



BOOMERANG CLUB NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

SPRING WINE CLUB RELEASE

WINEMAKER'S SELECTION

2023 SENCILLO (SONOMA COUNTY)

2021 GSP, ESTATE (SONOMA VALLEY)

2019 SYRAH, CUVÉE ELLEN (SONOMA VALLEY)

2019 SYRAH, ESTATE (SONOMA VALLEY)

2019 BIN 32 (SONOMA VALLEY)

2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, RANDOM RIDGE VINEYARD (MT. VEEDER, NAPA V ALLEY)

OPTIONS FOR CUSTOM ORDERS

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

2023 ROSÉ, VIN GRIS OF SYRAH (SONOMA VALLEY)

SONOMA REDS - LOT 18 (SONOMA VALLEY)

2021 ZINFANDEL, ROSSI RANCH (SONOMA VALLEY)

2019 SYRAH (SONOMA VALLEY)

2018 PORT (SONOMA VALLEY)



Spring brings a brilliant display of mustard flowers at the nearby Wildwood Vineyard

Dear **First Name**,

Spring in Sonoma is really special. The grass is bright green, and the trees and flowers are in full bloom. I opened the winery at this location in Spring 2004 and dad flew out for the opening and said, “no wonder you want to stay here rather than come back to the family vineyard”. Perhaps the most iconic image for our Spring is mustard flowers in our vineyards and it has even inspired the Napa Valley Mustard Festival. While I love mustard, it is a tall plant that can lift the cold air layer up into the zone of emerging leaves and fruit. As vines are very susceptible to frost damage, I mow our vineyard as short as possible to let the cold air drain away.

I made another trip to Australia early this year (making up for lost time when I couldn't see family during the pandemic) and took time to explore what they are doing with the Grenache grape. Long regarded as a minor variety, a new generation has dubbed it the “warm area Pinot” and are using techniques we see from “cutting edge” cult Pinot noir producers here in California. I visited places where aging is done in concrete amphoras, wines are left in fermentation tanks with skins for as long as a year, and some that are not using oak barrels at all. Some of the wines were excellent so it will be interesting to see where this experimentation leads.

This has all been very timely as the 2024 harvest will see a reasonable crop from my young Grenache vines planted in '21. This extra fruit gives me the opportunity to incorporate some of these new ideas to give me blending options for the ever-popular GSP wine. Harvest 2023 also saw a new Grenache vineyard source for me so be on the lookout for a varietal Grenache from the biodynamically farmed Rose vineyard in 2025! In other exciting developments, last year we bottled our first Moon Mountain District Cabernet sauvignon from Wildwood vineyard that will also be released in '25. Towards the end of last year's harvest, we also got an opportunity to get a small amount of Zinfandel from Wildwood. Planted in 1882, the grapes came from some of the oldest vines here in Sonoma Valley.

For the moment though, we look to the wines that are being released this year. The Summer wines, Sencillo and Rosé (an option for ordering) are from '23 which was a cooler and uneventful harvest that has given us great freshness and crispness, and these are perfect for Summer. After missing a year due to smoke taint issues, the GSP is back and better than ever and continues to be a remarkable and consistent wine since its debut in 2014. The 2 Syrah wines are both from here on the Estate but are different in that the Ellen Syrah is more fragrant and floral with the addition of Viognier, while the Estate is a little bigger and more brooding. They make a fascinating comparison. The Cabernet is a true mountain grown wine with great richness and will be best with bold meals. As always, you can customize and choose from our option wines or any others from our website.

Cheers,

2023 SENCILLO - SONOMA COUNTY



Appellation: Sonoma County
 Blend: 68% Riesling (The Gables) 32% Viognier (Estate)
 pH: 3.24
 Alcohol: 13.3%
 Closure: Screw Cap
 Production: 155 cases
 Bottled unfinned & lightly filtered March 8th, 2024
 Release Price: \$29

Farming is often about finding the right balance and there can be competing priorities. Don't irrigate or fertilize too much or the vine will just want to grow rather than put its energy into the fruit. Don't under irrigate or the vine stops growing and there won't be enough leaves to ripen the fruit. It's a matter of reading all the signals and looking at the weather reports. If only it were that easy! Nature can throw us a curve ball with too much water or sometimes not enough. In excess, cover crops can use up some of the surplus. In a drought though, how do you judge what you need versus what is prudent when there are dwindling water resources?

