



## 2020 PREMIERE CLUB OFFERING

### Premiere /prē'myer,prē'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 SO<sub>2</sub>, and are crafted without the use of added enzymes, water, acids, tannins or nutrients.*

#### **2018 Valdiguié, Shell Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles Highlands District**

*100% Valdiguié, 165 cases, bottled August 2019, \$36 / \$28.80 WC*

Bursting with aromatics and bright and on the red-fruited end of the spectrum: think strawberry pie. Whole cluster inclusion (30%) during fermentation lends a bit of spice (bay leaf and tobacco), lightly stemmy tannin structure, and overall gravitas. Highly quaffable, the 2018 Valdiguié has a “session IPA” sort of drinkability.

Valdiguié was once quite widely planted in California under the name “Napa Gamay”. The grape was a favorite of growers for its generous crop loads, and winemakers loved it for its good acid and tannin and great color. Sadly, the grape has been in decline since the mid-1970’s. However, we love working with this underdog variety. The site is owned by the Sinton family, who have curated the Avenales Ranch since 1875, and farmed Shell Creek Vineyard since the early 1970’s.

#### **2016 Cabernet Sauvignon, Klau Mine Vineyard, Adelaida District**

*100% Cabernet Sauvignon, 75 cases, bottled August 2018, \$70 / \$56 WC*

Aggressive tannin immediately barges its way onto the palate. It’s a mean wine, tannin and acid delivering a one-two punch. Very slight oak sweetness on the nose tempers the classic Bordelaise herbaciousness (fresh-cut jalapeño) and continues onto the palate where it fleshes out the mouthfeel. The fruit comes through on the dark end of the spectrum: blackberry, black cherry and plum. A snappy, sinewy wine that is drinking quite well right now, it just might turn out to be one of the longest-living wines we’ve ever produced. Don’t be afraid to hang onto it for the future.

One of our most beloved West-Paso sites, this vineyard is an anomaly: Cabernet Sauvignon planted wide-spaced, head-trained and dry-farmed on good old-fashioned St. George rootstock. Basically, exactly the opposite of the recommended methods for planting Cabernet. Nevertheless, this site consistently produces our most distinctive, singular Cabernet. The only thing it lacks is a bit of tannin, so we prefer to ferment this with some whole-cluster (50% in 2016). The Dodd family has farmed and curated this site since the late-1800’s.

#### **2015 Nebbiolo, Glenrose Vineyard, Adelaida District**

*100% Nebbiolo, 100 cases, bottled April 2019, \$52 / \$41.60 WC*

Sweet and earthy spice dominates the aromatics: crushed cardamom pods, crushed mint leaf, black tea and dried hibiscus. Though medium-bodied, the wine has some very sneaky tannin... Dusty and grippy, they hang on to your palate for ages. There is a slight citrus note in the finish, like a flamed lemon peel at your favorite cocktail bar.

A notoriously difficult grape to make well, this represents our first attempt at making Nebbiolo. Don’t be fooled by the light body: Nebbiolo is both acidic and highly tannic. Oftentimes, the tannin takes years to resolve itself, both in barrel and bottle. We allowed this to mature for 4 years in cask before bottling. Still: it’s a tannic beast. You will definitely want to provide some fat for the tannin to cut through when enjoying this!