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MELKA

MELKA ESTATES NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021

Greetings

Hello 2021! We are very happy to welcome this new year with all the hopes of a better year in many respects – for our health, our sanity and prosperity. We want to thank all of you who continued to support us during the ongoing pandemic.

In addition to the Covid challenges that all of us are facing, we had what can clearly go down in history as the worst harvest on record. Fires plagued wine country starting in August and continued through September – the devastation to our communities ran deep and the landscape of Napa Valley forever changed. We were fortunate enough to be able to pick both Chardonnay and Sauvignon blanc from our Sonoma vineyard and are very happy with the quality. However, the persistently heavy smoke forced us to reject all the red varietals from Napa and we also chose not to harvest the Merlot nor Cabernet franc from Mekerra. We knew that it would be impossible to craft any wines to the caliber that you’ve come to expect.

But on the lighter and brighter side, we were extremely happy that our 2019’s in barrel were not affected thanks in large part to the generators purchased last year. We just completed final blending of those wines for bottling this spring. We continue to look for ways to improve and have made the decision to purchase a new press specific for our white varietals. And since the fire took our beloved Montbleau vineyard on the estate, it gives us the opportunity to redesign the architecture of the planting with a potential for expansion. The silver lining . . .

We hope to see all our Members at this year’s event in August – fingers crossed. Wishing all of you a healthy year that sees all of our lives slowly getting back to normal.

– Philippe, Cherie & Sylvie

SCHEDULE OF RELEASES FOR 2021

CJ COLLECTOR	SPRING VIP / ELITE	FALL VIP/MEET MELKA
RELEASE DATE JAN 12	RELEASE DATE MARCH 9	RELEASE DATE SEPT 14
2018 CJ CABERNET SAUVIGNON SAUVIGNON BLANC RELEASE DATE JAN 19		2018 MAJESTIQUE LE CHATELET VINEYARD SAINT-ÉMILION GRAND CRU CLASSÉ RELEASE DATE JULY 14
2018 MÉTISSE JUMPING GOAT VINEYARD NAPA VALLEY RELEASE DATE MARCH 16		2018 MEKERRA LA MEKERRA VINEYARD PROPRIETARY RED PROPRIETARY WHITE MERLOT RELEASE DATE SEPT 21
2018 MÉTISSE MONTBLEAU VINEYARD NAPA VALLEY RELEASE DATE APRIL 13		2019 MAJESTIQUE PADEREWSKI VINEYARD SYRAH RELEASE DATE OCTOBER 19
2018 MÉTISSE MARTINEZ VINEYARD NAPA VALLEY RELEASE DATE MAY 18		

Vintage Overview & Harvest Recap

2018 Vintage Overview: Harvest began for us on August 27th with our whites from Mekerra, with Merlots following in mid September and Cabernets late September into October finishing on the 20th. Our second harvest at the winery and it was a bountiful one as we processed a total of 74 tons. The climatic conditions were dry and cooler as compared with previous vintages and the lack of heat spikes caused even flowering and good fruit set. Crop levels were some of the highest we've seen in many years.

2020 Harvest Recap: The harvest will go down as one of the most memorable in history as fires ravaged wine country. The first being the LNU which began on the first day of our harvesting the Chardonnay from Mekerra on August 17th. We did two subsequent picks of our Sauvignon blanc also in August for a total of 8 and a half tons of white grapes. Sadly, there were even more subsequent fires and smoke levels were just too intense for far too long to warrant any harvesting of red grapes. We did receive our Syrah from Paso on September 21st and the harvest in France was very good, so those will be the only red wines we will produce in 2020.

Annual Members Event

This year's members event to be held at the winery is tentatively scheduled for August 21, 2021. We are hoping that with a Covid vaccine rolling out, that we will once again be able to host a gathering. We will have Mark's the Spot food truck on hand and as always, plenty of libations from the Melka portfolio of wines.

We look forward to welcoming all of our Melka Members back to the property!

