

Cellar Club News







GREETINGS ALL! Spring is here, and all over the valley the grapevines are pushing their tiny shoots. Nature's recurrent cycle fills us all with hopeful thoughts that things are getting back on track, that we have put a very difficult year behind us. Let us (cautiously) look forward to the 2021 growing season and a successful harvest this coming fall!

And now we are proud to offer the four new wines of this spring's Cellar Club release:

2020 Dry Gewürztraminer

We founded Claiborne & Churchill in 1983 with the goal of producing small lots of aromatic, "Alsatian-style" dry white wines, and the first wine we made was a Dry Gewürztraminer. Over the past 38 years this wine, with its distinctive and compelling aromatics, continues to be our most popular white wine. This is a dynamic wine drinking experience from start to finish.

The 2020 Dry Gewürztraminer (our first white wine released from that vintage) opens with classic aromas of lychee and tropical fruit, with a hint of rose petals and resin. On the palate it is dry and smooth, with a bit of viscosity and a long, well-textured finish. The spring and summer months are a perfect time to enjoy a refreshing wine like this. Try it with a spicy Asian dish like Thai Curry or Kung Pao Chicken, or with a simple Pizza Bianca!

ALCOHOL 13.3% | R.S. 0.2%

HARVESTED October 24, 2020

VINEYARD 100% Viento Vineyard,
Monterey County

AGING 100% Tank Fermented and Aged

BOTTLED April 1, 2021

CASES PRODUCED 945

RETAIL PRICE \$25



2020 Dry Rosé of Pinot Noir, Cuvée Elizabeth

We're guessing that this is the moment many of you have been waiting for: the new vintage of our "cult favorite" summer sipping wine, the Dry Rosé we named for our daughter, whose artwork (at age 11) adorns the label. To produce a wine this fresh and lively, we harvest the grapes earlier than we do for our red Pinot Noirs, capturing the lively acids, vivid aromas and mouth-filling flavors of juicy watermelon and fresh strawberries. Enjoy a bottle of "Cuvée Liz" as the perfect aperitif wine, or pair it with your favorite grilled foods.

ALCOHOL 13.1% | R.S. 0.2%

HARVESTED September 8 and 11, 2020

VINEYARD 100% Twin Creeks Vineyard

AGING 100% Tank Fermented and Aged

BOTTLED February 12, 2021

CASES PRODUCED 330

RETAIL PRICE \$28



2019 DRY RIESLING

For the 2019 vintage (our 37th!) of this signature wine we sourced fruit from three distinct cool-climate vineyards: our own Claiborne Vineyard and Wolff Vineyards both here in the Edna Valley along with Mesa del Rio Vineyard in Monterey County. As is usually the case, we cold-fermented this Riesling in stainless steel tanks and then aged it for six months before bottling, aiming to preserve the special aromas and fruitiness that are its hallmark. Sure enough, the wine opens with notes of fresh honeysuckle, stone fruit and lemon, and then shows a nice resinous texture and bracing acidity on the long finish. We consider Dry Riesling appropriate to every month of the year. njoy its versatility by serving it with farm fresh salads, cheese and charcuterie platters, or grilled pork chops.

ALCOHOL 13%

HARVESTED October 24, 2019

VINEYARDS 62% Mesa del Rio Vineyard 19% Estate Claiborne Vineyard 19% Wolff Vineyards

AGING 100% Tank Fermented and Aged BOTTLED May 12, 2020 CASES PRODUCED 630

RETAIL PRICE \$25

WINE ENTHUSIAST 93 PTS EDITORS' CHOIC



2019 CLASSIC PINOT NOIR

The 2019 growing season saw a mild and consistent weather pattern all the way from mid-spring to the time of harvest, allowing the Pinot Noir grapes to develop good sugar levels, bright acidity and nuanced flavors.

These qualities are on full display in the Pinot Noir we call "Classic" as a nod to its hallmark status of cool-climate, coastal winegrowing.

The 2019 Classic Pinot opens with notes of tart cherries, crushed strawberries, and sweet spice. The tannins are soft and the acidity is bracing. This is a blend of "cherries and berries" from our own Twin Creeks vineyards and our neighbors' vineyard at Greengate Ranch just across the road from us. Pair it with filet mignon, grilled salmon, or dried fruits and assorted cheeses.

ALCOHOL 13.7%

HARVESTED September 19 and 27, 2019

VINEYARDS 60% Estate Twin Creeks 40% Greengate Ranch & Vineyard Edna Valley AVA

AGING 15% New French Oak Aged 9 Months in Barrel BOTTLED June 15, 2020 **CASES PRODUCED 469 RETAIL PRICE \$35**



2019 Twin Creeks Pinot Noir

Part of the allure of the Pinot Noir grape lies in the wide variety of expressions it allows. We like to showcase this by offering different bottlings of Pinot Noir, as is illustrated here with the one we call "Twin Creeks." A nice counterpart to the "Classic", it is a blend of barrels carefully selected by our winemaking team during their exhaustive tasting of every barrel in our cellar. (It's a hard job, but somebody's gotta do it!) The Twin Creeks from 2019 begins with aromas of dusted cocoa, followed by red fruit and hints of oak and earth. On the palate, dried herbs and raspberries integrate seamlessly with cherries and baking spice. Enjoy with duck confit, baby back pork ribs, or a spring harvest salad with toasted walnuts and crumbled goat cheese.

ALCOHOL 13.8%

HARVESTED September 14 and 19, 2019

VINEYARDS 83% Estate Twin Creeks 17% Greengate Ranch & Vineyard Edna Valley AVA

AGING 25% New French Oak Aged 9 Months in Barrel BOTTLED June 15, 2020 **CASES PRODUCED 259**



2018 SYRAH

This Syrah marks the first release of red wines from the 2018 harvest. Grown right here in the Edna Valley, the grapes benefitted from a long growing season and a late picking. This 2018 Syrah, with its stunning violet hue, delivers abundant aromas of ripe blackberries, blueberries, and oak, while on the palate there is a complex interplay of anise, leather and red fruit. The rich mouthfeel and ample tannins suggest a long cellaring potential. Grilling season is here, and we can't think of a better wine to serve with a quality ribeye, a rack of baby-back ribs, along with a heap of marinated portobello mushrooms. And be sure to pick up a few extra bottles to lay down; you will be handsomely rewarded in five to seven years!

ALCOHOL 14.6%

RETAIL PRICE \$46

HARVESTED November 7 and 9, 2018

VINEYARDS 90% Wolff Vinevards 10% Spanish Springs Vineyard

AGING 100% Neutral French Oak Aged 10 Months in Barrel

BOTTLED August 16, 2019 **CASES PRODUCED 272**

RETAIL PRICE \$38

WINEENTHUSIAST 93PTS





RECIPE: ROSÉ SANGRIA (from our very own Wine Club Manager, Brook Thompson)



Ingredients:

750ml (1 bottle) - Cuvée Elizabeth

Drv Rosé

6 oz Twin Creeks Pinot Noir

3 oz brandy

2 oz triple sec

1 oz limoncello

1 c orange juice

1 c pomegranate juice

½ c sugar

½ c blueberries

½ c raspberries

½ c blackberries

½ orange, sliced

½ lemon, sliced

Preparation:

Mix all ingredients together in a large pitcher. Continue stirring until sugar dissolves. Cover pitcher and refrigerate for 24-48 hours before serving. Add ice to pitcher upon serving. For added sweetness, add frozen orange/pineapple juice cubes in lieu of ice.