



Spring 2018

Dear Club Babylon Members,

Welcome to the first Club Shipment from 2018. I realize that every new year, much like every new vintage, seems special but for some reason 2018 seems particularly auspicious to me.

Perhaps one of the reasons that 2018 seems like it is going to be special is that it was 20 years ago that Siduri Wines moved to our home on Airway Court. Prior to then, we were making wine in other wineries, as a custom crush client. When we found the warehouse space on Airway we were nervous but incredibly excited. We had no clue about everything that would transpire on this cul-de-sac in a warehouse district of Santa Rosa. There have been wonderful times here and sad times. We've seen friends and wineries start their careers here. And sadly, we've lost a great friend along the way (Tim Lesko, our former cellar master) and seen the devastation of the recent wildfires all around us. All these things, the great and awful, are what make a place home. And Airway Court is a place we are proud to call home.

Having made it two decades, we are more excited than ever about what is to come. We are making some changes in the winery, including expanding the barrel room at the winery. We are re-committing ourselves to making even better wines than ever before and have added tanks and more glycol to make this possible. 2018 has given us a second chance and we intend to take full advantage of this opportunity.

The 2016 wines in this Club Shipment are another step forward in this process. The vintage was a surprise in some ways – a bit bigger yields and earlier ripening than expected. But the previous vintages have prepared us for some of these elements and allowed us to take another step forward and make wines that certainly equal, and in some wines, surpass, our previous efforts. As always, we welcome your thoughts and comments on the wines. We love to share them with you and we love to hear your thoughts on them.

Thank you for your support of Siduri and for being a Club Member. We welcome you to come visit us here at our home at any time.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adam Lee and everyone at SIDURI

12 Bottle Club Babylon

Below is a list of the wines in this 2018 Spring Club Shipment. You are receiving one (1) bottle of each wine in your Club Shipment. As a 12 Bottle Club Babylon member you will receive a 20% discount off the retail prices. The total member cost is \$480 before taxes and shipping.

	Retail	Club 20%
2016 SIDURI Santa Lucia Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands	\$35	\$28
2016 SIDURI Sierra Mar Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands	\$55	\$44
2016 SIDURI Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands	\$50	\$40
2016 SIDURI Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills	\$35	\$28
2016 SIDURI John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills	\$50	\$40
2016 SIDURI Clos Pepe Vineyard Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills	\$65	\$52
2016 SIDURI Pratt-Sexton Vineyard Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast	\$50	\$40
2016 SIDURI Van Der Kamp Vineyard Pinot Noir Sonoma County	\$55	\$44
2016 SIDURI Parsons Vineyard Pinot Noir Russian River Valley	\$50	\$40
2016 SIDURI Saralee's Vineyard Pinot Noir Russian River Valley	\$50	\$40
2016 SIDURI Barbieri Vineyard Pinot Noir Russian River Valley	\$50	\$40
2016 SIDURI Perry Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir Russian River Valley	\$55	\$44

6 Bottle Club Babylon

Below is a list of the wines in this 2017 Spring Club Shipment. You are receiving one (1) bottle of each wine in your Club Shipment. As a 6 Bottle Club Babylon member you will receive a 20% discount off the retail prices. The total member cost is \$260 before taxes and shipping.

	Retail	Club
2016 SIDURI Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands	\$50	\$40
2016 SIDURI John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills	\$50	\$40
2016 SIDURI Clos Pepe Vineyard Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills	\$65	\$52
2016 SIDURI Parsons Vineyard Pinot Noir Russian River Valley	\$50	\$40
2016 SIDURI Van Der Kamp Vineyard Pinot Noir Sonoma County	\$55	\$44
2016 SIDURI Perry Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir Russian River Valley	\$55	\$44

Tasting Notes

2016 Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir

The Siduri Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir is something like an all-star team in your favorite sport. Made up of incredible vineyards, including the Pisoni, Garys', Rosella's, Sierra Mar, and Soberanes Vineyards, this wine always overdelivers. In 2016 we added a small amount of fruit from the Escolle Vineyard (a mile north of Rosella's) and a bit more fruit from the Lemoravo Vineyard (nearer the Pisoni Vineyard at the Southern End of the Appellation). This latter addition, pushed the wine towards a bit heavier percentage of southern Santa Lucia Highlands fruit and made for a more full-bodied, rich Santa Lucia blend. The acids really carry this wine on the finish, and while it drinks incredibly well now, it should age very well for more than a few years.

2016 Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir

Much of California had a surprisingly good-sized crop in 2016. Given the drought conditions, we all anticipated yields were going to be down, but it turns out that things were 10-20% more than we anticipated. The one area that did have low yields was, unfortunately, the Sta. Rita Hills. Both cluster sizes and berry sizes were down. We sourced fruit from more sources than ever before in the region (Clos Pepe, John Sebastiano Vineyard, La Encantada, Hilliard-Bruce) and yet we still ended up with less wine. The 2016 Siduri Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir shows great complexity and concentration, due in part to our greater combination of source locations. The wine is rich and more harmonious than the 2015 at this early stage of its development. This is the unusual Sta. Rita Hills wine that drinks well right out of the gate.

