

# TURLEY

Dear Friends,

Tasting through the lineup of Fall wines is one of the main perks of being at Turley, as these are some of our favorites. In fact, it's so enjoyable, we are often forced to do it more than once, just to realllly get the truest sense of each of these individual wines, as well as an accurate picture of the overall vintage. It's *work*, we swear. Ah, the sacrifices we make for our jobs...! (*hic*) These wines have benefitted from the additional few months in bottle, and will be even more ready and a-rarin' to go by the time they reach you. As always, though, we respectfully request that you wait until the door has closed behind the delivery person before you rip into an Old Vines; it's only fair, considering he won't be able to do the same until he finishes his shift.

After our diligent work on your behalf, tasting through all 16 (!) of the wines on this release, it's clear that the 2015 vintage is most reminiscent of the wines of 2013: dense, concentrated, with incredible depth and complexity. The only difference is that while the 2013 wines had some of the strongest tannins we've seen in a Zinfandel, the 2015 wines are more silky, approachable, and luscious. This 2013 comparison bodes well, given that it was one of the best and most well-received Turley vintages to date.

We also have a couple of introductions to make: first up, we have a new addition to the Old Vines cadre. After a long, literal dry spell here in California, in which we saw more and more old vineyards succumb to financial or weather-related challenges, sources for this beloved wine were near-impossible to find. Lucky for us, our winemaker & head vineyard manager Tegan Passalacqua has a nose like an old-vine-detecting bloodhound, and he tracked down a stellar new site from Lodi, with plantings from 1907 and the 1950's. Finally, we have a little more of this wine to go around, which you will see reflected in your offer.

We're also introducing a new wine with some very old roots: the Whitney Tennessee Vineyard Zinfandel, from a pre-Prohibition planting in Alexander Valley, Sonoma. Named for one of Larry's four daughters (ever wondered what the 4 stars on the cork stood for?) the wine is an excellent addition to the family. Longstanding members may remember a wine with the same name from the mid-1990's, though this is a separate vineyard that Turley purchased in 2009.

Speaking of new additions, Larry's oldest daughter Christina, the winery's Director of Sales, married fellow wino & Rosenthal Wine Merchant's West Coast Director Ben Andersen this summer; another daughter, Nell Montana Turley, Lt. Junior Grade USCG, performed the ceremony. Christina even managed not to spill any of the '99 Hayne Petite Syrah they celebrated with on her dress, and Larry is so very proud.

Old Vines Young Love,  
Turley Wine Cellars

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*Larry is the one on the right;  
just read his belt*

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## Winemaker's Notes

### **2015 "The White Coat" White Wine, California**

Though the blend has changed over the years, White Coat (named for Larry's past as an Emergency Room physician) comprises rich, textured Roussanne from Rattlesnake Ridge on Howell Mountain moderated by acidity and structure of Grenache Blanc from Pesenti Vineyard. Recently we've added a bit of Vermentino from Amador, as well as some extra Grenache Blanc and a little Verdelho from Lodi. The result is a unique, dynamic white wine that is truly California.

*Our most well-balanced, refreshing, and satiating White Coat to date. Golden stone fruit on the nose, with a healthy seasoning of white pepper spice from the Roussanne grown on high-elevation Howell Mountain. As the vines have matured, we've added a touch more of the Grenache Blanc from the calcareous soils in the Pesenti vineyard, lending fresh crisp fruits on the palate. This is a serious white wine, the likes of which you can't find anywhere else!*

### **2015 "Cedarman" Zinfandel, Howell Mountain**

Cedarman is a proprietary blend of fruit from both Rattlesnake Ridge and Dragon Vineyards. Although primarily Zinfandel, we use a small amount of Petite Syrah from the Rattlesnake vineyard as well. The result is a truly powerful, dense and wild wine, long on flavor.

