



Cartograph Circle News and Spring Release Party Invitation - March 2017



Hello

As you may have heard, the rain has been falling steadily in Northern California. The Russian River has crested its banks several times and things are just ... wet. A question we get a lot in the tasting room: Does this hurt the vines?

Luckily, the vines are dormant right now, and they'll stay that way because the rain is keeping their roots wet. Dormant vines now means that budbreak won't happen soon, which gives us a certain measure of relief as we get through frost season. Budbreak in March will likely reset our harvest patterns back to what we normally expect — picking Pinot primarily in September rather than in August.

Our rain total so far for the 2016–17 winter season here in Healdsburg is 63.7 inches.



MARCH 2017

[INVITATION TO THE SPRING RELEASE](#)

[NOTES FROM THE CELLAR](#)

[FROM THE WINEMAKER](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

INVITATION TO THE 2017 SPRING RELEASE

Last Friday we finished bottling the new Rosés and Gewürztraminers (2 of each!!). So, this means we are getting ready to throw a couple of parties to celebrate the new wines and hope you will join us.

On Monday March 6th we will open the Spring Release window (via email) and unveil the six wines that we will be releasing. Latitude members will be able to add wines to their spring allocation. Members of the Longitude, Equator and Meridian levels will be able to make their selections for the spring release. We will begin shipping in April. Pick up orders will be ready starting May 1. Many more details coming in the next email.

We are excited to share the new wines with you and will have four spring parties this year. Please join us at one of the parties listed below. We will be serving the six new wines at the parties and pair them with small bites.



The party is complimentary for one Cartograph Circle member plus one guest, or two Cartograph Circle members if you have two names on your membership. Any way you slice it, the party is complimentary for two people. If you would like to bring one or two additional guests, guest tickets are \$30 per guest. Space is limited so please RSVP as soon as you can.

To RSVP, click on the [RSVP HERE](#) link below and tell us you are coming. We will confirm your RSVP via email so that you can be sure we received it.

April 4th Spring Release Party - Minneapolis

Location: Mitrebox Framing Studio, 213 Washington Ave N., Minneapolis, MN

- Time: 6pm - 8pm
- [RSVP HERE for the April 4th, 2017 Minneapolis party](#)

April 6th Spring Release Party - Chicago

- Location: The Residences at River Bend, 333 N Canal Street, 4th Floor, Chicago, IL
- Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- [RSVP HERE for the April 6, 2017 Chicago party](#)

May 7th Spring Release Party - Healdsburg

- Location: Cartograph Tasting Room
- Time: 1pm - 4pm
- [RSVP HERE for the May 7, 2017 Healdsburg party](#)

May 20th Spring Release Party - Healdsburg

- Location: Cartograph Tasting Room
- Time: 12pm - 3pm
- [RSVP HERE for the May 20, 2017 Healdsburg party](#)

If you have any questions, please call the tasting room at [707.433.8270](tel:707.433.8270) or [email Serena](#).



NOTES FROM THE CELLAR

2012 Floodgate Vineyard Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley

Tasting Notes:

After two very cold years, 2012 was a relief for farmers across Northern California. Even though the drought was deepening, a warm spring and moderate summer produced exceptional fruit quality.

The 2012 Floodgate Pinot Noir shows wonderful aromatics you might get on a fall walk in the woods. Rich, loamy forest-floor aromas mix with dried leaves and cedar to place this on the earthy side of Pinot, but there's also a nice floral component that presents lush violets and cola.

You'll get a big dose of black cherry and plum on the palate, with a nice tannin grip on the finish that stretches out for quite a while, with something like a caramel note lingering for minutes. This wine is incredibly lush, but retains the pronounced acidity that we strive to protect by picking before the sugars spike and acids drop out.

If you're new to Cartograph wines, you might be surprised at how wines like this that are vibrant and angular in their youth can turn a corner after several years in the bottle. And if you're taking Serena's advice and pairing with the recipes below, you might not get all of this wine's subtle aromas – but you won't be let down by its ability to stand up to some pretty rich food.

Recipe pairings:

When we released this wine in the fall of 2014, we paired it with wild mushroom risotto and grilled pork with fresh-fig skewers. We still think those are great pairings, but because we don't have fresh figs right now, our favorite pairing right now is an oven steamed salmon with pan cooked mushrooms that we think works really well.

Tasting and re-stocking:

If you're curious about tasting the 2012 Floodgate Pinot Noir, we'll have it open on weekends at the tasting room for the next several weeks. Can't come taste with us but want to have us ship it to you? [Order online](#) or [email Serena](#) and let her know how many bottles you'd like. Depending on weather, we'll start shipping again in late March/early April.



FROM THE WINEMAKER

Big Changes in the Vineyard



As we mentioned above, the rain has been the main story this year – see above for a glimpse of how the Starscape vineyard looked not long ago. One more series of storms is on the way, and then hopefully we can dry out.

We're keeping an eye on the vines to see when the buds start to swell, which is a sign that budbreak is not far behind. We're seeing just the slightest bit of bud swelling now in our estate vineyard. To put things in perspective, last year we had budbreak in our estate Pinot on Feb. 2.

The biggest change visually in the vineyard is that we've completed pruning and tying the canes down. It's a pretty drastic change; here's a before and after comparison.



We're tweaking our pruning strategy again this year to increase our bud count by about 20 percent. After seeing how the vines behaved last year, it's clear that we can hang a little more fruit this year. We averaged just 2.1 tons to the acre last season, which makes this fruit pretty darn expensive when you consider the high cost of farming this vineyard. So as we migrate to a new system, we'll have a combination of canes and cordons with spurs to get the desired bud count on each vine.



On the left is a cane and on the right is a young cordon with spur positions. On the cane, you can see that there's one bud at each position. On the cordon, you get double the bud count, since each spur has two potential bud positions. We'll need to keep an eye out for vines that are struggling to create strong canes at all positions, and remove weak canes so we don't stress those vines. We're optimistic that this more typical winter season will set us up for a more typical bloom period, which we're hoping will happen during the warmer temperatures later in the spring.

That said, there seems to be no such thing as "typical" anymore.

We're enjoying the daffodils that have sprung up in the grasses around the periphery of the vineyard. Poppies and other wildflowers are not far behind.

Here's hoping you're seeing the first signs of spring in your neighborhood.

Cheers, Alan



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18: [Winemaker Tasting: Starscape Vineyard Vertical \(sold out\)](#)

April 4 and 6: Minneapolis and Chicago spring release parties

April 27: [Cartograph-Valette Meet the Makers Dinner \(sold out\)](#)

May 7 and 20: Cartograph Circle Spring Release Party

May 2: Cartograph-Valette Meet the Makers Dinner (4 seats available)

June 8: Cartograph-Valette Meet the Makers Dinner (1 seat available)

June 10: [Winemaker Tasting: Perli Vineyard Vertical \(sold out\)](#)



BACK TO WORK WE GO

As we wait for things to dry out in the vineyards and keep our eyes open for budbreak, we're grateful, as always, for your support. We look forward to seeing many of you at our release parties this spring.

Cheers,

Alan and Serena

www.cartographwines.com | 340 Center St., Healdsburg, CA 95448 | (707) 433-8270

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)