

BECAUSE IT'S
AFTERNOON
SOMEWHERE

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TERROIR

FALL 2020

PETER MICHAEL WINERY



A MESSAGE FROM THE MICHAEL FAMILY

As we imagine for many of you, the last few months have been challenging and full of uncertainty. While sheltered here at home in the UK, our eldest son, who was quarantined at university, has thankfully recovered from the virus and returned home along with our daughter who was traveling abroad in Australia. With all three of our “big kids” safely home, this has been an unexpected extended time together. We thought such days were in the past but instead find they are a source of joy, assisted by the “occasional” bottle of Peter Michael wine, during these bewildering times. Every day we count our blessings and our thoughts are with every one of you experiencing loss and difficulty at the moment.

We miss our extended family, our friends and we miss the company of the teams at each of our family businesses. During this time, we have worked tirelessly to reimagine operations to accommodate the “new norm”. The Vineyard Hotel and Donnington Valley Hotel, Golf Course and Spa here in the UK, have now been closed for months. We stay positive with plans afoot for the possibility of reopening later this summer. And in California, the Peter Michael Foundation has been unable to host our annual culinary events that support prostate cancer research. However, our dedicated team remains positive, and we are looking forward to announcing new and exciting programs to engage our donors. Meanwhile, the science continues.

This is the first time in 37 years that we have not been able to visit the Peter Michael Winery, our home away from home, in Springtime. We are very happy to report that the team has maintained their seasonal routines, albeit under the new health guidelines, thanks to the commitment and careful planning of the management, vineyard and winemaking teams. The seasons continue, unfettered by the crisis, with Spring blooms well advanced in the garden and the vineyards as we write this. And by the way, in this physically distanced world, our many rows of vines are spaced 7 feet apart!

In addition, we are thrilled to introduce our new winemaker, Robert Fiore, through this editorial, highlighting his spectacular background in geology. Robert will continue our work producing wines of uncompromised qual-



ity from the three estates. Along with our longstanding production and winemaking teams, Associate Winemaker Emily Raab and Cellar Master Rafa Aviña, Robert will also have the ongoing support of Luc and Nicolas Morlet, who continue in their roles as Consultant Winemakers. The team is going from strength to strength, combining decades of experience and knowledge of winemaking with the unique terroir that is the Peter Michael Winery.

With this news, we are delighted to share the release of the Peter Michael Winery Fall offering of wines. Soon hopefully, bottles of wine the world over will be able to resume their special purpose in life, their “raison d’être”: to be shared with family and friends reuniting over good food and special times. May this selection of wines contribute to your reconnection with loved ones, to your celebrations, and the joy of life.

Stay healthy, and we hope to see you soon.

With our gratitude,

Paul & Emily Michael

Above: Second-generation Michael family. From left: Paul, Mylo, Elliot, Anna, and Emily Michael.

Cover: In advance of harvest, the vineyard teams walk through the undulating slopes of the Knights Valley Estate.



The profile of the final wine is dominant Sauvignon Blanc with a pure mineral expression of oyster shell and granite with multidimensional aromas, releasing an energetic, vibrant nose distinctive of spring flowers. The texture and overall structure are uplifted by Sémillon which shows gratuitous honey aromatics along with apricot and quince. Length is an inherent feature of Peter Michael wines and L'Après-Midi is no exception, balanced with lively Malic acid, lending to a refined finish.

Above: A view of several L'Après-Midi blocks. Sustainability farming and land management are important elements in the preservation of both estate's terroir and its native wildlife.

True to the gastronomic whites of Bordeaux, L'Après-Midi is best introduced in “The Afternoon” over cuisine. “I will never forget the summer of 1996, our engagement year, and the family introduction to the Winery and Ranch. We were sitting on the Main House deck for lunch with Pete and Maggie, my ‘in-law’s’ to be, and with the breathtaking backdrop of Mount St. Helena”, reflects Emily Michael. “Pete raised a glass, saying, ‘Emily, let me introduce you to L'Après-Midi, and do you know why it is called L'Après-Midi?’ It was indeed the afternoon, and that was my response. To which he replied, ‘Ah yes, it is indeed the afternoon, but it is always the afternoon somewhere in the world, so this is a wine that you can always drink, at any time of day!’”



2020 FALL RELEASE TASTING NOTES

2017 'AU PARADIS' ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON OAKVILLE, NAPA VALLEY

With a near-black ruby color and violet highlights, 2017 Au Paradis is packed with aromas of black currant and crème de cassis with meaty nuances and touches of plum brandy, vanilla, allspice, and red rose. The flavors mirror the nose with juicy black currant and additional notes of fresh leather, black olive, framed with plentiful, but fine-grained tannins with iron-like background minerality. The mouthfeel is round, refined, and complex with an incredible length of finish. Approachable now, the wine will reward five years of cellaring and will continue to age gracefully for two decades or more.

