

Cartograph Newsletter: August 2017

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Hello

With the clanging of the bottling truck well behind us and the 2016 Pinots all tucked away safely in the warehouse, it's time to turn our attention toward harvest. We're getting our knives sharpened, waterproofing our boots and cleaning our pick bins. In a matter of weeks, we'll be back on the tractor sorting grapes.

AUGUST 2017

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FROM THE WINEMAKER: VERAISON

While we've seen Pinot beginning to turn color around the Russian River Valley for the past couple of weeks, we saw the first signs of veraison in the Cartograph estate vineyard on July 24. Roughly speaking, this is our six-week warning. Mother Nature is still in control of the ripening curve, but we can safely predict that at least on the estate property we'll start picking the first blocks in September, putting us right where we want to be.



In the image above, you can see that the process begins in a fairly irregular manner, but things will even out quickly. Then we'll be able to see the clusters that aren't keeping up, and we'll take stock of our crop load. This is our last chance to drop fruit so the vines don't waste energy on fruit that isn't in sync with the rest of the crop, or to reduce the load if there's just too much fruit hanging on the vine.

Last year, we were begging for every tiny berry. This year, we have more consistently sized berries and clusters — and more of them — so we'll be able to drop the clusters that are clearly lagging behind. Right now, it's a waiting game while we keep the canopy in check to make sure all the fruit gets decent sunlight and airflow as it ripens. So it is into the truck and into the valleys and hills to keep an eye on all the places where we source fruit.

Cheers,

Alan



CARTOGRAPH GARDEN BOUNTY

We're growing some of the vegetables that we'll serve in the pairings at our fall release parties, so we have a bonanza of beets and eggplants. The tomato stems have gotten so strong that the plants have knocked over their cages and are now growing in their own freeform style.

The corn was definitely knee-high by the Fourth of July, and we're excited to see how many ears we'll get. We planted two different types this year — a sweet corn and a bejeweled corn — and are pairing a sweet-corn risotto with the 2016 Riesling that we'll release in September.

If we could grow mushrooms, we'd be all set to provision the fall release party entirely from our own garden ... but luckily for us, we have Duncan's Mushrooms, so we can leave that to the experts. And unfortunately, the birds got to the cherry tree before we could collect enough cherries for the cherry-rosemary marmalade that's part of the recipe pairing for the 2015 Choate Vineyard Pinot Noir.

We love to share our garden harvest and will be bringing squash, pumpkins and carrots into the tasting room soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to see what's on hand in the coming days.



FROM THE CELLAR: END OF VINTAGE

We're wrapping up the vintages on several of our limited-production, single-vineyard wines and have very small quantities of each still available. The 2014 vintage was a particularly stellar one in our book, both for drinking now and for holding for the next five years. Get them while they last — and [contact Serena](#) if you have any questions about them.

We have fewer than 20 cases of:

- [2009 Floodgate Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)
- [2011 Perli Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)
- 2016 Estate Rosé of Pinot Noir (Cartograph Circle exclusive)

and fewer than 10 cases of:

- [2012 Floodgate Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)
- [2014 Mariah Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)



SUMMERTIME SHIPPING

If you're thinking that you need to wait for the weather to cool down before you place a wine order, no need: We use the UPS Summer Shipping program, which allows us to ship to many states up and down the east coast as well as to Texas and Illinois, even at the height of summer.

The wine ships in temperature-controlled rail cars and trucks to temperature-controlled hubs from which the packages are delivered. Most of these packages are delivered in the morning, especially to business addresses, so if you give us a business address for shipping the odds are good that your wine will be delivered on the first try.

For those of you who live in states that aren't part of the UPS Summer Shipping program, we'll be happy to store your wine in the tasting-room cellar and ship it as soon as the weather allows.



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20 and 26: Cartograph Circle members Fall Release parties

August 28: [Author reading: Elizabeth Cosin](#)

September 1 - October 31: Harvest! Come visit the tasting room to sample grape clusters and see active fermentations

November 11: Harvest Celebration Lunch - details to come



BACK TO WORK WE GO

We're pulling our vineyard boots back on and going to walk the rows, looking for more color and hedging the canes that are creating too much shade. Then we'll turn to the fall release. The wines are ready to go, and we'll be ready to ship as weather allows after the fall release date of Sept. 1.

Cheers,

Alan and Serena

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