

DUTTON *Goldfield*

March 2019

Dear DG Discovery Wine Club members,

Happy March (almost Spring!) from all of us at Dutton-Goldfield!

We frequently get asked “What’s an AVA?” when mentioning that DG produces our wines from eight different AVAs, with our home situated in the *Green Valley of Russian River Valley* AVA. AVA stands for American Viticultural Area and is a designated wine grape-growing region in the U.S. distinguishable by geographic features. AVAs and their boundaries are proposed mainly by winegrowing groups, and are then approved by the federal government, specifically the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, U.S. Department of Treasury (that’s a mouthful). There are 242 AVAs in the U.S. and 107 in California. *Fun Fact:* The Cole Ranch AVA in Mendocino County is the smallest AVA with only 55 acres planted to grapes and all are owned by one party. The Green Valley of Russian River Valley AVA, established in 1983, is one of the smallest AVAs in Sonoma County with 3,600 acres planted to grapes, mostly world-class Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, plus some exceptional cool-climate Syrah, Zinfandel, Pinot Blanc and Gewurztraminer. It is completely encompassed by Russian River Valley, lying in the southwestern corner of that appellation, and triangulates the towns of Sebastopol, Forestville and Occidental. The fog and cool climate are Green Valley’s trademarks. Largely facing east, Green Valley stays cooler during the day than other areas in Russian River Valley.

We are thrilled to share two wines from *Green Valley of Russian River Valley* in this March package. Our newly released **2018 Shop Block Pinot Blanc** (club price \$25.50) hails from the main Dutton Ranch shop vineyard, located in the heart of Green Valley of Russian River Valley. This quintessential ‘welcome to Spring’ club favorite wine leads with nectarine and lemon blossom aromas with a perfect balance of creamy density and lively acidity and minerality. The **2016 Fox Den Vineyard Pinot Noir** (club price \$52.70) is from an exceptional property owned by Ed & Sue Smith in Green Valley of Russian River Valley that we have been sourcing since 2009. This wine always has sweet, lush cherry/strawberry fruit and great natural acidity and the 2016 vintage is no exception! Travelling north, we bring you our **2016 Redwood Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir** (club price \$52.70) from the family-owned Putnam Vineyard nestled in the far northern Sonoma Coast, about six miles from the ocean. This rich and expressive wine has wonderfully developed tannins and a soft, plush texture. This will age beautifully for 10+ years, so be sure to get a few more bottles for your cellar.

We have gone digital with our tech sheets and wine pairing recipes, resulting in less paper waste, and an easier way for you to save your favorites. Visit our new digital Recipe Library for mouthwatering pairing recipes on our website. Are you a home chef? Please share any pictures you’ve taken of our recipes that you have made. We would love to feature them as we continue to build the library!

If you need anything before your pre-Summer package, please let us know. Thank you for your continued support of our family-owned winery. Remember: **“Wine is bottled poetry”** – Robert Louis Stevenson

Cheers,

Your friends at Dutton-Goldfield

DUTTON *Goldfield*

2018

DUTTON RANCH—SHOP BLOCK

PINOT BLANC

GREEN VALLEY OF RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

APPELLATION

Green Valley of
Russian River Valley

VINEYARD

Dutton Ranch-Shop Block
Certified Sustainable

HARVEST DATE

September 24, 2018

ALCOHOL

13.7

TITRATABLE ACIDITY

7.0 gm/ Lit.

pH

3.41

WINEMAKING

100% Stainless Ferment
Partial Malolactic

WINEMAKER

Dan Goldfield

CASES PRODUCED

323

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE

\$30

THE VINEYARD

When Warren Dutton purchased his original Graton Road ranch in 1964, it was producing French Colombard and Gray Riesling grapes, along with Rome apples. In the 1970s he replaced the Riesling and apples with more French Colombard. Situated in the valley of Purrington Creek, a tributary of Green Valley Creek, this is a wonderful spot for cold loving white grapes. Here the cold coastal air lingers through the mornings and nurtures fruit of fresh acidity and flavor concentration, while the deep but well drained Goldridge sandy loam soil grows healthy, balanced vines. When it was time to finally replant this block in 2003, the Duttons decided to try a bit of Pinot Blanc to augment the killer Chardonnay adjacent to this spot. Pinot Blanc is a white skinned mutation of Pinot Noir, prized for its fresh stone fruit flavors and cleansing mouthfeel. This vineyard is now completely dry farmed, as well as being Sonoma County Certified Sustainable. As a special little treat to our best friends, DG is vinifying just a small amount of this mouthwatering fresh Pinot Blanc.

