



## SIGNATURE RED WINE CLUB JULY 2020

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This month we're focusing on California as a way to introduce a brand-new winery to the Maritime Collective, Moshin Vineyards. This winery begins with a man, Rick Moshin.

In the late 1970s, while teaching math at San Jose State University and working a side hustle at a home-brewing supply store, Rick was encouraged to try his hand at winemaking—and fell deeply, madly in love. His hunger for grapes soon inspired him to become a grape broker, earning access to extra fruit while forging relationships with vineyard owners throughout Northern California. This gig allowed him to be in the right place when a certain Pinot Noir vineyard—the first acreage in their estate—went up for sale in 1989.

A self-taught farmer who (along with friends and family) built a gravity-flow winery by hand, Rick enjoys experimenting with different varietals and winemaking methods. His heart will always belong to Pinot Noir, but as a passionate viticulturist and vintner, he remains ever curious about the whole world of wine.

What is it about the summer San Francisco fog that makes me drool for Russian River Valley Pinot? To me there is nothing quite like watching the fog roll in as I indulge in a sip of a rich and complex California Pinot and take a quiet moment to myself. The Moshin Estate Pinot is from the first vineyard Rick purchased in 1989, and to this day produces show stopping fruit. We're excited to be able to provide this special wine for our club members.

The Twenty Bench Cabernet has been the cornerstone of our own winery since 2001. In the fall of 2000, we purchased 20 tons of exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon grapes from a friend's Napa Valley vineyard without a specific plan for the grapes. All we knew at the time was it was great fruit from a trusted friend. We asked our winemaker, Charles Hendricks, to have fun and do his thing. Because the particular vineyard did not have a name, one of the cellar hands, who also works from time to time in the vineyards, chose to label the barrels 'Twenty Bench'. The name was chosen to signify the 20 tons of fruit from the gentle rising bench land vineyard from which they were picked. We raised our glasses in a toast to the cellar hand for giving us the perfect name.

Wine is meant to be enjoyed with others so whether you're joining your quarantine bubble, socializing virtually, or drinking with us in spirit, cheers!

### Moshin Vineyards Estate Russian River Valley Pinot Noir 2015

Since way back in 1989, winemaker Rick Moshin has been producing natural, terroir-driven, and delicious wines in the Russian River Valley. He sustainably farms his own prized Goldridge-soil Pinot Noir vineyards, and using the natural yeasts of his grapes he gently makes small-lot, premium wines in our gravity-flow winery on Sonoma County's famed Westside Road. Celebrating our 30th anniversary in 2019, we're still family-owned and -operated, and our focus remains on hand-crafting some of the highest-quality wines in the Russian River Valley AVA.

**Variety:** 100% Pinot Noir

**Tasting notes:** This bold yet balanced wine displays all of the classic character of our Russian River Valley neighborhood with lush fruit, spice, earth, savory herbs and dried rose petal. Black cherry, wet slate, currant and cranberry lead both on the nose and palate. Elegant integrated tannin structure, crisp acidity and rich color. With patience this beauty will be firing on all cylinders.



### Twenty Bench Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

Our very own Twenty Bench Cabernet Sauvignon got a makeover in 2018 and now has a new label. With this 18th vintage of Twenty Bench, Chris and Elijah have created a wine with bold fruit balanced with mellow tannins and bright acidity. Appellation: North Coast (Napa, Sonoma and Suisun Valleys). Six months in used American and French oak barrels.

**Varieties:** 95% Cabernet, 5% Merlot.

**Tasting notes:** The 2018 Twenty Bench Cabernet Sauvignon has a ripe black cherry core, twining with blackberry syrup, a subtle minerality, with the smokiness of charred French oak on the nose. The mouth is creamy and dense, with layered of juicy berries, the darkest of dark chocolates, rich espresso and black pepper. The wine is well-balanced and drinking well in its youth. You can enjoy this singular wine on its own or with grilled meats—especially burgers.

