



## Cartograph Newsletter: November 2021

1 message

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### Hello

Our favorite month of the year is here! The frenetic energy of harvest is wrapping up and the Pinots are in barrel. We'll be celebrating the end of harvest with Cartograph Circle members at two winemaker lunches. Then, we'll have the pleasure of ending the month by sharing our favorite holiday meal with friends and family!

### NOVEMBER 2021

[FROM THE WINEMAKER](#)

[FALL RELEASE UPDATE](#)

[IDEAS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY TABLE](#)

[GIFTING & SHIPPING HOLIDAY WINES](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

## FROM THE WINEMAKER: HARVEST WRAPUP

It has been tough for me to put this year's harvest into perspective. After last year's terrible smoke from wildfires and the disruption caused by COVID-19, it took me a while to get geared up and sink into this year's harvest ... which was, dare I say, totally normal.

Last year, the rule was that if you weren't actively bringing in fruit, you had to stay away from the winery. It was very disruptive - but I didn't realize the extent to which I had internalized how hard it was until we started gearing up for harvest this year. Everyone needed to mask up, but we could work in the winery again and, more important, we could stay on site working and chatting outdoors with the crew and other winemakers as we navigated harvest and winemaking decisions.

The gloom that had floated overhead for the last year melted away and true joy bubbled up as we got into working with this year's great fruit. We could pursue our craft without natural disaster and the pandemic having to be top of mind. The fires that raged elsewhere in the state this year had no effect on the fruit from the Russian River Valley and Mendocino Ridge. You can imagine our sighs of relief as fruit started hitting the sorting table.

Since we're working with fewer vineyards now and are partway through a replant at our estate vineyard, I made the decision to split lots into smaller fermentations and mix up the winemaking strategies to give myself as many blending options as possible next spring. The Riesling and Rosé are just about through fermenting. Both have lovely aromatics and — even at this early stage — really exciting flavors. The Pinots, which have all been put into barrel, are as varied and pretty as I could have hoped. We're really happy to be going into the holiday season with everything on track for an uneventful winter.

I'm sure I wouldn't have said this going into harvest, but sometimes "normal" is the most beautiful word in the world.

Cheers, Alan



## FALL RELEASE UPDATE

We released four new Pinots this fall, and we had the pleasure of having all four on the tasting room menu in October, and we'll continue that tasting menu through November 17th.

Circle members, if you haven't yet picked up your wine, please come in before the end of the month. We'd also be happy to ship them to you so that you have them for Thanksgiving. If you're not already part of our Cartograph Circle, we hope you'll [join today](#) so we can share these wonderful wines with you!

The new Pinots are:

- [2019 Perli Vineyard Pinot Noir](#), Mendocino Ridge
- [2019 Mendocino Ridge Pinot Noir](#), Mendocino Ridge
- [2018 Starscape Vineyard Pinot Noir](#), Russian River Valley
- [2017 Green Ranch Pinot Noir](#), Mendocino Ridge



## IDEAS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY TABLE

We love all the flavors of the Thanksgiving meal, and wanted to share some of our favorite recipes and pairings to inspire you as you plan your menu.

### *Appetizers*

- [Crab salad served on an endive leaf](#), paired with Riesling or Brut Rosé
- [Fingerling potatoes with smoked salmon and avocado](#), paired with Rosé

- [Mushroom-stuffed brie en croute](#), paired with Pinot noir

### *Vegetable sides*

- [Becca's butternut bisque](#), paired with a Starscape Vineyard Pinot noir
- [Wild mushroom risotto](#), paired with a Cartograph Estate Pinot noir
- [Roasted butternut squash salad with warm cider vinaigrette](#), paired with a Perli Vineyard Pinot noir

### *Brined turkey, stuffing and gravy*

This year, we're pairing our turkey, stuffing and gravy with the 2017 Cartograph Estate Pinot Noir and the 2012 Leonardo Julio Pinot Noir and, of course, we'll have a 2017 Green Ranch Riesling on the table as well.

- [Buttermilk-brined turkey breast](#)
- [Ina Garten's sausage and herb stuffing](#) or if we get adventurous we'll make [Stuffing biscuits](#)
- [Ina Garten's gravy](#) is our go-to; we adjust the seasonings depending on what we have cooking with the turkey

### *Dessert*

We'll pair these with the 2013 Brut Zero.

- [Libby's Pumpkin Pie](#)
- Brie cheesecake is something new that we're trying this year; we'll let you know how it turns out!

Let us know what you're planning for your Thanksgiving, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations. We're happy to recommend wines to complement your meals. And we have [magnums](#) available — they make wonderful gifts, and they solve the problem of having too many wine bottles on the table!



## GIFTING & SHIPPING HOLIDAY WINES



One of our favorite gift ideas is to give a three-year [vertical of wine](#). Magnums make a wonderful gift; we still have a few magnums from the [2016 vintage](#). And in the realm of [sparkling](#), both the 2013 Brut Rosé and the Brut Zero are available for the holidays!

We're happy to customize your gift - just tell us what you'd like us to put together and we'll include a personal note from you. Depending on the size of your order, we can package it in a black gift box or a Cartograph-logo wooden box.

**For Thanksgiving and Hanukkah** ground shipping, place your order by Nov. 15; for other forms of shipping, order by Nov. 20.

**For Christmas and Kwanzaa** ground shipping, place your order by Dec. 10; for other forms of shipping, order by Dec. 16.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 13 and Nov. 20: End of harvest winemaker's lunch
- Dec. 4 & 5: [Sparkling wine tasting](#), [Cartograph tasting room](#)
- Dec. 31: Say goodbye to 2021 with sparkling wine at the tasting room!
- January 27, 2022: [Piaf! The Show](#), Green Music Center
- February 19, 2022: [Kronos Quartet](#), Green Music Center



## BACK TO WORK WE GO

As we reflect on everything we're thankful for, we want to say a special thanks to our Cartograph Circle members. Your support and enthusiasm keep us moving forward.

To all of you, our friends and family, we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving at your house or wherever you're celebrating. May your holiday be filled with love and laughter.

Cheers, Alan and Serena

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