speaking of the North Coast Rosé, we have about 50 cases left — so if you're looking for Rosé for the holidays, we've got you covered. [Click here to order](#). Use this shipping

code: Ship15 to ship a 12-bottle cases of Rosé for a flat rate of \$15, Circle members can use this code for the [Cartograph Estate Rosé](#) as well.)

When we get to the table for dinner, Gewürztraminer is a must: It's lush and round, but its bright acidity cuts through the richness of the meal, and its aromatics play well with the spices of Thanksgiving. We also like to have a combination of library Pinots, for their earthiness and longevity, as well as recently released Pinots that bring bright fruit elements. This year, we recommend the 2011 Perli Pinot Noir, 2012 Starscape Pinot Noir, 2013 Transverse Pinot Noir, 2014 Choate Pinot Noir and 2015 Starscape Pinot Noir.

This year, our table will showcase a bounty of wines from Sonoma, Mendocino and Napa counties as we do our part to help rebuild the wine industry. From Mendocino we'll have Pinot Gris and Riesling; from Sonoma, Pinot noir and Rosé; and from Napa, Cabernet and sparkling. We'd love to hear about your meal: What will you enjoy?

If you need some Cartograph wine for your table, make sure you place your order by Nov. 19 for California ground shipping and 2-day air shipping for the rest of the country.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thanksgiving Day: Tasting room will be closed

Friday November 24: [Downtown Healdsburg Holiday Party](#)

December 6, 7, 13, 14: [Dine Around Healdsburg](#)

December 12: [Author reading](#): Elizabeth Cosin at the Cartograph Tasting Room

December 25: Tasting room will be closed



BACK TO WORK WE GO

Many thanks to everyone who has helped support Cartograph this year — we feel so lucky to be surrounded by an incredible group of people who have shown us their belief in what we are doing. Thank you for the email updates about your families, the amazing travel adventures you have taken and the wonderful ways you enjoy our wines. We truly appreciate it.

From our table to yours, much love and cheers.

Alan and Serena



Cartograph Wines

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