

# WineClub

## Welcome to the Club

*After leaving a career in Human Resources, I dove headfirst into the world of wine - a passion that quickly became a calling. I earned my Certified Specialist of Wine credential during COVID, then gained hands-on experience in a vineyard & tasting room. A stint in London for the Wine & Spirit Education Trust Level 3 pushed me to my limits, but I passed with renewed confidence. It's been a winding journey, with a few HR detours, but now I'm fully immersed in wine and loving every moment. Thank you for joining the club - I can't wait to explore this world with fellow enthusiasts like you!*

Sincerely, *Hilary*

## Douloufakis Winery Crete, Greece

From the village of Dafnes on the island of Crete comes our first Greek wine. Douloufakis winery is deeply rooted in Cretan winemaking, focusing on indigenous grapes like Vidiano, alongside Vilana, Muscat of Spina, and Liatiko, with a small selection of international varieties. Their dedication to local grapes makes this wine a standout.

Founded in 1930 and now led by third-generation winemaker Nikos Douloufakis, the winery has played a key role in reviving Vidiano, a grape that was once nearly extinct. Through organic farming and thoughtful modernization, Douloufakis helped turn Vidiano into the flagship varietal it is today. The result is a wine that's expressive, distinctive, and a beautiful blend of tradition & innovation.

*Hilary's Note: "My first experience with Vidiano was unforgettable. After tasting countless wines at a trade show, this white stayed with me - and I knew it had to be part of our Wine Club. While I am excited to introduce more people to Vidiano, I wanted our members to discover it first. Rich, well-balanced, and beautifully full-bodied."*

## Halter Ranch Winery Paso Robles, CA

Located on the western edge of Paso Robles, Halter Ranch is a 2,700-acre organic estate where wine growing & land stewardship go hand in hand. Only 237 acres are planted to vineyard, all certified organic, farmed without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers, resulting in grapes that truly reflect their environment and the care behind them.

Founded in 2000 by Swiss philanthropist & conservationist Hansjörg Wyss, Halter Ranch was built with sustainability at its core. Under the guidance of winemaker Kevin Sass, whose career spans over 25 years, the focus is on crafting age-worthy wines with balance and character. Through thoughtful vineyard practices, they deliver wines that feel purposeful & beautifully expressive.

*Hilary's Note: "While I've long been familiar with Halter Ranch's Cabernet Sauvignon, this blend was a standout for me. Made from Grenache, Tannat, Mourvèdre, and Syrah, it's exactly the kind of layered, expressive wine I love. Bright, mouthwatering, and beautifully balanced, this Paso Robles blend keeps you coming back."*

## UPCOMING COMPLIMENTARY TASTINGS

Adobe Road Winery  
Wine Country on Wheels  
January 20<sup>th</sup> | 4-7pm | Mayo

Gray Randolph Wines  
Poured by Gray Randolph  
January 23<sup>rd</sup> | 4-6pm | Mayo

**\*Wine Club Members will receive 15% off Adobe Road and Gray Randolph purchases the day of the tastings\***

# WINES OF THE MOMENT

## Douloufakis Vidiano

This 100% Vidiano is a true landmark wine for the Douloufakis winery, highlighting the elegance and potential of this rare Greek grape. Aromas of peach, apricot, and quince rise from the glass, layered with delicate floral notes of jasmine and chamomile, setting the stage for a beautifully expressive white wine.



On the palate, this Vidiano is full-bodied yet balanced, with lively acidity that carries the fruit through to a clean, refined finish. Rich without being heavy. It delivers depth and freshness in equal measure, making it a standout expression of this revered varietal.

**Perfect Pairings:** Vidiano's versatility makes it a natural match for seafood, pasta, and white meats. Try it with Sole Meunière, or pair it with pork dishes like a Cretan-style pan-fired pork and leeks. Elegant and food-friendly, this wine truly shines at the table.



## Halter Ranch CDP

This Grenache-driven blend brings together Grenache, Tannat, Mourvèdre, and Syrah to create a wine that's vibrant, expressive, and easy to love. Aromas of blueberry, raspberry, strawberry, and rose petals lift from the glass, offering a bright and inviting introduction to this beautifully balanced red wine.



On the palate, red fruits and pomegranate take center stage with a lively opening and a long, layered finish. Aged in neutral French oak and concrete, the wine maintains soft, gentle tannins and a smooth texture, allowing the fruit and freshness to shine through effortlessly.

**Perfect Pairings:** This wine is a natural fit for a charcuterie board loaded with meats and cheeses. For a heartier option, try it with lamb osso buco or pork Milanese. Approachable, versatile, and endlessly drinkable, this blend is made to be enjoyed to the very last drop.



## Can you Guess Next Month's Varietals?

**White Wine:** We are headed to Germany for our first-ever visit to this classic winemaking country. This modern white offers gooseberry, juicy apple, and hints of kiwi, balanced by bright minerality and clean fruit structure. Fresh yet expressive, it brings a new and exciting style to the club.

**Red Wine:** Back in the Columbia Valley of Washington, this red showcases everything to love about the region. With aromas of raspberry and vanilla and a palate of black cherry, spice, and subtle oak, it's bold, savory, and beautifully structured - an irresistible expression of this standout varietal.



### Next Pick Up Dates:

Thursday, February 19th  
Thursday, March 19th

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