

28 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Hello Armida Winos!

I hope by now you've heard that our hospitality renovation is finished, and that we're open with many new experiences for you to enjoy. If you've not had the pleasure of seeing you recently, you can check out the cool pictures on our website and social media. Our new Director of Hospitality, Topher McCarthy has been posting some very entertaining reels on Instagram and Facebook. Be sure to follow us so you don't miss out on all the fun. You'll see the new charcuterie plates we offer with our different tasting options. We are using meats from Journeyman Meat Company - the best! You can preorder if you like. It will have your name on it when you get here. In Capitola, Christopher has also done a little upgrading, adding a new counter-tasting area with cozy chairs. The A-Team is gearing up for the grand reopening. In Healdsburg I know you'll enjoy meeting new team members Olivia, Adam, Julie and of course Topher. Maureen, Lisa and Jeff are also here for you. In Capitola Christopher has brought back Larry and Senda, and we have added Rich and Julie to the team, joining Andrew. And with harvest around the corner, a big shout-out to winemaker Brandon and our new cellar master, Salvino. Welcome aboard Salvino! After a couple of years of construction mayhem and dust, and almost a year of closure imposed by the county during which we had "only" four employees, we're now back in action with a complete squad, the most talented and enthusiastic crew we've ever had. Can't wait for you to meet them. Let's go A-Team!

You'll notice a couple of new releases in this shipment, and just by chance we heard last week that the 2019 Chalone Vineyard Chardonnay received a huge 92-point rating in the Wine Enthusiast. The 2019 Tina's Block Zinfandel from Maple Vineyards received a 90 point rating. Wino's, these wines are special and delicious, and it's nice to know the critics agree. We also received a 91 point rating for the 2019 Maple Vineyards Zinfandel, which you received in your last shipment. The hits just keep coming! Oh, I almost forgot to mention - we're now bottling Maple Zin and Tina's Block in magnums. These 1.5L (double the size of the 750ml bottles in your shipment) "mags" are perfect for large parties, gift giving and for extended aging. Brandon will be glad to sign and personalize any that you purchase; just ask!

This August 1st was the 29 year anniversary for me and Big Bro Steve. I remember when we were the new kids on the block, seems just like yesterday. Such a grand adventure - it's hard work and not without risk, yet we're having a great time, making notable, delicious wines and enjoyed our times and memories of you. Thank you for all your support through so many years. Many wineries have come and gone since our first day, but I can promise you WINOS, we are gonna keep on truckin'!

Happy Harvest and hope to see you soon!

Bruce

Featured Wines

92
PTS

Wine Enthusiast



2019 Chalone Vineyard Chardonnay

APPELLATION Chalone | BLEND 100% Chardonnay
OAK 35% New French Oak, 16 months in French Oak

ALCOHOL: 14.3% | TA: 6.0 g/L | pH: 3.40 | RS: (Dry) | CASES: 225

- Chalone Vineyard is located on the west-side of Pinnacles National Park, about 60 miles east of the Pacific Ocean in Monterey County.
- The vineyard was originally planted in the 1900's - our block was planted in 1960.
- Chardonnay is planted on rolling hills at close to 1,600 feet of elevation.
- The soil is unique to the Chalone area, comprised of a significant amount of limestone and decomposed granite.
- Gently hand-harvested at night to ensure cold fruit arrives at the winery, where the grapes were whole-cluster pressed. Malolactic fermentation occurred to help balance mouthfeel.
- Aged over 16 months before being minimally fined and filtered just prior to bottling. The concentration and depth of flavors deliver an approachable wine in its youth, with the promise to gain complexity with extended bottle aging - up to 10 years.

2018 Stuhlmuller Vineyard Chardonnay Alexander Valley

APPELLATION Alexander Valley | BLEND 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

- Stuhlmuller Vineyard is located within the AVA of Alexander Valley, but the vineyard also borders the Chalk Hill and Russian River Valley AVAs.
- This special vineyard site is well suited for the ideal growing conditions for this unique, old clone of Chardonnay named the "Gauer Upper Barn Clone."
- The diurnal swings in temperatures at the vineyard provides enough heat for the flavors to fully develop but are cool enough to delay ripening in order to achieve balance and a longer hang time.
- Lemon blossoms and baked apple aromas combine with graham cracker and orange rinds, foreshadowing the flavors to come.
- The entry is rich and unctuous, giving way to a bright and refreshing lemon-citrus finish.
- The palate is left with flavors of freshly baked lemon bars and honey-dipped apples.

