

From: **Alan & Serena** info@cartographwines.com  
Subject: Cartograph News: February 2019  
Date: February 4, 2019 at 9:59 AM



## Hello

January flew by! We loved presenting five library wines as our special tasting menu of the month, and really enjoyed sharing them with everyone who came in to taste. In fact, it was so much fun that we're going to expand the special menu to twice a month. We're having a great time kicking off Cartograph's 10th anniversary year!

## FEBRUARY 2019

RENEWING AND RELAXING

NOTES FROM THE CELLAR

FROM THE WINEMAKER

UPCOMING EVENTS

## RENEWING AND RELAXING



According to Wikipedia, February was named after the Latin word februum, which means “purification”—and that certainly fits with our perception of this month as a time of renewal. January is full of hectic energy as we focus on year-end financials and metrics, bottling and resetting everything for the new year. But in February, we get to take a deep breath and relax a little.

We celebrated Alan's birthday at the beginning of the month and are getting ready to head to Hawaii to visit friends, soak up the aloha spirit and return to Sonoma County refreshed and well-read. When we get home, we'll get creative, mapping out what we'll plant in the spring garden. Daffodils are already coming up, and the citrus is at its peak.

We try to spend one night each week at the Cartograph Estate vineyard, enjoying the quiet beauty of winter. Many of the birds have migrated south, so there's a stillness out there that is truly serene. And the rest of the week, we'll spend evenings cooking at home, making sauces and soups with the produce we froze last summer and fall. Here are some of the recipes we're looking forward to making:

- [Garlic soup with potatoes and poached eggs](#)
- [Penne with butternut squash and goat cheese](#)
- [Chicken and pasta with lemon and pesto](#) (homemade pesto is the best!)
- [Baked ziti with spinach and tomatoes](#)
- [Tricolore salad with oranges](#)
- [Wild mushroom pizza with caramelized onions, fontina and rosemary](#)

We'll wrap up the month by celebrating “[Open That Bottle Night](#)” on Feb. 23. Find us on Instagram and Twitter (@cartographwines) or at facebook.com/cartograph to let us know what bottle you'll be opening!



## NOTES FROM THE CELLAR

Join Us for Library Russian River Pinots

As we celebrate 10 years of Cartograph, we're digging into our library Russian River blends to see how they're aging. Each of these wines was blended to showcase the Russian River Valley region. It is a real education and a lot of fun to taste these wines side by side to see how slight shifts in vineyard sources and each year's unique growing conditions influences the wines. We'll be pouring these wines as our special tasting menu on Feb. 16 and 17—come in and try them with us! If you can't join us in the tasting room, we've posted the wines online and updated the tasting notes.

- [2011 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir](#)
- [2012 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir](#)
- [2014 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir](#)
- [2015 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir](#)
- [2016 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir](#)



## FROM THE WINEMAKER

### A Deep Dive into the Russian River Valley

So much of what we do is slavishly devoted to respecting the subtle (and not so subtle) differences among the vineyards from which we source fruit. Every location has something special to offer that we need to be aware of and protect during the winemaking process—for example, we have to pay attention to the lovely cola and dried-grass notes that are always part of any Starscape bottling, and to the yin/yang of Perli's red fruit/black fruit tightrope—so we don't lose the unique character of each location.



However, we also make a few wines that highlight the characteristics of a broader region or a specific American Viticultural Area (AVA). This month in the tasting room, we're putting the spotlight on Cartograph's blended Pinots from the Russian River Valley AVA.

Over the years, we've gotten fruit from all over the Russian River Valley AVA, and each lot has something to offer that captures the spirit of the region. (If you're not familiar with the Russian River Valley Wine Growers' neighborhood initiative, designed to showcase the AVA's sub-regions, you can read up here: [russianrivervalley.org/discover/neighborhoods](http://russianrivervalley.org/discover/neighborhoods).)

From way out west in the Green Valley sub-AVA to the Cartograph Estate vineyard in the Sebastopol hills to the famous Middle Reach, every vineyard block supplies its own colors for the palette I use to craft a balanced Pinot that represents the broader Russian River Valley. As much as we celebrate the unique characteristics of each property, we also love being able to blend a wine with specific characteristics that we associate with this AVA but aren't always present in every vineyard's fruit.

We'll take a little Pommard from Starscape to give us a note of ripe Bing cherry, and add it to a little 667 from the Cartograph Estate for vibrant acidity and spice. And maybe we'll toss in a little 777 from Starscape block 16 to bring up some of the mushroom and loamy notes that are such a wonderful characteristic of Russian River Valley Pinot. Most years, we find aromas and flavors of red fruit like cranberry and strawberry in the Choate vineyard as well as our estate, so we can make sure the riper fruit flavors have a balancing brightness. The net effect of this blending process is a wine that's typically a little broader on the palate but has plenty of bright-red fruit that keeps the wine from getting too chunky.

Along with the Russian River Valley blends that we'll be featuring in our library tasting Feb. 16 and 17, we'll focus on Russian River Valley vineyard-designate wines this month in the tasting room. After our trip down memory lane to sample these library wines, we're excited to be able to share them with you.

Cheers,

Alan





## UPCOMING EVENTS

Our wonderful partnership with [the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University](#) continues; see below for upcoming Cartograph–sponsored events. Cartograph Circle members receive special pricing on all 2018–2019 events at the center, as well as access to the donor lounge for wine and nibbles before the concert and at intermission. If you're planning to join us in the lounge, please [RSVP](#) to Serena.

Feb. 14: Happy Valentine's Day! Join us for a glass of our sparkling wines in the Cartograph tasting room

Feb. 16 and 17: [Russian River Blend vertical](#), Cartograph tasting room

Feb. 22: [Wild Up](#) at the Green Music Center

March 15: [Taste of Pigs and Pinot](#), Hotel Healdsburg

March 16: [Estate clonal tasting](#), Cartograph tasting room

April 3: Minneapolis spring release party (invitations coming soon)

April 4: Winemaker Dinner at [Chez Moi](#), Chicago (details coming soon)

April 5: Chicago spring release party (invitations coming soon)

April 13 (tentative): 2018 North Coast Rosé preview, Cartograph tasting room

April 26: [Gil Shaham, violin & Akira Eguchi](#), piano at the Green Music Center

May 4: Healdsburg spring release party (invitations coming soon)

May 9: [Kronos Quartet](#) with Masha Vahdat at the Green Music Center

May 18: [Library tasting](#), Cartograph tasting room

Get the most up-to-date info on our [events page](#).

---



## BACK TO WORK WE GO

We just wrapped up an interview for a podcast that we'll share with you at the end of the week. Now we're off to pack for Hawaii and pick out a couple more books for the trip! Hope to see you at the tasting room this month ... or at the Green Center for the Wild Up concert.

Cheers,

Alan and Serena