

The 2015 Vintage: Fall Release

2015 Peay Vineyards Estate Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast 500 cases

With 17 years of vine age and a moderate growing season our *Estate* Chardonnay has evolved into a mature, nuanced expression that Peay Chardonnay drinkers will thoroughly enjoy. The ultimate impression of the 2015 *Estate* Chardonnay is grace and harmony. The nose emphasizes candied lemon, lemon verbena, and iodine. The mouthfeel is medium and silky though lively and decidedly not fat. The 2015 is truly a seamless Chardonnay with a smooth transition from the front of the palate to the long finish. It is not as round and rich as the 2009 or 2012 *Estate* Chardonnays and has less smokiness than the 2013 and less pear fruit than the 2014. Feel free to enjoy it now as all the pieces are in unison but with each year aging in bottle I suspect more nutty and waxy notes will contribute further complexity and enjoyment. This is my favorite Chardonnay we have released to date.

2015 Peay Vineyards Estate Roussanne/Marsanne, Sonoma Coast 70 cases

Our 0.6 acres of Roussanne and Marsanne are the most trying vines we farm. They ripen very late in the season coming in with the last lots of Syrah sometime in early November. They have tight clusters that lead to burst berries and as a result can be susceptible to rot late in the season when the fog is heavy. Often we nurse them along by laying silver mylar in between the rows to reflect any available sun. There is a reason people do not grow these varieties in climates as cold as ours. But, these conditions make wines with vitality and purity. That is the ne plus ultra for winemakers who make wines of place: Wine with life, purpose, identity.

The 2015 Estate Roussanne/Marsanne is also one of the most harmonious Rhône blends we have made in years. The youthful nose highlights citrus and floral notes that pop on the fore-palate. As the wine moves down the tongue nutty and lanolin notes combine with eeswax, slate, and orange peel flavors on the very bright and crisp finish. There is a mineral component that reminds me of dry Chenin Blanc and the acidity is lively but not tactile as it has been in certain years. It is not a fat or heavy wine like some Roussanne on the market as the lack of new oak allows the varieties' characteristics to shine. This is a lovely wine to enjoy now but 2-3 years will result in a more unified expression and, if desired, the high acidity and low alcohol will allow the wine to hold up while oxidized funkiness emerges over the next 5-10 years.

2015 Peay Vineyards Scallop Shelf Estate Pinot noir, Sonoma Coast 575 cases

The 2015 vintage created wines of poise, refinement and balance and the 2015 *Scallop Shelf* is not an exception. In the nose aromas of star anise and potpourri mingle with tarter red berries like lingonberry, Rainier cherry and blood orange. The fore palate is consistent with the nose and the ever-present earthy and forest floor flavors found in our wines frame the fruit. The *Scallop Shelf* is medium bodied and evolves smoothly as it carries to the back of the mouth with silky tannins present at this stage which encourages aging the wine a few years to soften and allow further cohesion. The finish is clean and quite persistent and overall the wine embodies what we desire from our Pinot noirs; body without weight, lift with ballast, refinement with power. I encourage you to drink a bottle in the first year after receiving it and to open a few bottles every few years to see how it evolves. It should shine and become increasingly more interesting, though more subtle, up to at least 15 years from vintage.

2015 Peay Vineyards Ama Estate Pinot noir, Sonoma Coast 350 cases

The 2015 *Ama* is a masculine Pinot noir combining the refinement found in the *Scallop Shelf* with the dark fruited rusticity of the *Pomarium*. More than any other wine we make, this cuveé hits me squarely in the pleasure zone engaging my brain and my belly. The seductive dark cherry nose has elements of Chinese five spice rubbed smoked duck with a cherry compote. It is medium bodied and round with just enough juiciness in the mid-palate to make me reach for another glass. The finish is held together by our signature forest floor/bark flavors and refreshing acidity (lowest pH pinot we made in 2015.) The 2015 *Ama* is very enjoyable right now and will age well. Try a few bottles upon release and every few years to watch it evolve.

2014 Peay Vineyards Les Titans Estate Syrah, Sonoma Coast 350 cases

Just from the color you can tell the 2014 *Les Titans* Syrah will be magnificent; it has an electric psychedelic purplish glow hinting at the energy present in the wine. The nose is a complete knockout with iron, grilled meat, hickory smoke, ink, and pain grillé aromas. The mouth is consistent with the nose combining power and precision. The finish is long and clean with great acidity and lingering notes of violets and squid ink. The *Les Titans* has everything you could hope for in cold climate Syrah with grace and focus and none of the one dimensional, heavy, leaden quality found in lesser wines. I suggest you drink a bottle upon release to see what is so exciting and then open a few every few years to watch it evolve into the single best *Les Titans* – and maybe even Syrah - we have ever made.