



Cartograph Circle Newsletter: April 2023

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Tue, Apr 4, 2023 at 8:31 AM



Hello

We're keeping this newsletter short so we can get back to building shipping boxes for the spring release — we expect to ship April 17 and 18th and have the new wines on the tasting room menu on May 2nd. Thoughtful shipping and packaging options are part of our sustainability efforts; we hope you've [followed us on Instagram](#) recently to learn about why being a Certified B Corporation is so important to us.

We're excited about the spring release, and thrilled that we've been able to start doing events again locally. Next spring, we hope to be in Illinois and Minnesota, and possibly also DC and Pennsylvania. Fingers crossed that we'll be able to see many of you in person soon.

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SPRING RELEASE NEWS

Cartograph Circle members: We're on the verge of getting the new spring wines into your hands! We'll begin shipping in mid-April, and tasting room pickups will start May 2 unless you've made arrangements with us for an earlier pickup or different ship date. If you have any questions, please contact [Serena](#).

On June 10, Alan will host a Zoom tasting where we'll taste and discuss the spring wines — but you can open anything you want and join us to catch up. We'll send invitations in May, so watch your inbox. And, obviously, if you have any questions prior to that, just reach out to us!



STAFF PICK

2017 Starscape Vineyard Pinot Noir

Many of you have met Andi, manager of our direct-to-consumer operations and tasting room. Andi, a Cartograph team member for five years, chose the wine for this month's staff pick: [the 2017 Starscape Vineyard Pinot Noir](#).

"The 2017 Starscape Vineyard Pinot Noir reminds me of spring, which makes it the perfect choice for our April wine. There is so much life and fruit in this wine. First there are cherries on the nose, then some bright red fruits (raspberries, cranberries) mid-palate, followed by lovely fresh blueberry notes at the end that linger nicely. There are cedar and earth notes woven in, which provide depth and balance and intrigue. But to me, it's all about the brightness and fresh fruit elements. Pairing this with something heavier or fatty works well — I recommend enjoying it with the duck at Valette, or try it with Mt. Tam cheese from local producer Cowgirl Creamery." - Andi



FROM THE WINEMAKER: VINEYARD UPDATE

Maybe you've heard: We got a little rain this winter. In Healdsburg, we're over 57 inches; up in the Sierras, many locations have gotten well over 600 inches of snow.

Parts of California have seen dramatic and damaging weather during this epic rain season. We've seen downed trees and a little wind damage, but the Russian River has pretty much stayed within its banks. Along with this wet weather, we've had cold temperatures that brought snow to the county at very low elevations.

So what does that mean for the coming growing season? The most immediate effect is that we are off to a very slow start. Last year, budbreak at the Cartograph Estate vineyard happened on March 21, with the rest of the Russian River Valley weeks ahead of us. This year, our buds are barely starting to swell as I write this on March 28. Even the warmest locations in the RRV are just at the start of buds swelling, with barely a leaf visible. You never know what the summer might bring, but from where we sit today everything points to a late harvest.

Thanks to a flurry of activity last week, all the vines are pruned and ready for the season. The cover crop is about five feet tall between the rows and looks great. We'll cut that crop and incorporate it into the soil as soon as it dries out a bit. On the photo, the white flowers are Daikon radish.



After being stuck inside watching it rain all winter, it feels good to get out and work in the vineyard. I'm looking forward to getting the vines up and dialed in for the season.

Cheers,

Alan



UPCOMING EVENTS

So many fun things are on the horizon — we want to make sure you know about all of them! And don't forget to use your Cartograph Circle code to receive member pricing on all events at the Green Music Center.

- April 2: Riesling returns to the Cartograph tasting menu!
- April 8: [32 Sounds](#), Green Music Center, Sonoma State University (our partners Alexander Valley Film will be there, too!) - give a shout if you would like tickets!
- April 22: Redwood Empire Food Bank: [Empty Bowls](#) - Cartograph will be at your table!
- April 27–29: [Ezell: Ballad of A Land Man](#) by Clear Creek Creative, Green Music Center
- April 28–May 7: [AVFilm Festival](#) (Let us know if you're going — we've been known to host some private pre-film tastings and pick up a handful of tickets to share for our favorite films)
- April 30: Spring release celebration (sold out, waiting list available)
- May 2: Spring pickups begin; new wines added to the tasting room menu
- May 12: Join us at [Maison Porcella](#) for locally made French foods and Cartograph wines
- May 13: [Forgotten Felines](#) fundraiser (they help us trap and adopt out the feral cats at the vineyard)
- May 20: [Healdsburg Wine and Food Experience](#)
- May 28: Spring release celebration
- June 10: Spring celebration tasting (Zoom); Alan and Serena will share notes and pairings for the new spring wines
- July 14: [Gay Wine Weekend](#)
- July 8–Aug. 30: Schedule a Cartograph Estate vineyard visit!



BACK TO WORK WE GO

OK, back to box building! Please let us know if you're coming to visit; we'd love to help you plan your trip.

Cheers,

Alan and Serena