



## STAYCATION RED WINE CLUB JULY 2020

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This month we're focusing on California, which gives us a chance to present our two most popular wines from our very own Nine North Wine Co.

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 Ministry of The Vinterior Pinot Noir is our #1 wine at the Tasting Studio. Of all the wines we have poured over the last 4 years this wine has continually been a top seller each month, and this makes us very proud to say the least. The grapes are grown in the Russian River AVA, although the wine in the bottle reminds me of wines produced from the top vineyards in the Carmel Valley.

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!

### Ministry of the Vinterior Pinot Noir 2017

Pinot Noir aficionados agree that the best California Pinot Noir comes from the Russian River Valley where early morning fog, warm days, an afternoon breeze from the sea and cool nights combine to make for some very happy Pinot Noir grapes. The higher alcohol content speaks to the warmer microclimate of the vineyards. This Pinot was aged for six months in used French and American oak barrels.

**Variety:** 100% Pinot Noir

**Tasting notes:** This intriguing Pinot Noir opens with aromas of cherries, orange peel, violets, and fig leaf. The spicy mouth is densely layered with flavors of dried Turkish apricots and vanilla bean, and the finish lingers long with flavors of rich caramel and cloves. As one of the world's most versatile food wines, Pinot Noir plays well with poultry, beef, fish, lamb and pork; with creamy sauces and spicy foods.



### 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.