2017 'L'ESPRIT DES PAVOTS' ESTATE CABERNET BLEND 10 KNIGHTS VALLEY, SONOMA

Generously rich and intense, 2017 L'Esprit des Pavots greets the eye with a near-black color and highlights of crimson ruby. The wine displays blueberry, blackberry, black cherry, hallmarks of the Les Pavots terroir, along with plum, with hints of mocha and vanilla bean. The Oakville Estate terroir brings notes of currant and crème de cassis with meaty nuances. The palate is full-bodied and concentrated, exhibiting savory notes of leather, tobacco, and white pepper and accents of chestnut, black truffle, cedar, and supple tannins with a lingering finish. Fruit forward and enjoyable at release, this wine should age gracefully for ten years or more.

2019 'L'APRES-MIDI' ESTATE SAUVIGNON BLANC KNIGHTS VALLEY, SONOMA

Visually compelling with a translucent, silver color accented by a bright, pale golden hue. The bouquet is reminiscent of neroli, expressing vine and orange blossom along with a vibrant oyster shell and granitic minerality heightened by fresh lime and lemon fruit, and gooseberry with a touch of pine needle and verbena. The flavors are introduced with a touch of freshness and glycerol, carrying elegant white spring flowers – jasmine and white vine rose with a resounding array of fruits, Vosges lemon candy, gooseberry, grapefruit

to mandarin petite grain, bitter orange and Muscat and guava. The finish is balanced, precise, mineral-driven, and elegant, revealing white currant, Marlow flower, apricot, acacia honey, and quince paste. The 2019 L'Après-Midi will benefit from several years of cellaring to develop further complexity.

2018 'MON PLAISIR' ESTATE CHARDONNAY KNIGHTS VALLEY, SONOMA

True to its name this wine is indeed a pleasure: intense and fragrant. The 2018 Mon Plaisir displays an explosion of fresh butter, orchard fruits, honey, white rose, jasmine with subtle notes of greengage. The palate is rich, full-bodied, and creamy with beautiful hints of fresh lemon, pear, apple, and fresh almond. A mineral character coated by 'Pain d'épices', crystallized Tahitian vanilla, and cloves complete the mouthfeel of this wine and its long finish with complementary accents reminiscent of a forest after the rain. Enjoyable now, it will age for a decade or more.

2018 'MA BELLE-FILLE' ESTATE CHARDONNAY KNIGHTS VALLEY, SONOMA

The 2018 Ma Belle-Fille expresses nuances and complexity of dough, jasmine, pineapple, fresh pear, pastry elements, golden apple, and nectarine accentuated by elegant minerality. Generous on the palate, rich with a creamy texture and multilayered, the wine displays brioche, orange blossom, dry honey, almond, nougat, vanilla, and clove. A pure expression of the Terroir of Ma Belle-Fille—gourmand, elegant, and mineral, the finish is slightly oily, classic, and very long. The wine will age gracefully for two decades.

2018 'POINT ROUGE' ESTATE CHARDONNAY KNIGHTS VALLEY, SONOMA

Offering a vast array of complexity, richness, and yet elegance, the 2018 Point Rouge is an exceptional wine. The nose is filled with aromas of Neroli, fresh pear and apple, orange rind, and honey. Seamless and rich in the mouth, expressing an opulent style with subtle notes of Mangosteen, nougat, brioche, jasmine, and white rose framed with oyster shell minerality. The wine offers a rare complexity—harmony as well as an extraordinary tactile persistence with the heavenly presence of rare Boronia flowers, alongside toasted hazelnut and almond. This masterpiece will gain even more complexity in 4-5 years and should continue to age gracefully for two decades or more.

Please note, the winery elected not to produce Seaview Estate Pinot Noir in 2018, including 'Ma Danseuse', 'Le Caprice', and 'Clos du Ciel' Estate Pinot Noirs.

Introducing

WINEMAKER ROBERT FIORE

What started with my first geologic hammer as a 13th birthday present blossomed into a lifelong exploration of the natural world and ultimately a quest for understanding terroir. Following seven years of technical geologic studies at universities, I found myself investigating geologic basins and rock outcrops around the world. The connection between wine and terroir became a fascination which I examined as part of my graduate studies in viticulture and enology at UC Davis; four months working in the Cote d'Or as a Confrèrie des Chevaliers du Tastevin Fellowship Laureate allowed me to taste the wines, dig in the ¹² soil and discuss the connection between wine and the land with local vignerons, some whose families had worked the same land for nearly three hundred years.