WINEMAKING

The goal in vinifying our Pinot Blanc is to showcase the freshness and minerality of this varietal. To that end, we ferment the wine in stainless steel at a cool 50 degrees F. This retains the fresh esters of fermentation and the central core of fruit. We also employ an Alsatian yeast strain that showcases the high tone aromatics that are so inviting in this wine. We allow malolactic fermentation to proceed part way in order to flesh out the exotic peach aromas and impart a bit of extra richness in the mouth, but not to completion (we're such teasers) so as to preserve the fresh acidity and minerality.

THE WINE

Our mild summer in 2018 gave us a long growing season, and this temperate weather continued through harvest, extending our picks from the September 8 start until November 2. Our Pinot Blanc came in toward the middle of harvest, sliding in appropriately after most of the pinot and before the chardonnays. The extra hang time gave us an especially luscious wine this vintage, yet still with the zesty acidity we love that keeps the wine crisp and refreshing. Vibrant aromas of peach, pear, and lemon zest lead, with pretty honeysuckle floral notes peeking out. The mouth is fresh with lemon/lime, nectarine, apricot, and pear, all carried on a lush texture, before finishing with an energizing lift. Foods that share this fresh/creamy combination match the wine perfectly—we love it with oysters, fish chowder, penne in a lemon cream sauce, or burrata and feta cheeses. Of course, as easy drinking as it is, you may likely find the bottle gone before dinner is ready.

Dutton-Goldfield Winery began in a vineyard in 1998, when longtime colleagues and friends Steve Dutton and Dan Goldfield recognized a shared vision between them—to craft wines that express the personalities of their vineyards, and which they'd enjoy drinking at their own dinner tables. Our mission is to produce world-class wines that display the brightness of fruit, complexity, structure and balance that are reflective of our cool coastal home.

Ginger Shrimp, Sugar Snap Pea and Corn Stir-Fry

Paired with: 2018 Shop Block Pinot Blanc

- 1-lb uncooked large shrimp, peeled, deveined
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 3 teaspoons minced, peeled fresh ginger
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon dried crushed red pepper
- 1-lb sugar snap peas, strings removed
- 1 cup fresh corn kernels (cut from about 2 ears)
- ½ cup diced red bell pepper
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced on diagonal
- 2 teaspoons black or white sesame seeds (optional)

Mix shrimp, 1 tablespoon oil, 1 ½ teaspoons ginger, half of garlic, ½ teaspoon salt, and crushed red pepper in medium bowl. Let stand 1 hour.

Heat wok or large nonstick skillet over high heat. Add shrimp mixture; sauté until shrimp are just opaque in center, about 2 minutes. Transfer shrimp to bowl. Add 1 tablespoon oil to wok, then add sugar snap peas, corn, bell pepper, green onions, 1 ½ teaspoons ginger, and remaining garlic. Stir-fry until vegetables are crisp-tender, about 3 minutes. Return shrimp and any accumulated juices from bowl to wok; stir-fry 1 minute longer. Season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with sesame seeds and serve.

DUTTON *Goldfield*

2016

FOX DEN VINEYARD

PINOT NOIR

GREEN VALLEY OF RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

APPELLATION

Green Valley of
Russian River Valley

VINEYARD

Fox Den Vineyard

HARVEST DATE

September 14, 2016

ALCOHOL

13.8%

TITRATABLE ACIDITY

5.70 gm/Lit.

pH

3.51

WINEMAKING

Open top fermentation, cold
soak, punch down

BARREL AGING

Aged 17 months in
French oak
(55% new barrels)

WINEMAKER

Dan Goldfield

CASES PRODUCED

767

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE

\$62

THE VINEYARD

Fox Den Vineyard is perched on top of Stoetz Ridge, at the western border of Green Valley and just above the town of Occidental. The Goldridge sandy loam soil here is extremely sandy since this ridge is old pushed-up sea bottom, which makes for low vigor vines, slow ripening, and beautifully floral and fruit driven wine. Here on the hill, it's frequently a touch warmer than the bottom of the valley, but it's still always among the last harvested and highest in natural acidity of our pinots. Dan and Steve planted the spot together in 2002, and Dan has been crafting the wine since 2004. The eight acres is split into three clones: 667 for vivid fruit, 777 for chewy tannins and 115 for brightness and floral aromatics. For the vineyard designated wine, the exact blend between them will vary each year, but the result is always a wine with sweet, lush cherry/strawberry fruit and great natural acidity. This beautiful site is the home of Ed and Sue Smith, old friends who now lovingly oversee their 8 acres of beautifully farmed fruit.