*There's a reason Howell Mountain is such a lauded and sought-after source: nowhere else in Napa Valley, or all of California for that matter, do you find so much flavor and texture packed in a single wine. Robust spice, predominantly white & black pepper, complemented by dark purple fruits comprise the nose. The palate is remarkably approachable, with the distinctive terroir showing up in the well-structured tannins and long, expansive finish. Decant the Cedarman to enjoy the wine's progression over the course of an evening.*

### **2015 "Dogtown Vineyard" Zinfandel, Lodi**

Planted in 1944, the Dogtown Vineyard is farmed by Turley Wine Cellars. This head-trained, own-rooted vineyard is within the Clements Hills AVA, which has more topography than the rest of Lodi. The rolling hills are composed of clay and volcanic soils, and vine yields are consistently the lowest of all our vineyards.

*Dogtown, you beautiful, miniscule, jewel of a vineyard. You've done it again. Dark, intoxicating flowers on the nose, with freshly-grated baking spices strewn throughout. The palate is an exercise in perfectly structured elegance: lush & smooth at first, and—with the best natural acidity of any other vineyard in Lodi—a texture that downright vibrates, all the way through to the finish.*

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## **2015 “Fredericks Vineyard” Zinfandel, Sonoma Valley**

Hailing from 1937, these certified organic vines are some of the most unique we’ve ever seen. Just a mile and a half from the Napa border on the Sonoma side of the Mayacamas, the vines are planted along steep, contoured terraces. Finding old vineyards is rare enough, but ancient hillside head-trained vines located 900 feet up? Downright extraordinary.

*If savory seasonings are more up your alley than sweets, if the idea of herbs de Provence on everything sounds completely reasonable, if listening to “Scarborough Fair” makes you hungry, then do we have the wine for you. Brooding blue fruits are a perfect foil to the darkly aromatic herbs and stone-filled underbrush on the nose. The multi-textured palate belies its mountain source, with more cool blue fruit and well-defined tannins. If you’ve loved the Howell Mountain wines like Rattlesnake & Dragon but never tried the Fredericks, don’t dawdle—drink up!*

## **2015 “Hayne Vineyard” Zinfandel, Napa Valley**

The Hayne Vineyard is one of our most exceptional sites. Located in an idyllic warm yet breezy spot on the west side of St. Helena, we are honored to have worked with this vineyard and the Hayne family for over twenty years. The property has been in the same family since 1876, and the head-trained, dry-farmed Zinfandel vines, planted in 1902 and 1903, produce wines of power and elegance. Year after year, this wine serves as the archetype for Zinfandel and Napa Valley.

*Pure precision. The 2015 Hayne Zinfandel is enthralling, perfumed with dark red fruits and fresh rose petals on the inviting nose. The flavor is strongly satisfying, striking the perfect balance between beautifully ripe yet crisp fruits, powerful textures, and a dense complexity that manages to stay nimble when it strikes your palate. Inherently well-structured, this is a wine that could benefit from some time in your cellar, though additional aging is not necessary to appreciate the many pleasures this wine will have to offer for years to come.*

## **2015 “Heminway Vineyard” Zinfandel, Napa Valley**

Located on the top of the Vaca Mountains in northeastern Napa Valley, this vineyard sits at 1700 feet in between the southern end of Howell Mountain and just north of Pritchard Hill. Grown by Jay Heminway, the vines benefit from the moderating climate above Lake Hennessey. The wines are classic Napa Valley mountain fruit with great tannin.

*The 2015 Heminway bangs all the drums. These vines are located in the east-facing meadow of the “tip top” vineyard, allowing the fruit to maintain freshness, acidity, and complexity, without getting baked in the afternoon sun. Freshly cracked black pepper, savory dark blue fruits, and fragrant herbs reminiscent of the Northern Rhône Valley abound. The mountain tannins are substantial and satiating, tempered by the lively acidity and extended out on the finish.*

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## **2015 “Judge Bell” Zinfandel, Amador County**

As our new winery is located on Bell Road, we named this wine for the eponymous (and notorious) “hanging” Judge Bell, who presided over the nearby town of Plymouth during its Gold Rush heyday. Harking from own-rooted vines planted in 1907, the wine shows quintessential Amador granitic tannins & briary fruits.

