

# ROAD 31 WINE CO.

*grin-inducing pinot*

Dear Truckers (Spring 2021):

Greetings from Napa, where it is raining (yay), the restaurants are only doing takeout (boo), my parents are vaccinated (whew), and the 2019 vintage is ripe and ready to be shipped (ahhhh).

What a difference a year makes ... or not. Last year at this time, I was struggling to decide if it was even appropriate to release a wine amidst the emerging COVID-19 crisis. Of course, you all quickly made it clear that not only did you *want* some fine wine in the midst of the lockdown, but you *needed* some Road 31 in your bunker. It turns out that grin-inducing Pinot Noir is indeed an antidote to the fatigue of home-schooled math, frozen Zoom, dry hands and fogged eyeglasses. Fast forward to the present and, as the nutty headlines continue, here's an opportunity to stock your bunker again.

Those who follow these letters know that it has been a particularly rough year here in Napa. On top of the pandemic and political mayhem, we had wildfires. After I lost my entire 2020 vintage to the smoke, this 2019 vintage that I'm now offering to you takes on special significance.

The 2019 feels like a perfect wine for the time. Not only is it among the best wines I've ever crafted (critic Jeb Dunnick called it "elegant" and said, "the purity of the fruit is outstanding"), but this wine carried a little less acid through barrel and into bottle than previous vintages. While it is still — as always — a wine to enjoy with a meal, its slightly relaxed nature makes it an equally worthy companion for a Sunday afternoon puzzle, a Wednesday evening hot tub, or a 5 p.m. emergency solo happy hour.

As long-time Truckers know, I only make one wine, not much of it (750 cases), and I only offer it by allocation this one time per year. If you want to add this wine to your cellar, the enclosed card provides instructions on how to log in to see and secure your allocation. I cover shipping on a case or more. The order window will be open until March 29. And as always, while I try to allocate carefully, it's ultimately first come, first served; please don't dally.

While wine can ease our lockdown woes, the day is coming — soon — when we can all emerge from our bunkers, tear off our masks, and once again hug and kiss our friends and family before sitting down to a enjoy a king's feast. I hope you will consider stocking your cellar now, as I am most eager for Road 31 to have a seat at that celebratory table.

Kent Fortner (Winemaker/Truck-Owner)

P.S. I am very, very close to finalizing the special wine project that I have embarked upon to replace the lost 2020 vintage (and which will be offered to you a year from now). More on that in the fall.



NAPA VALLEY

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