



NAPA VALLEY, SINCE 1978

PINE RIDGE

VINEYARDS

FEBRUARY 2024



Circle Hill Vineyard, Stags Leap District

APPELLATION *Society*



Winemaking UPDATE

WITH ESTATE WINEMAKER
JOSH WIDAMAN

We wrapped up the 2023 harvest in the beginning of November, marking the conclusion of what some have deemed, 'the vintage of a lifetime.' This milestone was quickly followed by the excitement of receiving outstanding scores for our 2021 vintages from the renowned wine critic James Suckling (check out our recent accolades). Encouraged by this recognition, we shifted our attention to bottling the remaining 2021 wines and waxing our 2021 Circle Hill featured in your release this month.

January kicked off with a busy start as we hosted the annual barrel trial meetup at Pine Ridge Vineyards. This event took place in our Cabernet Caves, offering a unique and enlightening experience for our fellow vintners to sample a single wine aged in different types of barrels from a variety of coopers. The barrel trial is an immersive educational experience, providing insights into how each barrel type imparts distinct nuances and characters to the wine. Hosting this event is a great honor for our crew and underscores our commitment to innovation and excellence in winemaking.

In this month's shipment, we're excited to present our 2021 Circle Hill Cabernet Sauvignon, a symbol of our winemaking excellence. This second vintage from our estate vineyard has earned a 98 point rating from James Suckling, ranking #43 in his top 100 Wines of the USA. Originating from Block 2, planted with Clone 33, this wine boasts a weighty, mouth-filling profile with a distinct velvety texture. This gently sloping block is also instrumental in crafting our iconic FORTIS, underscoring its foundational role in our portfolio.

The second wine featured in this release is the 2021 Atlas Peak Cabernet Sauvignon. Sourced from Atlas Peak in Napa Valley, this wine exhibits a deep color, with richly textured tannins, and integrated spice nuances from the new French oak barrels. The unique character and quality of this wine are due to the cooler temperatures, long sun exposure, and volcanic soils at Atlas Peak, resulting in small yields of exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon.

Last but certainly not least, we're releasing the 2021 Malbec. Malbec is planted in four of our estate vineyards and traditionally plays a supporting role enriching our Cabernet Sauvignon. The quality of the juice has inspired us to give it the spotlight it deserves. This vintage marks my inaugural journey with this variety at Pine Ridge Vineyards, from harvest through to bottling and I'm excited to share it with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Widaman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".



