



Interesting news from our winemaker about endings and beginnings

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Hello

School is back in session, the light is fading earlier and the cool breeze has picked up in the evening. Fall is here, which means we're about to launch into one of our favorite, most frenetic parts of the year: Soon we'll be picking grapes! We'll keep you in the loop throughout the season via [Facebook](#), our blog, and [Instagram](#).

SEPTEMBER 2019

CELEBRATING THE NEW FALL WINES

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CELEBRATING THE NEW FALL WINES

We enjoyed a wonderful release party with our Cartograph Circle members on Aug. 25. We tasted the four new wines and three library wines included in members' fall release, and Chef Dustin Valette created four delicious small bites that paired wonderfully with the wines.

The fall's four new wines are:

- [2017 Cartograph Estate Pinot Noir](#)
- [2017 Starscape Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)
- [2017 Perli Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)
- [2017 North Coast Sangiovese](#) (Cartograph Circle exclusive)

We think that each of the 2017 vineyard designates captures the bright fruit of that season in the best way. All four are now available at the Cartograph tasting room; stop in and taste them with us!



FROM THE WINEMAKER: ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

I have a couple of tough endings and some exciting new beginnings to report this month. First, the endings.

We found out this spring that the Gewürztraminer we've been getting from Starscape for the past nine years is being replaced by Pinot noir, and we're pretty darn bummed. Not many accountants can be convinced to keep lower-profit grape varieties when Pinot prices are skyrocketing. However, they also tend to forget that prices are cyclical: After last year's huge crop, Pinot prices have fallen drastically, so over the next few years during the wait for the new vines to start yielding fruit, they'll be crossing their fingers hoping that prices rebound. Seems like a self-inflicted shot to the foot. Anyway, considering that our area has very few Gewürz plantings of high enough quality to match what we've been doing, we've made the tough decision to stop producing Gewürztraminer.



To add insult to injury, we may also be losing our Riesling source. The Green Ranch Riesling was accidentally hit with an herbicide last year, and those 47-year-old vines are not rebounding well. Now we're the ones crossing our fingers, hoping that those vines bounce back. Green Ranch is such a special place, and we want to see great fruit continue to grow there.

Just like that, no white wines.

So what now?



After the heartbreak, followed by a bit of panic, we've been able to chart a path forward. As hard as it is to consider no more Gewürztraminer in our lives, I couldn't give up on my first wine love, Riesling. Luckily, a couple of chance encounters have led us to be able to source not one but two new Rieslings!

Daniel Roberts, a good friend who's a vineyard consultant, managed to convince longtime local winemaker Dan Goldfield to offer us some Riesling from a very interesting vineyard across the Sonoma County line in Marin, way out west in the Petaluma Gap AVA. We've had the Dutton Goldfield Riesling from this site, and the fruit is perfect for our dry style.

The other amazing find happened while we were at the [International Pinot Noir Celebration \(IPNC\)](#) in Oregon. Some of you have seen the documentary we're in, [American Wine Story](#), which features a number of folks like us who made the leap from other careers to build wine brands. The central thread of the story is about Janie Brooks Heuck stepping in to run [Brooks Winery](#) in the Willamette Valley after the unexpected death of her brother Jimi.

I was on a winemaker panel at Brooks during IPNC weekend, and as we walked through a biodynamically farmed block of 45 year-old Riesling, I figured it couldn't hurt to ask. Like the local winemakers who stepped up to help get Brooks wines made after Jimi passed, Janie was eager to help us keep Riesling in our portfolio. (Riesling freaks stick together.) Well into October, long after we finish picking Pinot here in Sonoma, we'll wait for word from Oregon ... and when we get the call, we'll head north with an empty fermentation tank in the back of the truck. After we pick the fruit, we'll press the juice at Brooks and drive it back home.

We've been tasting a number of older Riesling vintages from Brooks and were super-excited when we got word that Janie's team had signed off on the idea. I don't know whether this will be the start of something long-term, but I'm really eager to work with this fruit. And I can't say how truly grateful I am to be in an industry that's so willing to help friends — or even total strangers — work through the challenges that can spring up out of nowhere.

We'll make sure we get you some updates from the new vineyards ASAP. For now, I'm off to the estate vineyard to thin out the unripe fruit — what we call a “green drop” — so we can get the bird nets up.

Cheers,

Alan



TEN YEARS OF CARTOGRAPH: END OF HARVEST LUNCH CELEBRATION

It feels a little odd to be writing this while we haven't picked a single grape yet, but we want to make sure you knew about our end of harvest celebration. It's tons of fun, and this year it might even happen before the end of harvest! In addition, 2019 is Cartograph's 10th anniversary year, so this will be an extra special party.



Alan and I are working with Chef Dustin Valette to create an amazing five-course lunch paired with Cartograph library wines. At the celebration, Alan will tell you about the wines he chose, and Dustin will tell you about the food he's paired with each one. We'll meet at noon at the Cartograph tasting room for the first course, then head over to Valette for the rest of the meal. Seating is limited to 50 people, so if you'd like to join us please let us know as soon as possible. We'd love to celebrate with you!

Saturday November 16, noon - 2pm

Tickets: \$90 for Cartograph Circle members, \$110 for non-Circle members; price includes tax and gratuity

RSVP [here](#) or call the tasting room at 707.433.8270



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 14: Russian River Valley Pinot Noir vertical, noon - 4pm at the Cartograph Tasting Room

- Join us for a tasting of the Russian River Valley Pinot Noir 2011 - 2016

Oct. 5: 2015 Pinot Noir Magnum release, noon - 4pm at the Cartograph Tasting Room

- We have 12 magnums available from the following vineyards: Choate, Saltonstall, Starscape, Transverse and Perli

Nov. 9: Perli Vineyard Pinot Noir Vertical, noon - 4pm at the Cartograph Tasting Room

- Perli vineyard was one of our inaugural vineyards when we launched Cartograph
- We will taste five vintages from 2009 - 2016

Nov. 16: End of Harvest Lunch Celebration, Healdsburg

- See the previous section for details

Dec. 14: Sparkling for your holidays, noon - 4pm at the Cartograph Tasting Room

- We will be showcasing our 2013 Brut Rosé and 2013 Brut Zero as well as our 2017 Cartograph Estate Olive Oil - great gifts for the holidays!





BACK TO WORK WE GO

Our boots are waterproofed, the pick knives have been sharpened, the bins are clean and we're ready to go! Bring on Harvest 2019!

Cheers,

Alan and Serena



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