

Well, folks, the great news is that the winery needed to close for the first couple of weeks of the year & the entire staff thus got well deserved paid time off! Why? Because you guys cleaned us out of wine a good month sooner than expected.

Now for the bad news: you are clearly buying the wine faster than we can make it, presuming of course that we want to maintain the unique Le Cuvier style & character & our style is something we have no desire or plans to change. That said, please rest assured that we always reserve all of the bottles needed to fill your Elliptical Society shipments & we will also make sure that we have enough extra bottles to supply the typical feeding habits of our members.

What's up with this? Is this bad planning? No, not really, but what's become clear is that you have been talking about our wines & bringing friends when you visit & that resulted in a 40% jump in our number of guests last year. How could we have planned on your wackiness? So thank you, thank you, thank you!

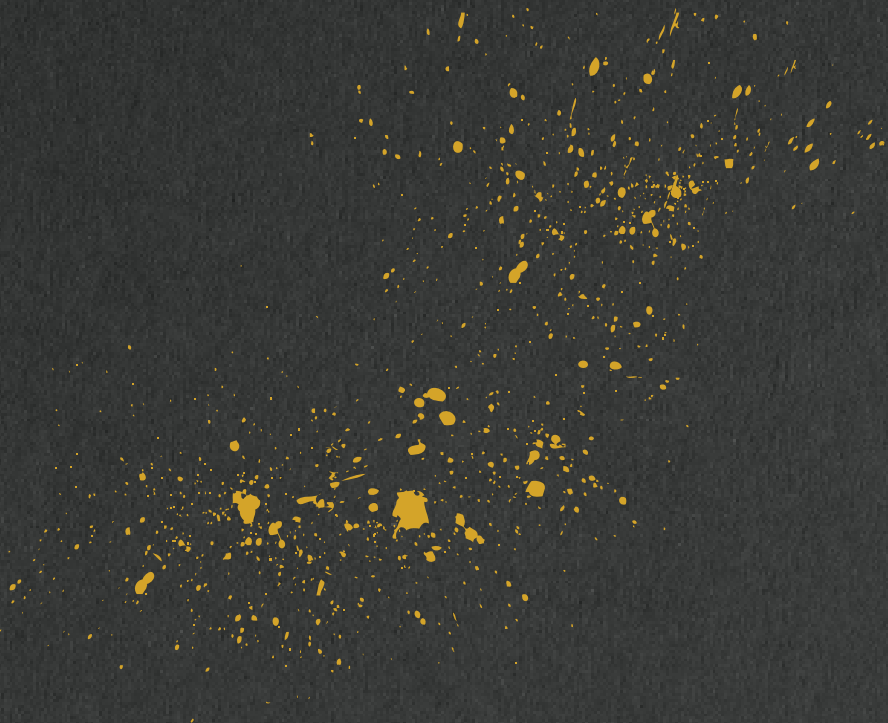
Due to our extraordinarily long, three-year plus barrel aging program, we cannot bottle faster than what's already aging in our barrels. Nor are we able to increase production beyond a very moderate level because the dry-farmed grapes that are key to our wine's signature are in short supply. Nor do we want to grow towards wine mediocrity.

Bottom line: we will always make sure that we reserve the bottles needed to fulfill our commitment to you. To keep this promise, we will soon need to control our maximum club size via a wait-list. Even so, it is probable that our wines will continue to sell out before the end of each season, but hey, the staff seems to enjoy paid time off, so again, we all thank you!

john munch, wineheard



exclusively native yeast fermentations



2014 CHARDONNAY

A cool brisk wind pulls taught the canvas sail propelling the sleek, curve lined boat in a motion so graceful that it appears to be flying rather than floating on the calm, reflective waters of the fjord. Long golden hair cascades down her shoulders, whipping up in the wind at hips girded in iron and flint, hands clutched at the varnished rails, bare feet firmly balanced on the clean scrubbed planks beneath her feet. Ahhh, but no demure lass is she. Brassy her countenance. Spoils she brings, a hardened crew, citrus and lime, honey, jasmine, butterscotch and gold, all cargo stowed neatly amid the musky odors of hard worked bodies emanating from within. The dream of a long-missed home now nearly realized. The motherland is in sight once again. Will those left behind be as expecting of the impending arrival? Will there be celebrations, and most importantly, feasting to be had?

