

BENZIGER[®]

family winery



benziger family club
TECHNICAL SHEETS



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APPELLATION SERIES

2021

APPLE HILL CHARDONNAY

SANGIACOMO VINEYARD - LOS CARNEROS

ALC. 14.0% | TA 4.56 | PH 3.55 | CASES 643

TASTING NOTE

Our Apple Hill Chardonnay is sourced from the Sangiacomo Vineyard in Los Carneros. After an inviting prelude of rich caramel and warm apple spice aromas, a rich and creamy midpalate delights with notes of baked orchard fruit, ripe pear, and subtle candied pineapple.

VINTAGE

The 2021 growing season started with cool weather and dry conditions. High heat that struck at the end of August/early September pushed ripening across varieties, resulting in six busy weeks of harvesting. Luckily, the fast and furious harvest wrapped up days before a storm hit our region in October, allowing us to preserve yields. The vintage finished with fruit-forward wines of bright acidity and soft tannins.

VINEYARD

The Apple Hill Chardonnay is sourced from the Sangiacomo "Home Ranch" at the bend in Sonoma Creek. This vineyard is planted to a dozen combinations of clone and rootstocks and has almost exclusively silty clay loam soils. The Apple Hill block is organically grown and aligns with our green farming practices.

WINEMAKING

Our grapes are night harvested to preserve delicate flavors and freshness. They are immediately whole cluster pressed, spending no time on the skins. This wine is fermented and aged in American oak, resulting in a creamy and luxurious mouthfeel.



WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli

CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 4 years

CERTIFICATION

Made with Organically Grown Grapes

ACCOLADES

Double Gold Medal | 95 Points

Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Gold Medal | 91 Points

San Diego Int'l Wine & Spirits Competition

Double Gold Medal | 95 Points

International Women's Wine Competition

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ESTATE SERIES

2021

PINOT NOIR

BELLA LUNA VINEYARD - RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

ALC. 14.2% | TA 5.76 | PH 3.48 | CASES 858

TASTING NOTE

One of our signature wines, Bella Luna Pinot Noir hails from the Russian River Valley. The 2021 vintage exhibits energetic notes of Bing cherry, fresh clove, cola, and a hint of sweet tobacco. Silky tannins frame the palate with an exquisite lingering finish.

VINEYARD

Located only eight and a half miles from the coast, Bella Luna's complex Goldridge soils and consistent slope produce grapes that ripen slowly and evenly. Coastal fog spreads across the vineyard keeping temperatures mild, helping guard against erratic temperature swings. This allows acidity to develop gradually and consistently in the grapes.

VINTAGE

The 2021 growing season started with cool weather and dry conditions. High heat that struck at the end of August/early September pushed ripening across varietals, resulting in six busy weeks of harvesting. Luckily, the fast and furious harvest wrapped up days before a storm hit our region in October, allowing us to preserve yields. The vintage finished with fruit-forward wines of bright acidity and soft tannins.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were hand harvested at night in cool temperatures to retain freshness and sugar levels. Instead of crushing, the Pinot Noir was gently destemmed keeping the whole berries intact. The fruit and juice were gravity fed into open topped fermenters and cold soaked for five to six days to extract color and red cherry aromas.



WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli

CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 8 years

CERTIFICATION

Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Wine

ACCOLADES

Gold Medal | 91 Points

San Diego Inter'l Wine & Spirits Competition

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ESTATE SERIES

2018 OONAPAIS

ESTATE GROWN - SONOMA VALLEY

ALC. 14.5% | TA 5.6 | PH 3.63 | CASES 2016

TASTING NOTE

2018 Oonapais displays the exquisite structure and burst of dark fruit classic to this blend of Bordeaux varietals. Named after the Buckeye trees found at our Sonoma Mountain estate, this complex and inviting blend offers intense aromas of blackberry jam, cedar and spiced mocha. Layers of concentrated flavors are brilliantly balanced, leading to a luscious finish.

VINTAGE

During winter and spring we had record-breaking rainfall - 75 inches. After the wet start the vines developed at rapid growth. We endured four heat waves before the berries fully changed color. We did not pull leaves around the fruit as we normally do, keeping the clusters shaded from the intense summer heat. The vintage finished late with overall fruit forward wines with nice acidity.

VINEYARD

Oonapais is a Demeter-certified Biodynamic® wine. The Native Americans who first lived in the area were intimately familiar with the land and its diversity of sun exposures and soil types. They called it "Oonapais" after the Buckeye trees found on Sonoma Mountain.

