



BOOMERANG CLUB NEWSLETTER
FALL 2023

FALL WINE CLUB RELEASE

WINEMAKER'S SELECTION

2021 CHARDONNAY, HAWK HILL VINEYARD (RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY)

2021 PINOT NOIR, HAWK HILL VINEYARD (RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY)

2021 ZINFANDEL, ROSSI RANCH (SONOMA VALLEY)

2019 SYRAH (SONOMA VALLEY)

2018 SYRAH, ESTATE (SONOMA VALLEY)

2019 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 18 (SONOMA VALLEY)

2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, RANDOM RIDGE VINEYARD (MT. VEEDER, NAPA VALLEY)

2017 PORT (SONOMA VALLEY)



This year's first grapes were the Estate Viognier on September 22, 2023.
Three weeks behind last year!

Dear **First Name**,

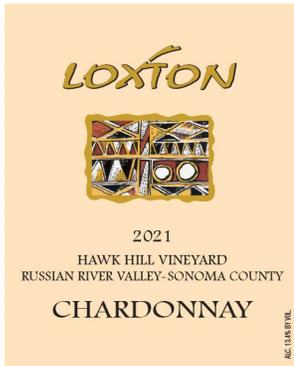
I write this while waiting for one of the latest harvests in many years. It looks to be delayed by about 3 weeks compared to recent drought years due to our much-needed rains this past Winter and the cool Spring that followed. I've been through several late harvests, particularly during 2005-2011, but what makes us nervous is that computer weather modelling has predicted an El Niño pattern which usually means wet weather. A late harvest and wet weather are not a good combination. In an effort to allow the vine to mature fruit more quickly we have removed more of the bunches than normal, hoping this will allow us to pick before any rain. Of course, if we get a great Fall, we can't glue that fruit back on and it will look like the wrong decision. But if we get rain I'll look like a genius. I like to joke that I don't need to go to Vegas as I gamble here every day!

Farming costs have gone up considerably in the past year and the wet winter hasn't helped. Our vines have continued to grow right up into July which has meant more work tucking branches and summer pruning and I've been mowing weeds right up into September which I've never had to do before. The late harvest also means that it will overlap with the club release. The past 8 years have all been early harvests and I've been able to focus on getting the wine shipments out, so bear with us if custom orders are a little slower to ship as this is all packed here at the winery!

Although we had to juggle the wine releases to compensate for losing the 2020 vintage due to smoke taint, we are now almost back to our regular schedule. For many years our Fall releases have featured Chardonnay and Pinot noir and for the first time, these are both from Hawk Hill Vineyard. This is a great site from a very strong vintage, I'm particularly happy with them and think they are excellent examples of their respective grape varieties. Both show the classic grape and vineyard characteristics more than the winemaker imprint. The Zinfandel is from Rossi Ranch, and I had the pleasure of attending a full day workshop at the Fairmont in Sonoma this Spring dedicated to this fabulous vineyard. The 2 Syrah wines reflect the increased understanding of the estate vineyard that we describe in later sections and the Cabernet shiraz is a perennial favorite. Please feel free to also choose other wines from our options or current website releases.

Cheers,

2021 CHARDONNAY - HAWK HILL VINEYARD



Appellation: Russian River Valley
Blend: 100% Chardonnay
pH: 3.43
Alcohol: 13.4%
Closure: Screwcap
Production: 189 cases
Bottled unfinned & lightly filtered August 18th, 2022
Release Price: \$38

Although I might visit Hawk Hill several times during the year to check on my rows of vines, I usually start to get more serious in late August when the grapes begin the final stage of ripening. This happens to coincide with the bloom of the “naked lady lily” *Amaryllis Belladonna*. These plants line the driveway into the vineyard and no matter how many times I’ve made this drive since my first year in 2001, they always brighten my day. It is an interesting plant. The leaves emerge in Spring and then die back in Summer only to have one final push in mid-August with a flower stem emerging from the dried leaves with a lovely display of pink flowers. The ones at Hawk Hill are particularly impressive with a glorious deep reddish pink color that I haven’t seen in other places.