notes by clay selkirk, winemaker

VINEYARDS/ 70.52% Kruse Vineyard & 29.48% Cain Vineyard

2014 PINOT NOIR

Madame Boudin wears a cardinal's scarlet hat while seeking true love in the Lake of Deep Desire. Otherwise naked, she treads dark depths swirling with smoke & in her crimson lips a thorny red, red rose. Bobbing & splashing a surface smeared with profligate goutts of coagulating berry, sweet joy dotted here & there with harissa & that's how you know a classic Pinot when you see her climbing out of your glass, still dripping & dribbling, she leaps into a wicker basket filled with black cherries; but now she flashes, she shines, she jumps up dancing in a sun-warmed barnyard of leather & hay. Sniff & you will find mulling spices & the impertinent sauciness of red currants, plus the zest from a blood orange & don't forget that fresh grind of nutmeg sprinkled across juicy strawberries wrapped in fennel sprigs. A lovely & inventive wench.

notes by john munch, wineheard

VINEYARD/ 100% Kruse Vineyard

goings on at le cuvier

Hear ye, hear ye! The secreted doors of the extensive Le Cuvier Wine Library are now hereby accessible, by appointment only, to Elliptical Society Members and a humble number of your most esteemed guests deemed worthy enough to share exclusively in an otherworldly experience.

Beginning in March of this fine year 2018, we will gladly take bookings for a private tasting with the Winemaker. Three library wines, three current vintage wines to compare, and of course a fine cheese and charcuterie board made specially for the occasion by Chef John Menges. Email club@lcwine.com or call (800) 549-4764 for delicious details.

PINOT NOIR

Ahhh Pinot Noir... elixir of the gods, muse of men and women across the ages. Starter of wars and bringer of peace. That mercurial compound, flitting and delicate, yet solid as the earth and fertile as the soil, shaded moss strewn forest thriving above, between the mushrooms and oaks, teasing faeries and sprites. The moment you try to possess it, to reach out and revel in its glory, to hold it all for yourself, it disappears without a trace. Was it ever really there? Was it all just a dream? Who could possibly believe the tale? Crazy old loon they'd call you. Lost his marbles they'd say. Too much time secluded away without human contact. But ohhh, it did exist! The remnants remain. The tilted bottle, last drip of wine stretching from the lip, coloring the ground. Just like that, the final sip is gone, filed away in the minds of the few, memories alone giving it life, with merely a fool's chance of a lucky bottle, hidden away from sight, traveling time across the years in dust and dark, awaiting the fortunate one, treasure hunter, eager to release its secrets, infinitely matured and concentrated, so much more than a sum of its parts.

At the top of my lungs I shout! It is my distinct pleasure to honor this rare wine. The last of its kind for a healthy spell. Consider those elements that make all Le Cuvier wines so special. Our unique philosophy of native yeast winemaking, accompanied by roguishly extended years of barrel aging. Savor this club pack exclusive Pinot Noir while you can, for soon it will be gone.

Thus, fair warning has been issued. The glove presented. Gauntlet thrown. Fail to heed my words at your own risk. This is the last. I repeat, the very last, Le Cuvier Pinot Noir for years to come. When will the next be ready? Who rightly knows? 100% Kruse Vineyard. Site of cool breezes spilling over the hills, coming in from the coast with the morning fog, gentle afternoon light caressing dappled berries hanging happily beneath lush, deep green canopies. No more. See y'all again in 5 or 6 years...

clay sellkirk, winemaker

SPRING RELEASE / your club pack

MIXED PACK

2014 CHARDONNAY / \$49
2014 PINOT NOIR / \$50
2014 L'ENFANT du PAPE / \$49
2014 SYRAH / \$50
2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON / \$50
2014 MALBEC / \$50