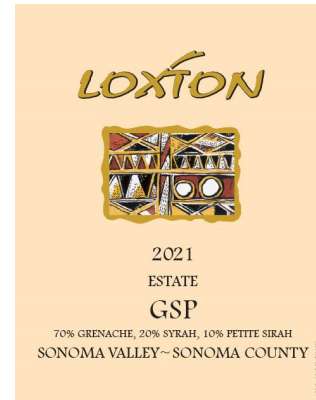
In the drought years of 2020 to 2022 I cut back on irrigation to do the right thing regarding scarce water resources. In hindsight, I stressed our younger vines too much which had smaller root systems. While our older vines with a bigger root system coped well, the younger Viognier vines suffered. As vines form their fruit in the preceding year, we saw our viognier yields decline each year starting in 2021. Interesting how hindsight is so accurate, yet I still think I did the right thing!

2023 saw our smallest harvest of estate Viognier. Despite the small crop, or maybe because of it, the wine was intense. Fortunately, the small production was offset by the Riesling vineyard which was maturing and had its yield increasing. This means that for the first time the Sencillo is more Riesling than viognier. Its steely citrus notes are complemented by the intensity of our viognier which added white peach flavors and brought depth of flavor. Although not as originally designed, the result is one I like a lot and it is a delightful wine to celebrate Summer. The perfect crisp chilled white wine to pair with grilled chicken and salad dishes. Extra time in the bottle will add more richness and I am certain it will improve for another 3 years.



One clue to vine water stress comes from looking at tendrils. Here they are reaching out to help the vine climb, telling us there is no need for irrigation.

2021 GSP, ESTATE



Appellation: Sonoma County
 Blend: 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Petite sirah
 pH: 3.78
 Alcohol: 14.3%
 Closure: Screw Cap
 Production: 241 cases
 Bottled unfinned & lightly filtered February 23rd, 2023
 Release Price: \$37

Fresh out of the winemaking school at UC Davis I headed to Australia and the Barossa Valley to do a harvest and learn everything about Syrah. My vintage at St. Hallett was a great learning experience and perhaps the hardest work I've ever done outside of my own winery. I also took the opportunity to visit as many other wineries and vineyards as I could. My favorite was a brand-new winery on a very old vineyard named Turkey Flat. I liked their Shiraz, but I remember telling the owner that my favorite of their wines was their Grenache. This was surprising to both of us as Grenache was viewed more as just a blending grape, not normally bottled as a standalone variety at the time. I must have bought a dozen bottles over numerous visits. I never would have anticipated that 20 years later in 2014 I would be grafting Grenache here on my Estate vineyard.

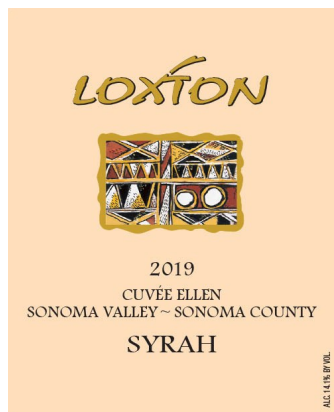
The wisdom of this decision is evidenced by the GSP blend becoming my best-selling wine. Its ability to withstand heat was particularly important in 2022 when an extreme weather event heat damaged many of our varieties while the Grenache came through completely unaffected. Grenache will undoubtedly become more important as extreme weather becomes more "normal". I revisited Turkey Flat on this year's trip and was delighted to see that they now champion the variety with a big entrance sign welcoming people to the home of perhaps the world's oldest Grenache vines, planted in the 1840's.

This wine showcases how wonderful Grenache can be as a blended wine. A small addition of Petite sirah deepens the color and lengthens the palate while some Syrah rounds out the middle palate. The lovely cherry fruit characters of Grenache still shine brightly, and this is a wine to enjoy with rich winter dishes, pork tenderloin or summer grilled foods. Enjoy now and for another 5 years.



One of the ancient Grenache vines at Turkey Flat winery in the Barossa Valley.

