

SPRING 2025 TASTING NOTES

WINE SELECTIONS BY CLUB

AMPHORA WINERY

2020 Grenache

Gold | Platinum | Concierge

2018 Tempranillo

Gold | Platinum | Concierge

2019 Syrah

Gold | Platinum

2019 Mourvèdre

Gold | Platinum

2017 Merlot

Platinum | Concierge

2018 Tannat

Gold

2018 Cabernet Sauvignon

Concierge

2021 Sangiovese

Concierge

2019 Tannat

Concierge



A view of Mt. St. Helena from the Sangiovese vines in Knights Valley

Rainy Autumn...dry New Year

In the simplest terms, our climate consists of a rainy season, followed by a dry season—each roughly six months long. The rains commence in Fall, and continue sporadically until April, sometimes even into May and June. Then the long dry season begins, and persists until the cycle repeats in Fall. *Vitis vinifera*, the European grapevine (the species of all of our varieties), LOVES this pattern, with its warm sunny days, and utter lack of summer rainfall (which can promote fungal diseases). This rainy season started late in October, the skies dumped more than half our annual average rainfall in about two months...and then the tap turned off. January has been warm and almost completely dry. By the time you're reading this in late Spring, most anything may have happened in terms of rainfall. That's the nature of our precipitation, which frequently oscillates between feast and famine.

Continued on page 5

2018 TEMPRANILLO | CLARKSBURG

310 CASES PRODUCED | ENJOY NOW THROUGH 2029

It's easy to see why this varietal is one of our most universally popular: juicy dark berry fruit, lush texture, and sweet aromas enhanced by aging in American oak barrels (which is traditional in the finest Spanish renditions of their most famous grape). The flavors in this wine bring to mind ripe blackberry and dark cherry, and the mouth-feel is smooth and plush. We've been crafting this fruit into wine for over ten years, and the vineyard is very consistent vintage to vintage. The 2018 vintage was partially fermented in *amphorae*, and that dialed-in just enough tannin to lend weight, and to work well with food. Overall, this is a satisfying and enjoyable red that would play equally with homemade burgers, or a traditional *paella*.

LIST PRICE 37



2019 SYRAH | SONOMA COUNTY

224 CASES PRODUCED | ENJOY NOW THROUGH 2033

Our 2019 Syrah hails from the Fountaingrove District, one of Sonoma County's newest appellations (2015), and situated in the rolling hills northeast of Santa Rosa. The wine is lush and velvety, with sweet and creamy aromatics, blackberry and rhubarb fruit, and a touch of Rhône varietal meatiness. Don't rush this one. Enjoy it through a relaxed evening, and experience it unfolding. This wine definitely has the heft and depth to age beautifully for years. For more immediate enjoyment, decant or aerate a bottle, and have it with smoked sausages, Duck *Confit*, *Cassoulet*, or braised shortribs.

LIST PRICE 45



2017 MERLOT | DRY CREEK VALLEY

98 CASES PRODUCED | ENJOY NOW THROUGH 2034

Enjoy the quiet elegance of this wine, crafted from a vineyard just across Dry Creek Road from the winery. This wine greets you with very appealing aromas of raspberry liqueur and freshly fallen autumn leaves. In the mouth, this wine is round and full, and the dark fruit notes linger long after a sip. There are red fruit hints, too, as well as a subtle sweet spice. For fun, pour this wine (brown-bagged), for your friends who profess to dislike this varietal, and gauge their honest perceptions. Some winning food recommendations for this one would include roast ham with a fruit glaze, or grilled Portobello mushrooms brushed with a fruity olive oil.

LIST PRICE 55

2018 TANNAT | CLARKSBURG

193 CASES PRODUCED | ENJOY NOW THROUGH 2030

This somewhat obscure grape originates in southwest France, in particular from the Basque regions, and a Basque immigrant introduced the grape to Uruguay, where it has come to dominate their red-grape plantings. Tannat has a reputation for producing big-structured, tannic wines, but when handled a deft touch (see Petite Sirah!) its more intriguing aspects (or as Rick refers to it: 'my honeysuckle-raspberry baby') take center stage. Our 2018 is a bit bigger in structure than the 2017, and would benefit from another 1-2 years in bottle. If you open it sooner, a little bit of aeration would open and soften the wine. This wine could handle rich fare, perhaps tea-smoked duck or beef wellington?

