



The Wine Corner

Best of Family Winemakers of California

By Pierre DuMont

On August 13 the Family Winemakers of California held their second ever tasting in Oakland. It is one of my favorite wine events of the year. Many of the people pouring the wine have the same name on their nametags as the name on the wine label. There is a warmth, and yes, love for the wines that you do not find at the more “corporate” wine events.

The span of different grape varietals was intriguing. Like to taste a Semillon or a Barbera? How about Tempranillo or Alicante Bouchet? Come on in, they're all here.

I was never really able to find out exactly what constitutes a “family winemaker.” The vast majority of the wineries seemed to span the spectrum from small mom and pop operations to small/medium size operations making under 10,000 cases per year.

With the help of fellow wine and food writer Ittai Shui I meandered through the table-filled venue, focusing on small wineries with which I was unfamiliar. There were so many great wines at the tasting – literally hundreds. The following list catalogues the wines that stood out among a huge sea of also-rans. They are wines of great character and quality and are worth searching out. They show that some of the finest wines of the state are created in small, relatively little known, out of the way places by wineries fueled by family love and devotion.

- **2013 Viluko Cabernet Sauvignon (BEST VALUE)**

Usually, Cabernet Sauvignon poured at wine tasting is often way too young and green to be appealing. So, I was delighted to come across this 10-year old bottling from the Mayacamas Mountain area. The nose opens with profound notions of blueberry preserves, tapenade and earth. Medium-bodied rich ripe and concentrated, it has solid structure and exquisite balance finishing long and perfumed. At \$50 on their website, this is one of the best deals available in Napa & Sonoma Cabernet.

- **2021 DePeche Scarpatta Aglianico**

What a delightful surprise to come across a California Aglianico. Grown along a dry escarp-



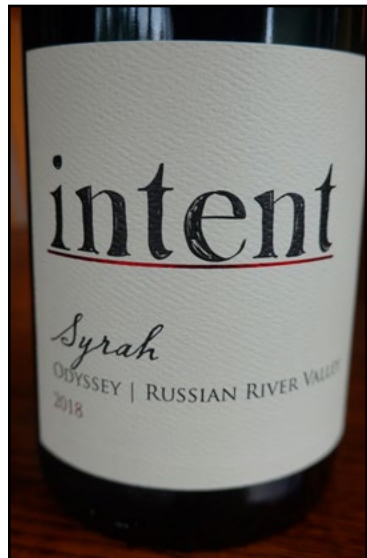
ment in San Benito County, this rare wine is immediately charming. The nose is perfumed and floral and the wines' body slight and refreshing. Like a great Beaujolais, it is lively and vibrant in the mouth and immensely satisfying. Drink slightly chilled with a plate of prosciutto and melon.

- **2021 T. Berkeley Ophelia Cabernet Franc**

This is a beautiful rendition of Cabernet Franc, with dark, brooding blueberry and blackberry fruit, some forest floor and floral notes, a dense purple color and soft, silky tannins. Medium to full-bodied, this is a big juicy, complex wine with good richness and intensity. Should have many good years ahead of itself in the cellar.

- **2018 Elaine Chardonnay Calypte Vineyard**

The 2018 Elaine Chardonnay offers lush aromas of peaches, saline, hazelnuts and notes of dried flowers. In the mouth, it has a medium weight, ultra-silky texture and expansive flavors, framed by delicious juiciness and a long, long finish.



- **2018 Intent Syrah Odyssey Vineyard**

This micro-cuvee (86 cases) from the Russian River Valley has a deep ruby-purple color and classic aromas of cassis, black pepper, blackberry, chocolate, tar and anise. Full-bodied and powerful with rounded tannins, it has good freshness but is still tightly coiled on the finish. Should improve for at least a decade in the cellar.

- **2020 Starfield Cinsault**

Cinsault is a lesser-known blending grape used in the south of France and it's nice to see it highlighted in this El Dorado County bottling. It has a charming floral nose that jumps from the glass with hints of blueberries and raspberries. In the mouth there is a gusher of round voluptuous fruit followed by fresh juicy acid, finishing clean and vibrant. I would drink this delightful wine slightly chilled on a warm afternoon.

- **2021 Gondak Grenache**

This Russian River Grenache pours a brilliant fuschia in the glass and leads aromatically with raspberries, earth, tobacco and a

hint of black olives. In the mouth, the tannins are wrapped around a core of pure raspberry fruit. It is ripe but not overly so and features a constellation of soft, chalky tannins. Really nicely done.



- **2022 Field Gewurztraminer “l'orange”**

I am a huge orange wine fan as well as a Gewurztraminer aficionado, so to see them combined was exciting. Fifteen days of skin contact during fermentation gives the wine a lovely golden/orange hue. Lush and piquant on the palate, with great intensity and beautiful bitters reminiscent of bitter oranges on the finish, this is a rich, tensioned, and vital Gewurtz that is immensely satisfying. I would drink by itself on the porch or deck on a warm afternoon.

