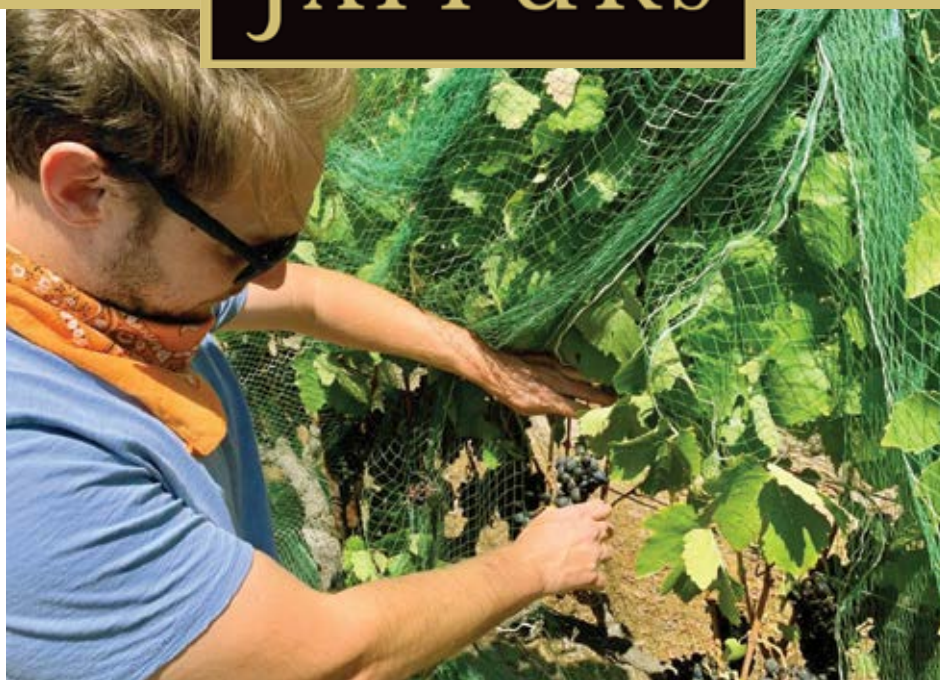


JAFFURS



VINTAGE REPORT 2020

Twenty-twenty has been a trying year to say the least. While the ongoing pandemic has shifted social norms, working habits and the general way we all go about our lives, the grapevines have endured through the seasons unfettered. And in actuality, 2020 has all the makings of an exceptional vintage.

A relatively dry winter broke with some very welcome and much needed rains in March. Cool weather continued through Spring, delaying bud break, putting us almost exactly in line with what we saw in 2019. Fruit set well, but clusters looked smaller than average across the board.

Temperatures going into the summer were consistently warm, but moderate, without major heat spikes. This gave us very even set and early veraison, moving things along quicker than expected. We were surprised in August with several days pushing (and in some areas, exceeding) 100 degrees. In extreme heat grapevines can shift into survival mode and shut down ripening, which in this case was positive for physiological development in the grapes. Rather than spiking in sugars, and becoming too sweet too quickly, the fruit will be happy to hang in there, allowing the flavors to catch up with ripeness.

A smaller crop should move harvest a couple weeks earlier than average, but should also give us structured wines built to age. In keeping with the themes of 2020, this growing season has not been without its challenges, but I'm optimistic we will end up with some spectacular wines in the end. 🌿 — *Stephen Searle*

2017 UPSLOPE HAS ARRIVED!

JEB DUNNUCK

99

2017 Jaffurs Syrah Upslope

The flagship Syrah from Jaffurs is always a selection made from the single vineyards, and the 2017 Syrah Upslope is 98% Syrah and 2% Viognier that was 55% destemmed and brought up in 50% new French oak. Deep purple-hued, with killer notes of jammy blackberries, ground pepper, bouquet garni, and smoked game, it's flawlessly balanced and medium to full-bodied on the palate, with polished tannins, brilliant purity, and a great, great finish. Pure class, with a Côte Rôtie-like character, this incredible wine should be snatched up by readers and enjoyed over the coming 10-15 years. Hats off to the team at Jaffurs!

— Jeb Dunnuck (8/4/2020)

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With all the fanfare that a **99** score brings, we thought it best to break it down in a little more detail. Created by Craig during late night discussions with restaurateurs, the Upslope is simply the best six-barrel wine blend of Syrah in the winery.



No recipes. No specific vineyards. That means that the blending trials are one of the most exciting, exhausting, and lively conversations (arguments too!) in the winery every year. In 2017, we chose a blend that was 50% Bien Nacido (three barrels), 33% Larner (one barrel each of two different clones) and one barrel of Kimsey Syrah. In a softer vintage like 2017, the tannic backbone provided by the Bien Nacido and Larner really lift the aromatics and give a luscious

and long mid palate that lingers afterwards. 2017 marks Stephen's first vintage leading the blending trials...I think we can safely say it was a great success! 🌿 — Dan Green

INTRODUCING MARRISSA

We are proud to formally announce our newest addition to the cellar team: Marrissa Schoonover! Many of you have met her over the last year in the tasting room and surely noticed her passionate energy and enthusiasm for everything Jaffurs. Her drive and curiosity for the craft of winemaking led her to join Dan, Stephen, and the interns to take on the 2020 harvest.