*Step back in time with this wine, hailing from 110-year-old ungrafted vines. The nose is darkly red-and-black-fruited at first pass, flecked with stone, citrus zest, and dark chocolate. The palate rushes forth with fresh juice, like biting into a perfectly ripened fruit, and finishes with more structure and grip to the granitic tannins than ever before. Judge Bell is so uniquely Amador, and further proof of the vastly varying terroirs possible in our fair state.*

## **2015 “Old Vines” Zinfandel, California**

Old Vines is composed of a variety of old sites from California that are either too small to be made into a vineyard designate wine or are “new” to the Turley family (and way of farming). Vines are anywhere from 41 to 129 years old, and a true representation of California old vine Zinfandel, hailing from vineyards in Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lodi, Contra Costa, Amador and Paso Robles. There is no better way to gauge the classic character of old vine Zinfandel in California than through this wine.

*Given that old vine vineyards (and their yields) have been on the decline for quite some time, and with 2014’s woefully small Old Vines harvest fresh in our mind, our intrepid winemaker Tegan Passalacqua set out on a mission to discover a “new” old vine vineyard. Let it be truly old, but healthy; silky, yet concentrated; and have beautiful, succulent fruit, without compromising on tannin & texture. And lo, he hath delivered! Please welcome the Steacy Vineyard in Lodi as the newest addition to the multi-vineyard sourced 2015 Old Vines. Planted in sandy soils, Steacy’s vines hail from 1907 & the 1950’s, and they lend an excellent lift and approachable charm to one of our favorite wines. Dark brambly and well-spiced red fruits on the deeply fragrant nose are prolonged on the palate, followed by classic Old Vines texture: an excellent acid/tannin synergy, and the kind of natural depth, complexity, and grace that can only come from truly old vines.*

## **2015 “Pesenti Vineyard” Zinfandel, Paso Robles**

This certified organic estate-owned vineyard was planted in the 1920’s on primarily limestone soil. Though the vines are head-trained and dry-farmed, the soil plays the most important role in distinguishing this vineyard on the west side of Paso Robles. The wines have a brightness, and chalk and floral characteristic aromas unique to the site, and to Zinfandel in general.

*Paso Robles has continued to be the hardest-hit region by the drought; in 2015, the Pesenti vineyard yielded only 1 ton to the acre, sometimes even less! Regardless, the wine is so unmistakably Pesenti: vibrant, bright red fruits like raspberry on the nose, with just a dash of white pepper and distilled minerals. The palate has more density and concentration than years previous, all of which is mitigated by a vigorous acidity, culminating in a wine that is pure pleasure.*

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## **2015 “Salvador Vineyard” Zinfandel, Contra Costa County**

Salvador Vineyard in Contra Costa County is a paragon of old vine Zinfandel. These organically farmed vines were planted on their own roots in 1896. The roots are free to roam deeply as the soil is solid sand for 40 feet down. The wine is stunning: suave, complex and powerfully elegant.

*The Salvador feels like truly old-school California, reminiscent of what wine might've tasted like when it was first made from these vines well over 120 years ago! Aromas of dark berries, peach skin, sandalwood & leather make this one of the most intriguing iterations of Salvador to date. The palate is intensely concentrated, co-mingled with an energizing acidity. These ancient, ungrafted vines in sandy soils make for some of the suavest tannins and most elongated finishes around.*

## **2015 “Ueberroth Vineyard” Zinfandel, Paso Robles**

Planted in 1885, Ueberroth is the oldest of our Zinfandel vineyards. Located closer to the sea than any other site we work with, you can smell the salt air from the top of the hill. These ungrafted, head-trained vines are planted on very steep limestone slopes. The high pH of the soil makes for a very high acid wine, elevating the ripe fruit flavors from this historic certified organic vineyard.

*With an extra 40 years on these vines and some of the steepest slopes around, the Ueberroth is like the Pesenti Vineyard in a tux: more polish, sophistication, and power. Intense purple and black fruits, refined & with great focus; unsurprising given the absurdly tiny yields of 0.7 tons to the acre! As a result, the acidity and mineral-laden tannins play greater roles without sacrificing the satiating balance and weight that can only come from these archaic, deeply-rooted vines.*

## **2015 “Whitney Tennessee” Zinfandel, Alexander Valley**

Everything old is new again, and this wine is no exception. This small, estate-owned, pre-Prohibition vineyard was purchased by the winery in 2009, and we've been slowly but surely repairing the soils through organic methods until the wine was ready to make its debut, six years later. Planted on loam and various gravel soils, the Whitney Tennessee vineyard—named for one of Larry's four daughters—is a mixed planting as well, with small amounts of Petite Syrah and Carignan vines throughout. Located just off Alexander Valley Road in Sonoma, the wine was a part of the Old Vines blend until it was ready to make its debut with this stellar vintage! Long-time Turley followers may remember a wine with the same name from the mid-1990's, though this is a different source.