Naked Lady Lilies lining the driveway

I would like to believe that the unique weather and Goldridge soil are what make this site such an incredible place for grapes and might also make it a great place for *Amaryllis Belladonna*. While this might be true, the reality might be more mundane, possibly just a different clonal selection. No matter, I like my explanation more and it sets the tone for the visit. The vineyard is meticulously farmed and the fruit, except for the smoke tainted vintage of 2020, has never let me down and makes a stellar wine in the style I like, which is crisp and intense. This 2021 version is no exception, displaying the richness of texture and fruit to showcase the grapes and vineyard without oak being the main player. A wine to have with seafood and chicken dishes now and for another 5-6 years in a good cellar.

2021 PINOT NOIR - HAWK HILL VINEYARD



Appellation: Russian River Valley
Blend: 100% Pinot Noir (Pommard and Calera Clones)
pH: 3.80
Alcohol: 13.1%
Closure: Screwcap
Production: 195 cases
Bottled unfinned & lightly filtered August 18th, 2022
Release Price: \$42

While Hawk Hill shares the Russian River Valley appellation with many other vineyards, it really sits apart from most of them as it is much cooler and much closer to the ocean than the more inland areas of the appellation. I could use Green Valley or Sonoma Coast appellations instead, but I’m waiting for the approval of a new area and the time when I can use “Freestone” on the label. This is because the area around the hamlet of Freestone gives us wines that have a lightness and freshness that can be missing in warmer areas yet still gives us the intensity of flavor that we don’t want to give up.

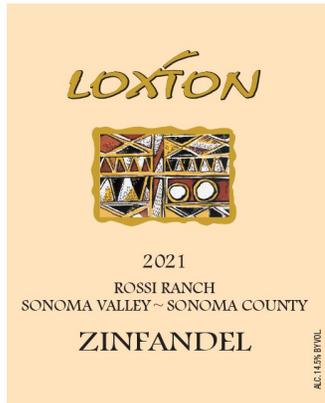
Making Pinot noir for the first time was just an experiment to see if it was as hard as some people say. The fruit was from Hawk Hill and the year was 2005, but I never expected it would be a regular part of my portfolio. I was recently talking with Mick Unti of Healdsburg’s Unti Vineyards, and he laughed when he said he never thought he’d be making over 1,000 cases of lovely Grenache Rosé! Sometimes life takes us in unexpected directions and for a winemaker, the opportunity to work with really great fruit is almost impossible to pass up.

The style of Pinot from Hawk Hill is intense yet delicate, with lots of cherry fruit and good acidity. Since I also make Syrah, I have avoided trying to make a bigger, more Syrah like Pinot to help it stand out, and it is the perfect match for salmon or lighter dishes. Best now and for the next 5 years.



You don’t want to be paid for picking Pinot noir by the ton! Hawk Hill Pinot on the left, our Estate Syrah on the right.

2021 ZINFANDEL - ROSSI RANCH



Appellation: Sonoma Valley
 Blend: Primarily Zinfandel, but a field blend also containing Petite sirah, Alicante bouschet and others
 pH: 3.87
 Alcohol: 14.5%
 Closure: Screwcap
 Production: 219 cases
 Bottled unfinned & lightly filtered August 18th, 2022

I've been in the USA for so long that I now find some of the things that Australians do to be quite funny. There seems to be an unwritten rule for Aussie winery workers to be suntanned and wear elastic sided boots. I had to laugh when I was in a pub near Adelaide in February and a group of people wearing this "uniform" sat at an adjoining table. Before long I overheard them discussing plans for the upcoming harvest and it turned out to be a staff lunch for one of the nearby Adelaide Hills wineries.