LIST PRICE 42

2019 MOURVÈDRE | CLARKSBURG

100 CASES PRODUCED | ENJOY NOW THROUGH 2028

Mourvèdre often presents a wild range of flavors and aromas, with meaty and animalistic notes nestled amidst spicy aspects, and dark fruit underlying it all. The Clarksburg vineyard rendition emphasizes the fruity and spicy side of the spectrum. It greets you with lovely aromas of Darjeeling tea, with a hint of black pepper. The red berry flavors are juicy, and invite a second sip. The wine is medium in weight, with just enough tannic structure to carry it for a few more years, and to play well with food. Try this one with a mushroom-centric dish, or roast pork with a cherry glaze.

LIST PRICE 35



2020 GRENACHE | DRY CREEK VALLEY

175 CASES PRODUCED | ENJOY NOW THROUGH 2030

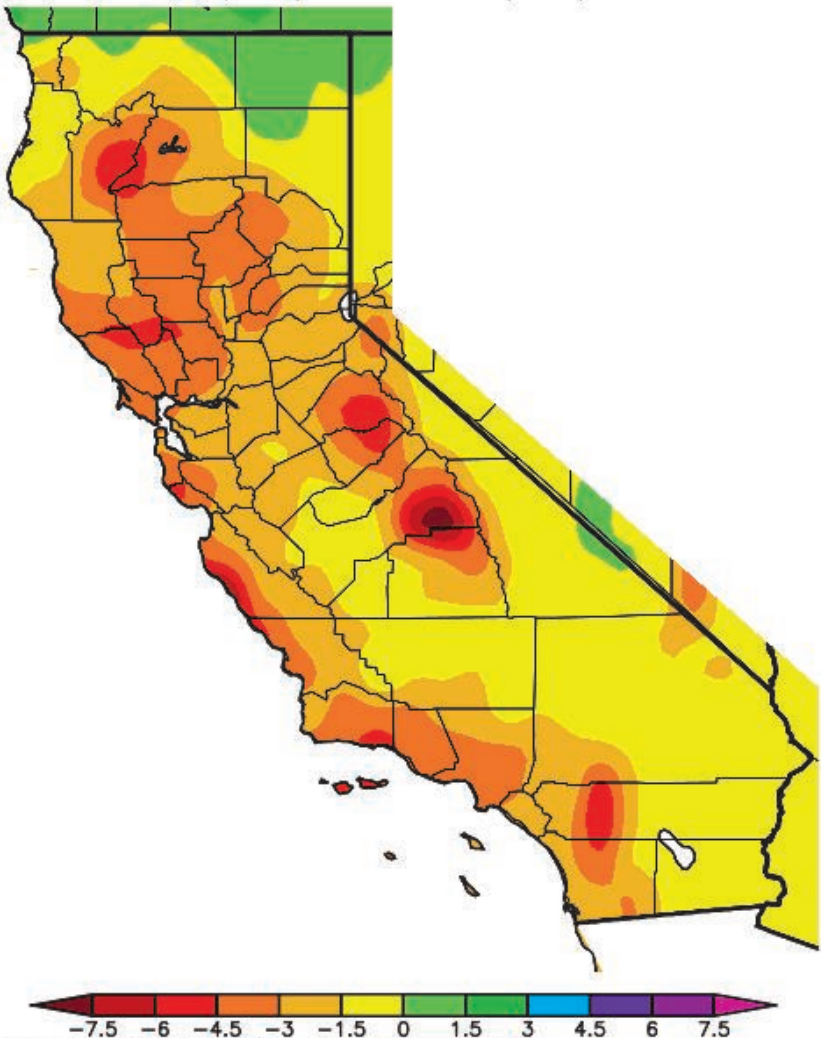
This is our third vintage of Dry Creek Valley Grenache, and this 2020 is a bit bigger than the 2019, with a touch more tannic grip, and more dark fruit character. The characteristic strawberry fruit of this variety is present, but in a larger overall structure. While enjoyable sipped on its own, this vintage is more than substantial enough to stand up to hearty fare such as *cassoulet*.

