



Merry Cellars NEWSLETTER

February, 2023 / Vol.3

A MESSAGE FROM OUR WINEMAKER

Hello, all!

It's hard to believe March is just around the corner but the past month was chock full of activity here at the winery. Between our Case Sale, two Valentine's Winemaker's Dinners, and our first quarter Wine Club release, the month seems to have flown by! A huge thank you to all of you who joined us for all of our events - as always, much fun was had by all!

In other news, if you have not had the opportunity to check out our new website, I invite you to do so. We have added some pretty neat features including our complete Wine Library where you can browse our entire catalog of wines, an Events page and a Find our Wines interactive map of all the retail locations where you can get your Merry Cellars fix!

Cheers,

Patrick R. Merry
Founding Winemaker

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WINTER PRUNING

Everyone knows the busiest time in the vineyard is harvest season, but that doesn't mean the rest of the year is slow or dull. Spring work begins in early February and the first task to tackle is pruning.

Pruning is a process familiar to most, referring to the physical removal of excessive woody growth from a plant. In *Vitis vinifera*, fruit grows only from green shoots off year-old wood, so the main intention of pruning is to eliminate older growth that will distract the vine from its main task of pushing resources to these new shoots.

Typically a cane is pruned down to a spur with two buds. Spurs might be left with three or four buds in a conservative management style, or be limited to one as a more aggressive method. Leaving more buds gives a better chance of a crop surviving the bogeyman that is a late spring frost, but will yield more canopy growth. The aggressive approach to management will limit vegetative development from the jump and force the vine's nutrients and energy directly into new fruit production. The downside to this technique is the potential for crop devastation in the case of a pest, disease, or bad weather event later in the season.



The timing of pruning is the most challenging part of the whole task. Too early can leave the vines vulnerable to cold damage; and too late sets the growth cycle back and can lead to poor and uneven fruit development.

Vineyard managers, viticulturists, and crew workers do their best to predict the future and weigh all considerations before making these difficult pruning decisions. Next time you crack a bottle of Merry Cellars, raise a glass and say a toast to the incredible team at Stillwater Creek Vineyard who make all of this possible!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

2019 Syrah

Stillwater Creek Vineyard

Syrah, or Shiraz if you're from the land Down Under, is the third most planted winegrape in Washington State and is one of the most versatile wines around. Whether featured as a standalone varietal with incredible stylistic diversity or used to add depth and complexity to a blend, Syrah can rise to the occasion!

Syrah is a dark-skinned variety that produces full-bodied, complex wines. It is grown in many regions around the world, but its roots can be traced back to the Rhône Valley in France. Syrah wine is known for its distinctive peppery flavor and notes of black fruit, such as blackberries and blackcurrants. It often has a hint of smokiness or earthiness, which adds to its complexity.

Syrah wine is typically aged in oak barrels, which can add a subtle vanilla or spice flavor to the wine. The oak also helps to soften the tannins, making the wine smoother and more enjoyable to drink. Syrah wine pairs well with a variety of foods, including grilled meats, stews, and strong cheeses. It is a versatile wine that can be enjoyed on its own or as part of a meal.

In recent years, Syrah wine has become increasingly popular among wine enthusiasts. Winemakers around the world have embraced the grape and are producing some truly exceptional wines. Whether you're a seasoned wine connoisseur or just starting to explore the world of wine, Syrah is a variety that should not be missed. Its bold flavors and complex aromas make it a wine that will leave a lasting impression on your palate.

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Tasting Notes

Aroma

Black currant, bramble and herbal notes give way to light, sweet oak and green tea on the nose.

Flavor

Black raspberry, baking spices and subtle savory & meaty flavors upfront with a light floral finish.

Mouthfeel

A medium bodied wine, this Syrah sports moderate tannins, strong acidity and a lingering finish making this an exceptional wine to pair with food.

Pairing Suggestions

Given that Syrah tends to be a “bigger” wine, try pairing with foods with strong flavors such as blue cheese, grilled meats (with our without barbeque sauce), lamb and bacon.



*Come be a part
of our story.*



UPCOMING EVENTS

4/14-4/15

Rosé Release!

6/17

Rosé 5K Fun Run

7/22

Summer Wine Club Party

[Click Here To Learn More](#)

CURRENT WINES

White Wines

2019 Semillon

Cases in stock: 23

2020 Semillon

Cases in stock: 73

2021 Chardonnay

Cases in stock: 20

2021 Roussanne

Cases in stock: 44

2021 Viognier

Cases in stock: 11

[Click Here To Learn More](#)

Red Wines

2019 Merlot

Cases in stock: 127

2019 Syrah

Cases in stock: 135

2020 Crimson

Cases in stock: 181

2019 Petit Verdot

Cases in stock: 18

2019 Silhouette

Cases in stock: 251

2020 Sangiovese

Cases in stock: 40