

JAFFURS



"HOW LONG SHOULD I AGE THIS WINE?"

This is a regularly posed question here at Jaffurs, and one that can be a little tricky to answer. Our wines have a great track record of aging gracefully, and developing over time, but are also made in a style that usually won't necessitate additional bottle age before they are approachable.

While the Santa Barbara County Syrah, Grenache, and other wines can do very well with time in bottle, it is our vineyard designate and Upslope Syrahs that are generally produced with aging potential in mind. Extended time in barrel, use of "whole-cluster" fermentation, and a little new oak on these wines impart additional structure that will integrate over time and allow the subtleties in flavor to fully shine.

If you prefer powerful, fruitful wines with grippy tannins, our Syrahs provide these characteristics in spades early on. You'll be very happy drinking them on release and within the first five or so years of the vintage. Past ten years, the wines are often exceptional, but factors such as bottle variation and vintage conditions become more apparent. If you're looking to strike that balance between nuance and exuberance, I usually recommend five to eight years past the vintage. Here, our Reserve Syrahs consistently show energy in the fruit, with underlying savory nuance and softening structure. But of course, if you ever have a question on a specific wine or vintage, shoot us an email or give us a call, and we are always happy to help out! 🌻 — Stephen Searle

WINE CLUB MEMBERS & THEIR CELLARS

I believe we have been buying Jaffurs wine since at least the 1998 vintage. Years ago, my husband Alan and I would go to the Wine Cask Futures in the spring. That is where we first met Craig Jaffurs and tasted his wines. After two or three years of “off-site” purchasing, Craig whispered in our ears, “I have my own Futures program. Just email me.” The rest is history! We continued with Wine Cask Futures for several years and joined the Jaffurs wine club/Futures program. As club members, we have attended many winemaker dinners in Santa Barbara and, more recently, many picnics at the annual Thompson Vineyard event.

Pictured is our Jaffurs “wall of fame.” The entire wall is Jaffurs wine, representing approximately 10 years of vineyard designate Syrahs, Upslope, and other reds. All three columns are Jaffurs. The top shelf is dedicated to Upslope and currently stores vintages 2012-2018. We then have various “old” labels and some rows of the “new” labels. Same vintages, but a few 2009 and 2011 Syrahs in here, too. 🌿 — *Patty & Alan H., Wine club members since 2005*



JAFFURS STATE OF THE UNION

With the dawn of a new year, we want to provide an update on the general state of affairs at Jaffurs. Jaffurs remains strong. Jaffurs remains dedicated to creating the greatest wine possible from our region. We look forward to seeing all of you – at some point – in the tasting room again soon.

Our discussion starts where all wine conversations should start: the vineyards. And, what a year it was! A cooler beginning with light to moderate rains raised expectations of a consistent, long, and cool growing season. This, of course, was not how the year unfolded. Extreme heat spikes across the harvest season tested the vines’ resiliency. However, unlike our less fortunate Northern California wine colleagues, Santa Barbara was unaffected by smoke and wildfires. The grapes held up tremendously well to the heat, expressing themselves in effusive flavors and a soft, approachable structure. While the pandemic and election chaos raged on, the vines paid no attention and, instead, thrived as we moved on into 2021. Fresh off the much-needed rainfall we just experienced, the vineyards look picture-perfect as pruning season marches on.

Moving from the grapes to people, we can see more evidence that, as some things at Jaffurs change, the critical foundation of all Jaffurs wines – our team – remains steadfast and resilient.

TWO TIMES TOMATO BRUSCHETTA

This recipe is simple but always a hit. Sun-dried tomatoes add a fun texture. It can easily be doubled if serving to guests. Similarly to wine in barrels, time is helpful. After preparing, give the dish time to sit in the refrigerator before serving. The flavors will expand and you'll be delighted! 🌿 — *Marrissa Schoonover*

INGREDIENTS

- 6 Roma tomatoes, scraped out seeds and pulp and chopped
- ½ cup sun-dried tomatoes, chopped (if using sun-dried tomatoes packed in oil, pull back a bit on olive oil for mixing)
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- ¼ cup good olive oil
- ¼ cup of basil, ribboned
- 2 tbsp good balsamic vinegar
- ¼ tsp salt and pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

Combine ingredients in a bowl and stir gently to coat. Wait at least an hour before serving. Slice baguette, brush with olive oil and toast. Spoon tomatoes on top of baguette and finish with a grate of parmesan. Make sure to pour yourself some Grenache!