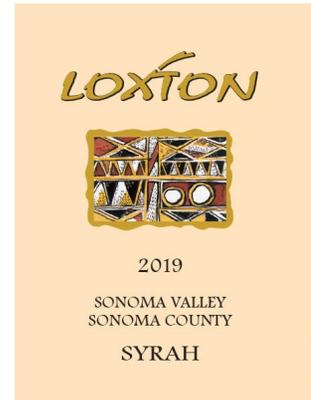
Before the ubiquitous "Blundstone" boots became popular in REI, there were numerous makers of this style of rubber boot in Australia. They all featured elastic sides (making them easy to slip off at airports in case you were wondering). The South Australian version was made by Rossi, and I made the trip to their factory to buy some as they are great boots for harvest, being essentially water resistant. Their billboard proudly states they were founded in Adelaide in 1910, the very year that the Rossi Ranch was planted by Val Rossi's father here in Glen Ellen. I think that makes them the perfect footwear for when I visit the vineyard!

The Rossi Zinfandel is remarkably consistent, having great fruit and structure to pair perfectly with anything grilled with bright flavors. A wine to drink now and for the next 5 years. I wish I could have given a bottle to Val—along with a pair of those boots!



Rossi vineyard and Rossi boots, both started in 1910!

2019 SYRAH - SONOMA VALLEY



Appellation: Sonoma Valley
 Blend: 100% Syrah, 70% Estate, 20% Shumahi Vineyard, 10% Rossi Ranch
 pH: 3.81
 Alcohol: 14.2%
 Closure: Screwcap
 Production: 171 cases
 Bottled unfinned and lightly filtered August 9, 2021
 Release Price: \$28

To bring out the best of your vineyard means building up knowledge of each area during each season. This can't be done in an office; it actually requires being in each area throughout every season. Even though I've lived here on the estate vineyard for 21 years, it never fails to amaze me how much I'm still learning. Each year presents different challenges, and we make improvements each time by fine tuning our farming and wine-making practices.

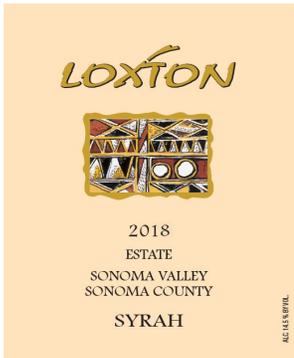
When I walk the vineyard, I'm looking at soils, weeds, and vine growth as it tells me a story. I also get a lot of information when using the ride-on mower as I'm lower to the ground and see things up close. This year we also had a drone fly over the vineyard and take some pictures and the results have been very interesting. For the last few years, we have been picking one of our Syrah blocks 3 times; one for Rosé, one for what might be an Estate Syrah component and then another for the Sonoma Valley Syrah. I've just been estimating these various areas based on berry size (related to water stress). The overhead images have allowed me to fine tune these areas and make better picking decisions based upon the styles of wines I want to make.



Our Block 5 Syrah. The bigger vines in the middle go into our Rosé, the hillside to the left is for the Estate Syrah, and the right is for the Sonoma Valley Syrah.

This Sonoma Valley Syrah is blended from 3 Syrah vineyards. I wanted a wine of moderate alcohol and blending has given us the depth of flavor to make it very versatile with food. It forcibly reminds me of the Syrah wines from cooler regions (Victoria in Australia and Northern France) and is a style I like while I'm waiting for bigger wines to mature. Drink now and for the next 3-5 years.

2018 SYRAH, ESTATE



Appellation: Sonoma Valley

Blend: 100% Syrah

pH: 3.62

Alcohol: 14.5%

Closure: Screwcap

Production: 200 cases

Bottled unfined and lightly filtered March 16th, 2020

There is a delicious moment prior to harvest where I think we have done as much as we can in the vineyard and I wonder if we'll be able to make "the perfect wine". 2-4 weeks before harvest each bunch should be exposed to dappled sunlight and hanging in its own space, the vine should have stopped growing and all its energy channeled into the fruit. Vines don't grow like that naturally and it takes some intensive farming.

