

Ceritas

FALL 2021 RELEASE

Dear Friends,

We are excited to introduce four more beautiful wines from the 2019 vintage: Carex Chardonnay, Porter-Bass Chardonnay, Hellenthal 'Old Shop Block' Pinot Noir, and Cuvée Chloe Pinot Noir. The wines from this vintage are pure, elegant, and aromatically expressive. They share the same purity of fruit and bright acidities of the 2018s, with a fine-grained structure that could be found early in 2014 and 2017. They are drinking well now and with some aeration will come alive in the glass.

NEWS

We will no longer be using the nomenclature Rivina or Senna and will be highlighting our two amazing daughters, Annabelle and Chloe, respectively moving forward with their unique Cuvées. These wines are as unique as our other bottlings and should not be missed. One day, one or both of them will take over the reins.

CAREX CHARDONNAY \ WEST SONOMA COAST

Acreage	1.3
Clone	Wente
Elevation	300'
Aspect	East
Soil	Sandstone

It's cold here, despite it being a little further east than Charles Heintz or Porter-Bass. Sitting low in the valley puts this vineyard close to the daily ebb and flow of coastal fog. The fog spills into the vineyard early in the evening and leaves late morning, leaving just a few hours to absorb the sun. The vineyard is planted using the Old Wente Hyde clone at high density (approx. 3,630 vines per acre) which results in small vines that need to ripen a smaller amount of clusters. The increased vine to vine shading creates a cooler environment to ripen grapes. Coupled with the meager soils one thinks higher acidity and fresher fruit flavors – this is what we are looking for in Chardonnay. This site continues to impress and showcase the world-class Chardonnay the Sonoma Coast can produce.

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2019 Tasting Note

Bright yellow-green. Very complex bouquet of lemongrass, kaffir lime, and pithy aromas that simply jump out of the glass. The palate is energetic and full of coiled tension, and the flavor fans out with glorious depth and a very long finish. Saline notes linger in the mouth long after the last sip.

PORTER BASS VINEYARD CHARDONNAY \ WEST SONOMA COAST

Acreage	2.4
Clone	Old Wente
Elevation	640'
Aspect	Northeast
Soil	Hard Sandstone and Chert

Porter-Bass sits on a saddle ridge between two deep canyons – Mays and Pocket – with openings on both ends, thus allowing the cool oceanic breezes to sweep over the site throughout the summer. Ceritas' Chardonnay is planted on north-east facing slopes which means the vines spend less time exposed to the sun which in turn results in higher retained acidity, freshness, and thicker skins, think Chardonnay structure. Soils are a mixture of hardened sandstone and chert which pushes the 43-year-old vines to search deep in the bedrock for water. Produces classic, old-world style Chardonnay, capable of aging for a long time in the cellar.

2019 Tasting Note

Extraordinarily complex, almost maze-like bouquet offering scents of crushed stones, peach blossom, green almond, and faintly scented spearmint. With air, they all gain momentum, and the palate possesses exquisite balance, revealing traces of ginger, wild fennel, and glacial water. The moderate weighty and insistent finish persists as if its personality could reveal itself over and over again. This wine is magnificent.

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CUVÉE CHLOE PINOT NOIR \ WEST SONOMA COAST

Acreage 1.65
Clone Swan, Calera
Elevation 300'
Aspect East
Soil Hard Sandstone

Cuvee Chloe is named after one of our twin daughters and is sourced from the Dumol O'Connell Vineyard east of the town of Occidental. Here the hills roll like waves away from the coast, lifting a kaleidoscope of soils to the surface.

The coastal fog quickly builds up at these lower elevations keeping this site cooler than many higher elevations sites nearby. Dumol winemaker Andy Smith planted this site with the utmost care. He chose to space the vines close together (3,630 vines/acre) resulting in small vines growing intense fruit while driving the roots deep into the sandstone soils. Small tight clusters with "hens-and-chicks" lend to an ethereal wine with amazing intensity.

