

# ROAD 31 WINE CO.

*grin-inducing pinot*

Dear Truckers (Spring 2022):

Greetings from Napa, where bubbles vanquish fire...

If you are a veteran Trucker, you know I'm all about "one man, one wine." And that wine has always been Pinot Noir. But if you've been following along, you also know that Mother Nature got really pissed off two years ago, in 2020, bringing fire and fury to Napa (and to most of the West Coast, for that matter). The flames came dangerously close to the vineyards. And my grapes—like most all of the grapes of California that year—got so smoky that I had to walk away from the vintage. It was an enological and spiritual disaster of epic proportions for me, particularly on what was supposed to be my 20th anniversary of crafting Road 31 Pinot Noir. I was crying on the empty crush pad.

But I had an epiphany. And it saved me, both enologically and spiritually. There was Pinot Noir, from my same vineyards — though from previous vintages, when Mother Nature was in a friendlier mood —sitting around in various friends' cellars in the form of base wine intended for sparkling wine, It had yet to receive dosage, experience disgorgement and be polished and finished. I could buy that wine back. Complete that process. Make the wine my own. And I love Champagne; I've always wanted to craft a sparkling wine.

So, this release, in lieu of the Pinot Noir that got smoked out, I am super-duper excited to offer to you Road 31's 20th Anniversary *Méthode Champenoise*, 2017 Blanc de Noir, Carneros, Napa Valley. I am thrilled with how it turned out. I took a lot of advice from my sparkling winemaker friends and it paid off. I was aiming for brilliance and elegance, bubbles worthy of special occasions, while keeping things food-friendly. I also worked hard on the label (kinda fun to work on a new package after 20 years). And I think I nailed it, if I do say so myself. Super proud. See and read more at [www.road31.com/bubbles](http://www.road31.com/bubbles).

I didn't craft much: 750 cases, which is less than my typical offering. Allocating is a tricky business in a standard year (I had to short my mother-in-law last year!), and this special offering has made that job particularly challenging. While I will try my best to honor allocations, it is ultimately first-come, first-served on claiming your allocation, so don't dally. The enclosed card provides instructions on how to log in to see and secure your allocation. As always, I cover shipping on a case or more. The order window will be open until March 28th.

You Truckers mean everything to me. And I'm thrilled to not just have something to offer you this season, but to celebrate and share my 20th anniversary of Road 31 with you through champagne flutes filled with tiny bubbles of gratitude and optimism.



Kent Fortner (Winemaker/Truck-Owner)

P.S. I have some exceptionally tasty 2021 Pinot Noir safely in barrel for release next spring, and we will get back to our regularly-scheduled Road 31 Pinot Noir program then.



NAPA VALLEY