



Cartograph Circle Newsletter: December 2017

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Hello

The holiday décor is going up in the tasting room, and it's starting to feel festive! As we wrap up the year, we're grateful for everyone who came to visit us, connected with us online and helped further the Cartograph journey. We couldn't do it without your support.

DECEMBER 2017

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END OF 2015 VINTAGE ALERT

Weather and drought meant that 2015 was a lower-yielding year — and now we have fewer than 10 cases left of several of the wines we released this fall. If you like these wines, now's the time to buy!

- [2015 Mariah Vineyard Pinot Noir](#) (the final vintage of Mariah Vineyard)
- [2015 Perli Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)
- [2015 Choate Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)
- [2015 Upton Vineyard Sangiovese](#)



FROM THE WINEMAKER

Our First Estate Olive Oil

After we picked our last grapes on Oct. 2, we could breathe a sigh of relief that the grapes were all in. But this year, for the first time, we had another crop to get to the finish line.

At our estate vineyard property, there are 180 olive trees. Last year I was so focused on the first year farming the Pinot out there that I simply didn't have time to nurture a decent crop of olives. This year, with an extra pair of hands working the property, we

were able to stay on top of the olive orchard. While we didn't get a huge crop, it was enough to pick and mill for a Cartograph estate extra virgin olive oil.

On Nov. 4, we picked the olives right before the first frost. Frost can be a dealbreaker for olives just as it can be for grapes. It took a good-sized crew about six hours to pick the olives; from that six hours of work we got a whopping 872 pounds of olives. It's incredibly labor-intensive work to pick the olives one by one and drop them onto tarps to be collected. Shaking and raking are techniques often used to harvest olives, but they can damage the fruit and trees — and, more important, those techniques don't get all your olives, and needed every last one! Olives are traditionally milled on a stone mill, but our small volume would have left much of the oil stuck in the machinery, so we used a blade mill that's much more efficient.

And just as with grapes, making the decision on when you pick will dictate the taste of your finished product. As olives mature, they go through a color shift similar to that of ripening red grapes, turning from green to black. The ideal mix for olive oil is a combination of green and black olives; the greener you pick, the sharper the finished oil. The challenge is getting the balance right to get enough peppery sharpness but also some softer mellow tones. Our harvest ended up being roughly 50/50 green and black olives. It was a challenge to figure out the harvest timing, as trees in different areas of the orchard were quite a bit different in their color makeup — not nearly as uniform as grapes.

From that 872 pounds of olives, we got a little more than 15 gallons of oil. We were hoping for a lot more, but now that we've been through a season we know that our challenge is to get a better fruit set to maximize our yield. We're using a small amount of the oil at home so we can see how it's maturing. Right now, it's very bright and grassy, with a little bite that catches you in the back of the throat. As you can see above the color is still quite green. We'll bottle in February, and Cartograph Circle members will get first crack at ordering.

Cheers,

Alan



GIVE CARTOGRAPH FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It's time to place your orders for gifts of Cartograph wine to friends, family and clients — and don't forget to stock up for your own holiday celebrations! The holidays are a perfect time to order a gift set or why not go big with a [library magnum](#). Or, one of our favorite gifts for this holiday season is the 2013 Transverse Pinot Noir, because we love its festive label. Two other gift sets are below.



2017 Holiday Gift Sets

Russian River Duo



Capture the classic flavors and aromas of the Russian River Valley with this duo of the 2016 Starscape Vineyard Gewürztraminer and the 2015 Starscape Vineyard Pinot Noir. This gift set includes a black gift box with the Cartograph logo and blue tissue paper-wrapped bottles.

- [2016 Starscape Vineyard Gewürztraminer](#)
- [2015 Starscape Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)

Floodgate Vineyard Vertical

Floodgate Vineyard Pinot continues to get better and better as it ages. With this three-bottle vertical, you'll experience a cooler year at Floodgate alongside more "normal" harvest seasons. This gift set includes a black gift box with the Cartograph logo and blue tissue paper-wrapped bottles.

- [2009 Floodgate Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)
- [2011 Floodgate Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)
- [2013 Floodgate Vineyard Pinot Noir](#)

Holiday Shipping Deadlines

Christmas delivery: (arrives by Dec. 22)

- Ground shipping:
 - Midwest and East Coast: Order by Dec. 14
 - West Coast: Order by Dec. 18
- 2-day air: Order by Dec. 19

New Year's delivery: (arrives by Dec. 29)

- Ground shipping (all states): Order by Dec. 20
- 2-day air: Order by Dec. 26



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6, 7, 13, 14: [Dine Around Healdsburg](#)

December 12: [Author reading: Elizabeth Cosin](#) at the Cartograph tasting room

Tasting room holiday hours:

- Christmas Eve: Closing at 3 p.m.
- Christmas Dy: Closed
- New Year's Eve: Closing at 3 p.m.
- New Year's Day: Closed



BACK TO WORK WE GO

We wish you a holiday season filled with love, joy and laughter.

Cheers,

Alan and Serena

Cartograph Wines

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