



A N D R E W
M U R R A Y
V I N E Y A R D S

WINE CLUB FALL 2020

2020 - THE SPLENDID AND THE VILE



This year began like any other year, except that January found us busier than ever after deciding to let our Syrah Tous les Jours rest an extra 6 months in barrel before bottling in order to allow the wine a bit more time to come around before committing it to bottle. (The 2018 Syrah Tous les Jours was recently awarded the highest trio of scores ever – so it was worth the wait!) I was filled with as much hope as ever since we had just completed our largest harvest ever and heck, it was 2020. Just saying 2020 sounded cool. It brought up evocative memories of my youth about what the future might look like (remember the classic film **Blade Runner** – it was set in 2019/2020). 2020 is how one describes perfect vision. I was focused and ready for an amazing 2020 – or so I thought. In reality, I was only ready for the 2020 of my vivid imagination and dreams. I do not think any of us were ready for the 2020 that we actually got. By all accounts it has been a terrible year, certainly one of the worst ever for me. I have already written about this, so I am not going into it again here. Rather, I want to focus on the 2020 harvest that we are in currently in the middle of. Every harvest is a bit nutty and unpredictable, but for some unknown and very cruel reason, the 2020 vintage has been nearly unbearable. Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, we were looking at a picture perfect harvest. We had enough rain to saturate and cleanse our soils in the winter. Yields looked fairly normal. Budbreak was slightly delayed so it looked like another later vintage (we prefer later vintages). By most accounts, again in spite of all the bad news, most of us growers were still maintaining a positive attitude. I wanted (I always want) to craft our best wines ever this year as a giant middle finger to Covid. I wanted to win, even as our world was losing. Well, mother nature had an entirely different plan for us. She threw 3 devastating heat waves at us. We clocked 112 on the now infamous Sunday in early September (9/6/20). This record high literally scorched the south-facing side of several of our prized blocks. Just as temps returned towards normal, we had 2 more heat spikes in early October that reached into the low 100s. We are a famously cool climate, one of the coolest in California, but this year was not a “cool” vintage by any stretch of the imagination. The heat has reduced yields and increased concentration, so 2020 will be a smaller vintage of impressively dark wines for us. Despite all of this troubling news, we are the lucky ones this year. Other parts of the west not only suffered through Covid and heat – they had the added devastation of another harvest marred by fires. Our hearts break for our friends and neighbors north of us that found themselves in a waking and recurring nightmare of out of control fires. Their resiliency and tenacity are daily inspiration for me to keep moving forward, when in reality, I just want to stay in bed for the rest of the year. I am reminded of a book that I read about Churchill this summer, called **The Splendid and the Vile**. The name comes from John Coville’s contemporaneous diaries of life alongside Churchill, as his private secretary. Coville described the sight of bombs falling on London as both **Splendid** and **Vile** – strangely beautiful and absolutely horrific. Churchill famously ran up to the rooftops (sometime with a glass of wine) to watch the bombing raids on his beloved city. Though sheltered and sequestered, he wanted to be as close to the devastation as possible. He leaned way into the war and it reminded him daily of what was at stake. 2020 is not even close to what the world witnessed during WWII, but there is some inspiring fortitude to be found in learning how the world kept putting one foot in front of the other. The 2020 vintage is both a masterpiece and a horrific sight. It is both **Splendid** and **Vile**. Just the opportunity to grow and harvest grapes this year has been a beautiful miracle. It has kept me moving forward and thinking ahead. It has been a real gift, despite the challenges. Though I cannot imagine life without wine, it is very much a luxury, conceived and crafted through the millennia to bring traditions and joy into our lives. I raise a glass to all of you and your loved ones and neighbors and friends in hopes of a better tomorrow. All of us at AMV hope that our wines bring some joy into your lives. We can and will get through this and more than ever, WINE is the answer! Thank you very much for your continued support of our family farm and winery.

 Andrew Murray

2018 ROASTED SLOPE - 94 PTS x 2



Our Roasted Slope has been among our most sought after wines each and every vintage since we first dreamed it up back in 1996 after a nursery mistake left us with a Syrah vineyard inter-planted with about 8% Viognier. We are proud to announce that the 2018 Vintage of this wine received double **94 Point** reviews from Antonio Galloni (Vinous) and Jeb Dunnuck. As you know, we do not craft our wines for the critics. Rather we grow, craft, and bottle them for you, our beloved Wine Club Members. Thank you for inspiring us daily!

FEATURED WINES

2019 VIOGNIER, SB COUNTY

Perhaps our best Viognier bottling ever...

