

LOXTON**BOOMERANG CLUB NEWSLETTER****FALL 2025****FALL WINE CLUB RELEASE**

WINEMAKER'S SELECTION

2023 CHARDONNAY, HAWK HILL VINEYARD (RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY)**2023 PINOT NOIR, HAWK HILL VINEYARD** (RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY)**2021 SYRAH, ESTATE** (SONOMA VALLEY)**2023 PIONEER CUVÉE, ESTATE** (SONOMA VALLEY)**2023 ZINFANDEL, WILDWOOD VINEYARD** (SONOMA VALLEY)**2022 CABERNET SHIRAZ, GRANDFATHER'S CUVÉE** (SONOMA VALLEY)

OPTIONS FOR CUSTOM ORDERS

ALL WINES FROM OUR WEBSITE ARE AVAILABLE, BUT THE FOLLOWING ARE PARTICULARLY HIGHLIGHTED

SONOMA REDS - LOT 20 (SONOMA VALLEY)**NON-VINTAGE SHIRAZ** (SONOMA VALLEY)**2024 LATE HARVEST VIOGNIER, SALOMON VINEYARD** (SONOMA VALLEY)**2018 PORT** (SONOMA VALLEY)

Chris and Crisantos busy at work picking the first Viognier grapes of the 2025 harvest season!

Dear **First Name**,

This year's harvest is the 30th for the Loxton label. I'm happy to report that I'm just as excited about this harvest as when I started with 2 tons of Zinfandel many years ago. When people visit, I love to share the stories of the journey, and I've been extremely fortunate to have great vineyard partners and employees who have made it possible. In this issue I wanted to highlight some of the animal life that we share the vineyard with as they help to make each day more interesting and keep me enthusiastic. Plus, they remind me to be a good steward of the land!

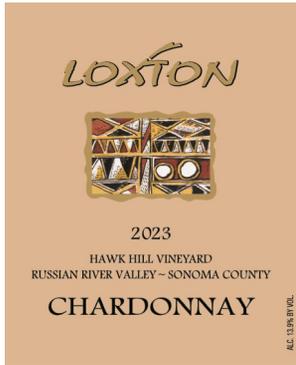
Harvest started a little later than normal on September 15th with a nice foggy morning which is ideal for picking. Already I'm hearing the first barrels bubble in the background telling me that fermentation has started. It's 96 degrees outside and there is a chance of showers in the next few days, so I really don't know if I'll pick for Rosé later this week or wait a little longer. It is that delicious part of harvest, not knowing what the right decision will be. There are many factors to account for from grape maturity, vine condition, weather and logistics. It can all change in a few hours and this all adds to the challenge and excitement.

The year has been challenging enough already though, with costs going up significantly as much of what we need comes from overseas and there are headwinds for the wine industry caused by global overproduction. It is my belief that brands that overdeliver in quality for a good price can ride through the inevitable downturns that characterize the wine business. My goal has been to make the best wines I can without compromise and at a price point in the range that I can buy the wine. I formed this goal when I used to belong to a wine tasting group in Napa with other winemakers. We would taste the luxury cabernets some of us were making and it would bother me that we only got to taste them once a year as sometimes even the winemakers who made them couldn't afford to buy them!

This Fall's releases, in my opinion, illustrate precisely what I'm trying to do. They are wines that reflect the grape, region and vineyard. Each is quite different, as they should be. When I pay high for great sites and farming, my own touch should be as light as possible. Most are from the very cool '23 vintage and show how we can reach full grape maturity at lower sugars (hence lower alcohol), and this has led to great aromatics and fruit intensity. The Chardonnay and Pinot noir from Hawk Hill are some of the best wines I've ever made from that site. A pair of Zinfandel based wines showcase how suited Sonoma Valley is for the varietal. The estate Syrah is my last release for the great '21 harvest and well worth the wait. There is also the long-awaited return of a late harvest wine, although it is in tiny quantities. As always, with the club releases I've also offered a few options with the new Sonoma Reds, Lot 20 and some dessert wines, but feel free to choose any of the wines from our website as well and you can ask for these in the order notes section or shoot us over an email.