- **2021 Sir Ras Syrah Bennett Valley**

Produced by the Box Wine Company of Sebastopol, this is brooding and dark with notes of blackberry, anise, tobacco and black pepper. In the mouth, the tannins create a framework within which the fruit is coiled, and it slowly unfurls through the long finish. Tannic and extraordinarily fresh, this finishes with a spicy elegance.

- **2019 Nove Grenache**

This is not the first time this Lake County Grenache has landed in the top of the Family Winemakers group. It offers a cherry core, with a pleasing dusty mineral essence, hints of wild herbs, sage and red fruit that shines with purity and finesse. Medium-bodied, the generously-layered Grenache unwinds on the palate to reveal juicy red fruit tones, delicate mineral tension and a slightly spicy note on the finish.

- **2021 Sojourn Pinot Noir Sangiacomo Vineyard**

This lovely wine hails from the Sonoma Coast AVA. It has a generous, broody perfume of strawberry jam, tobacco, forest floor and earth. The palate is concentrated, chalky and refreshing with a striking blend of ripe fruit and earthy character and a long, perfumed finish. Perfect with grilled salmon steaks.

- **2019 Kendric Syrah Petaluma Gap**

Instantly impressive, the Kendric Syrah is rich, round and mineral-driven with aromas of black pepper, flowers and blackberries with a touch of plum preserves. Full-bodied and generously layered, the Syrah fills the mouth revealing impressive complexity within a frame of fine-grained tannins that elevate the long savory finish. Delicious juice. 175 cases produced.

See *Wine Corner* on page 25

Calling all writers & poets

New writing classes offered at Adult School

If you are a writer – experienced or aspiring – Piedmont Adult School has a class for you this fall. Now is the time to tell the story you have thought about for so long. Gain valuable insights from the talented instructors, while enjoying a supportive community of writers.

University Project at San Quentin State Prison.



Instructor Denise Bostrom

Fiction and Creative Nonfiction

The popular Fiction and Creative Nonfiction Writing class is designed for beginners and experienced writers alike and will focus on the components of effective writing and strategies to maintain a writing practice. There will be short readings, writing exercises, discussions, and the opportunity to workshop.

Instructor Caitlin McCarthy holds bachelor's and master's degrees in writing. She currently teaches Literature and Language Arts at Corpus Christi School in Oakland. She is also a private writing coach and teaches writing workshops for all ages.



Instructor Caitlin McCarthy

Family Stories and Memoir Writing

Family Stories and Memoir Writing offers beginning and seasoned writers the tools to discover, reflect on, and write family stories. Using the text “The Art of Memoir” by Mary Karr, the class will cover setting, character investigation, approaches in structuring the work, and a writer's voice. Excerpts from different memoirs will be analyzed, as students develop, revise, and workshop their stories with a goal of exploring layers in one's work and supporting publishing goals.

Instructor Denise Bostrom, a former Piedmont resident, has written scripts for PBS, HBO, and the Lifetime Channel, and for independent films. She has taught screenwriting and nonfiction/memoir script writing at SF State, SF City College, and the

Writing Together: A Poetry Studio

In this workshop, students will write and read together, experimenting with new forms and prompts. The class will explore the poetry of everyday life through attention, exploration, and collaboration. This is a chance to try new things in a supportive environment, with time for both community and one-on-one approaches to growth as a creative artist. All levels welcome.

Instructor Linda Norton is the author of *Wite Out: Love and Work*, a memoir with poems. Its prequel, *The Public Gardens: Poems and History*, was a finalist for a Los Angeles Times Book Prize. She is a former columnist-in-residence at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and has taught writing at SF State, the Emeryville Senior Center, and at the Yeats Academy of the Atlantic Technological University in Ireland.



Instructor Linda Norton

To register for these and other classes, visit www.piedmontadultschool.org or call the Adult School office at (510) 594-2717. Classes are open to all adults age 18 and over.

FALL CLASSES OPEN

Fiction and Creative Nonfiction

Instructor: Caitlin McCarthy
Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm
Sept. 12 to Oct. 10 (5 meetings)
\$128

Family Stories and Memoir Writing

Instructor: Denise Bostrom
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Sept. 23 to Oct. 14 (4 meetings)
\$195

Writing Together: A Poetry Studio

Instructor: Linda Norton
Mondays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Oct. 9 to Nov. 6 (5 meetings)
\$150

READ IT IN THE POST

PPD Blue

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9:49 a.m. Scenic Ave. **Residential Burglary.** Passport stolen from bedroom dresser; new housekeeper suspected by owner.

