

# SARAH'S VINEYARD WINE CLUB NEWSLETTER



*Hello Friends,*

It's been a tumultuous time for us here at Sarah's. The long winter deluges kept us out of the muddy vineyard for months, and we're still playing catch-up. The vines are so grateful for all the water, but the cool spring kept them from growing as much as they usually do. This is the wettest and coolest year we've ever had, at least in my 23 years of doing this.

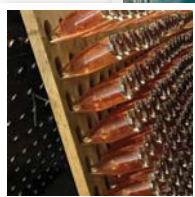
In the winery we've been busy too. As many of you already know, two years ago we embarked on our toughest winemaking challenge yet – a true Champagne-style sparkling wine, made using traditional techniques. Called "Methode Champenoise" (the Champagne Method), these wines require many additional steps to the normal winemaking process, and a lot of experience to get good results.

We've been selling sparkling wine for a few years, but now, we're doing the whole thing ourselves, from start to finish:

- Our own Estate grapes picked at the exact ripeness for a sparkler,
- making the base wine,
- bottling with yeast and sugar to referment in the bottle and carbonate the wine,
- patiently aging for 14 months with the yeast to gain additional flavor,
- and the complicated process of removing the yeast and putting the final cork into the bottle, using traditional hand riddling in our own riddling racks.

I have to hand it to my winery crew; they did a spectacular job. The wine is crystal clear, a beautiful pale salmon rosé, and shows very fine little bubbles in the glass. Happily, it's also a really good wine! And sincerely speaking – this is the real deal. Estate grown sparkling wine, 65% Pinot Noir / 35% Chardonnay, handmade (and hand labeled) by our dedicated staff. I can't tell you how happy and excited we are about this wine.

I have a moral imperative to add here. As most of our long-time supporters know, my wife Megan and I were blessed with a daughter just about 4 years ago. From the very beginning of this project Megan, shall I say "strongly urged" that this wine be named for our little Ella Rae. Naturally I agreed wholeheartedly, of course. And so, just released on July 16th, we proudly present: Sparkling Rosé d'Ella Rae!



Tim Slater  
Winemaker / Proprietor

## *Albariño & Vin Gris*



This spring we released our 2022 Estate Vin Gris (Rosé of Pinot Noir) and our 2022 Albariño. These are the perfect crisp, refreshing wines for all things summer, including our recipe for beet and burrata salad (available on our website and Tasting Room)! We made a small amount of both wines so won't have these for long. Be sure to pick some up at the Tasting Room before summer is over, or we sell out!

## *Wine, Dine & Dance at Sarah's Vineyard*



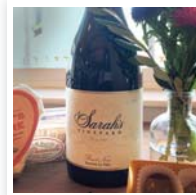
Our 2023 Summer music series is well underway and we're having so much fun! It's great to see you all again at the winery for fun Friday evenings filled with talented musicians, great food from local caterers (in support of the caterer, no outside food please), and your favorite S.V. wines! As a reminder these are 21 and Over Only evenings. Please see the Wine, Dine & Dance section of the events page on our website for this season's music details and line up. Our Friday night music will continue through the end of September.

## *Summer Wine Club Party*



We are excited to have Uncle Papa's BBQ coming out on Labor Day to set up their smoker and grill with us all day! Save the Date – Monday, September 4th – enjoy wines by the glass and bottle along with delicious barbecue. Details to come to your email inbox soon and at [www.sarahsvineyard.com/events](http://www.sarahsvineyard.com/events).

## *Latest Press*



In the recent winter wine club allotment, we released the 2021 Rancho La Viña Pinot Noir. We are excited to share that we received an accolade of 92 Points from Wine Enthusiast! If you no longer have this wine in your cellar, it is available in the Tasting Room or at our online shop at [sarahsvineyard.com](http://sarahsvineyard.com).

