



Avalon Wine Club News

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541-752-7418

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Reserve Pinot Noir Club Brooks, Stag Hollow, McKinlay

Hello Wine Club Members from Jean, Ann, and Carl at Avalon! It's been a hot hot summer here, and some of you may wait awhile before the heat moderates and we ship these selections. Believe us, it will be worth the wait!

This month's winemakers are Oregon up-and-comers who produce beautiful wines. We Feature each winemaker's very best wine: Jimi Brooks' "Janus", Marke Kinne's "Special Selection", and Jill and Mark's Stag Hollow Reserve, normally only available to restaurants.

Jimi Brooks was assistant winemaker at Willakenzie for 4 years, working with Laurent Montalieu. Jimi is now winemaker and vineyard manager at Maysara Estate Winery.



Jimi met Mo Montazi shortly after Mo purchased the land for Maysara Estates in 1997. When Montazi began his search for a winemaker, he went to Brooks. Happy to work in both vineyards and winery, Brooks left Willakenzie, where he worked primarily in the winery.

"We hit it off right away," said Brooks. "We have similar interests and similar approaches to farming and winemaking. Mo wanted to start organic farming from the get-go and be as non-intrusive to the land as possible.

Today, Jimi not only makes the wines for Maysara, but also makes a small amount of wine under his own label, "**Brooks**". When asked what makes his wines memorable, Brooks smiles and says, "It's the land coming through."

Jill Zarnowitz and Mark Huff of **Stag Hollow Wines & Vineyard** make wine from their 34 acre estate vineyard. Wine Spectator has rated numerous of their wines over 90 points, and most recently, their 2000 Cuvee PN received 90 points. Their "Reserve" received a Gold Medal at the 2003 Northwest Wine Summit.

The grapes in the Stag Hollow vineyard are planted very close together, more than 3000 plants per acre. Nine different clones (types) of Pinot noir are currently planted. Jill and Mark revisit the vineyards many times during harvest, picking only the ripest clusters, returning again as more clusters are ready for harvest. This hand-selection results in grapes that produce rich, ripe flavored Pinot noir. The different clones and the different kinds of French Oak barrels, as well as the fact that their Pinots are neither fined nor filtered, make their wines complex, with big black fruit and berry flavors.

In good years they make a very limited amount of a "Reserve" wine, usually only sold to restaurants. We are so happy to provide our club members with this wine.

Mark Kinne provides our third Pinot noir for August. His "Special Selection" 00 received 93 points in Wine Spectator.

Northwest "Big Reds" Club Sheridan, Dunham, Townshend

Some wines take a little longer to get to market. Such a wine is the **Townshend Cellar** Cabernet Sauvignon 98. While most wineries are offering their 00 vintage, Townshend still offers their balanced and sophisticated Cabernet Sauvignon 1998.

Townshend Cellar is a family owned and operated business. The family consists of Don and Michelle Townshend and sons, Brendon and Michael. They became a bonded winery in 1998, but have been producing small amounts of personal use wines since the early 1990's.

Sheridan Vineyard is a new winery with a 92 point Red wine as their first offering. The vineyard supplies such wineries as Quliceda Creek and Andrew Will with grapes, and the site's terroir expresses itself profoundly in the wine. For a relatively young vineyard, the grapes are producing complex and richly textured wines. A winery to watch.

Dunham Winery is well known as one of Walla Walla's real success stories. **Eric Dunham**, a native to the Walla Walla area, grew up with the passion to make wine. After serving four years in the Navy and then graduating in 1994 from Walla Walla Community College with his AAAS degree in Irrigation Technology he was asked the question of what he wanted to do.



"Make wine," he said.

He followed his passion and began a seven-month internship with Hogue Cellars where he was trained in all phases of winemaking. Upon completion of his internship, he was employed by L'Ecole No. 41 winery in Lowden, WA as the assistant winemaker for four years.

During that time he began producing his own wine, beginning with 200 cases and increasing every year. Soon his production outgrew the L'Ecole facility and in 1999, Eric along with his parents, Mike & Joanne Dunham, opened their own winery at the Walla Walla Regional Airport.

The 2000 "Trutina" was originally made under the "tre Marie" label, and has now been merged into the Dunham name. We are so grateful to Dunham for releasing enough of this wonderful wine for our club to enjoy. A very small amt is available for purchase if you would like more.