LIST PRICE 38

Rain, continued

Grapevines have deep roots, and can resist drought fairly well. They can also withstand flooding and submersion for weeks at a time, as long as they're dormant. Fortunately, our wettest weather takes place at the height of the vines dormancy, before the vines 'awaken' in Spring. The most beneficial rain comes in the latter half of the season, as that's the soil moisture that tides the vines over until Fall. So, fingers crossed for the remainder of the rainy season!

Precipitation Departure from Average (in.) 12/25/2024 – 1/23/2025



Generated 1/24/2025 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON | TIMBER CREST VINEYARD, DCV

136 CASES PRODUCED | ENJOY NOW THROUGH 2035

The Timber Crest Vineyard is our go-to for Cabernet Sauvignon that expresses the complex character of the varietal, while also showing the easygoing and approachable qualities so common in Dry Creek Valley red wines. Our 2018 greets you with a ripe Bing cherry and black currant nose that seamlessly lead through to the finish. You might sense a hint of red licorice and mint alongside the dark fruit, and a dusty note, too. Summer puts us in mind of pork ribs, and lightly -smoked ribs (hold the sticky-sweet sauce!) with a rub of paprika and thyme could work superbly with this wine.

LIST PRICE 65



2019 TANNAT | CLARKSBURG

194 CASES PRODUCED | ENJOY NOW THROUGH 2031

True to form, our 2019 Tannat shows its typical character of dark blue-black color, black fruit flavors, and a subtle musky floral note in the aromas (hence Rick's pet name for it 'honeysuckle-raspberry baby'). This variety is inherently tannic, but a deft touch in winemaking tames the "biggest" tannins, and renders a wine that would pair well with some of the traditional fare of Tannat's Gascony homeland. Think along the lines of duck confit, grilled duck breast, or a hearty stew...

LIST PRICE 42

2021 SANGIOVESE | KNIGHTS VALLEY

143 CASES PRODUCED | ENJOY NOW THROUGH 2034

This is our first Sangiovese since way back in 2012, and our first wine from Knights Valley appellation, in northeast Sonoma County (Knights Valley is between Alexander Valley and Napa County). The hillside vineyard lies at about 1500 feet in elevation, and the soil is weathered volcanic deposits from the nearby Clear Lake volcanic field. The site has an amazing view of Mt. St. Helena (just 10 miles away), the highest peak in the North Bay, and the point where Sonoma, Napa, and Lake counties meet. If you squint your eyes, and add a few Italian cypresses to the scene, you might well imagine yourself in the Tuscan countryside. The wine is fairly big in structure, with ripe dark fruit aromas and flavors, complemented by dark toasty oak. There's Sangiovese's dried cherry note, and a hint of leather. *Bistecca alla Fiorentina*, anyone?

LIST PRICE 55

Upcoming Events

see amphorawines.com for additional info

April 5th: **Wine Club Party**

April 17-24: **Amphora Wine Cruise on the Rhone and Saone**

June 28: **Birthday Party for the big guy**

October 18: **Wine Club Harvest Party**

November 1-2: **Food and Wine Affair Along the Wine Road**

November 29: **Bubbles and Oysters**



SPRING 2025 CLUB WINES

	Retail	Concierge	Platinum	Gold
2020 Grenache	38	28.50	30.40	32.30
2018 Tempranillo	37	27.75	29.60	31.45
2019 Syrah	45	33.75	36	38.25
2019 Mourvèdre	35	26.25	28	29.75
2017 Merlot	55	41.25	44	46.75
2018 Tannat	42	31.50	33.60	35.70
2018 Cabernet Sauvignon	65	48.75	52	55.25
2021 Sangiovese	55	41.25	44	46.75
2019 Tannat	42	31.50	33.60	35.70



To re-order, please call us at 707.431.7767 or email us at jim@amphorawines.com as many of these wines are exclusive to our club members and do not appear on our website. Remember, Concierge and Platinum members receive shipping discounts of 50% and 25% respectively.