



# PETER MICHAEL

WINERY



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## FALL LETTER, 2014

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## INTRODUCING AU PARADIS

Sir Peter's winery project started with the quest to produce a world-class Cabernet Sauvignon blend. So it was, with its first vintage in 1989, that Les Pavots became the flagship bottling from our Knights Valley estate. Also, the family's quest spawned a fascination with terroir specific wines. First with Chardonnay, and then with Pinot Noir, we created a collection of vineyard specific bottlings, with each wine reflecting an individual vineyard's distinctive character. To take this evolution full circle, the family thought it made sense to add a second Cabernet Sauvignon terroir to our collection, one that contrasts with Les Pavots. Today, we take great pleasure in introducing Au Paradis, our new estate grown Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.

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*Our newest wine, Au Paradis, rests on a bed of soil and rocks from our Oakville vineyard. This red Aiken series soil plays an important role in the meaty expression of Cabernet Sauvignon the wine presents.*

## INTRODUCING AU PARADIS

—Continued from page 1

Au Paradis is the name the family gave the Oakville vineyard we purchased in 2009. The winery had been quietly looking for a second “grand cru” quality Cabernet vineyard for several years. Winemaker, Nicolas Morlet felt strongly the deep red Aiken series soils on the east side of Napa Valley would provide the perfect contrast to the “white” decomposing Rhyolite found in the Les Pavots vineyard. According to Nick, the red, rocky soils “are an ideal mix of fractured volcanic rock with clay, silt and sand. The site possesses a naturally rich minerality, good water holding capacity and excellent drainage. The exposure is an ideal gentle western facing slope.”

The property is located on the east side of the Oakville appellation in the heart of Oakville’s famed “red dirt.” It sits at 600 feet above sea level on a rocky plateau overlooking the junction of the Silverado Trail and the Oakville Crossroad. Neighboring vineyards include Dalla Valle to the north and Joseph Phelps’ Backus to the south.

*Right: The Au Paradis vineyard sits on a raised plateau some 300 feet above the floor of the Napa Valley on the east side of the Oakville AVA.*

*Below: The red soil of Oakville (left) and the lighter decomposing Rhyolite of our Knights Valley property (right) contrast vividly as do the resulting wines.*





Since the purchase we have been busy improving what was already a very highly regarded growing site. We removed eight acres of unsuitable vines in preparation for future replanting, completely replaced the trellis system on the remaining 18 acres, reengineered the drainage and irrigation systems, drilled a new well and added adequate water storage capacity, built a new vineyard shop building, and resurfaced all of the vineyard roads. At the same time, the vines were lavished in the hands-on attention of Vineyard Manager Javier Avina and his team as they brought the farming up to PMW's exacting standards.

We passed on making wine from the vineyard in 2010, but were confident that the 2011 vintage put the vineyard's best foot forward and provided a suitable debut for our new Au Paradis bottling. The wine itself is 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Cabernet Franc, and packed with the meaty expression of these varietals that typifies the wines from the red Aiken series soils.

Invariably, the question will be asked, between Les Pavots and Au Paradis, which is better? Frankly, the family views them as equals; two great wines coming from two equally great but different vineyard sites. Perhaps, our Winemaker, Nicolas Morlet said it best, "Which do you like better, Mozart or Beethoven?" Both are classic. Both are excellent. Any measure of relative merit is ultimately a matter of personal preference.

#### PETER MICHAEL FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Peter Michael Foundation is successfully engaged in: HELPING prostate cancer patients with information and referrals to the best hospitals and doctors in the US.

UNDERWRITING innovative, patient-centered research for the improved identification and non-invasive treatment and management of prostate cancer.

CREATING collaborative programs of the leading international radiologists and urologists resulting in the exchange of knowledge and peer-reviewed papers published in recognized medical journals.

Please visit [www.petermichaelfoundation.org](http://www.petermichaelfoundation.org) to learn more or contact [walter@petermichaelfoundation.org](mailto:walter@petermichaelfoundation.org) for assistance.

When we purchased the vineyard, Sir Peter summed up the family's excitement this way, "The Oakville property is a perfect addition to our existing estate vineyards in Knights Valley and the Sonoma Coast. The new vineyard will allow us to produce a separate, contrasting bottling from one of Napa's most heralded terroirs."

Paul Michael gives the family's thoughts on the release of the new wine, "It's very exciting to see and taste this first new Cabernet Sauvignon since the beginning of the Peter Michael Winery story. When at home, a glass of Au Paradis alongside a glass of Les Pavots is the perfect way to be reminded of the paradise that Sonoma and Napa are for great wine."

Join us as we raise a glass to this first release and eagerly look forward to future vintages. Santé. ■



## THE STORY BEHIND THE NAME

*The literal translation of "Au Paradis" is "in paradise" or "in heaven." Like the rest of our wines, the name is in French. This convention is an acknowledgement of the inspiration we take from the great wines of France. Also, like the rest of our wines, there is a story behind the name. Paul and Emily's youngest son gets credit for providing the inspiration for this one.*

*Every August, three generations of Michaels vacation at the Knights Valley estate. One of their traditions is to camp out on a knoll on the property at two thousand feet above sea level. Sir Peter is an avid amateur astronomer and this spot is the perfect place to enjoy the annual Perseid meteor shower. They lie looking up at the natural fireworks and eventually drift off to sleep. One year, they awoke to discover they were on an island in the sky, with a sea of fog below them, and a bright new day above. "Are we in heaven?" the 6-year old asked. Paul and Emily chose to name our newest wine in honor of that magical moment and feel it is emblematic of the family's deep love for and connection to their California estate.*

## 2014 FALL RELEASE

### 2011 AU PARADIS

#### *Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon*

Deep, dense ruby color, Au Paradis offers stunning notes of black currant, black cherry, chocolate, licorice, cloves, cinnamon and subtle aromas of cassis bud and earth. In the mouth, the texture is velvety and loaded with cassis, game, iron-minerals, black cherry liqueur and plum eau-de-vie. Round, refined, complex, meaty with incredible length: these are the best words to define the mouth feel and finish of the 2011 Au Paradis. It will continue to age gracefully for three decades or more.



