

TURLEY

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to introduce the first release of Turley's superb 2015 wines. The wines of this harvest possess an incredible precision and specificity. Whereas the previous vintage differentiated how dry farmed old vines can adapt to the drought, by 2015 the vines had acclimated to these drastic conditions and knew exactly what to expect. They didn't overextend themselves, preserving their energy by keeping yields and vigor low. A brief respite of rain early in the season aided the vines in their post-harvest recovery, allowing them to absorb nutrients provided by the healthy organic cover crops we planted.



Well, SOMEBODY sure liked the rain. Ueberroth's 132-year-old vines in Paso Robles, strutting their stuff.

As such, each wine in 2015 shows consistently elegant, vibrant acidity and structure, with beautifully ripened fruit. Our only wish is that there were more of them to share!

Old Vines Young Love,

Turley Wine Cellars





2016 Turley “Estate” Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley

Though a recent addition to the Turley family, Sauvignon Blanc was one of the first wines ever made from the Turley Estate in 1993. Those vines have since been replaced by Zinfandel, but we have replanted a small section of the estate to dry-farmed, head-trained Sauvignon Blanc from heritage Napa Valley budwood once again. Get while the getting’s good though — Larry is hoarding as much as possible for himself, and sharpening his oyster shucker as we speak!

Stone fruits like white peach and nectarine along with tropical notes of pineapple and lychee on the nose, balanced by a delicate minerality and refreshing acidity on the palate. Perhaps our most structured Sauvignon Blanc to date, with plenty of snappiness and verve. Since this is a young wine, we recommend holding the bottles in your cellar for at least a month or two before diving in!

2015 Turley “Bedrock Vineyard” Zinfandel, Sonoma Valley

Hailing from 1888, and owned by Joel and Morgan Peterson of Ravenswood and Bedrock Wine Co., respectively, the Bedrock Vineyard is truly an iconic site. Right in the heart of Sonoma Valley, these ancient vines are planted amidst volcanic rocks and Los Robles cobbly loam soil that has sloughed down from Monte Rosso. This is a layered, complex wine, owing perhaps to the small amounts of Petite Syrah and Alicante Bouschet that are also found in our organically-farmed block of Bedrock.

Delicate scents like orange flower and herbs de Provence along with dark blue fruits abound on the nose. The balance of freshness and acidity combined with the dry tannins makes for an immediately pleasurable texture on the palate.

2015 Turley “Buck’ Cobb Vineyard” Zinfandel, Amador County

Planted at 1500 feet on the volcanic, granitic hillside near our new property in Amador, the Cobb Vineyard Zinfandel is an homage to “Buck” Cobb from whom we purchased the vineyard and the Karly property in Amador. We even added a little bi-plane symbol to the label to commemorate Buck’s time as an acrobatic pilot! The rocky conditions and more extreme weather (including snow) in this dry-farmed vineyard make for a hearty, robust Zinfandel.

There’s no question that this wine gets better and better with each year. The 2015 is elegant, perfumed, with piercing aromas of dark savory anise, crème de cassis, blue fruit, and granite dust. An abundance of fruits echoes on the palate, balanced by an earthy twinge and grippy, fine-grained tannins. With the addition of small amounts of Petite Syrah and Alicante in this vineyard, the Cobb tells the story of a classic California field blend.

2015 Turley “Dragon Vineyard” Zinfandel, Howell Mountain

Dragon Vineyard is a certified organic, estate vineyard. Planted at 2400 feet at one of the highest points on Howell Mountain, the vineyard sits well above the fog line and faces east. These important features, along with the rocky, red volcanic soil, make for a unique, full-bodied and powerful Zinfandel that is always Larry’s favorite since it goes with what he likes to cook: bold, flavorful, spice-laden meats on an open fire. As with all our mountain wines, we recommend a quick decant if you want to enjoy it in the near future!

Dark berries, savory spiced meats, and dried flowers on the nose. With an incredible brooding texture, well-structured tannins and a long, elegant finish, the Dragon will be easily enjoyed now and well into the future.