2016 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir

The Sierra Mar Vineyard is near the southern end of the Santa Lucia Highlands Appellation and is one of our higher elevation and steeper vineyards. At the southern end of the AVA, vineyards are not so much contiguous as they are islands of plantings, separated from one another and yet all called by the name of one vineyard. At Sierra Mar these plantings tend to either be along small ridges or in swales between the ridges. We are fortunate to get fruit at Sierra Mar from both areas, with our 777, 943 and 23 Clone plantings being along the higher ridges, while the Pommard is in a lower lying swale. The 777 and 943 clones always ripen first, and this was the case in 2016 as well, with the Pommard and the 23 (due to cluster morphology) trailing behind. We utilized a good bit of whole cluster in the Pommard part of this blend, helping give the wine more layers of flavor. Sierra Mar has been on a roll lately and this 2016 vintage rivals the 2014 as our best, ever from this site.

2016 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir

The Soberanes Vineyard is in the heart of the Santa Lucia Highlands, directly to the south of the Garys' Vineyard. This is one of our newer vineyards, with our first crop there being 2010. We've often found that vineyards can do very well the first year or two but that they sometimes go into a "teenage stage" after a couple of vintages and attempt to ripen too much fruit and grow too much in the way of vegetation without having the root structure established to make that happen successfully (there are all sorts of teenage analogies here). Fortunately, Mark Pisoni and Gary Francioni, the growers at the Soberanes Vineyard, recognize this and make certain that the vines are not overly stressed in their youth, and this allows these vines to quickly bounce back and start producing truly world class grapes. Soberanes is in that bounce-back stage now, with the quality of the wine from this vineyard only getting better and better. The 2016 vintage is a combination of 667 clone fruit, which is one of the earliest ripening sections in all our Santa Lucia Highlands vineyards, and a section called "the Trees" which is one of the latest ripening. This combination makes for some interesting blending sessions. Yet it seems to work out quite well. The Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir shows a velvety texture, unique in our portfolio, along with bright acids and vibrant fruit. It is, oddly, a bit more Rosella's like in flavor than Garys' (though Garys' is right next door and Rosella's is a mile away). One thing we do know, it sure tastes fantastic.

2016 Parsons Vineyard Pinot Noir

The Parsons Vineyard is in the Santa Rosa Plain section of the Russian River Valley. This area is just west of the winery and is characterized by compact soils full of clay and rather flat topography. None of which sounds particularly great for high quality Pinot Noir. However, over the years the Parsons Vineyard has seemingly defied our preconceived notions and produced one of our top Pinot Noirs virtually every vintage. The 2016 vintage is no exception as it has once again provided us with one of the more compelling examples of classic Russian River Valley Pinot Noir. Making Parsons even more interesting is that some of the younger vines there are now starting to produce compelling wines on their own, giving us 4 different clones to blend. 2016 is the first vintage that we have had all components together which has allowed us to make a Parsons Vineyard Pinot Noir that (pardon the Emeril expression) kicks it up a notch in terms of flavor complexity.

2016 Saralee's Vineyard Pinot Noir

Siduri's second wine from the Saralee's Vineyard comes from an unusual part of this iconic property. There's one small section that is called "the Expansion Block." This section was planted primarily as a source for cuttings for further plantings on this property and others. Accordingly, virtually every other row is planted to a different clone. That makes sampling, and deciding when to pick the grapes, far more difficult than at other vineyards. The winemaking on the 2016 Siduri Saralee's Vineyard Pinot Noir was quite straightforward. When the fruit came into the winery we sorted and destemmed all of it. Yields were a bit higher than 2015 so we were able to ferment it in a tank this year, helping to control temperature better. We ultimately selected what we thought were the best barrels to blend together as the final Saralee's Vineyard Pinot Noir. The 2016 offering is a bigger wine than the 2015, so much so, that this is the one wine in this shipment that I would recommend waiting a few months to open. It is still a baby and should only find more harmony with a few more months in bottle.

2016 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir

Somehow the John Sebastiano Vineyard has moved from one of the newer, high quality vineyards in the Sta. Rita Hills Appellation to one of the standard bearers of the region. Odd how that happens with the passage of time. Sitting on the eastern edge of the AVA this vineyard is a bit warmer than other parts of the Sta. Rita Hills, but it is also more affected by the wind than some other parts of the area. That is because it is situated on some incredibly steep slopes that face directly west and directly into the winds that stream in from the Pacific Ocean. These winds and steep slopes produce stressed vines and smaller, more concentrated berries leading to wines of great depth and concentration. In 2016's earlier ripening vintage, we found that the sections nearer the back of the property did the best. These sections ripen later (still early in 2016, but later than some) and this additional time on the vines seemed to make for a more interesting wine. As always, the John Sebastiano Pinot Noir shows great weight and concentration. It also has a unique, slightly herbal edge. Good acidity and some tannins lead one to think this wine should age well, but it tastes great right now, so don't hesitate to open a bottle.