### 2011 L'ESPRIT DES PAVOTS

#### *Estate Vineyard Cabernet Blend*

Deep black with a ruby hue and crimson rim, the 2011 L'Esprit des Pavots has an intense nose of black currant, blueberry, vanilla bean, licorice, chocolate, cedar and coffee. The fruit of the younger vines brings additional aroma of red cherry, plum, black truffle and red pepper to the complex bouquet. The palate is full-bodied, rich and concentrated, exhibiting abundant, youthful and supple tannins alongside a lingering finish. Fruit forward and enjoyable at release, this wine will age well for a decade.



### 2013 L'APRÈS-MIDI

#### *Estate Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc*

Intense and multi-layered, the bouquet is dominated by mineral, jasmine, vine blossom, yellow nettle blossom, honeysuckle, lemon, lime, white peach and white currant; completed by touches of dry honey and candied anise. Rich and zesty, the flavors are reminiscent of the aromas with additional papaya, passion fruit, fresh almond, nougat and mineral notes. The



strong mineral background balances the richness, giving a superb refinement. The finish is layered, long and elegant. The wine will benefit from two years of cellaring and will age gracefully for a decade or more.

### 2012 MA DANSEUSE

#### *Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir*

Ma Danseuse charms with its 'Jeu de Couleur' of red ruby color and red-crimson color. The nose exhibits a bouquet of roses, raspberry, Griotte cherry, strawberry, forest floor and a subtle note of violet. Delicate, fragrant, complete and refined, 2012 Ma Danseuse has in the palate a wonderful concentration of red fruits, red rose blossoms, with subtle notes of Asian spices, embracing a silky texture and lingering aromatic finish. It will continue to express its potential for two decades.



### 2012 CLOS DU CIEL

#### *Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir*

Offering elegance, complexity, richness and long ability to age, the 2012 Clos du Ciel is an exceptional wine. It has a red-ruby color with a purple aristocratic hue. The nose is filled with aromas of raspberry liqueur, black cherry, wild strawberry, black truffle, with earth and leather notes. Balanced and rich in the mouth, the notes of delicate red forest fruits and violet scents are stunning with earthy and gamey components, which complete the intense mouth feel. The texture of Clos du Ciel is sensual, silky and stylish with an impressive length. It will require a couple of years of cellaring to develop its bouquet and remarkable potential.



### 2012 MON PLAISIR

#### *Estate Vineyard Chardonnay*

True to its name, the wine is indeed a pleasure: intense and perfumed. Mon Plaisir 2012 displays an exquisite bouquet of lemon cream, fresh butter and candied grapefruit,



with subtle notes of spring flowers. The palate is rich, full-bodied and creamy with beautiful hints of fresh lemons, pear, whole nut and brioche. A mineral character with hints of pain grillé and hazelnut complete the mouth feel of this wine and its long finish. It will age for a decade and more.

### 2012 MA BELLE-FILLE

#### *Estate Vineyard Chardonnay*

The 2012 Ma Belle-Fille is spectacularly intense, boasting aromas of ripe peach, tangerine blossom, pastry element such as a Napoleon cake, golden apple and nectarine, accented with oyster shell minerality and brioche. Generous in the mouth, rich and concentrated, the wine displays flavors of William pear, honey, dried almond, meringue, dry chamomile, orange rind and notes of baked Reinette apple. In the mouth, the wine is tactile, gourmand and extremely pure. Layered and seductive, the finish is very long. Ma Belle-Fille 2012 will age gracefully for two decades.



### 2012 POINT ROUGE

#### *Estate Vineyard Chardonnay*

The 2012 Point Rouge is an exceptional wine, offering elegance, complexity and richness. The nose is filled with aromas of ripe apple, citrus oils, orange rind, William pear, dried apricot and acacia honey. Seamless and rich in the mouth, notes of coconut, crème brûlée, honeysuckle, chestnut skin, vanilla and white truffle are framed with an oyster shell minerality. The wine offers a rare harmony as well as extraordinary tactile persistence. Already refined, the wine will gain even more complexity in 4-5 years and should continue to age gracefully for three decades.



“Mountain vineyards, classical winemaking, limited production”



PETER MICHAEL  
WINERY

12400 IDA CLAYTON RD.  
KNIGHTS VALLEY  
CALISTOGA, CA 94515

800-354-4459

FAX 707-942-0209

[petermichaelwinery.com](http://petermichaelwinery.com)

[facebook.com/petermichaelwine](https://facebook.com/petermichaelwine)

WRITTEN BY  
THE STAFF AT  
PETER MICHAEL WINERY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
ALAN CAMPBELL  
MJ WICKHAM  
OLAF BECKMANN

DESIGN BY  
LEANNE SCHY