

Let's *Wine*  
About it



RED BLENDS

Since the dawn of winemaking, producers have been blending red grapes to produce exciting flavors beyond that which can be achieved with a single grape varietal. Often overlooked as cheap and poor tasting, modern wine enthusiasts have come to recognize the potential of a good red blend, whether from a classic recipe or a brand new mixture. It is difficult to generalize red blends due to the immense variation between them, but be sure to keep them on your radar as a good blend definitely deserves a place in any connoisseur's cellar.

Red blends are prepared from a variety of red grapes, usually crushed and fermented individually before any blending takes place. Finding the right blend often requires blending trials, where the winemaker tastes the wine and offers suggestions for how to modify the blend. This process is more common with new world blends, whereas traditional blends such as Bordeaux or Chianti can simply be produced following age-old practices. Aging potential varies, though many high-quality red blends can be aged in oak or bottle. Flavors also vary, though in general most red blends will have notes of red or black fruit.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In order to better serve our members, we need to receive any new info and changes regarding your status (i.e., change of address, new credit card number, etc.) by the 20th of each month.

PLEASE NOTIFY US BY PHONE  
(888) 646-5446, Ext. 13.  
OR EMAIL  
club@tastemonterey.com

Any information received after the 20th of each month will not take effect until the following month. Change of address updates, for the upcoming shipment, called in after the 20th, may be subject to a special handling fee.

VISIT US ONLINE

WWW.TASTEMONTEREY.COM

Mix & Match

ANY OF THE CURRENT OR PREVIOUS CLUB WINES TO RECEIVE 25% OFF 12 BOTTLES OR 20% OFF 6

PRIVATE RESERVE CLUB	PRICES EXPIRE 05/31/2024	REGULAR PRICE*	12-BOTTLE DISCOUNT PRICE*	6-BOTTLE DISCOUNT PRICE*
Pianetta 2021 Tuscan Nights		\$50.00	\$37.50	\$40.00
Comanche 2021 Tondré Grapefield Syrah		\$38.00	\$28.50	\$30.40
Bernardus 2021 Soberanes Chardonnay		\$50.00	\$37.50	\$40.00
MARCH SELECTIONS	PRICES EXPIRE 05/31/2024			
Blue Canyon 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon		\$18.00	\$13.50	\$14.40
Silvestri 2019 Bella Sandra Chardonnay		\$45.00	\$33.75	\$36.00
Silvestri 2019 Piave Pinot Noir		\$40.00	\$30.00	\$32.00
Blue Canyon 2023 Sauvignon Blanc		\$16.00	\$12.00	\$12.80
FEBRUARY SELECTIONS	PRICES EXPIRE 04/30/2024			
Verraco Ridge 2020 Pinot Noir		\$19.00	\$14.25	\$15.20
Heart of the Matter 2021 Dolcetto Rosé		\$26.00	\$19.50	\$20.80
Pacific Valley 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon		\$26.00	\$19.50	\$20.80
Verraco Ridge 2020 Chardonnay		\$19.00	\$14.25	\$15.20
JANUARY SELECTIONS	PRICES EXPIRE 03/31/2024			
Montoya 2021 Sauvignon Blanc		\$19.00	\$14.25	\$15.20
Ranch 32 2020 Cooper's Red Blend		\$28.00	\$21.00	\$22.40
Montoya 2021 Pinot Noir		\$19.00	\$14.25	\$15.20
Ranch 32 2022 Chardonnay		\$28.00	\$21.00	\$22.40

TO ORDER, CALL TOLL-FREE: 888-646-5446  
\*PRICES LISTED REFLECT PRICE PER BOTTLE. NO OTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY.

# TASTING MONTEREY

A WINE ENTHUSIAST'S MONTHLY JOURNEY THROUGH MONTEREY'S WINE COUNTRY



Missing our view?

Check out our live webcam while you sip on some Monterey Wine.