**Reserve
Pinot Noir Club™**
Brooks "Janus" 01
Stag Hollow Reserve
McKinlay
Special Selection 00

**Northwest
Big Reds Club™**
Dunham Trutina 00
Sheridan "Red" 00
Townshend Cellars
Cabernet 98

**Northwest
New Discoveries
Club™**
Cougar Crest Cab Franc
Terrapin Pinot noir 01

**Northwest
Dessert Wine Club™**
Covey Run
Morio Muscat
Stangeland Chardonnay
"Decadence"

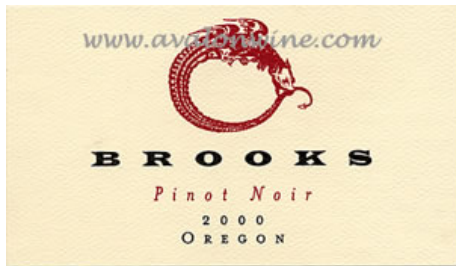
Reserve Pinot Noir Club– Brooks, Stag Hollow, McKinlay

Brooks “Janus” Pinot Noir 01 \$30



This is the wine that Jimi calls his best. Here are his comments on the 2001 Janus:

“Janus..... Is the richest, most vibrant and intense pieces of the cellar blended together to create the most complete wine possible. I believe that every vineyard has its own unique characteristics, but for me, these are pieces of a larger landscape. Together as a blend they stand taller with more complex flavors and a greater depth. The name “Janus” itself is taken from Roman mythology and is the God of good new beginnings as well as endings.....enjoy! “



Stag Hollow Pinot Noir Reserve \$39

2003 NW Wine Summit Gold Medal.

Artistic blend of nine Dijon and other pinot noir clones that complements the complex and diverse flavor profiles offered by these clones.

Yields severely cropped to ~ 2 tons/ac at Stag Hollow Vineyards, pinot noir grapes were harvested over 2 frantic days in early October just before the first rains of the season. The harvested grapes showed stunning flavor complexity and perfect sweetness at 23.0%-23.4% Brix, and balanced pH (3.3 to 3.4).

Classic pinot noir characteristics, including seductive, silky and complex layering of fruit and spices.

Tasting notes: Ripe fruit flavors of blueberry, anise/licorice and a hint of mint show up-front with a very long spice finish.

The 34 acre Stag Hollow vineyard estate is slowly being planted to better understand terroir and grape variety interactions at the site. Today, nine different clones of pinot noir grape vines, including five of the newly introduced French Dijon clones, are planted. Other grape varieties planted in the vineyard are chardonnay, including four of the newly introduced French Dijon clones, muscat ottonel, early muscat, and experimental blocks of northern Italian grape types.

The winery has maintained a natural habitat for wildlife to enhance biological diversity and improve water quality. In the vineyard, the owners limit the amount of chemicals used and maintain cover crops to prevent erosion and enhance soil health. Ten acres of the estate have been designated as a wildlife preserve.



McKinlay Pinot Noir Special Selection 2000 \$30

Wine Spectator rating 93 points.

Wine Spectator says:

"Not a big wine, but beautifully balanced to make the flavors persist and fan out on the finish. Centered around plum, raspberry and spicy cream flavors, it has fine tannins that don't get in the way. Drink now through 2007. 250 cases made. (HS)"

In the early 1900's George Angus McKinlay ministered to his flock at the Zena church and dry-farmed cherries, apples, prunes and nuts on well drained volcanic soils on east facing slopes in the Eola Hills, in Oregon's Willamette Valley. He welcomed winter rains, battled springtime frost and predation of local deer, thanked the good Lord for warm summer sun and prayed it would last long enough to harvest ripe crops.

Reverend McKinlay has long rested in the church-side cemetery at Zena and the original family farm is now part of a 4-H camp. But the risk and rewards of farming are pursued by great-grandson Matt Kinne on the southeast facing slopes of Parrett Mountain in the Chehalem Range, 20 miles southwest of Portland, OR. McKinlay was an obvious moniker for the winery, founded in 1987, celebrating a return by the clan to agriculture and the Eola Hills were an early source of grapes for many of our wines of the late '80's and early '90's. In an additional twist of fate, the original McKinlay farm would have made fine Pinot noir due to it's soils, elevation and exposure.



The new McKinlay farm was founded on 32 acres in 1989. Vines for the Estate vineyard were first planted in 1990 and the below ground cellar and family home were built the following year. While early vintages included Pinot gris and Chardonnay, since 1995 Pinot noir has been the sole focus.

The Estate vineyard provides 50% of fruit needs and the balance is grown in three other vineyards, all within the Chehalem Mountain range. Production currently hovers around 1000 cases per year and will slowly climb toward 2000 cases as additional plantings at the winery reach production.

