



July 2019

Grand Cru

2016 Flora Springs Trilogy – 69.98

2014 Jonata Todos Red Wine – 49.98

Sparkle

Billecart-Salmon Brut Champagne – 49.98

Meyer Fonne Cremant d'Alsace Brut Extra – 23.98

Ultimate Reds

2016 The Hilt Estate Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills – 39.98

2014 Kara Wines Pinot Noir – 24.98

Vintage Values

2014 Kara Wines Pinot Noir – 24.98

2015 Alcance Carmenere Gran Reserva – 19.98

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July 2019

2016 Flora Springs Trilogy
Napa Valley, California

A Historic Napa Valley Ghost Winery

Flora Springs was founded in 1978, but the winery legacy dates back to the late 1800s when wine grapes were first planted on the Napa Valley property that is now the estate home. The depth of this history reminds the family of their commitment to the health and vitality of the estate will be felt far into the future. Flora Springs Winery & Vineyards is family owned and operated, committed to hand-crafting artisan wines of distinct style and superior quality. The wines, and the manner in which they operate reflect our understanding of tradition, our tireless quest as innovators, and the spirit of founder Flora Komes who was always gracious to her community, demanded excellence and lived with a twinkle in her eye.

This former home of the 1900 Rennie Brothers Winery in St. Helena, suffered a one-two punch at the turn of the 20th century. Not only were its vineyards hit by phylloxera, but a fire in its wine cellar decimated its production capabilities. After decades of inactivity, the property was purchased in the mid 1970s and renamed Flora Springs. The ghost winery has since been renovated and serves as a production facility, which visitors can see during tours of the Flora Springs estate. Flora Springs plays up its ghost winery heritage with Halloween releases including All Hallows' Eve Cabernet Franc and Ghost Winery Malbec.

Trilogy is Flora Springs' flagship wine, one that dates back to 1984 when the family decided to make the finest wine possible by selecting the highest quality wine lots culled from the estate vineyards in Napa Valley. Back then it was one of Napa Valley's first proprietary red blends, and today this Bordeaux-style wine continues to be sourced from the Komes-Garvey estate vineyards.

86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot, 6% Malbec. This iconic wine brings together Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Malbec grown in St. Helena, Rutherford and Oakville. A spectacular vintage yielded a deep, full-bodied red with dense flavors of black cherry and crème de cassis layered with dark chocolate, espresso bean, hints of licorice and wild chaparral. Warm and generous on the palate, the wine's time in both French and American oak adds a spicy vanilla character to the mix, while the velvety tannins bring it to a long and satisfying finish.

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July 2019

2014 Jonata Todos Red Wine
Santa Ynez Valley, California

From the owners of Screaming Eagle

Dedicated to expressing a range of red—and a handful of white—wines from its estate in the central coast of California’s Ballard Canyon (Santa Ynez Appellation), Jonata is one of a new breed of producers throughout the world who are thriving with a non-traditional amalgam of varieties and blends. With a commitment in particular to Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Syrah, and informed by cutting edge viticulture, winemaking and a polyface approach to their estate, the Jonata wines are on the vanguard of an emerging quality movement in California winegrowing.

Jonata is dedicated to sustainability from the inside out; a principled approach to farming. With its use of polyface farming—as first introduced to America by Michael Pollan in his book “The Omnivore’s Dilemma”—Jonata integrates and revolves livestock (chickens, turkeys, goats, pigs and sheep) in their farming model, which naturally enhances the soil and health of their land (not to mention that of the critters themselves and the Jonata community!). Farmworkers are given a large garden plot to grow food for themselves and their families. Water is used judiciously and with precision. Herbicides and pesticides don’t even enter the conversation.

The name Jonata pays homage to the 1845 Spanish land grant, Rancho San Carlos de Jonata. At the time the land grant covered a large part of the Santa Ynez Valley. Today’s Jonata is at the heart of the former land grant. The Jonata name was borrowed by the first pioneers from the local Chumash Indian and means “tall oak”.

Out of the 586 acres acquired by Stan Kroenke, only 84 bear vines today. The highly sandy soil made the vineyard development intricate and the task was successfully done by Central Coast Vineyard Care Associates—the preeminent viticultural management company on the Central Coast. Forgoing conventional wisdom from the outset the estate was planted with a host of varieties that are rarely cultivated side-by-side, an audacious decision at the time that created a stir in the winegrowing community.

94+ Wine Advocate - Blended of 47% Syrah, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Merlot, 3% Sangiovese and 2% Viognier, the 2014 Todos Proprietary Red Wine reveals a medium to deep garnet-purple color and a pronounced blackberries, blueberry pie and cassis-scented nose with an Indian spices and black pepper-laced undercurrent, plus a waft of lavender. Soft, medium-bodied, perfumed and elegant in the mouth, this finely crafted beauty offers great seamlessness and harmony, finishing long and spicy.

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Billecart-Salmon Brut Champagne
Champagne, France

The Cuvée Nicolas-Francois Billecart 1959 won first place in the Champagne of the Millennium 1999 tasting, out of 150 of the finest 20th century Champagnes.