WINEMAKING

Our grapes are harvested at night to preserve their flavors and freshness. We cold soak the fruit for several days to extract rich color and flavors. We allow the native yeast to ferment the grapes to wine while we carefully manage tannins during our pumpovers. This wine is then aged in French Oak barrels for 16-18 months.



WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli

BLEND

63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot,
12% Malbec and 5% Cabernet Franc

CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 8 years

CERTIFICATION

Made with Demeter Certified
Biodynamic® Grapes

ACCOLADES

91 Points

Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

94 Points

San Diego Inter'l Wine & Spirits Competition

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ESTATE SERIES

2020

OONAPAIS

ESTATE GROWN - SONOMA VALLEY

ALC. 14.5% | TA 5.8 | PH 3.61 | CASES 833

TASTING NOTE

Oonapais, named after the Buckeye trees found at our Sonoma Mountain estate, is a complex and inviting blend. Intense aromas of candied blackberries, spiced mocha, cedar, and licorice burst from the glass before brilliantly balanced layers of concentrated black fruit, cocoa, and spice.

VINTAGE

The year started warmer and drier than usual. Spring and early summer brought mild weather conditions allowing our vineyards to flourish with a perfect set. However, Mother Nature had other plans when it came to late Summer, with two fire events plus a spell of 100+ degree days from August through September. The heatwave kick-started ripening sooner than anticipated on Chardonnay and some red varietals. Through all the challenges our team persevered, and we are proud of the superb, yet limited, 2020 vintage.

VINEYARD

Oonapais is a Demeter-certified Biodynamic® wine. The Native Americans who first lived in the area were intimately familiar with the land and its diversity of sun exposures and soil types. They called it “Oonapais” after the Buckeye trees found on Sonoma Mountain.

WINEMAKING

Our grapes are harvested at night to preserve their flavors and freshness. We cold soak the fruit for several days to extract rich color and flavors. We allow the native yeast to ferment the grapes to wine while we carefully manage tannins during our pumpovers. This wine is then aged in French Oak barrels for 16-18 months.



WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli

BLEND

31% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 27% Malbec and 14% Cabernet Franc

CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 8 years

CERTIFICATION

Made with Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Grapes

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ESTATE SERIES

2015

TRIBUTE

ESTATE GROWN - SONOMA VALLEY

ALC. 14.5% | TA 5.8 | PH 3.76 | CASES 2405

TASTING NOTE

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.

VINTAGE

This was the fourth year of the severe drought in California. The normally rainy season between January and March was quite dry resulting in a lighter harvest and an early one. We knew mid-summer that harvest would come early, and it did, by almost three weeks. Sonoma Mountain harvest started in late August and finished in mid-October. Our Yields were also down this year as the weather stressed bud break and we had fewer clusters on each vine. While we didn't get as much as vintages 2013 and 2014, 2015 brought us concentrated wine with powerful tannins.

VINEYARD

Tribute is a first of its kind. Made entirely from estate-grown grapes, this Bordeaux blend of predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon reveals the complexity and individuality of our Benziger Family Sonoma Estates. Tribute was the first Demeter-certified Biodynamic® wine from Sonoma County and one of the first from North America.

WINEMAKING

Our grapes are harvested at night to preserve their flavors and freshness. We cold soak the fruit for several days to extract rich color and flavors. We allow the native yeast to ferment the grapes to wine while we carefully manage tannins during our pumpovers. This wine is then aged in French Oak barrels for 20 months.



WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli

BLEND

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Malbec
11% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot
and 5% Petit Verdot

CELLARING

Drink now or cellar 10-12 years

CERTIFICATION

Made with Demeter Certified
Biodynamic® Grapes

ACCOLADES

Gold Medal | Best of Class | 95 Points
California State Fair

Gold Medal | Best of Class | 98 Points
Los Angeles International Wine Competition

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ESTATE SERIES

2020

MERLOT

SUNNY SLOPE VINEYARD - SONOMA VALLEY

ALC. 14.5% | TA 6.1 | PH 3.48 | CASES 543

TASTING NOTE

Our Merlot is dedicated to our dear friend Etta, whom we have partnered with for over 30 years at Sunny Slope Vineyard. An elegant and refined style, the 2020 presents aromas of fresh plum, black cherry, and milk chocolate at first approach. On the palate, essence of wild herb and violets mingle with soft tannins throughout the rich core, driving a lush mouthfeel from entry to finish.

