

JAFFURS



A NEW TOOL FOR THE WINEMAKERS' ARSENAL

If you've had a chance to peek into our back cellar over the past year, you may have noticed a couple new friends living amongst the barrels: that is, two beautiful concrete tanks made here in California by Sonoma Cast Stone. At Jaffurs we are continuously challenging ourselves to push the boundaries of quality and incorporating concrete into our winemaking had been in the back of our minds for some time.

Concrete has been used in wine production for centuries, though in the modern era it had increasingly fallen out of favor, with stainless steel tanks and oak barrels preferred options. Oak is porous, and allows for gradual oxygenation of the wine, even dropping in level over time, requiring regular "topping up." Additionally, oak will impart subtle smokey/spice flavors and add tannin structure when barrels are in their first few years of use. Stainless steel is a completely neutral vessel, imparting no flavor, and is airtight, allowing for no oxygen exchange. Concrete can be thought of as a happy medium between the two. As with oak, concrete is porous, only much less so. This allows for some, but limited oxygen contact, resulting in a fresher wine style. As with stainless steel, concrete is neutral, adding no flavor to the wine and highlighting the true character of the grape and site. While we absolutely will continue using oak and stainless steel in our winemaking, we're thrilled to add another option to our arsenal, and the results (*continued on page 2*)

CONCRETE TANKS (CONTINUED)

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are looking very promising. Each of our two tanks holds 240 gallons, or the equivalent of four barrels. One is filled with Roussanne and the other with Grenache. We have a third on order for the 2023 harvest, and plan to add more moving forward. Look out for the 2022 Grenache and Roussanne, releasing in the coming year, for first impressions of our new concrete tanks! 🌿 — *Stephen Searle*



1. Concrete tanks are manufactured in a number of styles – egg, amphora, teacup, and tower, for example. Size, mobility, and efficiency of space were factors in selecting the square tank style.



2. After sorting and foot-stomping, the inaugural fermentation begins with the 2022 harvest team loading Grenache into one of the tanks.



3. Once fermentation is complete, the wine is pumped from the tank into barrels. The pomace is then raked into bins and pressed.



4. Shoveling pomace is happy work and heart-healthy exercise!

MEET MARRISSA SCHOONOVER

Our New Assistant Winemaker

I am proud to introduce a familiar face as our new Assistant Winemaker at Jaffurs: our very own MARRISSA Schoonover!

Many of you have met and interacted with MARRISSA before, as she's done just about every job at the winery. She's been an excellent Tasting Room Associate, a dedicated Harvest Intern, a passionate Cellarmaster, and now Assistant Winemaker! She's been an invaluable asset to Stephen in the cellar, and she's taken a long and winding road to get to where she is now.

MARRISSA began at Jaffurs in February of 2019. At the time, she was just an ambitious student of wine with several years of experience in the restaurant industry. She jumped right into her tasting room activities, and it quickly became obvious that she had potential to make a big splash in this industry. She was extraordinarily diligent in the tasting room, making sure to remember each club member's name and wine preference, all the while constantly pinging Stephen and I with good questions about the winemaking process. Her curiosity led her further into the cellar, officially moving there from the tasting room for the 2020 harvest.

Thus, MARRISSA's cellar career had officially begun.

It was not long before Stephen was trusting her with such important tasks as testing sulphurs and malolactic fermentations in the lab, managing the *élevage* of the barrels as well as tasting and assigning wines to certain lots and blends. Her curiosity is insatiable, constantly asking questions based on scenarios she saw, or predicted, in the cellar. Stephen quickly lobbied to have her promoted to cellar master full time before the 2021 harvest. From there, it's been a steady ascent for MARRISSA as she's mastered many cellar techniques while expanding her wine knowledge through extensive tastings and the UC Davis winemaking program. She's somehow managed all of this through a busy harvest season and while training for a marathon!

So, congratulations to MARRISSA! A lover of all wines, but especially Santa Barbara County and Italian wines, and a dedicated and passionate employee that we are lucky to have here at Jaffurs! 🌿 — Dan Green



2023 – NEW RELEASES

FIRST QUARTER

2021 Roussanne, Stolpman Vineyard Ballard Canyon AVA Not yet reviewed

Winemaker's notes: The 2021 Roussanne shows aromatics of white flowers, orange zest, and melon. Richly textured on the palate, flavors include honeysuckle and peaches and cream. A clean wine, gaining complexity on the finish, with a wet stone mineral quality. Our Roussanne has a history of aging gracefully and should develop more honey and nutty characteristics over time.

