

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, 

Böhme & Töchter Gleina, Saale-Unstrut, Germany

Weingut Böhme & Töchter (Böhme & Daughters) is a standout example of modern generational winemaking. Founded in 1985 and revitalized by sisters Marika and Toska—along with Marika's husband and cellar master, Sandro Sperk—the estate has transformed its identity to match the precision and purity of its wines. Their minimalist aesthetic reflects a philosophy of stripping away the unnecessary to showcase the character of their historic vineyards.

In 2022, the estate earned admission into the prestigious VDP, cementing its place among Germany's top producers. Farming about six hectares in the steep, terraced landscapes of Saale-Unstrut, the winery benefits from the region's signature Muschelkalk (shell limestone) soils, which impart the electric minerality and tension that define their wines. Of the six hectares planted, a little over two hectares are planted on those steep slopes.

Hilary's Note: "When I tasted this back in January, my first thought was 'June!'. This is a summer wine through and through, and kicking off the season with an off-dry pool sipper feels like the perfect move. It's light, bright, and acidic, with just enough sweetness to be refreshing without ever overwhelming the palate. After a day in 100+ degree heat, this will cool you down instantly."

Brittan Vineyards Willamette Valley, Oregon, USA

Robert and Ellen Brittan purchased a 128-acre estate in the foothills of Oregon's Coast Range in the Willamette Valley. Robert, a winemaker with over 50 years of experience, left Stag's Leap Winery in Napa to pursue his dream of crafting cooler-climate Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Syrah. After two decades in finance, Ellen shifted careers as well, spending ten years at Rudd Winery before they moved to Oregon.

The estate's soils—glacial deposits mixed with volcanic material and broken basalt—initially supported 18 acres of vines. Nearly half have since been replanted to refine viticulture and improve clonal and rootstock selections. In 2008, another 3.5 acres of Pinot Noir were added, though the rocky, low-retention soils often require up to five years for vines to reach production. Today, the Brittan Estate Vineyard is farmed organically and certified sustainable by LIVE.

Hilary's Note: "The Burgundy of the West! This Pinot Noir offers what you want and expect from Oregon's Willamette Valley. I found nuance in this Pinot Noir that surprised my palate and excited my mind as its layers developed with each taste. Put a slight chill on this and you've got the perfect pairing for dinner or the perfect companion for a book."

WINES OF THE MOMENT

Bacchus Feinherb

This 100% Bacchus varietal wine is off-dry and a perfect summer sipper. Bear with me, off-dry doesn't mean sugar bomb, but there is some residual sugar that your palate may pick up on. This wine is bursting with aromatics of pear, lemon, grapefruit, and currant with a touch of herbs. You may find hints of tropical fruit - think mango - on the palate that helps round out the finish.



Bacchus is a white wine grape created in 1933 by crossing a Silvaner/Riesling cross with Müller-Thurgau. It isn't widely available and because of that I think it deserves a little of the spotlight this summer.

Marika and Sandro operate B&T with a quiet confidence that translates directly into their wines. Their approach in the cellar is one of restraint and minimal intervention. B&T wines are crafted by utilizing wild yeasts, avoiding unnecessary additives, and fermenting with meticulous care, to offer a pure expression of their terroir.

Perfect Pairings: As much as I'd happily drop this into an ice bucket by the pool and finish it there, this wine also shines with light, zesty summer dishes. Try it with shrimp tossed in lemon and herbs, or with grilled or poached white fish. Fresh goat cheese or burrata with herbs make excellent matches as well.

Brittan Estate Pinot Noir

This 100% estate Pinot Noir opens with aromas of red currant, cranberry, boysenberry, and orange blossom. The classic earthiness of Pinot Noir is present, but here it adds depth to the vibrant red fruit rather than overshadowing it. The wine has excellent aging potential—lay it down for another decade or enjoy it with friends this summer.



Pinot Noir originated in Burgundy, France, and is famously difficult to grow. Its thin skins and tight clusters make it highly sensitive to climate, thriving in cooler regions where moderate temperatures allow the grape to develop its hallmark elegance and complexity. This is the style Robert Brittan set out to achieve.

When the Brittan's purchased the estate in 2004, it became a full-scale rehabilitation project. They replanted acres due to the challenging nature of the site, retrained vines, and spent years learning the nuances of this rugged landscape.

Perfect Pairings: Pinot Noir is one of the most versatile food-pairing wines, and the classics—roasted poultry, mushroom dishes, and grilled salmon—are all perfect matches. Try an herb roasted chicken or mushroom risotto. With its high acidity and light-to-medium body, you're almost guaranteed to find a great pairing partner.



Upcoming Pick Up Dates:

Thursday, July 16th - Pick Up Party at Mayo

Thursday, August 20th - Pick Up Party at Arcadia

Thursday, September 17th - Pick Up Party at PV Mall

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