VINTAGE

The year started warmer and drier than usual. Spring and early summer brought mild weather conditions allowing our vineyards to flourish with a perfect set. However, Mother Nature had other plans when it came to late Summer, with two fire events plus a spell of 100+ degree days from August through September. Through all the challenges our team persevered, and we are proud of the superb, yet limited, 2020 vintage.

VINEYARD

Located in the eastern foothills of the Mayacamas Mountains, deep roots combined with the warm southwestern sun exposure, produce thick-skinned grapes which give us the concentrated flavors, inky color and extracted tannins that distinguish this vineyard. As the vines expend most of their energy reaching deep into the ground for water, the vigor of the vine is held in check.

WINEMAKING

After destemming and optical sorting, the fruit is cold soaked for 3-5 days to extract color and flavors. We then allow native yeast to ferment the grapes to wine while doing gentle pump overs until fermentation is complete. This wine is then aged in French Oak barrels for 16 months.

WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli

CELLARING

Drink now or cellar for up to 6 years

CERTIFICATION

Made with Demeter Certified

Biodynamic® Grapes



ACCOLADES

Gold Medal | 91 Points

Critics Challenge Intr'l Wine Competition

De Coelo

BENZIGER.

2021 QUINTUS PINOT NOIR

SONOMA COAST

ALC. 14.0% | TA 6.29 | PH 3.32 | CASES 609

TASTING NOTE

Quintus, Latin for “fifth,” references the unseen spirit of our coastal vineyard working in harmony with the four elements. This blend of Clones 667 and 828 is marked by flavors of raspberry, sea air and black tea. Meanwhile, the perfect integration of acid and tannin results in unforgettable levity and lift, followed by a focused finish.

VINTAGE

The 2021 growing season started with cool weather and dry conditions. High heat that struck at the end of August/early September pushed ripening across varietals, resulting in six busy weeks of harvesting. Luckily, the fast and furious harvest wrapped up days before a storm hit our region in October, allowing us to preserve yields. The vintage finished with fruit-forward wines of bright acidity and soft tannins.

VINEYARD

Perched on a rugged hilltop, just five miles from the Pacific Ocean, where rocky, shallow soils and cool fog emanate from the Bodega Bay; these conditions are ideal for exceptional Pinot Noir. This vineyard literally sits on the edge of the earth, nudged to the limit line where fruit can be grown.

WINEMAKING

Our grapes are hand harvested in the early morning hours to retain acidity and freshness in the fruit. Instead of crushing, the pinot noir is gently destemmed keeping the whole berries undamaged. The fruit and juice are put into open top fermenters and cold soaked for four to five days to extract rich colors, supple tannins and true flavors. Native yeast fermentation adds another layer of complexity in aromas and mouthfeel before 10-month barrel aging in French Oak.



WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli

CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 8 years

CERTIFICATION

Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Wine

ACCOLADES

Gold Medal | 92 Points

San Diego Inter'l Wine & Spirits Competition

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ESTATE SERIES

2020

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

SUNNY SLOPE VINEYARD - SONOMA VALLEY

ALC. 14.5% | TA 5.7 | PH 3.67 | CASES 365

TASTING NOTE

Concentrated aromas of blackberry, cocoa and tobacco warm the nose to the dark core within. A layered entry of cedar and cardamom spice cascades into black currant and baked cherries, while the crushed-velvet tannins dissolve into a lush, smooth finish.

VINTAGE

The year started warmer and drier than usual. Spring and early summer brought mild weather conditions allowing our vineyards to flourish with a perfect set. However, Mother Nature had other plans when it came to late Summer, with two fire events plus a spell of 100+ degree days from August through September. Through all the challenges our team persevered, and we are proud of the superb, yet limited, 2020 vintage.

VINEYARD

Our Sunny Slope Vineyard, located in the eastern foothills of the Mayacamas Mountains, has deep roots combined with the warm southwestern sun exposure, produce thick-skinned grapes which give us the concentrated flavors, inky color and extracted tannins that distinguish this vineyard. This warm Glen Ellen location allows our grapes to grow to full maturity while maintaining a desirable low yield.

WINEMAKING

Our grapes are harvested at night to preserve their flavors and freshness. We allow the native yeast to ferment the grapes to wine while we carefully manage tannins during our pumpovers. This wine is then aged in French Oak barrels for 16 months.



WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli

CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 10+ years

CERTIFICATION

Made with Demeter Certified
Biodynamic® Grapes

ACCOLADES

Double Gold Medal | 95 Points
Sunset International Wine Competition