REDS ONLY PACK

2014 PINOT NOIR / \$50
2014 L'ENFANT du PAPE / \$49 x 2
2014 SYRAH / \$50
2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON / \$50
2014 MALBEC / \$50

{ red = wine club exclusive }



2014 L'ENFANT DU PAPE

Blood congeals, opaque and viscous, dripping down like rubies strung from a necklace. Progress is unstoppable, a new age will dawn. Our time is that of the shape shifters, an enigma, stemmy, brambly, spice and pepper, chocolate, espresso, ironworks and concrete. Everything burns in the fires of industry. Big brother watches. Have you succumbed, or do you hold out hope that not all is yet lost? The fight will be like that against granite and stone, unyielding, chipping unperceivably away, but once the crack is made, the fulcrum applied, even giants come tumbling down like chalk mountains. Chew that cotton candy, dribble those red fruits between lips so sweet, candied orange peel, lamb, caramelized onion and eggplant. A revolution is born.

notes by clay selkirk, winemaker

BLEND/ 34.71% Grenache + 33.30% Syrah + 6.96% Petite Sirah + 1.42% Viognier

2014 SYRAH

An ultra-dark robe of crushed velvet & wool, a brooding abyss in your glass from the remarkable grapes of St. Peter of Alcantara. Beautifully funky, black chocolate with a cherry-vanilla core & a pleasantly piquant overbite with lavender & the scent of African violets. Then there's that woody, pungent layer of rosemary & pitch, luxurious tobacco: the scent of a dusty madman chewing bay leaf & cinnamon infused brownies: a full bastard of a wine.

notes by john munch, winehead

VINEYARD/ 100% St. Peter of Alcantara Vineyard

2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

All nature is connected. Trees speak through their roots. Nine-foot-tall blue beings jump animatedly about, like pinballs past neon lights, the forest floor illuminated by a mere brushing touch of plants as phantasmic winged creatures plummet down sheer cliffs racing past thousand foot waterfalls. This world is wild, like blackberry vines, loganberry, basil and oregano. It is devilish in its own way; this wine calls for salt and fat. Umami, pigs' feet, pickled things, jalapenos, blueberries, cola, fernet, and old ford truck mats. Ohh what I would give for a fine lengua torta oozing fat from between my voraciously gnashing teeth and gripping fingers. Back. In. Black.

notes by clay selkirk, winemaker

VINEYARD/ 100% Kirk-Landry Vineyard

2014 MALBEC

The Druid King's castle can be found within the bole of an oak of great girth, where berry, berry, smoke & worry sparkle like sequins upon the skin of fire breathing dragon fruit aged in a forest crypt, lounging upon a bed of rhubarb compote, wildly whiskered rambutan sprinkled about & rich, rich, lingering, tight-ripe tannins & as gentle as a teething child biting Mama's nipple. Thyme too, and ancho chili, green cardamom, fresh seaweed, chocolate, mushroom hunting within the sweet stench of a harlot's closet filled with scanty skirts where once again we find that ol' grinning goat smiling up at us with ripe berry smeared lips.

notes by john munch, wineheard

VINEYARD/ 100% Kirk-Landry Vineyard



*blind tasting natural wines
with the le cuvier winemaker*

One of our most popular participatory events at Le Cuvier over the past years was the blind tasting of a group of several wines of like vintage & type under the guidance of the winemaker. We are planning on at least one of these singular tastings this year & the basis for the first will be so-called Natural Wines, that is, wines that largely make themselves from grapes that are absolutely reflective of the soils in which their Mama vines grow & which are then somehow & miraculously transmuted into a perfectly lovely & befuddling beverage by the Wild Beasts—the true "winemakers", AKA, the wild yeast & other microorganisms that follow the clusters from vineyard to winery.

You will learn how the brain's amygdala makes it possible for each of us to accurately assess & rank an array of 5 or 6 of these special wines in under 30 seconds, after which you will participate in group ranking of the wines. Good food & drink, of course, so stay on the lookout for upcoming details on how to secure your spot on the tasting panel.

