

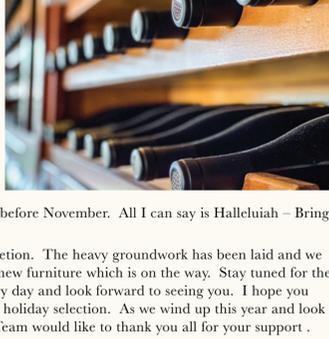
Hello Winos

I am happy to report that all is well here on our beautiful hilltop winery estate. The Crush Team is wrapping up harvest as we speak. We are having a great time this year making wine again after last year's disaster. All the grapes have been harvested, crushed, fermented, pressed and are now meticulously being barreled down. I was on the crush pad with the crew this year and I must say that Brandon nailed every pick, so you can count on the Armida 2021 Vintage to be another classic performance. Even though there is still much to do, this will be considered an early harvest having avoided any weather related problems and being done before November. All I can say is Halleluiah – Bring on the Holidays!

Our winery hospitality area is well on its way to completion. The heavy groundwork has been laid and we are now getting ready for lighting, landscape, and our new furniture which is on the way. Stay tuned for the news of our Grand Re Opening. We are still here every day and look forward to seeing you. I hope you enjoy the wines in this shipment. I think this is a great holiday selection. As we wind up this year and look forward to really getting back to normal, the Armida Team would like to thank you all for your support.

Cheers to you Winos!

Happy Holidays from the Cousins Family,
Bruce



Featured Wines

2018 Stuhlmuller Vineyard Chardonnay

APPELLATION: 100% Chardonnay | OAK: 30% New French Oak, 16 months in French Oak
ALCOHOL: 13.2% | TA: 5.7 g/L | pH: 3.43 | RS: (Dry) | CASES: 167

- Originally planted in the 1970's, most of these vines are a half-century old, ancient for a Chardonnay vineyard.
- After fermentation the wine sat on the lees and was stirred every two weeks for 10 months.
- We blocked malolactic fermentation, keeping the acidity bright.
- Aged over 16 months before being minimally fined and filtered right before bottling.
- Lemon blossoms and baked apple aromas combined with grainy cracker and orange rinds, foreshadowing the flavors to come.
- On the palate the wine is rich, unctuous and elegant, with flavors of freshly baked lemon bars and honey-dipped apples.

2018 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay

APPELLATION: Sonoma Coast | BLEND: 100% Chardonnay | OAK: 60% New French Oak
ALCOHOL: 14.5% | TA: 5.8 g/L | pH: 3.51 | RS: (Dry) | CASES: 203

- Unfortunately, this is our final vintage of Durell Vineyard Chardonnay. Our block of vines were old and struggling, and were removed after the 2018 harvest.
- Only 10 miles north of the San Pablo Bay, the marine influence plays a significant role in the grape crop's flavor and character development.
- We select two different clones, clone 76 and clone 15, from two separate blocks, with two different soil structures; creating a more diverse and interesting wine.
- After fermentation the wine was kept on the lees and stirred every two weeks until malolactic fermentation was finished in late spring.
- Aged over 16 months before being minimally fined and filtered right before bottling.
- The rich, smooth wine enters the mouth with a blast of D'anjou Pear, lemon cookie flavors and distinctive minerality.
- The lengthy, expansive finish surrounds the palate with flavors of fresh citrus and spiced apple pie

2018 Castelli-Knight Ranch Pinot Noir

APPELLATION: RR Valley | BLEND: 100% Pinot Noir | OAK: 40% New French Oak 16 mths
ALCOHOL: 14.1% | TA: 5.8 g/L | pH: 3.51 | RS: (Dry) | CASES: 377

- Approximately 4 acres of two different clones of Pinot Noir (777 and 115) were planted on the rolling hills of the ranch in 1997.
- The soil structure consists of sandy loam and red clay with very little topsoil, creating a stressful, low-vigor environment in which Pinot Noir excels.
- Grape skins were held in contact with the wine for 15 days before being drained to 100% French Oak Barrels (40% new).
- The wine was racked once in the spring and aged over 16 months before being bottled.
- The entry is bright and fresh, with flavors of juicy plums and soft strawberries pleasing the palate.
- The wine's fine, plush mouthfeel balances the expanding finish with subtle notes of cola and candied fruit.