Viticulture UPDATE

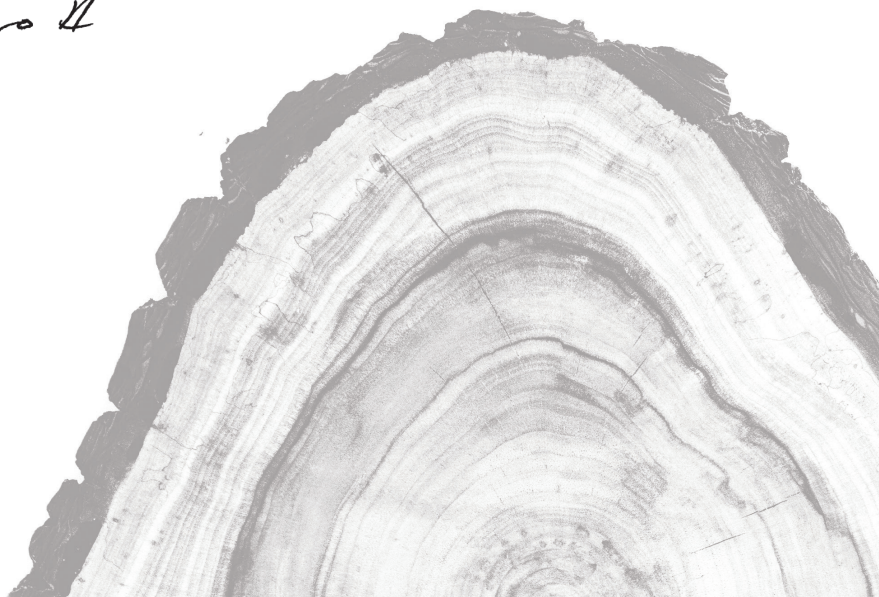
WITH VITICULTURE DIRECTOR
GUSTAVO AVIÑA

The 2021 Circle Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon featured this month is the second vintage we've produced from our Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon series at Pine Ridge. I've touched on this vineyard in last year's newsletter with the first vintage and feel it's important to share again why this vineyard is so unique. Located approximately a mile north of our winery in the esteemed Stags Leap District AVA, Circle Hill has been a source for key elements in both FORTIS and our Stags Leap District Cabernet. Now, earning its distinction as a vineyard designate, Circle Hill proudly steps into the spotlight with its own dedicated wine.

Circle Hill is really two vineyards in one. Nestled on the western flank of the Silverado Trail, this terrain is a hill cascading into level grounds. Its name is inspired by the aerial view—an amphitheater-like hill with terraces spiraling to a 360° summit. Circle Hill draws grapes from each block including Block 2. Positioned furthest from the Silverado Trail, Block 2 presents a microcosm of Circle Hill's soil diversity. A transformation from Malbec to Cabernet Sauvignon Clone 33 years ago marked a new era for these vines. The first harvest from these grafted vines left an impression with their irresistible grapes. It's no surprise that Block 2 has become a foundation for our esteemed FORTIS wines. The vineyard is divided into six blocks, and it's not too hard to see how the blocks on the hill differ from those on the flats. The terraces comprise volcanic soils with well-draining sand, rocks and clay. Soils on the flats are mostly bale clay loam studded with round river rocks. Because these blocks retain little water, we irrigate more frequently but with less volume.

The journey of Circle Hill, from its diverse terroir to each nurtured vine, reflects our crew's commitment to excellence in viticulture. We look forward to sharing the fruits of our labor with you, as each bottle encapsulates the essence of our dedication and the unique character of Circle Hill.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Aviña".





APPELLATION SOCIETY WINE *Selections*

THE 2021 GROWING SEASON WAS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF WHY NAPA VALLEY IS SUCH A GREAT PLACE TO GROW GRAPES. A COLDER WINTER AND DRIER SPRING PRECEDED FOUR UNUSUAL HEAT EVENTS, ESPECIALLY IN MAY AND SEPTEMBER. RAINFALL WAS BELOW AVERAGE FOR THE FOURTH YEAR, CAUSING IRRIGATION CONCERNS. DESPITE THESE CHALLENGES, SUMMER CONDITIONS WERE OPTIMAL FOR BERRY DEVELOPMENT, LEADING TO QUICK BLOOM AND VERAISON. AN EARLY HARVEST BEGAN DUE TO SEPTEMBER'S WARMTH, BEFORE A HEAVY OCTOBER RAINFALL. YIELDS WERE LOW, BUT QUALITY-WISE, IT WAS A STANDOUT YEAR.

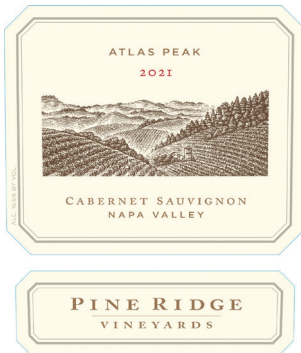


2021 Circle Hill Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

RETAIL - \$175.00 MEMBER - \$140.00

In the glass, our 2021 Circle Hill Cabernet Sauvignon unveils a fusion of blackberry seed and sandalwood, enriched by cocoa powder, graphite, and dried herbs. The palate is embraced by a round mouthfeel, revealing deep cassis and vanilla cream, with a bright, lingering acidity that elevates its character. It possesses a broad-shouldered structure and a remarkable, enduring cocoa bean finish. With its harmonious balance of strength and elegance, this wine will age beautifully for 20 years, promising to evolve and captivate with each passing year. Zabuton Steak with Cabernet Sauvignon balsamic jus, atop celeriac soubise, with wilted winter greens would be an ideal pairing for this incredible wine.