Drink now or age up to 8 years in bottle



2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast

APPELLATION Sonoma Coast | BLEND 100% Pinot Noir
OAK 40% New French Oak 16 months in French Oak

ALCOHOL: 14.1% | TA: 5.7 g/L | pH: 3.71 | RS: (Dry) | CASES: 279

- Daily, these valleys fill with coastal fog, slowing the ripening process, creating a inimitable balance of rich flavors, textures and minerality.
- The skins were held in contact with the wine for 15 days during fermentation, and then drained to 100% French oak barrels. (40% new)
- Fresh and textural on the entry, spiced fruit essences and toasted pastries tease and excite the palate.
- Strawberry and cranberry flavors mix in a complex balance of acidity and fruit flavors.

Drink now or cellar until 2032

2019 Tina's Block Zinfandel, Maple Vineyards

APPELLATION Dry Creek Valley Sonoma County
BLEND 80% Zinfandel 20% Mixed Blacks

ALCOHOL: 14.2% | TA: 6.1 g/L | pH: 3.47 | RS: (Dry) | CASES: 527

- 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, flavors, tannins and texture from the grapes.
- Once fermentation was complete, only the free-run wine was drained to a separate tank before being transferred into our proprietary mix of French Oak barrels to age for 16 months.
- The entry is a burst of refreshingly sweet raspberry pie and blueberries balanced with juicy cranberries.
- The seductive, ripe finish has a sandy-textured note that will continue to soften with aging.
- The savory and spice flavors of the wine will gain in complexity over the next fifteen years.



Behind the Cellar Door

Hello Friends,

There is a lot going on here at Armida! The grapes are basking in the beautiful summer weather. The outdoor space is abuzz with bocce ball, corn-hole, and Jenga being played by visitors from near and far. We recently hosted our first "industry event" to introduce our new outdoor hospitality venue to our winery neighbors and friends. It was a great trial run for us to learn how to host a party for our cherished club members. Stay tuned...

I recently finished the largest two-day bottling that we've had at Armida. Considering the congestion of the global supply chain, it was a near miracle to have all of our corks, capsules, labels, silk-

screening, glass, and screwcaps show up on-time for bottling. Yet they did, and you will have some tasty treats coming your way soon. Our 2021 Grenache is tasty and full of bright fruit, soon to be released. Also, we bottled Armida's first red Grenache. From the unique and iconic Chalone Vineyard, this Grenache is a relatively light red wine, with moderate acidity, tannin and alcohol. Chock full of red fruits (strawberry, cherry and raspberry), I particularly love the vineyard's clear influence with aroma and flavor notes of clove, wet stones and baking spices. Please try this wine with just a little chill on it, at about 50 degrees, to best enjoy its aromas, flavors and texture.

The summer weather has continued our great streak of ideal growing conditions. We've had little fog, keeping the above-ground moisture in the vineyards low and decreasing the mold and mildew pressure on the grapes. We also haven't had more than a couple days over 100 degrees, unusual, yet ideal for grape growing. About a week ago veraison began - when the grapes begin to change their color. We normally harvest about six weeks after complete veraison, so should be bringing our first grapes into the winery early September.

As we begin to look forward to the 2022 harvest, we're still working diligently on the 2021 wines still in barrel. Most of July and August will be spent topping all of the 250 barrels that we have filled with tasty single vineyard Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Zinfandel. We need to "top" wine barrels every month because the wine inside will slowly evaporate to the atmosphere, through the pores in the oak barrels. The evaporation is both good and bad. It's negative in that we lose wine but good in that the evaporation has a positive concentrating effect on all of the wines flavors and color. Each barrel will lose about 1-2 bottles worth of wine each month due to this evaporation. If we didn't top the barrels, too much oxygen would be exposed to the wine, causing spoilage and off-flavors.

I can't wait to share some of the new releases with you out on our beautiful new outdoor venue! With harvest rapidly approaching, you're bound to find me here at the winery. Please take a moment to say HI, I'd love to hear about your favorite Armida wine.

Cheers!

Brandon Lapides

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