2019 SYRAH, CUVÉE ELLEN



Appellation: Sonoma Valley
 Blend: 95% Syrah clone 470, 6% Viognier (All Estate Grown)
 pH: 3.83
 Alcohol: 14.1%
 Closure: Screw Cap
 Production: 207 cases
 Bottled unfinned & lightly filtered August 9th, 2021
 Release Price: \$38

My wines tend to be a snapshot of time. They reflect not only the soil, weather, and vineyard work of the season, but also the style I was hoping to achieve. My thinking on style has evolved with time and the Cuvée Ellen exemplifies this more than most as its style has changed since the first vintage in 2007.

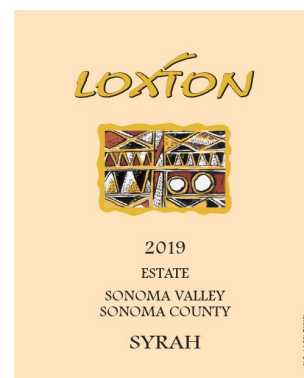
I opened my last bottle of '07 early this year and while it is fading a little, it still shows the lighter and more elegant style I was aiming for at the time. By 2012 the Ellen Syrah was my "Reserve" wine, meant to be the best wine of the vintage and it was bigger with more oak and tannin. Years later I wondered why I was making a bigger and bolder wine named after my grandmother Ellen. I decided it should be more elegant in style, without sacrificing any intensity. I took inspiration from the northern Rhone region where they co-ferment Syrah with a small amount of Viognier and this adds a floral note to balance the darker and meatier Syrah characters, thus lightening the wine while not losing any intensity. Think Côte-Rôtie rather than the bigger Hermitage.

I had been experimenting with these Syrah-Viognier co-fermentations for a few years and this one was done with whole clusters of Viognier buried into the destemmed Syrah berries like a sandwich. After 6 months in small oak barrels, the wine was transferred to a 1500L oak "Foudre" for a final year of aging and this has helped preserve the fruit and freshness. This is the first time the Syrah-Viognier wine has been bottled by itself and I'm very happy with the result. Not as heavy as the Estate Syrah, and it offers a wonderful counterpoint with its floral character and lower alcohol. Enjoy this now and for the next 8 years.



A layer of Viognier bunches is added part way though filling our fermentation tank with Syrah berries. It is then covered up with more Syrah.

2019 SYRAH, ESTATE



Appellation: Sonoma Valley
 Blend: 100% Estate Syrah
 pH: 3.69
 Alcohol: 14.3%
 Closure: Screw Cap/natural cork
 Production: 188 cases
 Bottled unfinned and lightly filtered March 2nd, 2021
 Release Price: \$38

Sometimes wines seem to make themselves, and it's easy to become complacent, but other times it becomes a matter of overcoming all the obstacles that get in the way. I really like this new Estate Syrah, and when I enjoy the wine, part of the experience is just marveling at all that happened on its way to the bottle.

It all started well with a relatively easy and very high-quality harvest. What could possibly go wrong? We were soon to find out, with the 2020 pandemic and then another fire with loss of electricity for an extended time. Despite the chaos, all the normal operations such as topping, blending and bottling still had to be done. I was fortunate enough to keep all of my employees and despite being closed, we continued our operations while waiting for life to be back to "normal". Bottling presented a challenge though, we tried to find a crew of friends and friends of friends so I ended up just using the bottling company's own crew and it was so easy I couldn't believe I didn't do that earlier. The supply chain was also a disaster and many of my wines had to be hand labelled as labels were delivered after bottling was done. On the day we bottled this wine, we found that half the bottles were designed for corks, not screwcaps, and as I had no corks, we had to do an emergency trip to Napa to pick up a few thousand from a friend in the business. They arrived just as the last screw-cap bottles were coming off the line. At the end of the day the wine was all safely bottled, but the stress levels were off the charts.

So, when I taste this wine, I'm just so happy we persevered rather than giving up as it is a wonderful example of Syrah from here on the Estate. It is a little more fruit forward than the past few years and somewhat softer with a rounder tannin structure. A wine to enjoy now and for the next 5-8 years.



Bottling is done here on the property to keep the "Estate" designation and is done by a mobile bottling truck.