Big Reds Club— Dunham, Sheridan, and Townshend Cellars

Dunham "Trutina" Meritage Blend 00 \$39

42% Merlot 45% Cabernet Sauvignon
13% Cabernet Franc

Tasting Notes:

Ripe blackberry, new leather, wildflowers, and sweet violet in the nose lead to a rich yet structured plum and blackberry mouth, teamed with hints of black cherry and mint, riding over finely woven velvet tannins guided by viscous, rich fruit. Approachable now, but will improve for 8-10+ years.



Vineyards:
Harold Pleasant
Grow Place
Cowan Hills
Pepper Bridge
Gordon Brothers

Cases produced: 5710

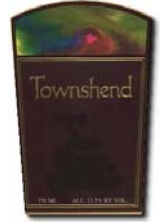
Bottled: March, 2002

Oak: 100% French (85% new)



Townshend Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon 98 \$34

Wine Press NW "Fat Cabs" Judging: Top rated "outstanding": "All five voting judges felt this glorious wine was outstanding. Beginning with a cornucopia of aromas that includes tobacco leaf, black walnut, vanilla and oak and leading to ever-so-smooth and voluptuous fruity flavors. The finish included chocolate with an intriguing toasty farewell."



From the winery: "Deep integrated scents of plum, black cherry, dark roast coffee, sweet tobacco and toasty oak provide the nose of this full bodied red wine. On the palate soft tannins blend with the flavors of black cherry, plum, chocolate and licorice. Nuances of soft oak, mocha and spice linger on the smooth long finish."

The Townshend Cellar 1998 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is produced from fruit harvested from vineyards in Prosser and Pasco. It is a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc and 6% Merlot. The wine was aged for 30 months in mostly new small French and American oak barrels. It underwent 100% malolactic fermentation. 375 cases produced.

Townshend Cellar is located in the far Eastern part of Washington State, above Spokane. A tiny winery whose first vintage was released last year, their Cabernet 98 received the top rating from Wine Press NW magazine in June 2003. They also make succulent and richly flavored Syrah, Merlot, and Chardonnay.

Townshend Cellar's proximity to Idaho and the area where wild huckleberries are harvested gave them a unique chance to make a number of huckleberry wines. Their Huckleberry Port and Huckleberry Blush are hits with fans of this hard to find berry.

Beginning in 1998 Townshend Cellar became an official bonded winery producing small lots of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Custom crushing and pressing was done for us in the Tri-Cities, WA. area and barrel storage took place at our residence in the Greenbluff area. In 1999 port was added to our wine varieties. The year 2000 we added Chardonnay to our portfolio, our first white wine produced. Another batch of Huckleberry port-style wine was also produced in 2000. Adding to our portfolio in 2001, is our first vintage of Syrah.

Sheridan Vineyard "Red" 00 \$35

Wine Spectator rating 92 points

Delicious wine from a new winery—very exciting project, this vineyard site shows tremendous promise.

Sheridan Vineyard is a family owned vineyard and winery in the heart of the Yakima Valley, outside Zillah. The vineyard provides grapes to wineries such as Quilceda Creek and Andrew Will, and has now started to produce a small amount of Estate wine.



The property was purchased in 1997 and the family planted the first four acres in April of that same year with Cabernet Sauvignon. Now with the 2003 growing season upon us, out of the seventy-six total acres, Sheridan Vineyard currently has fifty-five acres bearing fruit. Over the next four years, the entire vineyard will come into full production, planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Syrah.

With the combination of Sheridan's climate, 1,200-foot elevation, and shallow rocky soils, it makes for one of Washington's premiere vineyard sites.



"Wine Spectator says: "This will be a sizeable operation when all 76 acres of the vineyard near Zillah are producing, but this first effort, from Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Merlot vines planted in 1997, marks this label as one to watch. Rich and aristocratic, it is utterly beguiling, with power, grace and marvelous blackberry, currant, blueberry, and dark chocolate notes swirling on a beautifully supple frame. Drink now through 2012." H.S.