2016 Clos Pepe Vineyard Pinot Noir

The Clos Pepe Vineyard in Santa Barbara's Sta. Rita Hills AVA is undoubtedly one of our most famous vineyards. Sometimes fame is undeserved and sometimes it is fleeting, but neither of those is anywhere close to true when it comes to Clos Pepe. This vineyard is the real deal and we've been incredibly fortunate to have worked with fruit from Clos Pepe since 2000. We source fruit from 3 different sections of Clos Pepe, two of them are planted to 115 clone with one section planted to Pommard. While this clonal difference is interesting, the most fascinating aspect is the location of the grapes within the vineyard, with the 115 clone being the earliest ripening section and, also, the latest ripening section. In 2014 these sections ripened over 3 weeks apart! This combination of earlier, middle, and later ripening sections makes for a far more interesting wine with different sections doing better in some years than others. The 2016 vintage was a year where the lower 115 section and the Pommard section performed incredibly well, and they make up a good part of the blend. The more we taste the Clos Pepe Pinot Noir in blind tastings, the more the class of this site shines through. There are bigger SRH Pinots and there are more flashy, newer vineyards in the region, but for pure quality I don't know of a better source of grapes in the entire region.

2016 Pratt-Sexton Vineyard Pinot Noir

The Pratt—Sexton Vineyard is on Sexton Road, between Sebastopol and Occidental on the Sonoma Coast. This hillside vineyard is farmed by Jim Pratt, one of our best friends in the wine business and one of California's finest grape growers (Jim also manages the Ewald, Parsons', and Betty Ann Vineyards for us). We harvest 3 different clones at the Pratt—Sexton property including a somewhat mysterious Jackson clone which was isolated from old Pinot Noir plantings in Jackson, California. We fermented each section of the Pratt—Sexton Vineyard separately, and then blended them back together after blind tasting every barrel. This allowed us to ultimately come up with the best representation of the vineyard for the final wine. At this vineyard, this means a "big" Pinot Noir with great levels of acidity. In fact, one of the reasons the Pinots from this location are "big" is because the acid levels are so high here that the grapes need to achieve higher sugars for the acids to be low enough to successfully complete malolactic fermentation. This wine shows us all of those characteristics and more, with additional earthy complexity from the use of whole clusters in Pommard clone. Unfortunately, this is one place where 2016 yields were tiny and there is very little of this wine to go around – so don't miss out!

2016 Van Der Kamp Vineyard Pinot Noir

I can't think of a vineyard that we deal with that is on more of a quality upswing than the Van der Kamp Vineyard. We've dealt with the Van der Kamp Vineyard since 1996 and love the Van der Kamp family. However, in the past the vineyard was somewhat inconsistent. In recent vintages, the quality of the fruit has taken a huge leap forward and our most recent efforts from this property have been the most consistently outstanding efforts that we have produced from the vineyard. The 2016 vintage continues this string, producing a wonderful wine with great texture. A blend of Martini, 777, and 828 clones, this Van der Kamp Pinot Noir simply tastes fantastic!

2016 Barbieri Vineyard Pinot Noir

The Barbieri Vineyard is an amazing site. We purchased fruit from the Barbieri Vineyard almost 15 years ago. At that time the vineyard was planted to Zinfandel and produced a superb wine, although the vines were heavily virused. It was obvious that the vineyard needed to be replanted and, when the property sold it was replanted to Pinot Noir. Now, after some years (and another sale) we once again have access to this superb plot of land. Last year it seemed so different, walking rows that were once planted to head-trained vines and now were younger, vertical-shoot positioned vines. Now, one more year in, it seemed normal. We once again sourced 828 and 777 clone fruit from the vineyard. And we largely copied everything we did in 2015 as we loved that wine. The 2016 is just as good as the 2015, perhaps even slightly better as we did have more fruit to work with and were able to be particularly strict in our selection of barrels for the final wine. I love this wine and could drink it all night long (that gets me in trouble at times).

2016 SIDURI Perry Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir

Russian River Valley

Perry's Ranch Vineyard (Formerly named Keefer Ranch) is located in the Green Valley of the Russian River Valley and was planted in 1996/1997. The blend is comprised of 4 clones/blocks: 777, Pommard, 114 and clone 23. We utilized about 33% stem inclusion on the fermentation to add backbone and lift aromatics. The wine was aged in 40% new French oak barrels then bottled un-fined, unfiltered. This fruit forward crowd pleaser is showing notes of Bing cherries, all spice, wet underbrush and a hint of Crème de cassis.