2019 BIN 32



Appellation: Sonoma Valley
 Blend: 66% Syrah (Rossi Ranch and Estate) 34% Cabernet Sauvignon (McGraw Vineyard)
 pH: 3.75
 Alcohol: 14.4%
 Closure: Screw Cap
 Production: 144 cases
 Bottled unfined & lightly filtered August 9th, 2021
 Release Price: \$38

My father struggled with the idea of selling his vineyard. The property had been in family hands since the 1890's but I was here in California and my nephew had settled on making Chardonnay and Pinot noir in the cooler Adelaide Hills region of Australia. He eventually sold in 2017, but to a friend who wanted to build on his legacy and who said, "this will always be "Bob's Block" to me".

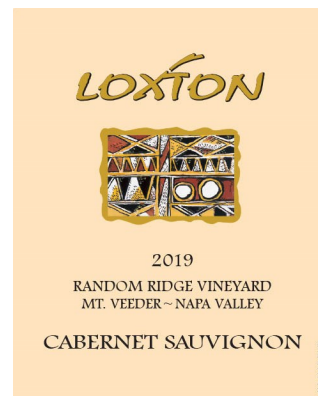
So it was with some apprehension that I visited the vineyard early this year. But not to worry, the property looked in great shape just as I remember, and it had a very good crop just starting to turn purple. It made me think of one's legacy and how dad's work still lives on, just as he had built on his own father's work. As many might remember, 2018 was my first Bin 32 wine, a Syrah and Cabernet sauvignon blend with a subtle nod to my father who was born in '32. Although nontraditional, the blend seems very logical as the Syrah is known for being richer with a rounder mouth feel and the Cabernet brings structure and length to the palate.

This version is based on Rossi Ranch Syrah and a smaller component from here on the Estate, along with Cabernet sauvignon from the McGraw vineyard (released as a vineyard designate last Fall). The '18 version I thought was my best wine of the vintage and this is not far behind. A great food wine, big enough to match bigger meals yet so balanced it can go with a wide range of food pairings. Enjoyable now but will easily improve for another 5-8 years in the cellar if you have patience.



Kangaroos still visit what was my father's vineyard. They scratch out a bed to lie in the shade of the vine next to the cooler earth along the irrigation lines.

2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, RANDOM RIDGE VINEYARD



Appellation: Mt. Veeder, Napa Valley
 Blend: 100% Cabernet sauvignon
 pH: 3.93
 Alcohol: 14.4%
 Closure: Cork (Diam)
 Production: 97 cases
 Bottled unfined & lightly filtered June 22nd, 2021
 Release Price: \$45

I first met Bill Hawley from Random Ridge vineyard early in my career when I was tasked with looking after the wine being made for a client of the winery I was working for. Bill was fun, the wine was really good, and the side benefit was that I got an invite to the annual "Mountain Pruning Extravaganza". It was a motley collection of owners of hillside vineyards who would get together once a year at one of the vineyards, hack away at some vines for an hour or more, then retire back to the hosts to brag and banter about their pruning techniques. There was always a huge lunch, and it was washed down with some truly wonderful mountain grown wines.

Although our tasting room manager derisively called it "male bonding" I found it fascinating. While there are rules in pruning, I watched some highly experienced vineyard people discuss how they would prune a problematic vine and why the others were often wrong about it. It showed me that it was as much an art as it was science. The locations were at some of wine countries' most beautiful sites on Mount Veeder, Bradford Mountain, Sonoma Mountain and Atlas peak which was an added bonus. The conversation, food, and wine were enough to convince me that leaving academia for the wine business was the absolute right decision!

Mountain viticulture is indeed a different experience, and I can't begrudge that these are the most expensive grapes I've ever purchased. Yields are small, water is scarce, and the wines are intense, so they often require some patience on behalf of the winery and the consumer. Random Ridge is no exception, and this wine to me represents the region perfectly. I received fruit from 3 different vineyard blocks, and I think it should be enjoyed with bigger meals. Ready now but can be cellared for another 10-15 years.



Random Ridge vineyard has a great view over the Bay area and to downtown San Francisco.