New Discoveries Club

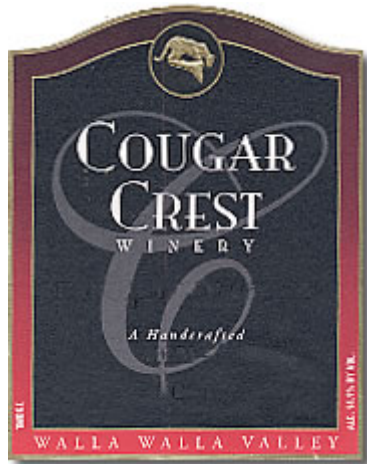
Cougar Crest Cabernet Franc \$26

TASTING NOTES

Chewy currants, jammy black fruit, smoky leather, violets and spice. Toasty oak, hearty tannins and a reverberating finish.

From the winery:

"Cougar Crest was established at the Walla Walla Airport in 2001 by Deborah and David Hansen. Owners of 50 acres of vineyard, all in the Walla Walla Appellation, we have sold wine grapes to other wineries for years.



The move into making wine has been a natural progression for two people with strong backgrounds in science and a love of fine wine. The University of California at Davis offered many winemaking classes that both David and Deborah attended. Our first vintage was 900 cases and will be sold across the Northwest. The 2002 vintage will be 4000 cases and sales will expand into other states. The 2002 vintage also brought the release of our first white wine, Viognier.

Natives of the Northwest, Deborah from Spokane and David from Bremerton, we met in Pullman. After graduating from Washington State University in the 1970's, Deborah in Pharmacy, and David in Veterinary Medicine, our careers led us to the San Francisco area for 18 years. It was there, among the California wineries, that the appreciation of the art of winemaking was born. While pursuing wine in California, we developed 125 acres of orchards in the Walla Walla Valley. In 1995 the farms became self-sufficient and we moved our family to the Valley in 1996.

The return to the Northwest was a pleasant surprise. There were seven wineries making unbelievably good wine in Walla Walla. Upon visiting the vineyards, the decision was made to replace some aging apple orchards with wine grapes. The first year, we raised all our own plants with cuttings from Windrow Vineyard (the original Seven Hills vineyard) and Cailloux Vineyard. The chosen site was Stellar Vineyard, and the plants flourished. The next year Cougar Hills Vineyard was established. We currently make wine from Estate Grown Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Viognier. This year will mark the first year of production for Petit Verdot and Malbec, which will greatly expand our blending options and complexity in our Bordeaux varietals."

Terrapin Cellars Pinot Noir \$15.99

Most unusual, an Oregon winery making Pinot noir from Washington State fruit. This winery is a particular favorite of Avalon's store manager, Ann.

She says: "the pinot noir is from the Columbia Valley and is just delicious. Rich dark fruit with plenty of backbone. Extremely good for the price."

Dessert Wine Club

Covey Run Morio Muscat \$14

Delicate fruit flavors and aromas, which bring to mind peaches and honeysuckle. The wine is ideally suited to match fresh fruits and cheeses, or may be enjoyed chilled on the patio on a warm summer afternoon.

From the winery: "Covey Run makes delicious, award-winning wines from grapes grown mostly in the Yakima and Columbia Valleys, east of the Cascade Mountains. It is here in the fertile soils of the Yakima Valley that a pioneering cooperative of growers first planted vineyards for Covey Run. Weather in this region is perfect for growing quality grapes. During the growing season, cool nights contrast with warm, sunlit days. Extra hours of sunlight develop intense varietal flavors and proper grape sugar in our classic European varietal grapes, while cool nights foster their structure.

Winemaker Kerry Norton joined Covey Run Winery just before harvest in 1999, bringing with him over a decade of northwestern winemaking experience and expertise. His winemaking goal is to continue producing fine wines that demonstrate Washington state's unique characteristics and to lead Covey Run to success on the national level. There's no question that he's well on the way to achieving both.



Stangeland Chardonnay "Decadence" \$25

A "decadent" dessert wine of noble character, very rich, smooth and the finish lasts, it seems, forever! Bottled in elegant 375ml bottles to have and give as a gift.

From the winery: "Our handcrafted wines are produced utilizing the best of Old World traditional winemaking methods, including ageing in French oak barrels, as well as New World innovations.

Cool viticulture climate, care of the land, varietal characteristics that express the vineyard terrior lay a strong foundation for the creation of Stangeland wines. Grapes, handpicked in the cool morning hours, flow to the winery where minimal handling of the wine, gravity feed, quality assurance and attention to detail help to create wines of exceptional quality, taste and affordability.

Currently our wines include international award winning estate grown Pinot noir and vineyard designated Pinot noirs, Chardonnay, Pinot gris, Gewurztraminer, and Chardonnay glace. Our tasting room, located in the heart of our vineyard, offers wine tasting and unique gift items including specialty sized bottles of wine.

