



BENZIGER<sup>®</sup>

FAMILY WINERY

*It's in our nature.*<sup>™</sup>

*Partners Club Newsletter*

FALL 2018

## DEAR CLUB MEMBERS,

It's once again the most exciting time of year at the Benziger Ranch- Harvest season is upon us! Our winemaking and production teams are currently in full swing with Harvest, and while it's too early to share details, we are enthusiastic about the promise of the 2018 vintage.

2018 has been an amazing year of accolades for our wines. We are so proud of the many Gold Medals and 90+ points we have received, we can only hope you are loving them too! Not only have our wines been collecting awards this year, but once again, Sonoma locals have named us "Best Tasting Room" and "Best Winery Tour" in Sonoma. What an honor it is to receive this recognition and how happy it makes us to see our Club Members and guests enjoying their time when they come visit.

Speaking of visiting, we kicked off Social Club, a new series of Club exclusive events, and I'd like to thank all of you that have been able to join us. It has been so much fun catching up with our Club Members every other month and we will continue to do so as we've extended it into Fall and 2019. We have a few more events coming up- our first ever Estate Harvest Hike on October 7th and the Holiday Pick-Up Party on December 1st. We'd love to see you before the sun sets on another year.

Cheers -



**CHRIS BENZIGER**





## 2015 SIGNATERRA THREE BLOCKS

Sonoma Valley

Alc. 14.5% | TA 5.6 | pH 3.56 | 1016 Cases

**TASTING NOTES** Lush, ripe characteristics of dark fruit, dark chocolate, coffee and vanilla are enhanced by its sweet entry. Supple, soft tannins give structure while pulling attention toward intense fruit flavors and aromas.

**BLEND** 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 5% Malbec

**FARM PRACTICE** Made with Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Grapes

**CELLARING RECOMMENDATION** Drink now or cellar for the next 6-8 years

Retail: \$49 | Club: \$39.20



## 2016 JOAQUIN'S INFERNO

Sonoma Mountain Estate

Alc. 15.5% | TA 5.5 | pH 3.73 | 699 Cases

**TASTING NOTES** This blend was sourced from the steepest slope on our ranch, a challenge for even the nimblest of feet. Notes of strawberry and spice make an immediate impact on the olfactory. Flavors of ripe plum, blackberry, licorice and a hint of pepper collect on the palate, while structured tannins weave a lasting impression.

**BLEND** 42% Zinfandel, 40% Grenache, 18% Petite Sirah

**FARM PRACTICE** Demeter Certified Biodynamic®

**CELLARING RECOMMENDATION** Drink now or cellar for the next 6-8 years

**ACCOLADE** Double Gold Medal

Retail: \$65 | Club: \$52



## 2014 OONAPAÏS

Sonoma Valley

Alc. 14.5% | TA 6.1 | pH 3.66 | 1815 Cases

**TASTING NOTES** Firm and vibrant, this blend is very rich and well-structured with a deep layered core of currant, blackberry, mocha and sweet earth. Revel in its pleasingly long, lingering aftertaste.

**BLEND** 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Malbec, 13% Merlot 5% Cab Franc

**FARM PRACTICE** Made with Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Grapes

**CELLARING RECOMMENDATION** Drink now or cellar for 6-10 years

**ACCOLADE** Gold Medal

Retail: \$49 | Club: \$39.20



## 2015 OONAPAÏS

Sonoma Valley

Alc. 14.5% | TA 5.7 | pH 3.63 | 1120 Cases

**TASTING NOTES** This Bordeaux blend is approachable, beginning with its juicy entry. Aromas of licorice, berries and dark cocoa mirror nicely on the palate. Muscular, yet agile, with a refinement to the overall finish.

**BLEND** 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Malbec, 15% Cab Franc, 5% Merlot

**FARM PRACTICE** Made with Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Grapes

**CELLARING RECOMMENDATION** Drink now or cellar for 8-10 years

**ACCOLADE** Gold Medal, 92pts

Retail: \$49 | Club: \$39.20



## 2016 DE COELO TERRA NEUMA PINOT NOIR

Sonoma Coast

Alc. 14% | TA 5.8 | pH 3.53 | 402 Cases

**TASTING NOTES** Terra Neuma has a soft, round entry which carries through the palate giving the wine a polished mouthfeel. Chock full of lush, red fruit essences that are entwined in fresh, spicy tobacco and chalky mineral nuances.

**FARM PRACTICE** Demeter Certified Biodynamic®

**CELLARING RECOMMENDATION** Drink now or cellar for 5-8 years

Retail: \$75 | Club: \$60



## 2015 TRIBUTE

Sonoma Mountain Estate

Alc. 14.5% | TA 5.8 | pH 3.69 | 2261 Cases

**TASTING NOTES** This Bordeaux blend is elegant with layers of textures and flavors that coat the mouth. The wine focuses on its tight-knit mix of sweet earth, blackberry and wild berry notes. The finish ends in a burst of ripe fruit and dusty, fine-grained tannins.

**BLEND** 60% Cab Sauv, 14% Malbec, 11% Cab Franc, 10% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

**FARM PRACTICE** Made with Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Grapes

**CELLARING RECOMMENDATION** Drink now or cellar for 10+ years

**ACCOLADE** Gold Medal, Best of Class, 95pts

Retail: \$85 | Club: \$68

# VINTAGE NOTES

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**2014:** This vintage marked a third year of drought. Our vines have been taught to drive their roots deep into the soils, claiming water from below, not above. We received "miracle rains" in March, and a shake-up by Mother Earth in August kept us on our toes. The summer went smoothly, without significant heat spikes, but we did see high humidity throughout. Harvest was fast and compact, the early part of October provided a break to process the massive amounts of fruit. This is another great vintage on the heels of the fantastic 2012 and 2013; 2014 are wines of true pedigree.

**2015:** This was the fourth year of the severe drought in California. The dry weather resulted in an earlier harvest, by almost three weeks. Yields were impacted by the weather, which stressed bud break resulting in fewer clusters on each vine. While yields were lower than vintages '13 and '14, the caliber of the fruit was just as remarkable.

**2016:** We had become accustomed to working with limited amounts of water due to the drought, but this year we worried about abundance - it was a wet winter. Despite early season warmth and rain challenges, once we hit ripening season we had great weather for the hanging fruit to reach full maturity and to achieve ideal flavors and balance.

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