2019 Tasting Note

Fermented with 40% whole cluster. Displays extremely fine delineation on the nose, the whole bunch lifts the red pomegranate, forest floor, and oolong tea that feels like a complete nose. The palate is medium-bodied with a sense of strictness and linearity and potent marine influences of seaweed, bergamot, and bright red fruit. Intense toward the finish with tons of grace and precision typical of the Occidental-Freestone area. Perfectly balances the freshness of coastal Pinot Noir.

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HELLENTHAL "OLD SHOP BLOCK " PINOT NOIR \ WEST SONOMA COAST

Acreage	2.56
Clone	Own-rooted Calera
Elevation	1300'
Aspect	Northwest
Soil	Iron Rich Sandstone and Pink Quartz

High up in the mountainous Fort-Ross Seaview appellation of the West Sonoma Coast there is little resemblance to other areas from which we make wine. Hellenthal is situated on the northern flanks of this area at 1300 feet elevation. Coastal fog winds its way up the Gualala River bringing the influence of the Pacific right up to the feet of the vineyard. This is the oldest own-rooted Pinot Noir on the Sonoma Coast – planted in 1980 in partnership with David Hirsch, Gard Hellenthal took a leap of faith and it paid off in spades. Small berries the size of a pea give depth and concentration while retaining natural acidity. Unique and unlike any other site we work with. Monopole.

2019 Tasting Note

Fermented with 60% whole cluster. A very mineral-driven bouquet that is tightly wound at first but opens with gusto, revealing wet stone and flinty aromas backed by crunchy red cherry, mint, and scents of salt-laden fog. The palate is beautifully balanced with supple tannins with a heightened minerality bursting with flavors of sour cherry, freshly rolled tobacco, and wild iris. Spine-tingling tension on the finish. Fabulous.

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2019 VINTAGE SUMMARY

Overall, the winter rains of 2018-2019 were above average given recent years without much rain. We saw our first rain the day after Thanksgiving, with little to no precipitation in December which had us concerned. Finally, in January we got two larger rainfall events, both in the first half of the month. Precipitation fell intermittently throughout February and March giving us a moderate amount of soil moisture to get the season going.

Early spring started off mildly with some small heat events in early April which started to wake up the vines. With the favorable weather and little spring fog around the vines started to show signs of bud-break around April 3rd. The gentle warmth pushed the vines to grow through the early season without signs of chlorosis or struggle resulting in a strong canopy and an above average crop. With the changes in weather in recent years, we've seen weather events that were previously rare and unheard-of. On May 15th it started to gently rain again and did so for 4 days giving the soil another drink of water, but presented us with early season mildew issues. We got back into our vines right after the rain stopped, removing small leaves to allow additional airflow around the emerging clusters and we tightened up our spray schedule to not give the mildew a chance to grow.

The second half of May and June were dry for the most part allowed the vines to grow in cool sunshine. The growth of the vines was a relief to see after those early May rains and the canopy just sprung up into the air towards the top wire with tendrils just reaching for the sky. First flowers were observed on May 28th a full week later than 2018. The rate of flowering was even across all of our sites due to consistent warm weather which presented us with even ripening fruit later in the year, which a winemaker always enjoys.

July and August were moderately warm with only five days total that reached 90F. The grapes ripened under ideal conditions producing beautiful flavors and color with above average acidity. Coastal fog, normally observed in a great number of days in summer, was a little more shy this summer, but each day the fog keep the valleys around our sites cool. Too much fog in the vineyard can produce issues with mildew.

We began harvest on September 9th with "Cuvee Chloe" sites, concluding on October 4th with Kings Ridge Syrah. Yields were average as compared to the past five years – 1.55 to 2.35 tons per acre.

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The fruit that did arrive to the winery was beautiful, bursting with pure fruit flavors, moderate color but less than previous years and wonderful acidities.

Looking back, the vintage produced Chardonnays with great precision and fruit intensity, with acidities that remind us of 2014. The Pinot Noirs are elegant, pretty, and aromatically explosive with less tannins than 2018 or 2015. The vintage produced wines that will drink well early and should reward those with patience for the next 5-10 years.

John and Phoebe Raytek