Billecart-Salmon is a medium-sized champagne house in Mareuil-sur-Aÿ, France. Founded in 1818 with the marriage of Nicolas François Billecart and Elisabeth Salmon, it is one of the few to remain family owned. The estate has been in the family's hands since then and is currently run by the 7th generation of François and Antoine Roland-Billecart. The family owns 100 hectares of vines and buys grapes from over 220 hectares of vineyards in Montagne de Reims, Vallée de la Marne and Côte des Blancs. This makes them a Négotiant-Manipulant vs a Récoltant-Manipulant, or a producer who buys grapes as opposed to a "grower producer" who only makes Champagne from the vineyards they own.

Billecart-Salmon is particularly known for its Brut Rosé, which the family famously describes as: "A Champagne Rosé and not a Rosé Champagne." The blend is generally 30% Pinot Meunier with almost 50% Chardonnay and the balance Pinot Noir. Most Rosé blends don't include such a large percentage of Chardonnay. Billecart-Salmon is intentionally different and the house cuvée has a devoted following, worldwide.

Fruit for the various Champagnes is rigorously selected from vineyards totaling just over 300 hectares around Épernay, as well as Montagne de Reims, Côte des Blancs and the Vallée de la Marne. Billecart-Salmon and its shareholders own 100 hectares of these vineyards; the other 200 are under contract.

Adjacent to the estate itself is a prized property called Clos Saint-Hilaire, a vineyard consisting of one-hectare of Pinot Noir. Maintained biodynamically, the small vineyard is the source of the house's rarest cuvée. The wine is vinified entirely in oak barrels, receives no dosage and has only been produced from four vintages to date: 1995, 1996 and 1998, with an average production of 3,000 bottles. The 1999 vintage has just been released.

A wine with serious structure, this Brut Réserve Champagne reminds you of a freshly sliced peach cobbler, dusted with candied orange peel and touched with cream. A blend of 40% Pinot Meunier, 30% Pinot Noir, and 30% Chardonnay that's sourced from the Champagne region's finest vineyards, this tangy, precise and energetic Brut Réserve offers tiny bubbles and a beautiful mousse that lingers on the finish. The bouquet is floral and fresh, bursting with notes of pear, apple, white peach, citrus, and hints of ginger and biscuit, and the wine's refreshing, clean palate offers a profusion of ripe apricot, pineapple, pear, and Meyer lemon. A wine of power, finesse and balance, with a satisfying flinty finish, this Champagne suits all occasions.

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Meyer Fonne Cremant d'Alsace Brut Extra
Alsace, France

The permitted grapes in Alsace are the four noble grapes: Gewurztraminer, Muscat, Riesling, and Pinot Gris, along with Auxerrois (also known as Klevner), Chasselas, Pinot Blanc, Savagnin rosé, Sylvaner and Pinot Noir.

Félix Meyer is a rising star in Alsace and has an evident instinct for his craft. He is the third generation in his family to be making wine since his grandfather founded the domaine in the late 19th century. Since taking over in 1992, Félix has already left his own mark, modernizing equipment in the winery, developing export sales, and now expanding the family's holdings in many of Alsace's great vineyard sites, including several grand crus.

It's all about the details at Meyer-Fonné, with an emphasis on tradition and respect for terroir. The winery and family home is in the village of Katzenthal, known for its distinctive granite soils. Meyer is a master at the art of blending and astutely applies this skill in mixing the wine from various parcels into complex, balanced cuvées. He also believes in raising his wines on fine lees in large, older foudres, as was the tradition in Alsace. All of Meyer's bottlings are characterized by stunning aromatics and a signature backbone of minerality and nerve. Racy and elegant, his wines are difficult to resist young but have all the right qualities for the cellar. For aromatic and textural seductiveness, no one in Alsace can top Meyer-Fonné.

Félix is increasingly interested in organic farming and uses no synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides to treat the vines. Cover crops are planted in every other row in the vineyards. Some vineyards are plowed, but certain parcels can be plowed only once a year because any more would erode the soils. He treats the grapes with the same individualized care, harvesting by hand and gently loading them into the press. The use of native yeasts during fermentation makes the process longer and slower, creating a more lush texture.

60% Pinot Auxerrois, 20% Chardonnay, 15% Pinot Blanc, 5% Pinot Noir. This sparkling wine is just screaming to be consumed—so fresh, crisp, and dry, with lovely bubbles that tickle the palate and inspire you to fill up your glass again.

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2016 The Hilt Estate Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills
Sta. Rita Hills, California

From the owners of Screaming Eagle – the sister winery to Jonata

To understand the wines made by The Hilt, one might need to come visit the hard and harsh conditions under which they are born. The unobstructed, ocean facing east-west valley known as Sta. Rita Hills Valley is a complex AVA. One could divide it into four quadrants: northern-facing, southern-facing, close to the ocean, and further inland from the ocean. With such a frame, The Hilt's favorite vineyards are in the northern-facing, closest to the ocean, windswept quadrant. These sites are the worst place for a grape grower, but the best ones for a winemaker.