Since 2013 the vineyard work has been done more and more by Malaco and I (and he does the lion's share!) while our vineyard management company does the pruning and spraying. This just happened organically as we are here every day and each area of the vineyard has its own timetable. As many tasks are time critical it becomes a problem when we get a big crew and it might be a little early for one area but a little late in another. As I often say, green bananas and black bananas don't average out to taste like yellow ones.

Malaco can do just about everything, and I wasn't totally surprised when he told me recently that after this year's harvest he wants to leave and become an independent contractor. I'm happy for him but wonder if I'll need two people to replace him! It is nice to realize we couldn't do much more in the vineyard and that the estate wines seem to be improving each year is a testament to his efforts. This wine was in our Spring release and the remainder allocated for this Fall. A wine to enjoy now and for the next 5-8 years.



As we approach harvest, each bunch of grapes should see some sunlight and be separated to hang in its own space.

2019 CABERNET SHIRAZ - GRANDFATHER'S CUVEÉ



Appellation: Sonoma Valley

Blend: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon-McGraw Vineyard,
24% Estate Syrah

pH: 3.83

Alcohol: 14.2%

Closure: Cork (Diam 30)

Production: 196 cases

Bottled unfined and lightly filtered July 14, 2021

Release Price: \$38

My first Cabernet Shiraz was made in 2005 (I'm pleased to have almost a case of it left as it is still drinking wonderfully!). At the time I had been asked by the McGraw Family to make a wine from their Cabernet sauvignon vineyard for their own label and the remaining grapes were sold to a larger winery here in the valley. As the picking day approached, that winery flagged an area of the vineyard where the fruit had still not fully ripened and about 2 tons of grapes went unharvested. About a week later I was at McGraw's and decided to look at the fruit. The combination of warm weather and an extra week to ripen meant that the fruit was in perfect condition. John McGraw had been so helpful with advice and hiring me to make wine for him when I was just starting my winery that I wanted to help him out and I decided that I would take the fruit.



Malaco removes the weeds late in the season to conserve water for the vines. Waiting for a late harvest gives us time for these tasks.

I already had a lovely cabernet vineyard called "Buffalo Bluff" at the time. Then I remembered the Cabernet Shiraz wines made from my grandfather's grapes back in the 1970's and the idea was born for the "Grandfather's Cuvée". Little did I know that 18 years later I'd still be making that specific wine! A few years after this, the McGraw's hired a company to do aerial mapping of the vineyard and the area that was so different could easily be identified and the irrigation system was changed. The vineyard blocks can now all be picked at the same time. Being an engineer by training, John was delighted in the role of science and new technology to make such a dramatic improvement. This is a wine to enjoy now and for the next 5-8 years.

SONOMA REDS - LOT 18

**Sonoma Valley • pH: 3.70 • Alc: 14.0% • 213 cases • Screwcap
Bottled unfinned and lightly filtered, August 14, 2023 • Release Price: \$21**

Sometimes it's a problem when I evaluate my own wines as I know the back story from vineyard to bottle. Bad weather at flowering in 2022 led to poor fruit set in our Zinfandel and a very small crop. In the last week before harvest extreme conditions where the temperature reached 115 degrees caused lots of damage in the thin-skinned Zinfandel bunches. After all our hard work I just hoped the wine would be good enough for our Sonoma Red program. This wine and various lots left over from our Spring and Summer bottlings were blended together for our Sonoma Reds but it is still more than 50% estate Zinfandel. Tasting and enjoying the wine just before bottling I may have been hasty in declassifying it. Perhaps I was remembering the heat and some of the dried berries instead of tasting what was in front of me! Club members will benefit as this is an easy to like version with lots of Zinfandel fruit and a lovely wine to enjoy now and for the next few years.