VARIETIES 98% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petite Sirah, 1% Petit Verdot
APPELLATION Stags Leap District **BARRELS** 26 months, 100% new French oak
ALCOHOL 15.5% **AGING POTENTIAL** Enjoy now through 2041



2021 Atlas Peak Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

RETAIL - \$125.00 MEMBER - \$100.00

Opening with notes of red raspberry bramble and mountain sage, the palate is chock-full of concentrated tannins. These transition from sweet on the front end to thick on the mid-palate and drying on the finish. Similarly, the fruit and savory notes identified at first, transition to those of cocoa powder, nutmeg and cinnamon before finishing in a crescendo of juicy loganberries and espresso. A piping hot cassole of cassoulet is the perfect pairing for this high altitude mountain Cabernet Sauvignon.

VARIETIES 98% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Petite Sirah
APPELLATION Atlas Peak **BARRELS** 20 months, 60% new French oak
ALCOHOL 15.5% **AGING POTENTIAL** Enjoy now through 2036



2021 Malbec, Napa Valley

RETAIL - \$75.00 MEMBER - \$60.00

Sometimes referred to as "grapey", this wine evokes memories of blueberry açai jam, orange blossom water and lavender candy. The big and bold mid-palate is bolstered by the juiciness of a mixed berry tart and has notes of cedar and grilled meat layered in between the waves of boisterous fruit. Undulating onto the finish, cinnamon and cocoa notes intermingle with those of strawberry pie, raspberry compote and mocha truffle. Pan seared duck breast, on a bed of risotto, finished with a Port and blueberry reduction would be a perfect start to a long and enjoyable evening.

VARIETIES 88% Malbec, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petite Sirah, 1% Merlot
APPELLATION Napa Valley **BARRELS** 16 months, 40% new French oak
ALCOHOL 15.5% **AGING POTENTIAL** Enjoy now through 2036

DISCOVER THE *Acclaimed* RATINGS
OF OUR 2021 VINTAGES REVIEWED BY JAMES SUCKLING

JAMESUCKLING.COM 

98
POINTS

#43 IN
TOP 100
WINES IN
THE US



2021 CIRCLE HILL
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

96
POINTS



2021 STAGS CROWN
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

96
POINTS



2021 HOWELL MOUNTAIN
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

96
POINTS



2021 RUTHERFORD
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95
POINTS



2021 OAKVILLE
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

94
POINTS



2021 LOCKED HORNS
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

FOOD *Pairing*

PINE RIDGE MINISTRONE

PAIR WITH PINE RIDGE VINEYARDS 2021 CARNEROS
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The Carneros Cabernet Sauvignon, with its raspberry and fennel essence, enriches the minestrone's butternut squash and kale, while its cherry and mocha nuances blend seamlessly with the beans and pasta, accentuating the soup's depth of flavor. Serves 6



INGREDIENTS

Extra Virgin Olive Oil

1 large or 2 small leeks, cut into thin half rounds

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup diced white onion

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup diced carrots

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup diced celery

Bouquet garni: 2 sprigs rosemary + 2 sprigs parsley + 4 sprigs thyme + 2 bay leaves, tied together with kitchen twine

Sea salt

2 quarts chicken stock, (sub. vegetable stock for a vegetarian crowd)

28 ounces crushed tomatoes

1 teaspoon tomato paste

4 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced thin + 1 extra clove (cut in half for croutons)

1 small butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into $\frac{1}{4}$ inch cubes—about 4 cups

Freshly ground black pepper

5 ounces baby kale leaves

20 ounces cooked, large cannellini beans

16 ounces elbow noodles, cooked

1 pound rustic country loaf

2 cups grated Parmesan

Red pepper flakes

DIRECTIONS

Preheat a large stock pot or Dutch oven over medium heat on the stove top. With 2 tablespoons olive oil, sauté leeks, onion, carrots, celery, with the bouquet garni and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt. Partially cover the pot and cook until veggies are fork tender but not soft, about 10 minutes.