Cheers,

2023 CHARDONNAY - HAWK HILL VINEYARD



Appellation: Russian River Valley
Blend: 100% Chardonnay
Alcohol: 13.9%
Closure: Screw Cap
Production: 124 Cases
Bottled unfiltered & lightly filtered: August 13, 2024
Release Price: \$39

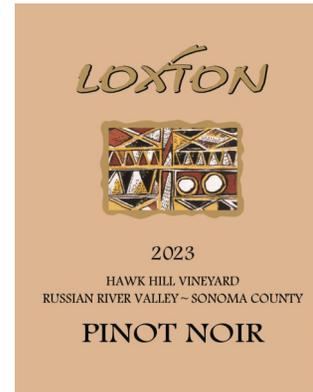
Hawk Hill vineyard was named after the Red-tailed Hawks that are regularly sighted over the vineyard. They are one of my favorite birds and are widely distributed across America. We happen to have a family that nests on the hill behind our Estate vineyard. The nest site is used again each year, and they seem to find enough to eat that we almost always have one patrolling the property. They often follow us around the vineyard when we mow or do work with the grapes, ready to dive on any rodent that might be flushed out. It is an unforgettable sight to watch one in a high-speed dive while chasing prey. They are a sign of a healthy ecosystem and a reminder why we don't use pesticides on the property that might endanger these animals that help us keep rodents at bay.



We have water pans around our vineyard for wildlife and on a very hot day our Red-tailed Hawks will sit in them to drink and cool off.

The '23 harvest at Hawk Hill was very small, a combination of 3 years of extreme drought that preceded it and the effects of a very cool Summer. Yields were almost half of what we get in a normal year, and we don't expect this wine to last until the next release. On a positive note, it has given us one of the best wines in a very good string of recent vintages from Hawk Hill. It has the power of great Chardonnay without heaviness and is a testament for this great site. It reminds me of a quote from an English wine writer who once described a wine as "an iron fist in a velvet glove". What I mean is that there is a richness of texture and fruit to make the wine easy to enjoy with or without food, but this hides the acid backbone and structure that will allow it to improve and gain weight for another 5 years or more in the cellar if you have the patience. While the wine is fermented in oak barrels and a percentage of them are new, the barrels are chosen to give texture and not for overt oak flavors that might mask the vineyard. Try this with seafood or roasted chicken.

2023 PINOT NOIR - HAWK HILL VINEYARD



Appellation: Russian River Valley
Blend: 100% Pinot noir (Pommard, 667, 115, and Calera Clones)
Alcohol: 13.1%
Closure: Screw Cap
Production: 98 Cases
Bottled unfiltered & lightly filtered: August 13, 2024
Release Price: \$42

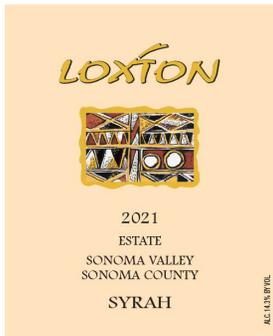
The "gold ridge" soils of Hawk Hill (similar to fine beach sand) are great for vineyards as they drain water very quickly allowing vineyard access soon after a rain event and they also help limit vine vigor for the same reason. They also seem to be a great breeding ground for pocket gophers. These animals love to feed on the roots of vines, and they are an on-going problem in vineyards across Sonoma. One of the best ways to manage these rodents is to attract barn owls into the vineyard with the appropriate nesting boxes as they are a voracious predator for gophers. This year one of the resident barn owls here at the winery decided to spend a month in the oak tree above where I park my truck, rather than in the owl box we have provided. Cleaning up the mess on my truck was a small price to pay for not having any mice nests in my engine block!



One of our resident Barn owls in an oak tree in front of the winery. Photo was taken by winery visitor Pamela Rose Hawken.

