

# SARAH'S VINEYARD WINE CLUB NEWSLETTER



## Winter Recipe Pairing



On a crisp day, there's nothing better than having something slow cooking in the crockpot all day to come home to. This quarter's recipe is for birria tacos. A little prep in the morning, and there's not much to do but shred the meat and assemble and fry the tacos that evening. This is great warming comfort food for a cold night and goes wonderfully with this quarter's *Madonne* – it would be perfect alongside this meal. We love hearing about what you're creating in your kitchens to pair with your favorite SV wines. Enjoy!

## Member Appreciation Week



We love our fantastic wine club members and are so thankful for your continued support of our wine-growing efforts. To show our appreciation, we have some great specials planned just for you during our next Member Appreciation Week. Be sure to check your emails in March for details about when we will share these member-exclusive offerings.

## Spring Sip & Shop



We are excited about our annual Spring Sip & Shop taking place on Sunday, April 6th from 11:30-4 pm. Browse hand-made quality items for your spring décor, crafts, and Easter baskets! Browse the unique artisan-made local gifts while enjoying live music, food, and your favorite Sarah's Vineyard wines. Check the Events page of our website for details and the list of vendors at this free event.

As the weather starts to warm up in the coming months, please let us know if you are looking for a place to host your next special occasion or corporate team-building activities. Contact [events@sarahsvineyard.com](mailto:events@sarahsvineyard.com) for more information.

## Easter at SV



Join us for Easter at Sarah's Vineyard on Sunday, April 20th. Patio Reservations will be available with the option to purchase brunch prepared by Chef Gonzo. We will have visits from the Easter Bunny and live music by Asher Stern. Our new 2024 Picpoul Blanc will be available at Easter! Please see our Events page of our website for more details as the date approaches.

## Latest News



We are excited to announce our highest rating yet. Our Summer Wine Club release included the 2021 Besson Vineyard Syrah, which was recognized by Wine Enthusiast with 95 Points! While the great reviews are appreciated, what truly matters is that our members love our wines. Thank you, as always, for your support! We made very little of this wine and very little remains. We have reserved and held what is left for our members only – you will receive an email soon with an opportunity to purchase limited quantities of this wine if you choose until it's sold out.

**95 POINTS** | 2021 BESSON VINEYARD SYRAH

*Hello Friends,*

*What makes wine special? It's not the wine itself but rather the stories around the wine that make it special. This is the first official release for which my hands were in every step of the winemaking process: During the 2021 vintage, which was my first full vintage with Tim teaching and guiding me as a protégé, we produced this *Madonne Rouge*. The final blending took place in May of 2023, one of the last blendings before Tim handed the reins over to me.*

*The 2023 vintage was my first solo vintage, where the decision-making was my own; I blended the *Madonne Blanc* at my kitchen table with my wife, after we put our son to bed. The *Rancho La Viña* took an entire day to blend. Some of the Sarah's staff and I sat down and went through iteration after iteration, trying to ensure only the best blend of barrels made it to the bottle. A wine release is sometimes seen as a business transaction, but that is not the business we are in. We are in the entertainment business. These wines are designed to bring joy, to tell a story of a place and its people, and to add to the experience you make with the people who are special to you.*

*Respectfully,*

Jonathan Houston  
Winemaker



# MEMBERS' WINTER RELEASES



## ***2023 Madame Blanc, Estate***

The S.V. Madame Blanc is our take on the traditional white wines of the southern Rhône Valley. It is named for local Mount Madonna and is a marriage of California soils and climate to a classically styled blend of estate-grown, Rhône varieties. In the vineyard, we worked hard to limit vigor to help the vines focus on fruit production. With no threat of harvest-time precipitation, we safely let the fruit hang well into the fall for full phenolic ripeness. We hand-harvested and whole cluster pressed the fruit from the home ranch on multiple pick dates in late September and early October. Fermentation took place in neutral French oak barrels. The wine was fermented in stainless steel and transferred to neutral oak barrels for maturation after dryness for seven months, with stirring of the lees every two weeks. To create our estate Madame Blanc, we actually make four individual wines, then blend them carefully to make the best wine we can. In the 2023 vintage, the final cépage was 50% Roussanne, 25% Grenache Blanc, 13% Picpoul Blanc, and 12% Viognier. The '23 Madame Blanc displays a burst of citrus peel and orange blossom aromas and flavors of Meyer lemon zest. The wine is bright and crisp with notes of white stone fruit and lemon meringue with balanced acidity and a touch of creaminess on the palate. The 2023 Estate Madame Blanc would pair well with spicy shrimp tacos with fresh pico de gallo.

*Only 127 cases were produced | Tasting Room List Price \$32*



## ***2023 Pinot Noir, Rancho La Viña, Sta. Rita Hills***

This is the sixth release for Sarah's Vineyard with fruit sourced from the Santa Rita Hills, and our third release from the Rancho La Viña vineyard. Located in Santa Barbara County, the Sta. Rita Hills is part of the larger Santa Ynez Valley AVA. The hills of the district run east to west, which allows cool ocean breezes from the nearby Pacific Ocean to enter the valley, providing fairly cool microclimates – perfect for growing top-flight Pinot Noir. Dense morning fog gives way to sunny afternoons, and loamy soils make Rancho La Viña an incredible, cool climate growing site. In addition to 34.5 acres of top-quality Pinot Noir wine grapes, a variety of other crops are also grown on the ranch, which includes 126 acres of the best walnuts in California. We are excited to have been invited to work with this small, quality grower who really takes pride in their work – and feel that this is a truly excellent wine. The wine spent eleven months aging in French oak barrels, one-third being new wood, which imparts polish and length. The '23 Sarah's Vineyard Rancho La Viña Pinot Noir has a vast bright red fruit presence of cherry, raspberry, and strawberry. Along with these aromas are matching flavors complemented by baking spice and vanilla, plus a hint of earthiness. This wine is well-balanced with smooth, silky tannins. The 2023 Rancho La Viña Pinot Noir pairs wonderfully with an herb-roasted chicken or your simple and delicious pizza night.

*Only 227 cases were produced | Tasting Room List Price \$55*



## ***2021 Madame, Estate***

The Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Estate Madame reflects its southern Rhône heritage through a blend of the region's traditional red varieties: 76% Grenache, 16% Syrah, and 8% Mourvèdre. Yields at harvest in our Rhône blocks were about average. We hand-harvested the fruit at the end of September and the beginning of October. After destemming the whole berries, we fermented at low temperatures in small lot vats. Hand punch downs were used before pressing to French oak barrels for eighteen months aging in primarily neutral cooperage to preserve the exceptional, complex fruit character of the blend. The '21 Madame displays a rich dark fruit presence full of dark cherry, blackberry, and blueberry along with savory notes of leather, clove, and cocoa powder with a peppery finish. The estate Madame will pair perfectly with the enclosed recipe for birria tacos.

*Only 222 cases were produced | Tasting Room List Price \$38*

## WINE CLUB SHIPMENT CONTENTS

### ***Sarah's Wine Club***

- 2023 Madame Blanc, Estate
- 2023 Pinot Noir, Rancho La Viña, Sta. Rita Hills
- 2021 Madame, Estate

### ***All-Red Wine Club***

- 2023 Pinot Noir, Rancho La Viña, Sta. Rita Hills
- 2021 Madame, Estate

### ***All-White Wine Club***

- 2023 Madame Blanc, Estate
- 2021 Chardonnay, Tondré Grapefield, Santa Lucia Highlands

### ***Pinot Noir Only Wine Club***

- 2023 Pinot Noir, Rancho La Viña, Sta. Rita Hills