92  
POINTS

2021 SARAH'S VINEYARD RANCHO LA VIÑA PINOT NOIR

*"Dark cherry sorbet, mace, cinnamon and loamy earth aromas make for an attention-grabbing nose on this single-vineyard expression. The palate is thick and ripe with more cherry and red spice flavors, balanced by ample acidity."*

– Matt Kettmann | *Wine Enthusiast*, August/September 2023

# MEMBERS' SUMMER RELEASES



## *2021 Viognier, Estate*

The 2021 Sarah's Vineyard Viognier is based on this noble varietal from France's Northern Rhone. Despite a surge in its popularity in California in the 1990's, there is still relatively little Viognier planted in the state. We currently have about an acre of Viognier planted in Clock B2 of our Dwarf Oak home vineyard at Sarah's. For the '21 release, we hand-harvested and whole cluster pressed the Viognier fruit. Fermentation began using yeast "Rhone 4600" in neutral French oak barrels. After the barrel fermentation, the wine was matured sur lie in neutral and 2-year French oak cooperage for six months. The '21 Estate Viognier displays aromas and flavors of citrus, white blossom, and tropical notes. Time in the glass offers up juicy pineapple flavors, lemon and lime peel, and a bright crisp finish. The balance of bright acidity and a hint of creaminess from the primarily neutral French oak barrels make this wine a great match for spiced tacos or pasta with a cream sauce.

**Only 179 cases were produced | Tasting Room List Price \$34**



## *2021 Pinot Noir, Muns Vineyard, Santa Cruz Mountains*

Our 2021 Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir spotlights a unique, high elevation site. The fruit was grown on Muns Vineyard, high atop Loma Prieta in the S.C.M. Located literally on the San Andreas Fault on a ridge at 2,600 feet of elevation, the property is planted to the three main 'Dijon' Pinot Noir clones on primarily clay loam and sandstone soils. After a small-lot fermentation and barreling down, the wine saw eleven months aging in French Oak, with 30% being new wood. The 2021 Sarah's Vineyard Muns Pinot Noir is fragrant and earthy with ripe cherry and spice aromas, which are echoed on the palate. The bright rich fruit is complemented by nutmeg, clove, allspice, and a hint of vanilla with smooth, silky tannins and a long finish. This delightful Pinot Noir pairs wonderfully with mushroom risotto or seared salmon.

**Only 266 cases were produced | Tasting Room List Price \$52**



## *2020 Syrah, Besson Vineyard, Santa Clara Valley*

The 2020 Sarah's Vineyard Syrah is based on the noble varietal of France's Northern Rhone, responsible worldwide for classic reds. From French Hermitage to Australian Shiraz, Syrah is one of the most popular and widely planted red wine grapes. The Syrah for our '20 vintage came from our good friend George Besson, Jr.'s old vineyard, just 300 yards to the east of Sarah's. This historic property was originally planted in 1922. We hand harvested and destemmed the whole Syrah berries from Besson directly into the fermenter. We "cold soaked" until the onset of a robust, native fermentation before inoculating with commercial yeast. Punch downs of the cap were done by hand, three times a day. One hundred percent secondary malolactic fermentation was induced. All these careful techniques have the aim of maintaining the superb fruit and spice aromas and flavors. The '20 Syrah is big and soft, rich in color and flavor with an intense fruit presence of black plum, dark cherries, and red raspberries. It is also showing hints of licorice, violets, and baking spice. Pair this Syrah with Tim's recipe for Chocolate Syrah Olive Oil Cake.

**Only 220 cases were produced | Tasting Room List Price \$36**

## WINE CLUB SHIPMENT CONTENTS

### *Sarah's Wine Club*

- 2021 Viognier, Estate
- 2021 Pinot Noir, Muns Vineyard, Santa Cruz Mountains
- 2020 Syrah, Besson Vineyard, Santa Clara Valley

### *All-Red Wine Club*

- 2021 Pinot Noir, Muns Vineyard, Santa Cruz Mountains
- 2020 Syrah, Besson Vineyard, Santa Clara Valley

### *All-White Wine Club*

- 2021 Viognier, Estate
- 2020 Chardonnay, Estate

### *Pinot Noir Only Wine Club*

- 2021 Pinot Noir, Muns Vineyard, Santa Cruz Mountains