The Freestone area of Russian River Valley where Hawk Hill vineyard is located is much colder than the greater Russian River appellation. This translates into a Pinot that is towards the lighter and more aromatic end of the Pinot noir spectrum. With '23 being a particularly cool year this tendency might have been pushed too far but it was mitigated by the extremely low yields also seen with the Chardonnay program. Lots of cherry and rose petal notes are classic Pinot noir. Although we use almost 33% new oak barrels, the oak flavor has been completely folded into the wine and is not really a factor. Despite moderate alcohol, it has excellent intensity of flavor and a particularly long finish. It makes the perfect pairing with salmon and lighter meals. Ready now, and it should improve for another 3-4 years.

2021 SYRAH - ESTATE



Appellation: Sonoma Valley

Blend: 100% Estate Syrah

Alcohol: 14.3%

Closure: Screw Cap

Production: 198 Cases

Bottled unfinned & lightly filtered: February 23, 2023

Release Price: \$38

In the early years of the winery, I just bought grapes and barrels and made wine. I soon realized that to make the best wines possible, I had to be more actively involved in the vineyard to help manicure the vines in a way that some of the professional teams just couldn't do in an economic way. To this end I would work on weekends for free, removing excess shoots and leaves to encourage air flow around the fruit and this minimizes mildew and mold pressure. During the Summer we remove some of the fruit but there are rules for this, such as trying to balance the amount of fruit with the available leaf area. Eventually I had my own vineyard and still do a considerable amount of this work. It is not easy, can be very hot and demands skill and attention, but also is vastly rewarding. I find it best not to be distracted and just listen to nature and do my work.

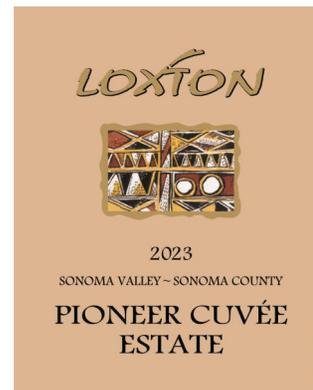


Hummingbird nests are brilliantly camouflaged. Photo by winery visitor Pamela Rose Hawken.

While working here this Spring, my peace and focus was disturbed when I was buzzed by a hummingbird. I quickly discovered what was happening; there was a hummingbird nest in the next row! I decided that leaving 3 vines undisturbed for a month wouldn't have any negative effect on the wine but would give me the pleasure of monitoring the eggs being hatched and the babies fledged.

I've found that the '21 wines were uniformly excellent, perhaps Nature's payback for the devastation brought by the 2020 fires, and this is no exception. Dense color and great fruit are the hallmarks, and it seems to hide the structure of the wine. This makes it wonderful for drinking now but should allow it to age gracefully in the cellar for up to another 8 or 10 years. The Estate Syrah's seem to be more enjoyable as younger wines than in the past, and I think that changes in our farming practices are leading to more fruit in the wines to balance the tannins.

2023 PIONEER CUVÉE, ESTATE



Appellation: Sonoma Valley

Blend: 83% Zinfandel, 9% Petite sirah, 8% Grenache

Alcohol: 14.3%

Closure: Screw Cap

Production: 145 Cases

Bottled unfinned & lightly filtered: August 14, 2024

Release Price: \$36

Although I've lived on this property for 23 years, our wildlife still captivates and surprises me. With 3 state parks radiating out from within a few miles, the wildlife here is amazing. While we don't see much evidence for animals bigger than jackrabbits living on the property, our wildlife cameras show it to be a busy thoroughfare. Most don't do damage, and we need to remember that animals need to eat too. Occasionally I'll see a bunch of grapes with muddy pawprints and with the lower berries stripped off, this is usually the work of raccoons. The losses aren't all that significant and I have to feel lucky compared to when I worked in Dry Creek Valley and wild pigs would come into the vineyards and do serious damage. Fortunately, our raccoons prefer my persimmons (which is unfortunate for me as I like them with breakfast) and they make a mess of the tree with their foraging.

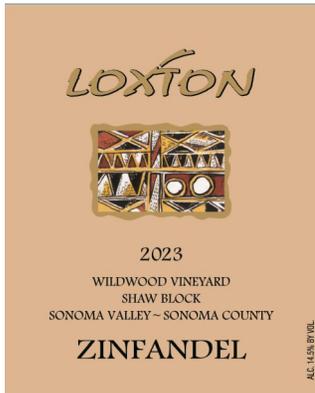


"Come on in, the waters fine!". Raccoons love our water stations that are meant to stop animals from biting into our irrigation lines. Since it doesn't rain in California for many months, this is tough on the animals.