2018 Maple Vineyards Zinfandel

APPELLATION: Dry Creek Valley Sonoma County | BLEND: 92% Zin 8% PS
ALCOHOL: 14.9% | TA: 7.2 g/L | pH: 3.38 | RS: (Dry) | CASES: 1,130

- Maple Vineyards is 27 acres of exceptional head-trained, certified sustainable Zinfandel on the high bench-land in the heart of Dry Creek Valley.
- The oldest block was planted in 1910, linking our current wines to the rich history and traditions of the early immigrants of Dry Creek Valley.
- Maple Vineyards is harvested on 10 separate days throughout a three week span. Varying ripeness in each lot of wine displays different flavors.
- Combination of American, French, and Eastern European Oak Barrel aging
- Some lots of grapes are fermented in open top tanks (like Pinot Noir) and some are fermented in closed top tank (like Cabernet) to contribute different mouthfeels to the final blend.
- Dark black fruits are balanced with savory spices
- The seductive finish isn't cloying and sweet, but rather refined, lush and gummy, and the integrated tannins and great balance of savory and spice will continue to gain in complexity over the next fifteen years.

2018 Parmelee-Hill Vineyard Zinfandel

APPELLATION: Sonoma Coast Sonoma County | BLEND: 100% Zinfandel
ALCOHOL: 14.5% | TA: 8.1 g/L | pH: 3.18 | RS: (Dry) | CASES: 347

- Originally planted to very cool climate varieties, Steve Hill asked Armida's Owners Bruce and Steve Cousins if they would like him to plant a one-acre block of Zinfandel.
- This acre was planted with steep terraces facing southward to maximize sun exposure - the warmest part of Parmelee-Hill vineyard.
- Cloud nights, warm days, well-draining soils, and immaculate farming ensure that this Zinfandel flourishes in this very cool vineyard site.
- Once fermentation was complete, only the free-run wine was drained to a separate tank before being transferred into predominately French oak barrels to age for 16 months.
- The bright juicy acidity, a hallmark of Parmelee-Hill Vineyard, balances the sweetness of oak influence and sandy texture on the palate.
- The wine's fine, plush mouthfeel balances the expanding finish with subtle notes of cola & candied fruit.

2018 Gold Mine Ranch Zinfandel

APPELLATION: Dry Creek Valley Sonoma County | BLEND: 100% Zinfandel
ALCOHOL: 14.8% | TA: 7.3 g/L | pH: 3.51 | RS: (Dry) | CASES: 207

- Gold Mine Ranch's 3-acre vineyard was planted before the original owner was drafted into the service before World War I.
- Returning from war, the owner set out to discover precious metals on his property to craft jewelry.
- He burrowed two holes near the Zinfandel in search of gold, and henceforth the vineyard was known as "Gold Mine Ranch."
- Once fermentation was complete, only the free-run wine was drained into 50% new Boutes Cooperage European Blend Oak Barrels to age for 16 months.
- First impressions of plums and cherries are followed by aromas of anise, peppercorns, & cola.
- Bright cranberries reward the opening sip with a middle of vibrant raspberry jam and blackberries.
- The finish continues with a sense of texture, showing that this wine will continue to improve with age over the next decade.

2018 "Il Campo" Estate Red Wine Field

APPELLATION: Dry Creek Valley Sonoma County | BLEND: 80% Zinfandel 18% Petite Sirah 2% Mixed Blacks
ALCOHOL: 14.9% | TA: 8.0 g/L | pH: 3.34 | RS: 1.0 g/L (Dry) | CASES: 327

- Nostalgic aromas of blackberry pie and cherry soda rise out of the glass on the initial pouring.
- Layers of mocha, licorice and cedar release as the wine is swirled.
- Bright cranberry and pomegranate awakens the pallet on the entry.
- The slightly sandy texture tastes as if someone sprinkled cocoa powder in your mouth.
- The finish is powerful and concentrated, yet balanced by the acidity and fruitfulness of the wine.
- The structure will allow this wine to continue to evolve in the bottle for the next 15 years.

2018 Tina's Block Zinfandel

APPELLATION: Dry Creek Valley Sonoma County | BLEND: 80% Zinfandel 20% Mixed Blacks
ALCOHOL: 14.8% | TA: 7.1 g/L | pH: 3.43 | RS: (Dry) | CASES: 407