Rancho Salsipuedes, where The Hilt wines make their home, provides vineyards planted on land nearly 13 unobstructed miles from the ocean on the west. This unique, large and sprawling property offers a range of altitudes, aspects, soil types, and microclimates, giving winemaker Matt Dees a patchwork of vineyard parcels from which to select grapes and create wines with distinctive styles.

Diverse though it may be, Salsipuedes possesses some aspects that remain consistent: the land has poor soils that force vines to dig deep; there are powerful, whipping winds and a cold maritime climate that allow grapes on the property to ripen slowly and retain acidity despite the warm daytime sun; and the vines on the property are low in vigor, allowing them to produce low yields of concentrated, complex grapes. It is with these three important components – poor soils, whipping winds and a cool maritime climate along with low vigor vines – that Salsipuedes defines itself in the Sta. Rita Hills.

93+ Wine Advocate - The Hilt's 2016 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills is excellent, wafting from the glass with an exciting bouquet of dark wild berry fruits, licorice, rich soil, rose hip and orange peel. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, bright and expansive, with velvety tannins and a crunchy core of primary fruit, its bright line of acidity carrying through to the mouthwatering finish.

93 Jeb Dunnuck - The 2016 Pinot Noir Estate is the larger production red from this team, yet it certainly gives a good view into the quality coming from the Hilt wines. Black cherries, black raspberries, graphite, peppery herbs, and underbrush notes flow to a medium-bodied, supple, beautifully layered Pinot Noir that has ripe, present tannins, plenty of mid-palate flesh, and remarkable purity. Drink it any time over the coming 7-8 years.

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2014 Kara Wines Pinot Noir
Chalone, California

All of Kara Wines offerings are sourced from organic and sustainably farmed single vineyards.

It's a shock that someone even thought to climb up to Antle Vineyard back in the 1980s—let alone plant grape vines in this remote, mountainous spot. It must not have been much fun, establishing this block of Dijon clone Pinot Noir. Same goes for cultivating and harvesting the fruit from this remote site. Clearly, the massive effort was well worth it, as this Antle Vineyard release from the boutique label Kara is one stellar example of gorgeous Pinot Noir.

Organically farmed Antle Vineyard is on the edge of California's awesome Pinnacles National Park but seriously far from both civilization and water. The terroir here is pure Chalone AVA, with deep deposits of limestone and granite in the soil, which make for low yields of concentrated and complex Pinot grapes containing vivid acidity and character. The wine was aged for 10 months in neutral oak, meaning nothing to cover up this Pinot's exotic spice and red cranberry fruit. Kara produced fewer than 15 barrels of this wine. Considering the aforementioned effort that went into those barrels, who can blame them?

The Chalone AVA is one of California's most remote sites. Situated in the Gabilan Mountains, east of the Central Valley town of Soledad, the appellation features a unique terroir of limestone and decomposed granite-rich soil. Pinot vines planted at Chalone's Antle Vineyard sit at 1,800 feet in elevation and enjoy a unique microclimate featuring intense shifts from daytime highs and nighttime low temperatures.

The 2014 Kara Estate Pinot Noir is composed of 100% estate vineyard fruit. An intriguing bouquet of black cherry, blueberry and spice draws you in. The silky palate has focused notes of black licorice, root beer and a hint of nutmeg. A wet stone minerality neatly ties up all these elements on the lingering finish.

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2015 Alcance Carmenere Gran Reserva
Valle del Maule, Argentina

Alcance wines, “reach” in Spanish, express the soul of two Estate vineyards located in both the Maipo and Maule Vales. Randy Ullom, a Chilean viticultural expert and Andres Sanchez, a Chilean native with global winemaking experience, bring to life the diversity of soils and varieties of unique Estate Vineyards by crafting wines with depth, character and intensity. The winery produces a flagship Bordeaux-style blend, Bravura, and five single-varietal wines from Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Carmenere, and old vine Carignan.

The Carmenere Gran Reserva is sourced from the Maiten Vineyard which is located on the foothills of the Andes, on the Eastern side of Maule Vale. Carménère, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot fruit produced here help craft wines that rich and broad shouldered with brilliant aromatics and soft tannins.

The Carménère grape is a wine grape variety originally planted in the Médoc region of Bordeaux, France, where it was used to produce deep red wines and occasionally used for blending purposes in the same manner as Petit Verdot. A member of the Cabernet family of grapes, the name "Carménère" originates from the French word for crimson (carmin) which refers to the brilliant crimson color of the autumn foliage prior to leaf-fall.

Along with Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot, Carménère is considered part of the original six red grapes of Bordeaux. Now rarely found in France, the world's largest area planted with this variety is in Chile, with more than 8,800 hectares cultivated in the Central Valley. As such, Chile produces the vast majority of Carménère wines available today and as the Chilean wine industry grows, more experimentation is being carried out on Carménère's potential as a blending grape, especially with Cabernet Sauvignon.

85% Carmenere, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot. Generous blackberry notes combined with black pepper and earth tones give the Carménère a complex aroma. Very elegant satin tannins give way to a long finish.

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