Fortunate enough to catch the wine bug earlier than most, Marrissa began self-educating and developing a passion for wine as a hobby to balance her work and studies. After graduating from UCI and moving to Santa Barbara, that passion led her to seek out Santa Barbara's best wines and winery — Jaffurs! Her inquisitive mind and strong work ethic will make her a critical part of our upcoming harvest. Congratulations on growing in your wine journey, Marrissa. We are so grateful to have you! 🌿 — Miranda Mendibles

PROPRIETARY BOTTLINGS

Opal Syrah

This private label Syrah came into being in 2007 after Jaffurs general manager Dave Yates approached Opal Restaurant and Bar co-owner Richard Yates (nope, no relation!) about producing a custom-blended wine for the restaurant. The Jaffurs-Opal partnership was born! In those earlier years, when the winery crew was still at a minimum, Richard would help select barrels for the blend while restaurant staff would hand label the bottles, occasionally helping with harvest and on the bottling line in general.

With visits from the Opal staff far fewer these days, Dan and I dropped by the restaurant to discover which dishes Richard currently enjoys most with the Syrah. After agreeing that the earthiness of mushrooms is a reliable complement to the boldness of the wine, the choice of suggested entrées was narrowed down to the Herb-Crusted Fillet Mignon with a port wine-marsala and wild mushroom cream sauce or the Vegetable Napoleon, a layered vegetarian dish featuring wild mushrooms and a grilled portobello. The vegetarian option was selected with a promise to return for the fillet mignon! 🌿 — *Nancy Vergara*



Vegetable Napoleon

Gorgonzola potato cake, wild mushrooms grilled portobello mushroom, grilled eggplant, sautéed garlic spinach, grilled polenta, roasted red peppers, roasted tomato sauce, and fresh grated Parmigiano Reggiano



THIRD QUARTER

2018 Syrah, Santa Barbara County

(1 bottle Anthology Club)

Vinous 93 points

The 2018 Syrah (Santa Barbara County) is superb. Rich, deep and fleshy, this striking, absolutely delicious Syrah has so much to offer. Blueberry, violet, lavender, chocolate, spice, licorice and black pepper capture the essence of cool-climate Syrah. The 2018 is an irresistible appellation-level wine that punches well above its weight. What a knock-out! Drinking window 2020-2030.

2017 Pinot Noir, Santa Barbara County

(1 bottle Anthology Club)

Vinous 92 points

The 2017 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County) is rich, open-knit and super-expressive. The dark red and purplish fruit flavors get an extra kick of aromatic intensity from 25% whole clusters, an approach that works brilliantly. Rich, layered and super-expressive, the 2017 is a winner, not to mention a real overachiever in its peer group. The appellation Pinot is mostly from Duvarita, with a few barrels of Fiddlestix. Drink 2019-2029.

2017 Syrah, Bien Nacido Vineyard

(1 bottle Anthology Club; 3 bottles Reserve Syrah Club)

Jeb Dunnuck 97 points

The 2017 Syrah Bien Nacido Vineyard (there's 3% Viognier in the blend) sports a deep purple hue to go with ultra-classic aromas of blackberries, ground pepper, crushed violets, and bouquet garni as well as marine-like salty, gamey notes. It's awesome on the palate as well – full-bodied, seamless, flawlessly balanced, and offering just about everything you could want from Central Coast Syrah. It's going to evolve nicely for 10-12 years, although there's no need to delay gratification. Maturity 2020-2032.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to learn about winemaker dinners, club members only events, and Santa Barbara wine country happenings as they are added to our calendar.

FOURTH QUARTER

2019 Viognier, Bien Nacido Vineyard

(1 bottle Anthology Club)

Vinous 92 points

The 2019 Viognier Bien Nacido Vineyard is a gorgeous wine that balances varietal character with freshness. Apricot, chamomile, mint and tangerine oil open up effortlessly. The 2019 is so inviting. Drinking window 2020-2025.

2018 Petite Sirah, Thompson Vineyard

(1 bottle Anthology Club)

Vinous 93 points

The 2018 Petite Sirah Thompson Vineyard is deep, inky and extravagant. Unctuous fruit dominates over nuance and varietal character, but I am not sure how much that truly matters, as the 2018 offers tremendous appeal. The typically incisive young Petite tannins are pretty tamed here, and that just allows the up-front boldness of the fruit to come through loud and clear. Drinking window 2022-2030.

2017 Syrah, Kimsey Vineyard

(1 bottle Anthology Club; 2 bottles Reserve Syrah Club)

Jeb Dunnuck 93+ points

From Ballard Canyon, the 2017 Syrah Kimsey Vineyard is all destemmed Syrah aged 22 months in just 22% new French oak. Its ruby/purple hue is followed by a pretty, perfumed bouquet of sweet red and black raspberries, toasted spices, flowers, and peppery incense. Medium to full-bodied and nicely concentrated, with a firm, focused style on the palate, it's beautifully balanced yet needs 2-3 years of bottle age.

2017 Syrah, Upslope, Santa Barbara County

(1 bottle Reserve Syrah Club)

Vinous 95 points

The 2017 Syrah Upslope, a selection of the best lots in the cellar, captures all the Jaffurs signatures. Lavish dark fruit, lavender, licorice, spice and menthol build into a stunning crescendo of aromas, flavors and textures. A touch of whole cluster savoriness and a bit of new French oak add layers of complexity throughout. Drinking window 2022-2032.