2020 Grenache, Santa Barbara County Wine Enthusiast 93 points

A light shade in the glass, this appellation blend is snappy on the nose with crisp raspberry and pomegranate aromas, as white pepper, rose petal and ash add mineral tones to the vibrant frame. It's very fresh on the palate, with a chalky texture and taut red-fruit flavors. — *Matt Kettmann*

2019 Syrah, Larner Vineyard Ballard Canyon AVA Wine Enthusiast 95 points / Jeb Dunnuck 94 points / Vinous 94 points

In this seamless expression of Syrah, the nose weaves through dark fruit and purple flower aromas with nothing obtrusive. The palate is also cohesive, loaded with purple fruit and flower flavors dusted in pepper and dried herb. Great for now, the wine will also age gracefully. — *Matt Kettmann*

I loved the 2019 Syrah Larner Vineyard, which has beautiful red and blue fruits as well as peppery and floral notes. Pure class on the palate, it's medium-bodied, has a supple, elegant mouthfeel, silky tannins, and a great finish. It's beautifully done and is going to age for 10-15 years in cold cellars. As with the Bien Nacido release, this saw a splash of Viognier (3%) and plenty of stems (57%), with the aging spanning 22 months in 28% new French oak. Maturity 2022-2037. — *Jeb Dunnuck*

The 2019 Syrah Larner Vineyard is another standout in this range from Jaffurs. Inky red fruit, iron, white pepper, incense, tobacco, and dried flowers infuse the 2019 with tons of nuance and complexity. A healthy dollop of whole clusters (57%) and a touch of Viognier lift the red-fleshed Larner fruit nicely. There's a ton to look forward to, especially once the tannins soften. Drinking window 2024-2034. — *Antonio Galloni*



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

2021 Syrah Santa Barbara County Not yet reviewed

Winemaker's notes: The 2021 Santa Barbara County Syrah combines fruit from six top sites spanning the entire county. After blending trials, a small amount of Petite Sirah and Grenache are added for complexity and aromatic lift. More than a sum of its parts, showing plum and Herbes de Provence aromatics, with flavors of raspberry, mint, and peppercorn. This medium-bodied wine was fermented with 18% stem-inclusion and aged in neutral oak for 10 months. A pure and fresh Syrah that is made to be approachable in its youth but has the structure to cellar for some years to come.

2020 High Tide Santa Barbara County Vinous 94 points / Jeb Dunnuck 92 points / Wine Enthusiast 93 points *Editors' Choice*

The 2020 High Tide, Jaffurs's 60% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah, 20% Grenache is gorgeous. Succulent dark cherry, plum, leather, spice, and menthol all flesh out with a bit of aeration. The 2020 is impeccably balanced, not to mention incredibly delicious. Drinking window 2024-2034. — *Antonio Galloni*

The 2020 High Tide is 60% Mourvèdre, 20% Grenache, and 20% Syrah that was 25% destemmed and spent 18 months in neutral barrels. It's a solid step up over the Grenache, offering beautiful darker berry fruits as well as violets, tons of peppery herbs, and some foresty, earthy nuances. Balanced and medium to full-bodied, with wonderful purity, it's a gem that will keep for 7-8 years, probably longer. — *Jeb Dunnuck*

This blend of 60% Mourvèdre, 20% Grenache, and 20% Syrah reveals itself over the hours, showcasing a fresh while funky character. It begins with aromas of baked cherry, wet concrete, and singed tobacco on the nose. The palate is tight at first, then opens toward strawberry-sorbet and charcuterie touches. — *Matt Kettmann*

2019 Syrah, Thompson Vineyard Alisos Canyon AVA Wine Enthusiast 92 points / Jeb Dunnuck 91+ points

Cassis and candied boysenberry aromas meet with lively lilac on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is vibrant with red cherry and strawberry, as chalk tannins rein in the juicy core. — *Matt Kettmann*

From a site in the Alisos Canyon, the 2019 Syrah Thompson Vineyard offers some classic Santa Barbara Syrah black and blue fruits as well as flowers, violets, and peppery nuances. It's medium-bodied, straight and focused on the palate, with the fresher, cooler style of the vintage front and center. — *Jeb Dunnuck*