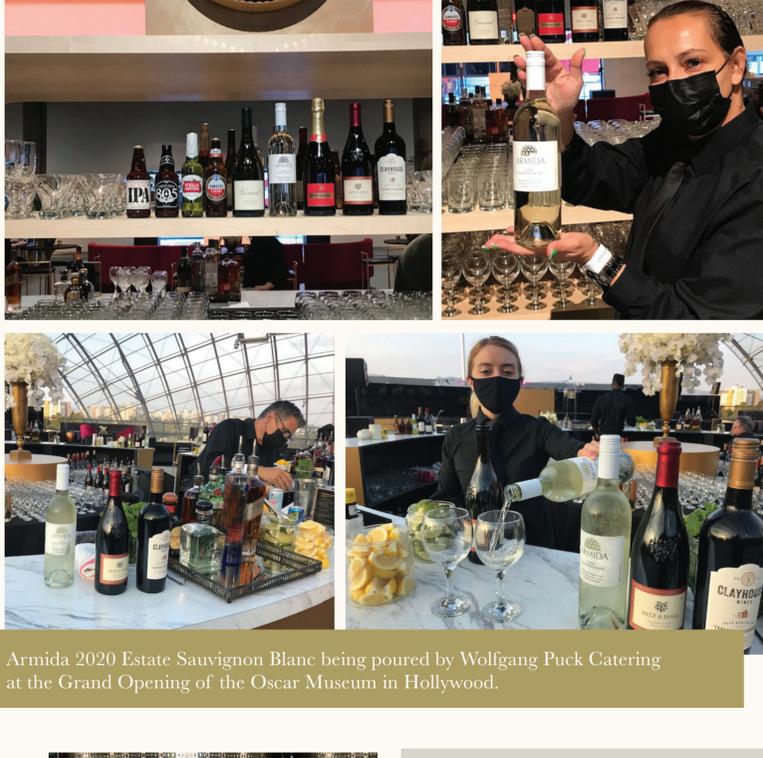
- Maple Vineyards contains 27 acres of exceptional head-trained zinfandel, on high bench land in the heart of Dry Creek Valley.
- Tina's Block, the oldest block in the vineyard, was planted in 1910 and sustainability farmed since then.
- This 2-acre parcel has records claiming that the block was planted to all Zinfandel, but we know that Tina's Block is currently comprised of at least 20% mixed black varieties.
- Petite Sirah, Carignan, Cinsault, Mission, and Alicante Bouschet are inter-planted throughout the block giving this wine unique character and flavors.
- Twice daily for the next 15 days the wine was stirred with the skins to extract color and flavors.

94 PTS
Wine
Enthusiast

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**Best of Class
Double Gold Medal**
2019 Chardonnay
Russian River Valley
Sonoma County
\$30 RETAIL



Armida 2020 Estate Sauvignon Blanc being poured by Wolfgang Puck Catering at the Grand Opening of the Oscar Museum in Hollywood.



Behind the Cellar Door

Wine Club Members,

Harvest began on August 25th with some amazing Sauvignon Blanc from our Estate vineyard in the Russian River Valley. We're enjoying a spectacular harvest and only a few more vineyards to pick, and based upon everything I'm seeing so far, we'll have an excellent vintage! The weather has cooperated most of the summer, with only a few truly hot days during harvest. That warmth definitely sped up the ripening of most varieties and we harvested over 70% of our fruit within a two-week span. I'd like to thank our harvest crew of Andre and Bruce, for their tireless dedication and long hours!

When I'm given a moment to rest during these long days, my mind begins to drift. I begin to think about traveling to new places, visiting wineries, having great meals with friends, and good old-fashioned rest and relaxation. To that end I'm going on a great trip in 2023 and I'd love for you to join me! Armida has partnered with AMA Waterways and

we will be offering our first River Cruise hosted by yours truly. "The Essence of Burgundy & Provence Cruise" will take us down two historic rivers through the Burgundy and Provence regions of France. There will be amazing walking tours of old cities, opportunities to visit wineries and chateaus, and incredible samplings of local cuisine and wine. Onboard, each day I will host a tasting and discussion about winemaking, and of course, there will be plenty of Armida wine.

The reasons I'm super excited about this cruise...

- The cruise embarks from Chalon-sur-Saone on July 13, 2023. I'm optimistic that the world will be in a better situation by then.
- This is NOT a huge cruise ship. The Amacello was built in 2008 and sails with a maximum of 140 people. This will create a very intimate environment, where you will be able to interact with myself and other Armida fans.
- I have never traveled to Burgundy and Provence before. You will join me in experiencing the history, sights, and flavors of the area for the first time.
- My wife of 15 years, Kim Lapides will be joining me. She too has worked in the wine industry for 20 years, but on the sales and hospitality side. Her palate for Pinot Noir is exquisite, and it will be her first time ever travelling to Europe.
- The food. Not only will there be amazing wine and food pairings aboard the cruise ship, but we will seek out local cuisine and wine as well. Steamed mussels paired with a Rosé from Tavel... "Oui, S'il vous plait."

I sincerely hope you can join us! For more details and information please visit our "Events" page on our website www.Armida.com/events. If you have any questions about the cruise you can contact myself at Brandon@Armida.com or email the cruise at wineclub@expediacruz.com.

Well, enough day-dreaming for now. It's time to get back to crushing some Zinfandel grapes. Some of the wines we're making this year will be on the cruise! I wish you all the best and as always, thank you for your support of Armida Winery.

Cheers,
Brandon Lapides - Winemaker
brandon@armida.com



For more information on the river cruise visit: www.armida.com/events



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2201 Westside Rd.
Healdsburg, CA 95448
T: (707) 433-2222
E: info@armida.com

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