The Pioneer Cuvée emulates the wines made from the 100-year-old vines that surround us. These are field blends of many different varieties, and my Rossi Ranch Zinfandel is a great example of this type. Rather than having all the different varieties mixed in during picking (how do you unblend them if you don't like the result?) here the wine is assembled 6 months after the harvest after performing careful blending trials. The Petite Sirah adds color and structure to the signature raspberry fruity notes of Zinfandel while the Grenache gives cherry fruit and acidity.

I love putting this wine together and thinking about the heritage that these old vineyard pioneers have given us. Did they know how well these varieties would work together or was it just random? No matter, enjoy this wine with ribs or full-flavored meals now and for the next 4-5 years.

2023 ZINFANDEL, WILDWOOD VINEYARD



Appellation: Sonoma Valley
Blend: 100% Zinfandel
Alcohol: 14.5%
Closure: Screw Cap
Production: 145 cases
Bottled unfinned & lightly filtered: August 14, 2024
Release Price: \$36

Driving up to visit where I get my Cabernet Sauvignon from the historic Wildwood Vineyard, I pass through a stand of ancient Zinfandel vines and this is the named the Shaw block, after the original owner. These vines may be the oldest in the Valley and were planted in 1882. I'm always in awe of vines that have survived for over 100 years with all that nature has thrown at them. In 2023 I was offered a one-time deal to get fruit from some of these old vines and after walking through the vineyard and eating some of the grapes, I quickly took them up on the offer!

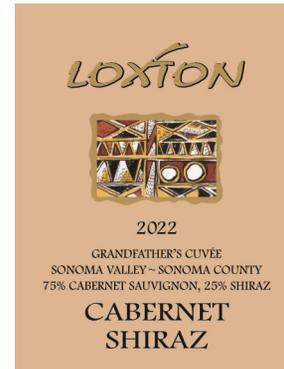
Walking through the block I was struck by the absence of other grape varieties. Normally these old vines show different leaf colors and shapes and are known as field blends, but here I only saw Zinfandel. When I brought this up with owner Keith Kunde, he told me that these other varieties had all been removed long ago. "I'll let the winemaker do the blending rather than doing it here in the vineyard." I had to agree that it appealed to the rational side of my brain, even though I've had great success with these old field blends like the Rossi Ranch.

The wine shows lots of black cherry fruit and while Zinfandel can lack color and structure, here they shine! There is a density and depth of flavor about this wine as well and I think this might be related to the age of the vines. These old timers were never irrigated for over one hundred years, and this leads to massive root systems, so they have access to water and essential nutrients. In addition, if this wasn't a great place to grow Zinfandel they probably would have pulled them out many years ago! Enjoy this with hearty meals over the next 4-5 years!



Beautiful old Zinfandel vines in the Shaw block from 1882!

2022 CABERNET SHIRAZ - GRANDFATHER'S CUVÉE



Appellation: Sonoma Valley
Blend: 75% Cabernet sauvignon, Wildwood Vineyard 25%
Estate Syrah
Alcohol: 14.5%
Closure: Cork (Diam 30)
Production: 198 Cases
Bottled unfinned and light ly filtered: May 16, 2024
Release Price: \$40

For most wine grapes the color and flavor are contained in the skins, and this is why we ferment red wines in contact with the grape skins and seeds. To get good extraction I do a traditional "punch down" where I stand on the tank and push the skins into the fermenting juice 3-4 times per day by hand with a stainless-steel plunger. The last time is done late at night and since it is done by hand, the winery is quiet and it's just nature and the sound of the fermenting grape juice. There is usually a lot to hear because across the Valley lies Wildwood Vineyard and it backs up to protected lands of the Mayacamas Mountain range and is close to Sugarloaf State Park. All sorts of animals call this home and there was one night a few years ago when my assistant Jeff and I were finishing up as a grey fox ran onto the edge of the crush pad to see what we were doing; they are very inquisitive animals. My favorite though is when I'm doing the punch downs, and the silence is broken by the cries of a coyote pack. The echoes ring across the Valley, often responded to by another pack in the hills behind the winery and there is no more iconic sound of the American west than the coyote. Whatever I'm doing I just have to stop and take it all in.