2023 ESTATE ROSÉ, VIN GRIS OF SYRAH

Sonoma Valley • 100% Syrah • pH: 3.39 • Alc: 13.5% • 265 cases • Screwcap
Bottled unfinned and lightly filtered, February 23, 2023 • Release Price: \$22

I've been making Rosé since 2001 and it has come a long way since. The intention has always been to make a "serious" Rosé, similar to the way I might make a Chardonnay, but done in well used barrels to not have any oak flavor and bottled early to preserve freshness. The result is an attractive pale color, better aromatics, and more freshness without sacrificing any of the flavor. This 2023 version, with its' strawberry and pink grapefruit flavors, will be at its best over the next 12-18 months and will work with many different foods. Rosé is no longer a wine just for Summer!

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

Small quantities remain of our very popular everyday red wine. A Syrah and Zinfandel blend with smaller amounts of other available varieties. At its best now and for the next few years. Extra Case 25% discount applies.

2021 ZINFANDEL, ROSSI RANCH

Sonoma Valley • 100% Zinfandel • pH: 3.87 • Alc: 14.5 % • 219 cases produced • Screwcap
Bottled unfinned and lightly filtered August 18th, 2012 • Release Price: \$35

My Zinfandel block at Rossi Ranch still contains a significant portion of the original vines planted in 1910! The wine is a field blend of mostly Zinfandel but also containing Petite Sirah, Alicante Bouschet and many others. These other varieties contribute the color and structure to complement the red and black fruit notes of Zinfandel. A wine to age another 4 or 5 years or to enjoy with hearty meals.

2019 SYRAH, SONOMA VALLEY

Sonoma County • 100% Syrah • pH: 3.81 • Alc: 14.2% • 171 cases produced • Screwcap
Bottled unfinned and lightly filtered, August 9th, 2021 • Release Price: \$28

This Sonoma Valley Syrah is blended from 3 different 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 reminds me of the Syrah wines from cooler regions (Victoria in Australia and Northern France), delicious for all occasions. Drink now and for the next 3-5 years.

2018 PORT

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

Our latest version of 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.

Spring Release Party Sunday, April 7th, 2-5

It was great to see so many people at our Fall Wine Club Release event. Despite the rain, cold weather and earlier sunset with daylight savings ending, we were able to celebrate the (almost) end of the harvest. As we have done for many years, we will have a food truck, this time it's Roadhouse 48 and all the new release wines will be open for tasting. Plan on a picnic (it is Spring, so check the weather) and we hope to see you here soon!

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

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



Rain or shine, we have wine, can't wait to celebrate Spring!

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 \$25 for 6 bottles, \$31 for 7-12 bottles
AZ, ID, NM, NV, OR and WA shipping is \$33 for 6, \$39 for 7-12
CO, MT, WY shipping is \$40 for 6, \$46 for 7-12
KS, NE, ND, OK, SD shipping is \$42 for 6, \$48 for 7-12
All other states shipping is \$48 for 6, \$54 for 7-12

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

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



«Customer_Firstname» «Customer_Lastname»
«co_address_»
«Street_Address_Line_1»
«Address_2»
«City», «State» «Zip»

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 03/25				
STANDARD ORDERS WILL BE BILLED 03/27 AND SHIPPED 04/09, PICKUPS AVAILABLE STARTING 04/07				
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	\$29	2023 SENCILLO, VIOGNIER RIESLING		
1	\$37	2021 GSP		
1	\$38	2019 SYRAH, CUVÉE ELLEN		
1	\$38	2019 Syrah, Estate		
1	\$38	2019 BIN 32		
1	\$45	2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, RANDOM RIDGE		
OPTIONS FOR CUSTOM ORDERS				
0	\$22	2023 ROSÉ, VIN GRIS OF SYRAH		
0	\$21	SONOMA REDS - LOT 18 *25% CASE DISCOUNT		
0	\$35	2021 ZINFANDEL, ROSSI RANCH		
0	\$28	2019 SYRAH, SONOMA VALLEY		
0	\$30	2018 Port — 500ML		
6	\$225	SUBTOTAL		
-\$45		LESS 20% WINE CLUB DISCOUNT *SONOMA REDS CASE DISCOUNT IN PLACE OF OTHER DISCOUNTS	-20%	
\$180.00		PRE-TAX TOTAL		
CA	Out-of-state	8.5% SALES TAX ON CA ORDERS (LOCAL TAXES APPLY IN MI, MO, NH, OK, TN,VA)		
\$15.30	\$0			
\$.60	\$0	CRV Charge on CA Orders Only		
\$195.90	\$180	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:				