2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON - RANDOM RIDGE VINEYARD

**Mt. Veeder, Napa Valley • 88% Cabernet sauvignon, 12% Cabernet franc pH:
3.70 • Alc: 14.5% • Diam cork finish
Bottled unfinned and lightly filtered, August 24th, 2020 • Release Price: \$45**

Mountain grown Cabernet sauvignon tends to get better with time so I've not been in any hurry to pour this wine in the tasting room, instead offering it as an option for cabernet lovers in the past newsletter. We now find just 20 cases still available. A percentage of Cabernet franc from old vines at Random Ridge adds aromatics to the muscle and tannin of the cabernet sauvignon. This is true Mt. Veeder cabernet; excellent tannin structure and brushy fruit notes that seem to reflect the chapparal of the hillsides. At its best with a steak or with time in the cellar.

2017 PORT

**Sonoma Valley • 100% Syrah, Estate • pH: 3.75 • Alc: 18.2% Sugar 9.1% •
186 cases • Diam Cork Finish • 500mL •
Bottled unfinned and unfiltered, July 22, 2019 • Release Price: \$30**

Since 2002 my dessert Port style wine has used the Syrah grape. It has the depth of flavor and tannin structure to ensure that the wine is not too sweet and enables the wine to age wonderfully in the cellar. A great wine to have open in the colder Winter months to enjoy by itself or with a dessert or cheese course. Good now and for 3-4 weeks after opening, or for 10+ years in the cellar.

Fall Release Party November 5th, 2-5

Fall is a great time to visit the winery and pick up your wine shipment. The weather is often still quite nice, and the vineyards still show some color. We will have a food truck here and all the new wines will be open to try. It's always a fun event although I suspect that with a late harvest, our crew might also be a little tired, but ready to celebrate the end of harvest!

Please RSVP to winery@loxtonwines.com or call us at (707) 935-7221 by October 28th so we can arrange staffing and food.

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



By utilizing intensive farming with no herbicides and compost, we will have some fruit from our young vines planted just 30 months ago. It will go into this year's Sonoma Reds program.

SHIPPING RATES

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. Also, shipping companies are not holding shipments for very long for repeat delivery attempts. I will continue to subsidize shipments for club members, but to a lesser extent and more so for case shipments.

CA shipping is \$20 per case up to 12
NV, AZ, ID, NM, OR and WA shipping is \$28 per case up to 12
CO, MT, WY shipping is \$40 per case up to 12
AK, HI shipping is \$75 per case up to 12
All other states, shipping is \$48 per case up to 12

Additional charge will apply if address is incorrect or package is undeliverable resulting in redirection or return

LOXTON CELLARS
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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 10/27 AND SHIPPED 11/07, PICKUPS AVAILABLE STARTING 11/05				
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	\$38	2021 CHARDONNAY, HAWK HILL VINEYARD		
1	\$42	2021 PINOT NOIR, HAWK HILL VINEYARD		
1	\$35	2021 ZINFANDEL, ROSSI RANCH		
1	\$28	2019 Syrah, Sonoma Valley		
1	\$38	2018 SYRAH, ESTATE		
1	\$38	2019 CABERNET SHIRAZ, GRANDFATHERS CUVÉE		
OPTIONS FOR CUSTOM ORDERS				
0	\$21	SONOMA REDS - LOT 18 *25% CASE DISCOUNT		
0	\$45	2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, RANDOM RIDGE VINEYARD		
0	\$30	2017 PORT 500 ML		
6	\$219	SUBTOTAL		
		LESS 20% WINE CLUB DISCOUNT		
		*SONOMA REDS CASE DISCOUNT IN PLACE OF OTHER DISCOUNTS	-20%	
		PRE-TAX TOTAL		
CA	Out-of-state	8.5% SALES TAX ON CA ORDERS		
		(LOCAL TAXES APPLY IN MI, MO, NH, OK, TN,VA)		
\$14.89	\$0			
\$190.09	\$175.20	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:				

P.O. Box 70, 11466 DUNBAR ROAD, GLEN ELLEN, CA 95442, PHONE (707)935-7221