2018 SYRAH, ALISOS VINEYARD

A complex, cooler climate Syrah, with a great balance of fruit and savory notes...

2018 MOURVÈDRE, ESTATE GROWN

We are really hitting our stride with Mourvedre and we hope you can taste all the extra effort...

2018 SYRAH, SLIDE HILL VYD.

A decadently complex and rich Syrah from this fabled vineyard site...



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON.



FEATURED WINES

2019 VIOGNIER, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY - 93 POINTS

The 2019 Viognier comes from 2 vineyards that we have worked on and off with for a few years now. We blended Viognier from 2 cool-climate sites to create the ultimate Viognier expression. We harvested nearly equal amounts from a hilly, sandy site called White Hawk, and the balance from the site that we planted in Santa Maria Valley about a decade ago. The 2019 vintage has all of the hallmark qualities of a proper Viognier...light, delicate, floral, honeyed, citrus...a stunning dry white wine. Production, was once again tiny on this wine. It is reserved and released first to our Wine Club Members.

Limited Production \$30/btl

2018 SYRAH, ALISOS VINEYARD - 92 POINTS

The Alisos Vineyard is an extremely beautiful, Certified Organic, hillside vineyard site, growing high above the valley floor of Alisos Canyon Road. The south facing slopes provide for a long, even growing season. We try to craft this wine each vintage in the most transparent way, attempting to allow the site to tell the story of this wine. This vintage, like the 2017, is rather showy right from release, so do not be afraid to find a reason to drink this stunning wine. It will also age beautifully for at least a decade, so I also encourage you to hide a few bottles in your cellar. When you do decide to enjoy this wine, I hope that you can taste the subtle notes of the co-fermented Viognier that literally soar out of the glass. It really makes for a unique expression of cool climate Syrah.

Limited Production \$40/btl

2018 MOURVÈDRE, ESTATE GROWN - 92 POINTS

Mourvèdre is a pretty darn easy grape to grow. It favors setting a rather large crop, with shoots that seem to nearly tuck themselves into our training and catch wires. The fruit is hearty and can survive blistering heat waves and even rain during a vintage. At the same time, Mourvèdre is a terrible grape to grow. It requires lots of warm days to properly ripen and it is among the last grapes that we harvest each year. We have to work tirelessly in the vineyard to remove leaves and open up the canopy for air flow and sunlight penetration. We also drop lots of fruit to the ground to ensure a modest crop of densely flavored grapes. Basically, everything that makes it easy to grow, makes it incredibly difficult and expensive to grow at the high end, with the goal of making incredible and inspiring wines. We are extremely proud of this new vintage and we think all the extra work shows in the quality of the wine. Please enjoy this wine over the next 5 - 7 years.

Limited Production \$40/btl

2018 SYRAH SLIDE HILL VYD, EDNA VALLEY - 95 POINTS**

This beautiful Syrah comes from a single acre of Syrah growing in a rather famous corridor up in Edna Valley. This hillside vineyard is certified organic and Biodynamic and grows in rather poor soils. Our yields have gotten smaller and smaller since our first vintage, so there is precious little of this beauty to go around. This vintage, more than all the others, shows off the potential for the site. The wine is super showy, dark, complex and downright fun to drink - a real departure from previous vintages. The warmth of the vintage shines through with dark blue fruits, toasty oak and baking spices. Though quite drinkable now, it will reward the patient over the next decade.

Limited production \$55/btl **Only included in select shipments.



2018 SLIDE HILL VISUAL TASTING NOTES



CURRENT RELEASES - LIMITED

2018 GRENACHE BLANC, ESTATE

Retail Price: \$25.00/bottle

Wine Club: \$20.00/bottle

2018 ENCHANTÉ - 91 POINTS!

Retail Price: \$28.00/bottle

Wine Club: \$22.40/bottle

2018 ROASTED SLOPE - 94 POINTS!

Retail Price: \$50.00/bottle

Wine Club: \$40.00/bottle

2018 WATCH HILL - 94 POINTS!

Retail Price: \$55.00/bottle

Wine Club: \$44.00/bottle

2018 GRENACHE- 94 POINTS!

Retail Price: \$38.00/bottle

Wine Club: \$30.40/bottle

2017 SYRAH ESTATE - 95+ POINTS!

Retail Price: \$65.00/bottle

Wine Club: \$52.00/bottle

2017 ESPÉRANCE - 93 POINTS!

Retail Price: \$36.00/bottle

Wine Club: \$28.80/bottle