WINEMAKING

At Dutton-Goldfield, our pinot is hand sorted and destemmed into small open top fermenters and the must is then cold-soaked for 5 days to gently extract color, spice and fruit characters, while mitigating harsher tannins. The three blocks at Fox Den were fermented and barreled separately to optimize what we most love about each, then blended to our tastes in March of 2017. The core of the 2016 is the plush, more strawberry 777, then half as much of the blackberry, focused 667 clone. One of the pleasures of the spring blending is getting to hone barrel choices. Fox Den is all about the floral notes of Remond Trancais, but Taransaud holds down the bass tones, and Rousseau adds structure. The wine was bottled in April 2018 after 17 months in oak.

THE WINE

As with our other wines, the early start to the 2016 season gave our Fox Den Pinot Noir that perfect combination of brightness and richness. The wine is especially vibrant in both the nose and mouth this vintage, leading with vivid aromas of a mélange of red fruits—cherry, strawberry, and raspberry—with a pretty touch of rose petals and a savory note of rhubarb pie. Baking spice tones continue in the mouth, providing a backdrop to support a leading cast of luscious Bing cherry and Chambord. The texture is caressing and smooth, its fine tannins carrying the creamy strawberry shortcake finish to a delicious end. Any fish with a matching silky texture would make an excellent pairing, such as a mustard-crusting branzino, olive oil poached salmon, or steamed sea bass, as would a creamy cheese like Humboldt Fog.

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Mustard Crusted Branzino

While naturally mild in flavor, the mustard crust brings out a surprising earthy spin on the branzino making it richer in flavor. We pair our delicate Fox Den Pinot Noir frequently with fish. The bright natural acidity in the wine is balanced by the oil in the seafood for a truly divine pairing experience.

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons whole grain mustard
- 1 garlic clove, finely grated
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1 cup coarse fresh breadcrumbs, preferably sourdough
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 pounds 1½–2 whole branzino or trout, butterflied
- Lemon wedges (for serving)

Preheat oven to 450°. Whisk oil, mustard, garlic, and thyme in a small bowl. Using your fingertips or a rubber spatula, mix in breadcrumbs, squeezing or pressing to saturate bread, until evenly coated; season with salt and pepper.

Open up fish and place, skin side down, in a large ovenproof pan or on a rimmed baking sheet; season with salt and pepper. Top with breadcrumb mixture, pressing to adhere. Roast until breadcrumbs are golden brown and fish is cooked through, 10–15 minutes.

Serve fish with lemon wedges.

Makes 4 servings.

DUTTON *Goldfield*

2016

REDWOOD RIDGE

PINOT NOIR

SONOMA COAST

APPELLATION

Sonoma Coast

VINEYARD

Putnam

HARVEST DATE

September 17 & 22, 2016

ALCOHOL

14.1 %

TITRATABLE ACIDITY

6.0 gm/Lit.

pH

3.62

WINEMAKING

Open top fermentation, cold
soak, punch down

BARREL AGING

Aged 17 months in
French oak
(55% new barrels)

WINEMAKER

Dan Goldfield

CASES PRODUCED

502

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE

\$62

THE VINEYARD

We started sourcing fruit from the Annapolis area of the Sonoma Coast in 2013, and have enjoyed the fruits of our labor ever since. Putnam Vineyards is a family owned and operated vineyard nestled in the extreme Sonoma Coast, about six miles from the ocean. With a cool climate and high annual rainfall, the growing season is long and the grape maturation slow. The 32-acre vineyard is just above the fog line and sits among giant redwoods native to the area. The gravely soil and deficit irrigation creates stressed, naturally low yielding vines, which produce thick skinned fruit, small berries, and concentrated flavors. The wines from the area have beautifully developed tannins and a soft, plush texture.

WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand sorted and gently layered into two open top fermenters. The must was cold-soaked for 5 days in order to gently extract color, spice and fruit characters, while mitigating harsher tannins. The fruit is punched down between 1 and 3 times per day depending on the stage of fermentation, and character of the lot. Two of our favorite barrels chosen accentuate the innate depth and richness of the fruit. The Seguin Moreau Icone barrel adds a smoky mushroom while the Taransaud barrel fills out the middle with its classic richness. The wine is racked in March to blend barrel flavors and clarify then put back to barrel to soften the rich tannins before bottling in April of 2018.

THE WINE

The early start to the 2016 growing year gave our Putnam Vineyard a lengthy season to create a rich and expressive wine. We love how this wine shows its sense of place, smelling and tasting so much like the area it's from. Coastal redwood duff and wild bramble berry aromas lead the way, with deep and plush candied berry compote luring you in to the glass for the first sip. The mouth is dense and lush, with layers of blackberry and black raspberry enfolded by sandalwood and a hint of herbs de Provence. Sweet berry pie notes linger on the extended finish. Big and bold, this is a wine that wants equally outgoing foods, like tea smoked duck breast, herb crusted leg of lamb, venison and wild mushroom stroganoff, ratatouille, or a pecorino cheese with peppercorns. Be sure to get an extra case for your cellar, as this will age beautifully for 10 or more years.

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Tea Smoked Duck Breast

Duck and Pinot Noir is a classic pairing because the fat component in the duck works well with a wine with bright acidity. The acid from the wine cuts through the richness of the duck, and the fruit flavors of cherry and spice pair deliciously with the tender meat, while the tannins in the wine bond with the proteins in the meat to create a softer-drinking wine than enjoyed alone.

- 2 (1-lb) Muscovy or Moulard duck breast halves with skin
- 2 tablespoons Chinese rice wine (preferably Shaoxing) or medium-dry Sherry
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon Asian sesame oil
- 1/2 teaspoon finely grated (preferably with a Microplane rasp) peeled fresh ginger
- 1 tablespoon Sichuan peppercorns
- 2 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/3 cup loose black tea leaves
- 1/3 cup rice
- 3 tablespoons packed dark brown sugar
- 1 (3-inch) cinnamon stick, broken into small pieces
- 1/2 teaspoon vegetable oil

Pat duck breasts dry. Score skin about 1/2 inch apart through fat (do not cut into meat) in a crosshatch pattern with a sharp knife.

Combine rice wine, soy sauce, sesame oil, and ginger in a sealable plastic bag. Add duck, skin side up, and press out as much air as possible before sealing. Marinate duck (skin side up), chilled, at least 2 hours or overnight. Transfer duck breasts to a plate and pat dry, discarding marinade.

Toast peppercorns and salt in a dry small heavy skillet over moderately low heat, stirring mixture and shaking skillet occasionally, until peppercorns are fragrant, 3 to 5 minutes. Coarsely grind mixture in grinder. Rub mixture all over duck, then let stand, uncovered, at room temperature, 1 hour.

Meanwhile, line bottom of wok and inside of lid with a double layer of heavy-duty foil, leaving a 3-inch overhang along edges. Stir together tea leaves, rice, brown sugar, and cinnamon pieces in a small bowl, then spread in an even layer (1/4 inch thick) on bottom of wok. Invert rack and set in wok. (It will rest 1 1/2 to 2 inches from bottom of wok.) Heat a 12-inch heavy skillet over moderately high heat until hot but not smoking, then swirl in vegetable oil. Add duck breasts, skin sides down, and sear, without turning, until skin is deep golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes.

Using tongs, transfer duck breasts, skin sides up, to center of rack in wok, arranging them 1 inch apart. Heat wok, uncovered, over high heat, until steady wisps of smoke begin to appear, 5 to 10 minutes. Reduce heat to moderate, then cover wok and, using oven mitts, fold overhang from wok and lid together, crimping to seal tightly (foil will be very hot). Smoke duck breasts, covered, 8 minutes, then remove wok from heat and let stand, covered, 10 minutes for medium-rare to medium. Carefully unwrap foil (smoke and steam will billow out) and transfer duck to a cutting board. Let stand, loosely covered with foil, 10 minutes. Cut each duck breast across the grain into thin slices. Serve duck warm or at room temperature over rice with Redwood Ridge Pinot Noir.

Makes 6 servings