



THACHER

WINERY AND VINEYARD

2021 PREMIERE CLUB OFFERING

Premiere /prè'myer,prè'mir/noun

the first performance of a musical or theatrical work, the first showing of a movie or wine

These wines are produced with the minimal amounts of effective SO₂, and are crafted without the use of added enzymes, water, acids, tannins or nutrients.

2020 VALDIGUIE NOUVEAU

\$28 / \$22.40 WC

100% Valdiguié, Shell Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles Highlands District
80 cases, bottled January 2021

A beautiful color, electric and intensely vibrant, almost neon purple. The fruits are tart and refreshing: wild strawberries, under ripe blueberries. A sweet spice element (cardamom) juxtaposes sharp floral notes of hibiscus. There's a surprising amount of tannin here, present but not forceful.

From the Sinton family's Shell Creek Vineyard, this wine was fermented in the Nouveau-style of Beaujolais: carbonic fermentation and short aging to produce a bright, cheerful, and highly quaffable wine in celebration of the recent harvest. Drink now.

2019 CINSAULT

\$36 / \$28.80 WC

100% Cinsault, Glenrose Vineyard, Willow Creek District
125 cases, bottled August 2020

A touch riper than previous iterations, with ripe strawberry bullying the usual white pepper aromatics. The wine positively smolders with fragrance: candied lavender, rooibos earthiness and bramble. The pepper comes back with a vengeance on the palate, almost like a mouthful of green peppercorns. A tight, snappy little wine, infinitely enjoyable and endlessly versatile.

An unsung workhorse in both the Rhône and South Africa, Cinsault was once widely planted in Southern California under the alias "Black Malvoisie". Precious little is planted here today, which is a shame, as the drought and heat-tolerant Cinsault makes delicious, heady wine at moderate alcohol levels. Drinking extremely well right now, previous vintages are still evolving well.

2018 MOURVÈDRE

\$52 / \$41.60 WC

100% Mourvedre, Paso Robles
100 cases, bottled April 2020

A powerful, smoldering nose. There is classic Mourvèdre funk of flinty gun smoke, and a meaty, salty aromatics: Jamón and coastal breezes. Bay leaf and incense permeate the ripe red fruits, and the palate takes a turn to sweet, exotic and aromatic wood: cedar and sandalwood.

A wine that we only intermittently have the pleasure to produce, good crop levels in 2018 allowed us to bottle two puncheons as a standalone Paso Robles Mourvèdre. From two separate vineyards, both were treated with our standard Mourvèdre protocol: 50% stem inclusion from uncrushed whole bunches, aged in neutral 500L vessels to preserve fruit and perfume. Should develop complexity for the next decade-plus.

2019 NÉGRETTÉ

\$36 / \$28.80 WC

100% Négrette, Calleri Vineyard, San Benito

100 cases, bottled August 2020

Dark, brooding perfume unapologetically dominates the aromatics: violets, bergamot, blue cornflower and potpourri. On the palate, black cherry fruit is combined with a creamy, textural element of Greek yogurt or taffy. The palate's juiciness integrates seamlessly with the supple, developed tannins.

Originating from Fronton, in Southwest France, Négrette was known and grown in California for more than a century as "Pinot St George". It was often co-planted with Zinfandel to lend color in colder California regions, and only a few acres were ever wholly dedicated to this grape, mostly in San Benito County. Fermented 100% whole-cluster and aged in puncheon, this was our first experience working with the grape. We look forward to watching this wine evolve, and expect it to drink well 10+ years from now.

2016 NEBBIOLO

\$52 / \$41.60 WC

100% Nebbiolo, Glenrose Vineyard, Willow Creek District

60 cases, bottled April 2019

Green elements of spearmint and eucalyptus are tempered by cocoa notes. If one tasting note were to define this wine, it would be Andes Chocolate Mints. The palate tends more towards herbal notes of black tea than it does to fruit. Tight knit tannins seamlessly mesh with the acid for an immensely satiating, food-friendly wine.

A notoriously difficult grape to work with, often taking years of both barrel aging and bottle rest to resolve the grainy tannin and soften the acidity. This wine spent 3 years in barrel, and is only now coming into its stride. While it's currently drinking well, it will reward after being laid down for 3-5 years, although we don't expect it to reach its peak for another 10-15 years.

2020 KENTUCKY RANCH CIDER

\$28 / \$22.40 WC

93% Heirloom Cider Apples , 7% Alicante Bouschet, Kentucky Ranch Vineyard, Adelaida District

190 cases, bottled January 2021

Quite fruit forward on the nose. The expected apple aromas are complemented by baked pear, banana chips, and a red-fruit element of very ripe wild strawberries. The palate veers back into decidedly cider territory, giving a musky, honeyed note, and some fermentation yeastiness. The bubbles are fine and tiny, accentuating the brisk acidity. One can imagine pairing with a spectrum of foods: Brie cheeses, apple-based pastries and desserts, autumnal butternut or pumpkin soups...

Thacher Winery's first-ever attempt at cider production! Sourced entirely from some 200+ apple trees we have planted around our ranch, representing over 20 different heirloom apple varieties cultivated exclusively for cider-making. In addition to the cider apples, a small percentage of estate Alicante Bouschet (7%) was blended in to add a pinch of color. A true labor of love, we are excited about the future of this project and the addition of it to our by-the-glass offerings in the tasting room!

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