10:09 a.m. Blair Ave. **ALPR** triggered by white Toyota Corolla.

12:07 p.m. La Salle Ave. **ALPR** triggered by blue Audi Q5. Officers spot the vehicle with the Audi RS-4 from incident on Sotelo in the morning. Audi RS-4 had been stolen again. Both vehicles speed away, no pursuit.

6:31 p.m. Highland Ave. 2016 Subaru Impreza broken into. Backpack, phone, wallet stolen. Phone is recovered

Wednesday, August 30

5:29 a.m. Harvard Rd. **ALPR** triggered by unidentified vehicle.

8:04 a.m. Wildwood Ave. **Auto Theft.** 2012 silver Infiniti stolen.

8:37 a.m. Blair Ave. **ALPR** trig-

gered by white 2008 Ford Econovan.

10:44 a.m. Oakland Ave. **ALPR** triggered twice by white 2020 Dodge Charger.

11:49 a.m. Oakland Ave. **ALPR** triggered by black 2013 Dodge Challenger.

4:53 p.m. Monticello Ave. **Residential Burglary.** Package stolen from front porch.

9:01 p.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by white 2014 Lexus 300.

9:47 p.m. Woodland Way. **Auto Burglary.** Report of car alarms going off, silver Audi speeds away. Locked blue 2016 Audi SQ5 has window smash and glove box rifled.

9:48 p.m. Lafayette Ave. **Auto Burglary.** Silver 2017 Audi Q5 broken into, glove box rifled and valet key stolen.

Thursday, August 31

4:27 a.m. Kingston Ave. Report

of man in white Toyota Prius looking into vehicle, possibly a resident exercising nearby.

2:16 p.m. Sylvan Way. **ALPR** triggered by 2013 Hyundai Elantra. Vehicle located unoccupied on Sylvan. Suspect driver looked for, but not found. Car towed. 12:10 p.m. Highland Ave. Report of woman with white purse and manila walking up to kids in camp, asking how old they are and touching the kids. Lady told to leave.

4:52 p.m. La Salle Ave. **ALPR** triggered by gray Hyundai Elantra with tinted windows,

Friday, September 1

4:33 a.m. Artuna Ave. Report of loud music and people yelling in Dracena Park. Contact made in playground area; police provide courtesy rides home.

7:40 a.m. Hampton Ave. Report of woman walking in roadway with slippers and briefcase. Officer is familiar with subject; no crime.

Wine Corner

Continued from page 22

• 2017 Haylo Cabernet Sauvignon

This new Lodi-based winery's Cabernet shows black and red fruits with oak aromas and mineral essence. The wine displays hints of graphite with a touch of blackberry jam. Full-bodied and displaying fine-grained tannins, the Cabernet will remain food-friendly for about five more years. It ends with a spicy, mineral-laced finish.

• 2022 Puppione Family Festa Bianco

One of the things I love about the Family Winemakers tasting is that you always come across some nice surprises and this was one of them. Made from the rare Northern Italian grape of Friulano sourced from a vineyard in the Sierra foothills, this refreshing wine is immediately beguiling. Fresh, tart, zippy and uplifting this zings across the palate and finishes clean and savory. It cries out for fresh oysters or seafood.

• 2018 Greyscale Stage 1

A blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 3% Mal-

bec this Bordeaux style blend is from the Atlas Peak AVA. This offers up a boisterous bouquet of cassis, loamy soil, smoke and spices. Medium to full-bodied, seamless and fleshy, it's beautifully balanced, with a generous core of fruit, soft tannins and lively acids. Great job.

• 2018 Noceto Fumo E Terra Aglianico

I love the Taurasi Italian wines made from the Aglianico grape, so I was delighted to see this Sierra Foothills producer trying their hand at the grape. The wine offers impressive complexity with a long succession of aromas including cranberries, smoke, and baking spice. The bouquet is also heavy on bramble and forest floor. The wine shows robust fruit and balanced oak spice. The tannins are well managed, and it should last in the cellar for over a decade.

• 2018 Bella Grace 1646

This red blend is made from Barbera, Zinfandel, Primitivo and Petite Sirah and named for the elevation of the wine estate. It

has a medium ruby-purple color and gregarious scents of peach, wild berry preserves, orange peel and tar. The palate is deeply fruited but light on its feet with bright freshness and loads of perfume on the long finish. Great partner to grilled burgers.

• 2020 Anarchist Freudian Slip Superego Blend

What a totally unusual blend! 78% Nebbiolo mixed with Pinot Noir, Cabernet Franc and 4 other wines. The Freudian Slip is plump and juicy with immediate and ripe fruit flavors. You get strawberry, roses and raspberry with earth and cherries. The wine puts its primary aromas first, but with time in the glass, the wine unwinds to more nuanced Nebbiolo tones of leather and earth.