Spring Referrals



Refer a friend to the Monterey Wine Club, and after they join, you get a \$20.00 Gift Card!



Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @atasteofmonterey



Coming April 2024

15% Off - Monterey Wine Club,  
20% Off - Club Quattro And Cellar Club  
& Free Shipping Nationwide\*  
On All Case Purchases.

Check Online for the most up-to-date inventory.

Call for special pricing on orders of 3 cases or more. Sale begins 04-01-2024 and ends 04-31-2024  
\*Shipping not available in all states

# KIRK KENNEDY

A VISUAL TASTE OF MONTEREY



There's something for club members and guests to enjoy at our wine market & bistro. Upon entering, all who visit are greeted with an exhibit showcasing local photographer, Kirk Kennedy. Keeping in theme with our establishment, the prints give a visual taste of the diverse beauty Monterey County offers. Kirk Kennedy is a native of our county, born in Monterey in 1956. He moved to Salinas and graduated from Salinas High in 1974. Kennedy learned his love for photography and the principles of film photography from his father, who had created a darkroom in the attic of their Salinas home. However, it was not until 2001 when Kennedy decided to pursue landscape photography as a profession. A period of time he describes as, "the beginning of the digital revolution away from film."



Continued Inside



# Reserve Wine Selections

## PIANETTA - 2021 Tuscan Nights



**Winery:** Pianetta Winery and Vineyard is located 15 miles north of Paso Robles, tucked into the hills of Indian Valley, where the vines enjoy daily sunshine and easy afternoon breezes. Planted in 1997 by John Pianetta, their estate was originally home to 65 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah vines. Now home to Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, and Petite Verdot, the estate fruit is hand-harvested from terraced slopes to ensure quality in the field and on the crush pad. All Pianetta wines are well-balanced with a solid fruit base, aged in dominant tight grained oak barrels, and focus on the best fruit the vineyards produce.

**Wine:** The Pianetta approach the traditional “Super Tuscan” wines of Italy. Tuscan Nights is a blend of their Estate Cabernet as well as Sangiovese and Petite Sirah from hand selected vineyards around the Central Coast area. A homage to their Italian heritage.

**Tasting Notes:** Dried cherry, raspberry and pomegranate on the nose with hints of anise and graphite. Mild tannin and fantastics tructure overthe palate with just enough acidity to brighten the finish. A warm toast characteristic on the finish makes this wine a huge crowd pleaser. A short decanting is suggested, but also a very drinkable wine for being so young. This wine no doubt lay down and become more complex for several years.

**Pianetta**  
2021  
Tuscan Nights  
**Alcohol**  
14.9%  
**AVA**  
Monterey  
**Composition**  
72% Cabernet Sauvignon  
23% Sangiovese  
5% Petite Sirah  
**Aging Potential**  
6-8 years

## COMANCHE - 2021 Tondré Syrah



**Winery:** Comanche Cellars is a winery named after Comanche, owner Michael Simons’ horse when he was ten years old. This trusty childhood companion was an important part of a young life, and his name is a loving tribute to this old friend. In his honor, Comanche Cellars wines are boldly flavored steeds, built to go the distance, with surefooted speed and confidence. Michael is proud that Comanche’s name and shoes are on every bottle of his wine.

**Vineyards:** In 1997, Tondré Grapefield was planted on 6 ½ acres. It has grown to 104 acres and rests in the heart of the Santa Lucia Highland Appellation, Monterey County. Joe Alarid currently farms a wide range of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay clones to ensure that there is a medley of fruit and sufficient Tondré pedigree character to suit vintner stylistic preferences. He also grows a very limited amount of Syrah and Riesling.

**Tasting Notes:** Inky purple in the glass, this Syrah from the iconic Tondre Grapefield in the heart of the Santa Lucia Highlands has a velvety elegance backed by flavors of exotic spices, blueberry and vanilla bean. These flavors are cloaked in bold tannins with a most satisfying finish.