The coyotes we see are usually passing through. Now that we supply water stations around the vineyard they have stopped chewing on our irrigation lines.

We get lots of coyotes on the property, but they are just travelling through. Wildwood vineyard seems to have many on their vast property and the habitat to have resident animals. I like the fact that some of these animals might have travelled to both these vineyards which have supplied grapes for this blend. It is the first of my grandfather's cuvee wines to be based on Moon Mountain grapes from Wildwood Vineyard and I think the blend is one of the most successful of any I've made since the first in 2005. This is a wine to enjoy with hearty meals and does work particularly well with steak. The Cabernet gives the wine lots of structure and bright cassis fruit while the Syrah rounds out the middle palate. A wine to enjoy now with bigger meals or to let it improve in the cellar for the next 10 years or more.

SONOMA REDS - LOT 20

Sonoma Valley • Alc: 14.1% • 318 cases • Screw Cap
Bottled unfinned and lightly filtered, August 11, 2025 • Release Price: \$21

This year's version of the ever-popular Sonoma Reds has both estate and Rossi Syrah, as well as young vine Grenache and Petite sirah from the Estate, Grenache from Rose Ranch with the balance being about 15% Cabernet from Wildwood and almost 15% Zinfandel from Rossi Ranch. It is an elegant style red wine to enjoy whenever the occasion demands red wine and will go with just about everything. You can mix and match with the NV Shiraz for case discounts of 25%.

NON-VINTAGE SHIRAZ

Sonoma Valley • 100% Syrah • Alc: 14.2% • 100 cases • Screw Cap
Bottled unfinned and lightly filtered • Release Price: \$25

This is a barrel selection of Syrah wines made from Estate fruit that is ready to drink now, but capable of providing wonderful drinking for the next few years. This is a great wine to have mid-week while you wait for the right occasion for those special bottles and can be combined with the Sonoma Reds for a case discount of 25%.

2024 LATE HARVEST VIOGNIER, SALOMON VINEYARD

Sonoma Valley • Alc: 13.8% • Residual Sugar 16.7% • 375 mL • Diam Cork Finish
Bottled unfinned and sterile filtered August 26, 2025 • Release Price: \$28

One of the most asked questions I hear is "when is the next late harvest wine?" We finally have another from Bob Salomon's Viognier grown in Kenwood. Following an intense heat wave these grapes desiccated on the vine to 40% sugar which rivals that of ice wines in New York and Canada. Unfortunately, there were only 41 cases of this wine made. It is a wine to have in small quantities with, or as, dessert. Viognier makes great dessert wines with lots of peachy fruit notes and these wines are good for several weeks in the fridge once opened. Drink over the next few years.

2018 PORT

Sonoma Valley • 100% Syrah • Alc: 18.2% Sugar 9.1% • 186 cases
Diam Cork Finish • 500mL • Bottled unfinned and unfiltered, July 2019 • Release Price: \$30

Our dessert wine made in a port style using grape based alcohol to stop the fermentation. The result is a sweeter wine to have after dinner or with a cheese course. Excellent now and for 3-4 weeks after opening, or for 10+ years in the cellar.

DECADA

Sonoma Valley • 100% Syrah • Alc: 19.5% Sugar 12.4% • 49 cases
Diam BarTop Finish • 375mL • Bottled unfinned and unfiltered, January 11, 2025 • Release Price: \$40

I really like Tawny port styles as aging in a barrel for 10 years imparts a richness and nuttiness that is wonderful in small quantities by itself or with sharp cheeses. This version is from the 2014 harvest and demonstrates the rewards of patience!

