

SHANE

CRAFTED IN SEBASTOPOL, CA

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Where does the time go? It seems the intervals between harvests, bottlings, and wine releases get closer and closer. Each year, when I send wines out for release, I get more nostalgic.

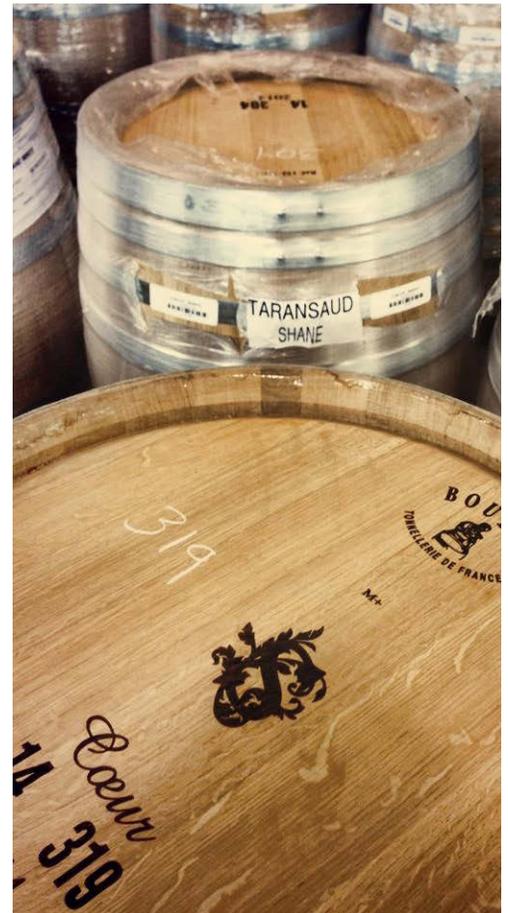
When I started Shane Wines in 2006 my goal was to produce outstanding wines that showed the true essence of the varieties and the vineyards. I am proud to say I have achieved that goal and it is foremost in my mind as I grow my wine production.

The two wines in this release imbue this original spirit. In 2009, my foray into Pinot Noir started with The Charm. In 2006, my first vintage, I created The Unknown Syrah – an homage to my newbie winemaking status.

These wines also demonstrate the evolution of Shane Wines. My Pinot Noir production (The Charm and Le Reine) is evolving and growing, but this will be the last Unknown for a few years.

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THE WINES

2012 PINOT NOIR, THE CHARM

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, 225 CASES

Over the years, The Charm has been sourced from a variety of vineyards. However, it has always maintained a pure Russian River Valley essence: red fruits, sweet spice, and evocative structure. The current release maintains this essence and builds upon the strengths of its predecessors.

The key to creating a consistent wine with varied vineyard sources is great vineyard management. Luckily, as my vineyard sources have changed I have been able to work with first-class vineyard managers at each stop. These managers, and precise vineyard selections, have allowed me to achieve a reliably pure and layered Russian River Valley Pinot Noir.

The 2012 Charm is sourced from the Floodgate Vineyard in the heart of the Russian River Valley and managed by a rising star vineyard manager – Chris Walden. Floodgate has the classic Goldridge soils found throughout the Russian River Valley and an excellent selection of Pinot Noir clones.

I source the fruit-forward and delicious 667 clone as well as some of the area's oldest Pinot Noir vines. Floodgate is home to an old-vine Martini selection Pinot Noir planted in 1969. The spicy, structured, and dark berry aspects of the Martini harmonize seamlessly with the 667.

One hundred percent Floodgate vineyard, equal parts 667 and Martini clones, aged in thirty percent new French oak for fourteen months, with fifteen percent whole cluster inclusion, The Charm is a red fruit driven and supple Pinot Noir with bright acidity and firm structure. 225 cases produced.

MY NOTES

The Charm has a deep garnet color. The aromatics are highlighted by expressive red fruit elements of Bing cherries, ripe strawberries, and cola. A firm and plush mid-palate exhibits undertones of plum, savory herbs, and sarsaparilla. Bright acidity and keen structure define the finish filled with raspberries, anise, and elderberries.

2012 SYRAH, THE UNKNOWN

SONOMA COUNTY, 175 CASES

As Shane Wines has evolved, the sources and compositions of The Unknown have meandered through appellations, clones, and varieties. When I created my first Unknown Syrah in 2006, I blended three vineyards and five different clones of Syrah. Now, in a farewell to the Unknown and to Bennett Valley, I have focused the blend on one site – the Judge Vineyard.

The 2012 edition of The Unknown embodies all that is great about Bennett Valley and the Judge Vineyard. When the weather cooperates (always a challenge in this chilly appellation), the Syrah from this area offers an amazing balance of fruit and spice. The true essence of cool-climate Syrah, with a California twist, comes alive in the best years from the Judge Vineyard.

Fortunately, 2012 was a year this careful balance was achieved; and thus, the current Unknown release is a noble wine worthy of a last call. The fruit is impeccable and the spice elements are exotic; this is an Unknown not to be missed.

One hundred percent Judge Vineyard, fermented with seventy-five percent whole clusters, Estrella River, 877, and 174 clones, and aged for fourteen months in twenty percent new French oak, the 2012 Unknown Syrah deftly blends California fruitiness and Rhone styled spice. 175 cases produced.

MY NOTES

The Unknown exhibits an inky onyx color. The heady aromatics of violets, iodine, and ripe blueberries abound. Rich and textured mid-palate filled with blackberries, cocoa powder, and Asian spices. Textured tannins unfurl and highlight the finish with hints of white pepper, lilac, tar, and venison.



NEWS AND UPDATES

- THE 2014 HARVEST IS FAST APPROACHING. IT HAS BEEN WARM AND DRY THIS YEAR SO WE ARE EXPECTING AN EARLY HARVEST.
- VISIT US IF YOU'RE IN SONOMA COUNTY. EMAIL ME IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE WINERY.
- INTERESTED IN SOME OLDER WINES YOU MISSED ON RELEASE? EMAIL ME AND SEE IF I HAVE A FEW BOTTLES REMAINING IN THE CELLAR.