

BENZIGER CLUB



BENZIGER®

*family winery*

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*technical sheets*  
SPRING 2024

# BENZIGER.

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ESTATE SERIES

## 2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

SUNNY SLOPE VINEYARD - SONOMA VALLEY

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

### TASTING NOTE

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

### 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.

### 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.

### WINEMAKING

Our grapes are hand harvested in the early morning hours to preserve freshness. 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.

### CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 10+ years

### CERTIFICATION

Made with Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Grapes

### WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli



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ESTATE SERIES

## 2022 PINOT NOIR

BELLA LUNA VINEYARD - RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

ALC. 14.1% | TA 5.34 | PH 3.64 | CASES 600

### TASTING NOTE

One of our signature wines, Bella Luna Pinot Noir hails from the Russian River Valley. The 2022 vintage exhibits energetic notes of bright cherry, cola, and a hint of spiced vanilla. 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 growing season was consistent and mild. Signs pointed to an early harvest until a late August/early September heat wave pushed ripening in some blocks, resulting in a quickened harvest pace. But September rain brought a sigh of relief, refreshing the vines and allowing more hang time for the remaining grapes. This was one for the record books, with harvest wrapping up just before mid-October, our earliest finish since 2004. Overall, the result was concentrated and flavorful fruit, creating flavorful wines with great acid balance.

### WINEMAKING

Our grapes are hand harvested in the early morning hours to preserve acidity and freshness. 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 4 to 5 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.

### CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 8 years

### CERTIFICATION

Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Wine

### WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli



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ESTATE SERIES

## 2021 MERLOT

SUNNY SLOPE VINEYARD - SONOMA VALLEY

ALC. 14.8% | TA 5.5 | PH 3.58 | CASES 616

### 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 2021 presents aromas of fresh plum, black tea, and cocoa at first approach. On the palate, wild herb essence mingles with soft tannins throughout the rich core, driving a lush mouthfeel from entry to finish.

### 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.

### 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.

### WINEMAKING

Our grapes are hand harvested in the early morning hours to preserve acidity and freshness. After destemming and optical sorting, the fruit is cold soaked for 3 to 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. The wine is then aged in French Oak barrels for 16 months.

### CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 10 years

### CERTIFICATION

Made with Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Grapes

### WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli





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APPELLATION SERIES

## 2022 APPLE HILL CHARDONNAY

SANGIACOMO VINEYARD - LOS CARNEROS

ALC. 14.0% | TA 4.87 | PH 3.62 | CASES 530

### 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 pie aromas, a rich and creamy midpalate delights with notes of baked orchard fruit, ripe pear, and a hint of cinnamon spice.

### 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.

### VINTAGE

The growing season was consistent and mild. Signs pointed to an early harvest until a late August/early September heat wave pushed ripening in some blocks, resulting in a quickened harvest pace. But September rain brought a sigh of relief, refreshing the vines and allowing more hang time for the remaining grapes. This was one for the record books, with harvest wrapping up just before mid-October, our earliest finish since 2004. Overall, the result was concentrated and flavorful fruit, creating flavorful wines with great acid balance.

### 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.

### CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 4 years

### CERTIFICATION

Certified Organic

### WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli



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APPELLATION SERIES

## 2023 SAUVIGNON BLANC

FRANK JOHNSON VINEYARD - DRY CREEK VALLEY

ALC. 14.0% | TA 6.72 | PH 3.34 | CASES 485

### TASTING NOTE

Situated on the border of Dry Creek Valley, Frank Johnson Vineyard produces the alluring aromatics associated with cool climate Sauvignon Blanc. Fragrant peach, freshly cut grass, lime, and guava serve as an inviting prelude to the bright citrus zest and lime blossom within.

### VINEYARD

Located in the Dry Creek Valley, the Frank Johnson Vineyard is composed of loamy, slow but well-draining Goldridge soil, which keeps the terrain cool and allows long hang-time. Throughout the growing season, we tailored our work in the vineyard to balance the site's natural ability to produce fruit with intense aromatics.

### VINTAGE

The vintage was marked by abundant rains that nourished the soils before a cooler spring and summer created a long growing season. The grapes matured at a slow and steady pace, until many varieties ripened simultaneously, prompting a compressed harvest that kicked off on September 21st, the latest start we've seen since 2011. One of the finest vintages in years, 2023 yielded superb fruit with great flavors along with concentrated and balanced acids at lower sugar levels.