When I first viewed the Estate vineyards at Peter Michael Winery, I turned to our vineyard manager Javier and asked, "how is this possible?!". The stunning hillside mountain vineyards on the western flank of Mount St. Helena are a terroiriste's dream come true. Mountain vineyards provide a unique combination of soils, weather, and elevation that result in the vines struggling and expressing their individual terroirs. From the gentler slopes of Les Pavots to the Hermitage-like grandeur of La Carriere, I could see I had found my lifework. Living at the Estate for over three months has allowed me to explore the volcanic, white rhyolitic tuff and black, brown, and dark green obsidian strewn vineyards of Les Pavots, La Carrière, Belle-Côte, Mon Plaisir and Ma Belle-Fille. ■

Donna Reid ADIYL Photography



Robert Fiore reviews one of seven soil pits dug throughout Vineyard 9. His findings will lend to creating new Chardonnays from the site.



*Rocky, red
Boomer loam
soils of the
Oakville
Estate.*

AN EXPRESSION OF THREE VINTAGES

WHILE THE WINTER OF 2019 was wet with generous amounts of rainfall, the rocky, volcanic soil, and subsoils of our estates were able to drain efficiently, releasing the excessive moisture content in the soil. From the physiological steps of bud break to veraison, the temperatures were variable with some lows and highs. The subsequent long and quite mild summer was ideal to preserve freshness and finesse. The yields were average, but picking decisions and proper sorting were critical to achieving wines of balance, ripeness, generosity, and elegance.

THE 2018 GROWING SEASON began with abundant winter rainfall. Spring weather was cool and blooming, while delayed a bit, took place in almost perfect conditions resulting in an ideal fruit set. The vines were vigorous thanks to the winter rains. Aggressive canopy management and fruit thinning brought ¹⁵ the crop into optimal balance. Summer temperatures were moderate with no severe heat spikes. An extended summer allowed our Chardonnay to gradually reach perfect ripeness. The moderate temperatures permitted a gradual harvest, resulting in an elegant vintage with classic flavors and excellent concentration.

THE 2017 GROWING SEASON began with abundant rainfall, ending California's long drought. Spring weather was cool, delaying bud-break slightly. Warmer weather in mid-May insured even blooming and an average-sized fruit set. Vines were vigorous thanks to the winter rains. Meticulous canopy management and fruit thinning brought the crop into optimal balance. Warmer than normal conditions after veraison accelerated ripening and required judicious irrigation to mitigate dehydration. As harvest approached, the return of cooler conditions allowed the fruit to gradually reach perfect ripeness. Picking was completed on September 29 with an average-sized crop, giving us a vintage of exceptional quality. ■

JAVIER AVIÑA, VINEYARD MANAGER



For over 25 years, Javier has led our estate vineyard teams of forty full-time employees to oversee everything from developing new sites to seasonal upkeep. As of late spring, here are the latest updates from vintage 2020.

Overall, the growing season started with moderate temperatures, followed by periods of rain and heat spikes which have not caused any concerns. Teams across the three estates are managing shoot positioning and suckering.

KNIGHTS VALLEY WINERY

ESTATE, SONOMA, CALISTOGA:

All varieties are in bloom. Chardonnay is typically the first to bloom,

while Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon grow at a similar pace to the red Bordeaux varieties. At Vineyard 9, the newest development, the two water tanks have been installed and the grafting of additional Chardonnay continues. New plantings will also be introduced to three redeveloped blocks this July. Soil pits have been dug (see page 13) to analyze the soil structure and ensure that the most appropriate clones are planted and what organic soil amendments may be needed.

OAKVILLE ESTATE, NAPA VALLEY: The grafting over of some Cabernet Franc to additional Cabernet Sauvignon has been successful as often a small percentage will not 'take'. Due to the warmer location, all of the red Bordeaux varieties planted started to bloom earlier than Knights Valley. The yields and quality look excellent with approximately 1-2 clusters per shoot.