Add chicken stock to the pot and turn up heat to medium-high. Add crushed tomatoes, tomato paste and 4 cloves sliced garlic. Bring liquid to a low simmer, add squash and cook until squash is tender. Discard the bouquet garni. Taste and season soup with additional $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt and black pepper as desired. Add cannellini beans and kale to the pot. Cover and cook over medium-low until kale is just wilted. Add cooked noodles to the soup. Taste again and adjust seasoning as desired.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Tear bread into rustic croutons and place on baking sheet. Toss with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup olive oil and a generous seasoning of salt. Toast in the oven until golden about 10-15 minutes. Rub the hot croutons with your remaining cut clove of garlic for a little garlicky kick.

Serve big bowls of hot soup topped with croutons, grated Parmesan and red pepper flakes.

Save the Date

CLUB EXCLUSIVE EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL CLUB RELEASE EVENT

Saturday, April 6

2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

Complimentary for two (member and one guest),
reservations available in March

SEPTEMBER CLUB RELEASE EVENT

Saturday, September 7

2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

Complimentary for two (member and one guest),
reservations available in August

NOVEMBER CLUB CABERNET CAVE TASTING

Saturday, November 2 and Sunday, November 3

SEATING AVAILABLE AT:

10:00 AM | 12:30 PM | 3:00 PM

Complimentary for two (member and one guest),
reservations available in October

Reservations can be secured by visiting our website

<https://www.pineridgevineyards.com/visit/>

**Event notifications and additional details will be emailed prior to each event date.
Add wineclub@pineridgevine.com to your safe sender list to ensure you receive
your invitation. Event dates subject to change.*

Benefits ALONG THE COAST

NEW: The wine club team will be happy to set up a complimentary tasting at one of our Crimson Collective sister properties, where you may enjoy 20 percent savings on your day-of-visit purchases.

SEGHESIO FAMILY VINEYARDS IN HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA
CHAMISAL VINEYARDS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA
ARCHERY SUMMIT IN DAYTON, OREGON
SEVEN HILLS WINERY IN WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON

Contact us: (800) 400-6647 | WineClub@PineRidgeWine.com



2024 WINE *Club* SHIPMENT SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 13

2021 Circle Hill Cabernet Sauvignon
2021 Atlas Peak Cabernet Sauvignon
2021 Malbec

APRIL 15

2021 Andrus Estate Cabernet Sauvignon
2021 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon
2021 Petit Verdot

SEPTEMBER 9

2022 Locked Horns Cabernet Sauvignon
2022 Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon
2022 Merlot

NOVEMBER 11

2022 Stags Crown Cabernet Sauvignon
2022 Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon
2022 Cabernet Franc

Note: wines and shipment dates are subject to change

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

FEB 1 TO MAR 3	Will call window to pickup your February releases
MAR 11	Auto ship date for any outstanding will calls
MAR 26	Check your email for the April pre-release notification
APR 3	Last day for account changes and customizations
APR 4 TO MAY 5	Will call window to pickup your April releases
MAY 13	Auto ship date for any outstanding will calls
AUG 19	Check your email for the September pre-release notification
AUG 28	Last day for account changes and customizations
SEPT 1 TO SEPT 30	Will call window to pickup your September releases
OCT 7	Auto ship date for any outstanding will calls
OCT 21	Check your email for the November pre-release notification
OCT 30	Last day for account changes and customizations
NOV 1 TO DEC 1	Will call window to pickup your November releases
DEC 9	Auto ship date for any outstanding will calls