Fall Release Party Sunday, November 2nd, 2-5pm

It was great to see so many people at our Spring Wine Club Release event, that we can't wait to do it all again for Fall! As we have done for many years, we will have a food truck, this time it's Mike the Bejkr cooking up delicious wood fired oven pizzas, and all the new release wines will be open for tasting. We look forward to celebrating with you all!

Please **RSVP** to winery@loxtonwines.com or call us at (707) 935-7221 by **October 25th** so we can arrange staffing and food.

Members: no charge, Guests \$15 (we also extend wine club discounts to your guests).



Don't forget to ask Chris about our 2025 Harvest Season updates!

SHIPPING RATES

Although I subsidize shipping for club members, I am being charged excessive fees for redirects and returned shipments, so we strongly suggest that you use a business address for shipping, as it saves the inconvenience of having to be there to sign for the package. My subsidy is much higher for full cases as shown.

CA shipping is \$28 for 6 bottles, \$35 for 7-12 bottles
AZ, ID, NM, NV, OR and WA shipping is \$34 for 6, \$41 for 7-12 bottles
CO, MT, WY shipping is \$40 for 6, \$48 for 7-12 bottles
KS, NE ND, OK, SD shipping is \$42 for 6, \$50 for 7-12 bottles
AR, IA, IL, LA, MN, MO, TX, WI shipping is \$48 for 6 bottles, \$54 for 7-12 bottles
AK, HI shipping is \$85 for 6, \$100 for 7-12 bottles
All other states shipping is \$48 for 6, \$58 for 7-12

LOXTON CELLARS
P.O. Box 70
GLEN ELLEN, CA 95442



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Tasting Room: 11466 Dunbar Road, Glen Ellen, CA 95442
707.935.7221 • winery@loxtonwines.com
www.loxtonwines.com

WINE CLUB ORDER FOR:				
PLEASE MAKE ANY CUSTOMIZATIONS OR UPDATES TO YOUR INFO ONLINE, VIA E-MAIL, MAIL OR PHONE BY 10/25 STANDARD ORDERS WILL BE BILLED 10/28 AND SHIPPED 11/05, PICKUPS AVAILABLE STARTING 11/02 CUSTOM ORDERS WILL BE BILLED AND SHIPPED SHORTLY AFTER THEY ARE RECEIVED				
Standard 6 <input type="checkbox"/>				Custom <input type="checkbox"/>
QTY	PRICE	THE WINES	TOTAL	TOTAL
1	\$39	2023 CHARDONNAY, HAWK HILL VINEYARD		
1	\$42	2023 PINOT NOIR, HAWK HILL VINEYARD		
1	\$38	2021 SYRAH, ESTATE		
1	\$36	2023 PIONEER CUVÉE, ESTATE		
1	\$36	2023 ZINFANDEL, WILDWOOD VINEYARD		
1	\$40	2022 CABERNET SHIRAZ, GRANDFATHERS CUVÉE		
OPTIONS FOR CUSTOM ORDERS				
0	\$21	SONOMA REDS—LOT 20 *25% CASE DISCOUNT		
0	\$25	NON-VINTAGE SHIRAZ *25% CASE DISCOUNT		
0	\$28	2024 LATE HARVEST VIOGNIER—375 ML		
0	\$30	2018 PORT 500ML		
6	\$231	SUBTOTAL		
-\$46.20		LESS 20% WINE CLUB DISCOUNT *SONOMA REDS CASE DISCOUNT IN PLACE OF OTHER DISCOUNTS		
\$184.80		PRE-TAX TOTAL		
CA	Out-of-state	9.25% SALES TAX ON CA ORDERS (LOCAL TAXES APPLY IN MI, NH, OK, TN) CALIFORNIA CRV CHARGE ON CA ORDERS ONLY		
\$17.09	\$0			
\$.60	\$0			
\$202.49	\$184.80	WINE TOTAL WITH TAX (IF APPLICABLE)		
		SHIPPING CHARGES (SEE TABLE ON OPPOSITE PAGE)		
		TOTAL		
MAILING ADDRESS		SHIPPING ADDRESS		
CREDIT CARD INFORMATION				
NEW VISA/MC:			EXP:	
SIGNATURE:				