

# ROAD 31 WINE CO.

*grin-inducing pinot*

Dear Truckers (Spring 2023):

Greetings from Napa, where the cover crop is green, so is the truck, and PINOT NOIR IS BACK, BABY!

Pardon the all-caps. But I am indeed shouting. After a forced skipped vintage due to smoke with the 2020 vintage, I finally have Pinot Noir to offer to you once again. I am rapturous.

The 2020 missed vintage did give me a chance to craft Sparkling for last year's offer, which was something I've long dreamed of doing. And the extremely enthusiastic response to those bubbles was gratifying (and flattering) for sure. But Pinot Noir is my thing, has been for over 20 years, and all has not been right with the world while I waited to close this gap in vintages.

And what a wine this 2021 Road 31 Napa Valley Pinot Noir is. Imagine Harry Potter, Gal Gadot, Elvis (the early days, not the donut-eating-sequin-wings years), and a 1962 Ferrari GTO all wrapped together in velour. Pull the cork and you may find yourself suddenly reciting Shakespearean sonnets from memory, understanding string theory, and feeling an inexplicable desire — and capability — to dance the tango like a blind Al Pacino. Yes, it is that good.

It is as if Mother Nature, after bringing fury, fire and brimstone (and smoke) to the Napa Valley in 2020, suddenly said, "Oops, my bad." And to make up for having overdone it, she offered up the 2021 growing season as a peace offering. After providing a thorough and much-needed drenching in January and February, skies were clear and the weather turned warm starting in March, which brought an early bud break without threat of frost. There was not a single appreciable heat strike that summer, resulting in perfect ripening conditions and flavor-building hang time. Harvest was spectacularly uneventful, which is to say, exactly how we winemakers wanted — and needed — it to be. Berries and clusters came in small: little flavor grenades going into the fermenter. Brilliant and lush free-run going into barrel. Incredible wine in bottle.

I now offer this life-altering wine to you. 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 end of day March 26. And as always, while I try to allocate carefully, it's ultimately first come, first served. I'd urge you not to dally.

I hope you, too, are feeling a sense of elated relief post-wildfires, post-Covid, and/or post-Chinese spy balloon. It is awesome to once again share Pinot Noir with you.

*Kent*

Kent Fortner (Winemaker/Truck-Owner/King of the Road)



N A P A V A L L E Y