*Lots of dark fruit on the nose, with a touch of cigar box and spice. The palate is all brambly fruits, black cherries & raspberries up front, with a fresh, uplifting acidity and mild tannins on the finish.*

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## **2015 “Zampatti Vineyard” Zinfandel, Sonoma County**

Located in Sonoma County, this vineyard is nearly hidden in downtown Santa Rosa. Planted in 1915 on 2.5 acres, the vineyard is farmed organically by Alida Morzenti, granddaughter of the Zampattis. The Zinfandel vines are interspersed with Palomino & Golden Chasselas, and planted on a cool sloping site with large rocks scattered throughout the warm Franciscan soils. The wines are balanced, aromatic, bright and beautiful.

*As always, the Zampatti lures you in with enticing aromas of pure red and blue fruits; this year’s version, a touch darker and denser, has a hint of game as well. The palate is thoroughly rewarding, with luscious high-toned fruits, well-integrated tannins, and a thoroughly delicious, nimble texture that lingers extensively on the finish.*

## **2015 “Hayne Vineyard” Petite Syrah, Napa Valley**

Otty Hayne planted the Hayne Petite Syrah in 1953 while he was home from college visiting his grandfather. All head-trained, dry-farmed and organic, this Petite Syrah is one of the most unique wines in California. Powerful and inky in its youth, the wine becomes more feminine and refined with age and will outlive us all.

*Dark, substantial fruits on the nose, black ink, purple flowers—this wine begs to be revisited over and over. Yields were once again minimal in this vineyard, but the flavors are massive: it’s the ripest version of Hayne we’ve seen in a while, with the elevated acidity to match. With its unrivaled balance and depth, it’s easy to see why the Hayne reigns supreme. Give it a vigorous decant, or it will be all the more stellar after some time in your cellar.*

## **2015 “Library Vineyard” Petite Syrah, Napa Valley**

The Library Vineyard is one of the most unique vineyards in California. Planted between 1880 and 1920 directly behind the St. Helena Public Library, the vineyard is very varietally diverse. Primarily Petite Syrah vines mixed with a myriad of others, including; Peloursin, Cinsault, Syrah, Mission, Alicante Bouschet, Grand Noir, Carignan, Grenache and Zinfandel. There are also several white grapes such as Muscat Alexandria, Muscadelle, Burger and Green Hungarian. We pick them all together to make a wine truly expressive of the vineyard.

*With eyes closed and your nose deep in the glass, you’d be forgiven for thinking you were smelling your entire dinner meal, laid out on the table before you. Savory aromas of rosemary, herbs de Provence, dark flowers of all kinds, well-marinated and smoked meats, fennel bulb, plum skins, spearmint...the list goes on. The palate echoes the nose and manages to add a few more layers, with medium weight, refreshing acidity, and flavorful, lengthy tannins that persist long after you’ve placed your glass back on the table, leaned back, and exhaled with pleasure.*

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## **2015 “Pesenti Vineyard” Petite Syrah, Paso Robles**

This estate-owned and certified organic vineyard was planted by the Turley team using cuttings from the Hayne vineyard. Head-trained, dry-farmed and planted in limestone, the wines are dark, smooth, dense and classic Petite Syrah. As the vines age the wines are increasingly expressive of the Pesenti Vineyard with minerality, savory spices and high tone pepper.

*Signature Pesenti Petite Syrah: deep purple fruits, white pepper, and dense garrigue on the nose. Savory herbs reminiscent of the Northern Rhône, and medium-plus tannin that round out the wine nicely as a whole; it’s easy to see why these varieties succeed so well in Paso Robles. Decanting will add an extra dimension of delight.*

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