### WINEMAKING

Our grapes are hand harvested in the early morning hours to retain acidity and freshness. They are immediately whole cluster pressed, then cold fermented in stainless steel tank to retain fresh fruit aromatics while maintaining the crisp and refreshing palate.

### CELLARING

Drink now

### CERTIFICATION

Certified Sustainable

### WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli



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ESTATE SERIES

## 2022 JOAQUIN'S INFERNO

ESTATE GROWN - SONOMA MOUNTAIN

ALC. 15.5% | TA 5.94 | PH 3.7 | CASES 434

### TASTING NOTE

For over 30 years, Joaquin Corona has tended the vines that grow on the steepest slopes of our ranch. This well-structured blend opens with notes of freshly made strawberry and raspberry preserves before giving way to mocha, ripe black fruit, and red licorice.

### VINEYARD

Joaquin's Inferno is a Demeter-certified Biodynamic® wine produced entirely from the Benziger Family Estate. This wine is named after Joaquin Corona, whom Mike Benziger has worked with for 30 years- and whom he affectionately refers to as the "grape whisperer". Because of the difficult positioning of these old head-pruned vines, Joaquin had always referred to them as his inferno...and the name stuck.

### VINTAGE

The growing season was consistent and mild. Signs pointed to an early harvest until a late August/early September heat wave pushed ripening in some blocks, resulting in a quickened harvest pace. But September rain brought a sigh of relief, refreshing the vines and allowing more hang time for the remaining grapes. This was one for the record books, with harvest wrapping up just before mid-October, our earliest finish since 2004. Overall, the result was concentrated and flavorful fruit, creating flavorful wines with great acid balance.

### WINEMAKING

Zinfandel, Grenache, and Petite Sirah grapes were co-fermented in small open-top tanks. Native yeasts were fermented and punched down daily by hand. The wine underwent malolactic fermentation and primarily aged in French and American oak barrels, for just over 11 months.

### BLEND

55% Zinfandel, 31% Grenache and 14% Petite Sirah

### CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 8 years

### CERTIFICATION

Made with Demeter Certified Biodynamic® Grapes

### WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli



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APPELLATION SERIES

## 2021 WINEMAKER'S CLARET

SONOMA VALLEY

ALC. 14.5% | TA 6.0 | PH 3.64 | CASES 469

### TASTING NOTE

Aromas of berries, violet and plum practically jump out of the glass in this unique blend. Blackberry and plum mingle with tobacco and allspice on the rich palate, while refined, silky tannins and a luscious mouthfeel carry through the lingering 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.

### WINEMAKING

Our grapes are hand harvested in the early morning hours to preserve freshness. 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.

### BLEND

70% Malbec and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon

### CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 6 years

### CERTIFICATION

Certified Organic

### WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli





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DE COELO SERIES

## 2022 ARBORE SACRA PINOT NOIR

DE COELO VINEYARD - SONOMA COAST

ALC. 14.2% | TA 5.41 | PH 3.65 | CASES 400

### TASTING NOTE

The fruit for Arbore Sacra grows at high altitude along the Sonoma Coast, nurtured by morning fog, sunny days, and cool breezes. The result? Bright cherry, wild strawberry, and black tea aromas. Red fruit flavors that mingle with hints of sage and spice, energizing a lifted finish. A complex, yet refined wine that will mature gracefully.

### VINTAGE

The growing season was consistent and mild. Signs pointed to an early harvest until a late August/early September heat wave pushed ripening in some blocks, resulting in a quickened harvest pace. But September rain brought a sigh of relief, refreshing the vines and allowing more hang time for the remaining grapes. This was one for the record books, with harvest wrapping up just before mid-October, our earliest finish since 2004. Overall, the result was concentrated and flavorful fruit, creating flavorful wines with great acid balance.

### VINEYARD

Positioned at 750 feet elevation on a southeast facing ridge, Arbore Sacra consists of only one clone, Calera. The Calera clone creates a wine that is deep in color, abundant with inviting full and fresh black fruit aromas and a velvety soft and lingering finish, a true stand-alone clone. The name Arbore Sacra is an homage to the Engleman family and the lifelong pursuit of preserving this land over numerous generations.

### 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 during a slow, malolactic fermentation during the 10-month barrel aging in French Oak.

### CELLARING

Drink now or cellar up to 6 years

### WINEMAKER

Lisa Amaroli

### CERTIFICATION

Demeter Certified Biodynamic®