• 2020 Monroy Cabernet Sauvignon

This is my second opportunity to taste this outstanding Cabernet from the Chalk Hill AVA. It has a beautiful blueberry/blackberry nose with a hint of oak. It is full and round on the palate with just the perfect amount of tannins on the lingering finish. Would be a great partner to a grilled ribeye steak.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bids shall be uploaded electronically to the BPXpress City of Piedmont planroom via the "Submit Bid Docs" tab on the Project page until the hour of **2:00 p.m., on the 27th day of September, 2023** (no bids will be accepted after 2:00 p.m.) for the construction of the following project:

Annual Sidewalk Repair Program. 2023-2024

Complete bid packages, including project plans, technical specifications, bid forms, and contract documents may be secured from BPXpress Reprographics by logging on to: www.blueprintexpress.com/piedmont or by calling 510-559-8299 or by emailing: Richmond@blueprintexpress.com There is a non-refundable fee of \$50 per set for a printed or electronic package, plus shipping and handling. As the project is being bid through BPXpress Printing, any changes via addenda will be available on the BPXpress website for this project.

Bids shall be **uploaded electronically** to the BPXpress City of Piedmont planroom via the "Submit Bid Docs" tab on the Project page before **2:00 p.m., September 27, 2023**. Guidelines for BPXpress Online Bidding Instructions are provided in Appendix A. Proposals will be timestamped by the website upon receipt and placed in a secure location by BPXpress to be accessed only by a representative from the City of Piedmont. Bids will be publicly opened via an online Zoom meeting at 2:30 p.m. on September 27, 2023. The Zoom meeting information can be found in the bid documents.

Please note that bidders must be logged-in as a registered user in order to see the "Submit Bid Docs" tab. The "Submit Bid Docs" tab will only be available until the bid deadline, and all submitted bids are "sealed" and inaccessible until that time. After the bid deadline, the "Submit Bid Docs" tab will be unavailable on the Planroom platform to prospective bidders.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code, the Director of Industrial Relations for the State of California has ascertained the current general prevailing rate of wages for employer purposes, in Alameda County, State of California. Not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for work of a similar character in Alameda County and not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for holiday work fixed as provided in the California Labor Code shall be paid to all workers engaged in performing the project.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1771.1 of the California Labor Code, A contractor or subcontractor shall not be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, subject to the requirements of Section 4104 of the Public Contract Code, or engage in the performance of any contract for public work, as defined in Chapter 1 of Part 7 of Division 2 of the California Labor Code, unless currently registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Civil Code Section 1725.5. **Please note: It is not a violation of Section 1771.1 for an unregistered contractor to submit a bid that is authorized by Section 7029.1 of the Business and Professions Code or by Section 10164 or 20103.5 of the Public Contract Code, provided the contractor is registered to perform public work pursuant to Section 1725.5 at the time the contract is awarded.** Any bids submitted without proof that Bidder and any listed subcontractor(s) are currently registered and qualified to perform public work, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5, shall not be accepted by the City.

In accordance with California Civil Code Section 1771.4, the project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 3300, a valid class A California contractor's license is required to bid on the project.

The City of Piedmont reserves the right to postpone the date and time for the opening of proposals at any time prior to the date and time announced in the advertisement in accordance with applicable law.

The City of Piedmont reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any defects or irregularity in bidding in accordance with applicable law. In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 20103.8, if the City elects to award a contract for performance of the project, the contract will be awarded in accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 20162 and other applicable law to the responsible bidder submitting a responsive bid with the lowest total bid price for the base bid without consideration of the bid price for any additive or deductive items. All bids will remain valid for 90 days after the bid opening. Except as permitted by law and subject to all applicable remedies, including forfeiture of bidder's security, bidders may not withdraw their bid during the 90-day period after the bid opening.

By order of the City Council of the City of Piedmont, Alameda County, California.

DANIEL GONZALES
Public Works Director
City of Piedmont
120 Vista Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611

September 1, 2023

READ IT IN THE POST

Still not a subscriber of the Piedmont Post?
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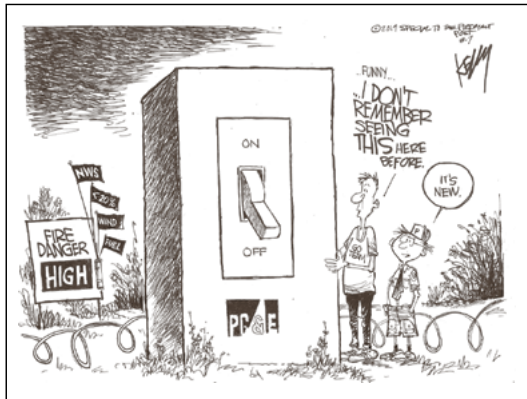
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