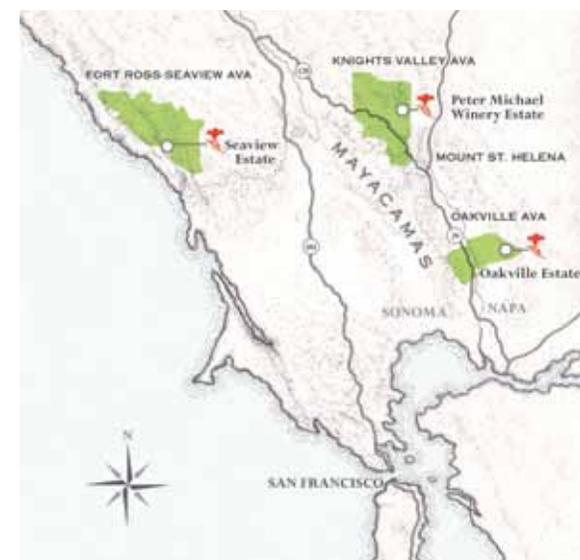
SEAVIEW ESTATE, SONOMA COAST: The Pinot Noir is in 99% bloom except for a block in the lower elevations of the site. The estate received over two inches of rain during the spring months, which is not typical and is enough to maintain reservoir levels following a mild winter, and allow for early irrigation. ■

Commitment to Land Conservation & Stewardship

The responsibility to steward these remarkable estates, spanning three appellations, is a foundation of our work here. The youngest among us have grown up walking barefoot on this earth, breathing in the fragrance of bay laurel and Douglas fir, and sleeping on the side of this mountain under the world of stars that are hidden to us in our everyday lives in England. It's a treasured part of our lives, and we protect it with intention and care.

With over 1,100 acres spanning three estates, less than 200 acres are planted to vines, and the remaining acreage has been set aside as a wildlife corridor. To further preserve the uninhibited nature of the 'terroir', our vineyards are tended with carefully calibrated, sustainable methods that protect waterways and wildlife and the native forests of redwood and oak that were here long before we were. We honor the health of the ecosystem here and believe that our ability to create exceptional wine is entirely dependent on our stewardship of the land that produces it.

In 2004, our Knights Valley Estate was the first estate to meet the requirements of the Fish Friendly Farming Certification which represents a commitment to utilizing practices that aid in restoring fish and wildlife habitats and improving water quality. In 2007, the Seaview Estate was certified and soon, we are proud to share, our Oakville Estate will be as well. With this rigorous certification, each estate vineyard also qualifies to receive the California Sustainable Vineyards certification. To further our sustainable efforts, in 2014, we installed solar panels to supply 90% of power to the winery estate, and have a history of replanting native plant species in the Knights Valley and Seaview Estates. ■



A 'Thank You' to our Guests



In the wake of the 2017 wildfires, with a commitment to pass the monies onto charitable foundations, we instituted a \$100 guest fee for the by-appointment-only tour and tasting experience hosted at our winery estate in Knights Valley, Sonoma.

To date, we are proud to share that a total of \$248K has been distributed to a diversity of aid from fire relief victims to agricultural workers and now, COVID-19 recovery. We would like to thank all of you that have visited the winery and extend our deepest gratitude for your support of these important causes that give back to our communities. Thank you.

Peter Michael Foundation 2019 Year in Review



While coronavirus is top-of-mind, cancer continues. As uncertain as the current landscape is, we know that medical experts and teams of professionals around the globe are working around the clock to harness this dreadful virus and develop a vaccine so we can all get back to our lives. And we will get back to our lives. Back to our families, back to work, our routines, and our continued commitment to the foundation, with more passion than ever to support the sciences and to heal. Our dedicated partners and specialists continue their work with Dr. Lary Fong, University of California San Francisco, reporting his progress in immunotherapy treatment in prostate cancer while Dr. Sanjiv 'Sam' Gambhir, Chairman of Radiology at Stanford University Medical Center has made newsworthy progress in his truly pioneering work in ultrasound and photoacoustic imaging of prostate cancer. To read more, visit [www. PeterMichaelFoundation.org](http://www.PeterMichaelFoundation.org) to review the 2019 PMF Science Report.

With the postponement of the Stars Miami culinary fundraiser, we continue to work endlessly to create new ways to continue our mission and raise funds for the countless medical professionals tirelessly working to save lives impacted by cancer. As we collaborate with our foundation Chefs and friends at Peter Michael Winery to reinvent our Stars experience, if your situation permits, please continue to offer your support by donating to the Peter Michael Foundation.

While difficult now, we know the storm will pass and some good will come of it. Hopefully, we'll be better prepared institutionally and be kinder and gentler to each other individually.

On behalf of Paul and Emily and the Foundation, we all are deeply grateful for your support, encouragement, and engagement. It is all of you that help us help others.

Walter B. Menzel
Founding Executive Director
Walter@PeterMichaelFoundation.org

*‘Dream lofty dreams,
and as you dream, so you
shall become...’*

~ James Allen



PETER MICHAEL
WINERY