In 2020, Craig spent as much time in the winery as he ever has since retiring five years ago. His expertise in navigating troubled waters was an incalculable help as we strategized about coping with the opening and closing (and then reopening!) of the tasting room.

Marrissa took on added responsibility and excelled as the main cellar support for Stephen, so much so that she is now in the cellar on a more full-time basis.

Stephen and Nancy continued crafting magnificent wines and supporting the wine club, respectively.

Miranda has decided to move in a different direction as her career progresses. Her dynamic personality and enthusiasm for the brand are sorely missed.

Our new tasting room associate is Ian King! Ian's harvest and tasting room experience, as well as his passion for wine education, make him an asset to the winery.

While things are swirling chaotically around us, Jaffurs remains focused on producing the best Syrahs and wines in Santa Barbara. We are well positioned to have a strong and productive year in the vineyards, cellar, and tasting room. We cheerfully raise a glass to all of you in 2021! 🌿 — *Dan Green*

SAVE THE DATE – AUGUST 14!

Ever optimistic, we encourage you to Save the Date!
Jaffurs Annual Vineyard Picnic & Tour is tentatively scheduled for
Saturday, August 14 at Lerner Vineyard in Solvang!



2021 – NEW RELEASES

FIRST QUARTER

2019 Roussanne, Stolpman Vineyard (1 bottle Anthology Club)

Not yet reviewed.

2018 Grenache, Santa Barbara County (1 bottle Anthology Club)

Vinous 92 points

Crushed rose petal, cedar, sweet pipe tobacco and mint soar out of the glass as the 2018 Grenache shows off its considerable allure. Soft and inviting, with tons of varietal character and appeal, the Grenache simply hits all the right notes. Drinking window 2020-2028.
— Antonio Galloni

2017 Syrah, Thompson Vineyard (1 bottle Anthology Club; 3 bottles Reserve Syrah Club)

Jeb Dunnuck 92 points

The 2017 Syrah Thompson Vineyard comes from a great site in Santa Barbara County and was all destemmed. It gives up a ripe, sexy bouquet of red and blue fruits, ground pepper, and violets, with just a touch of gaminess and bacon fat emerging with time in the glass. Nicely textured, medium to full-bodied, and concentrated, it's a ripe, powerful California Syrah to drink over the coming 7-8 years. — Jeb Dunnuck



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.

SECOND QUARTER

2017 High Tide, Santa Barbara County (1 bottle Anthology Club)

Jeb Dunnuck 92 points

The 2017 High Tide Santa Barbara County checks in as close to equal parts Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre that saw plenty of stems and 18 months in 17% new French oak. This meaty, spicy blend offers a deep purple hue, notes of spiced blackberries, crushed violets, and peppery spice, medium-bodied richness, ripe tannins, and a well-balanced, concentrated style that's going to evolve nicely for 7-8 years or more. Maturity 2020-2028.
— Jeb Dunnuck

2018 Pinot Noir, Santa Barbara County (1 bottle Anthology Club)

Jeb Dunnuck 90 points

The 2018 Pinot Noir Santa Barbara County comes from the Duvarita and Fiddlestix vineyards and was 50% destemmed and aged in 14% new French oak. Deeper ruby/plum-hued with lots of darker fruits, leafy herbs, smoked earth, and peppery notes, it's medium-bodied, has a supple, elegant texture, present tannins, and a good finish. I think it will be even better this time next year and should drink nicely for 4-5 years. — Jeb Dunnuck

2017 Syrah, Lerner Vineyard (1 bottle Anthology Club; 3 bottles Reserve Syrah Club)

Vinous 94 points

The 2017 Syrah Lerner Vineyard is a deeply intriguing, beautiful wine. Dark red fruit, mint, iron and incense form a compelling profile. The 2017 is a potent, intense wine, and yet it expresses that sense of energy that is such a signature of Lerner and Ballard Canyon. Savory overtones and a spine of tannin take this gorgeous Syrah through to the finish. Impressive. Drinking window 2022-2032. — Antonio Galloni