**Comanche**  
2021  
Tondré Syrah  
**Alcohol**  
14.5%  
**AVA**  
Santa Lucia Highlands  
**Composition**  
100% Syrah  
**Aging Potential**  
6-8 years

## BERNARDUS - 2021 Soberanes Chardonnay



**Vineyard:** Santa Lucia Highlands’ two most renowned growers, Gary Pisoni and Gary Francioni, have joined forces on an exciting vineyard located just south of the celebrated Garys’ Vineyard in the heart of the Santa Lucia Highlands - it is called Soberanes Vineyard. Bernardus is honored to be among the few wineries to receive both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from this exciting superstar of the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation. They chose a block planted with the highly regarded Wente clone of Chardonnay which is known for its small clusters of tiny grapes. This clone, along with the highest quality farming practices, provides them with a very intense wine exhibiting the finest quality aromas and flavors.

**Winemaking:** All Bernardus Chardonnays are fermented and aged in the Burgundian tradition. As with all their grapes, their Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay grapes are hand-picked before being gently whole-cluster pressed and barrel fermented using a variety of specially selected yeasts. The Soberanes Chardonnay undergoes a complete malo-lactic fermentation which, along with hand stirring every two weeks, enhances the richness, complexity of the wine.

**Tasting Notes:** The 2021 Soberanes Chardonnay exhibits aromas of ripe white fruits, floral notes with hints of vanilla. The palate exhibits its hallmark richness and intensity showing ripe peach and yellow cherry flavors accented by subtle baking spices. The full, soft finish is long and lingering.

**Bernardus**  
2021 Soberanes  
Chardonnay  
**Alcohol**  
13.5%  
**AVA**  
Santa Lucia Highlands  
**Composition**  
100%  
Chardonnay  
**Aging Potential**  
4-6 years

Cover Article Continued



such as the weather, as well as the time of year. “To be honest, my favorite spot I keep secret because it is so spectacular and when I go there at the right time of year, I am the only person there. My other favorites are Carmel River Beach, River Road in April, vineyards in south county in the fall, and trying to get the perfect and most unique shot of Bixby Bridge, and Toro Park in the spring when the wildflowers are in bloom.”



edition is available for purchase in our wine market, in addition to breathtaking prints of various locations over Monterey County in a selection of sizes.

Kennedy began photographing different areas of Monterey County in the early 2000s and has not stopped since. “I love every inch of Monterey County. In the right conditions, any spot in the county is photogenic,” says Kennedy. With Monterey County being so large with many different types of landscape to admire, Kennedy finds perfect locations to shoot based on elements



# Entertain with Wine



## SPRING WINES

The sun is out. How long has it been? It’s still chilly, but the heavy boots can finally hit the back of the closet. This morning, it was sweater-weather, but now it’s warm and sunny. The future looks very bright.

Spring is a weird time of year. Our bank accounts have recovered from the holiday season, but there’s still no need to splurge. Buying a case of thoughtfully selected wines to get you through this turbulent weather is really the only logical option.

Our mixed case is very much inspired by the weather. It’s totally unpredictable... One moment it’s “rosé all day” and the next, “where’s my big ol’ bear-hug of a red?”

So, here are 4 of some of the best wines possible to fit this undulating, two-faced season that pair perfectly with spring’s verdant cuisine.

**Chardonnay** - *If you prefer dry wine, Chardonnay is the way to go. Said to be the crowd-pleaser of white wines, it’s a full-bodied option that completes any spring evening.*

**Rosé** - *What’s a springtime event without it? Rosé is by far the most popular choice; while it’s a dry wine, it’s also refreshing and fruity.*

**Sauvignon Blanc** - *A national favorite, Sauvignon Blanc is a must-have in your white wine collection this spring. It’s a common wine for everyday drinking, as it’s bright, fresh, and an overall lively choice.*

**Pinot Noir** - *Why is this type of wine a suitable choice for spring? It’s elegant and flavorful. Plus, it’s not too dry or too sweet tasting.*