2015 Turley “Duarte” Zinfandel, Contra Costa County

This wine is an homage to Joe Duarte, a prominent grape grower in Contra Costa who first introduced Turley to the incredible vineyards of the area. The wine is comprised of fruit from the turn-of-the-century Evangehlo, Mori, and Salvador vineyards, planted between 1890 and 1930, and — new in 2015 — is the addition of the Del Barba vineyard, planted in the 1960s. As a result of the sandy soils and impressive age of the vines, the wine has some of the softest, silkiest tannins we’ve ever seen in a Zinfandel.

Bright, vibrant red fruits, rosemary and sandalwood on the nose. We’ve been making this wine since 1995, and true to form, the palate has that characteristic lively acidity balanced by a deeply satisfying plush texture that makes it immensely gratifying right out of the gate!

2015 Turley “Dusi Vineyard” Zinfandel, Paso Robles

The Dusi vineyard was planted by Dante Dusi in 1945, and it is farmed by his family to this day. The vines are head-trained and dry-farmed, planted in soil that is mostly alluvial with some very large rocks. Like our other vineyards in the area, Dusi is on the west side of Paso Robles.

Dark, appealingly ripe fruits on the nose like blackberries and Bing cherries, layered with a light chalk dust characteristic of the area. The palate is pure Paso Robles: kaleidoscopic fruits and a lush, hedonistic texture rounded out by a snap of structured tannin. The wine is perfect to pull and pop immediately.

2015 Turley “Juvenile” Zinfandel, California

Though the vast majority of our wines are single vineyard designates, Juvenile is actually composed of a variety of young vines that have been replanted in several of our old vine sites. We tag the younger vines then pick them separately and make a distinct wine. The vines that make up Juvenile range in age from about 6-25 years, and we pull from 24 of our best vineyards across California, including Hayne, Pesenti, Salvador, Vineyard 101, Fredericks, and Kirschenmann.

The 2015 Juvenile is exemplary: bright classic brambly fruits and sweet spices on the nose and palate are lifted by a juicy acid backbone. With a touch more “serious” concentration and tannin than previous vintages, this is Zinfandel in its purest, most enduring form; fresh, ripe, and vibrant, representing the very best of what our California vineyards have to offer. Imminently enjoyable and just downright delicious.

2015 Turley “Kirschenmann Vineyard” Zinfandel, Lodi

The Kirschenmann is particularly close to our hearts as our winemaker, Tegan Passalacqua, owns and farms this vineyard. The ungrafted vines were planted in 1915 in the silica-rich sandy soils of the east side of the Mokelumne River AVA. Thanks to the river’s cool waters and delta breezes, these head-trained, dry-farmed vines are constantly protected from the heat.

Think of your favorites from the spice rack, and whatever you like to use best for marinades, and you’re bound to find it in this wine. All manner of dried herbs and brooding black tea along with dark fruits abound on the nose. When coupled with the silky texture and elegant structure, this wine will absolutely make you rethink Zinfandel from Lodi.

2015 Turley “Mead Ranch” Zinfandel, Atlas Peak

Mead Ranch is planted at about 1600 feet on Atlas Peak, on the southeastern side of Napa Valley. The vineyard was originally planted in the 1880s, though our block is primarily from the 1970s. This vineyard is head-trained, planted in red volcanic soil. On a clear day you can see San Francisco; though those are few and far between, and thus this vineyard sees plenty of fog from the bay.

Cracked pepper, fresh sage, rosemary and chaparral mingle with dark, macerated fruits on the nose. With firmly medium tannins and a pleasantly tart texture, the wine culminates in a multi-syllabic finish sure to convert even the most cantankerous of California naysayers.

2015 Turley “Rattlesnake Ridge” Zinfandel, Howell Mountain

Rattlesnake Ridge is an estate-owned and certified organic vineyard. Located at the top of Howell Mountain at about 2600 feet, the vines see more sun here than they would on the valley floor; however, it is much colder due to the elevation, and can even snow in the winter. All combined, these factors make for a truly unique wine: bold flavors, tannin, and an acid backbone that can only come from Howell Mountain.

High-toned white pepper, garrigue, and deep purple fruits on the nose. The 2015 is more refined than vintages past; though the tannins are still unmistakably Howell Mountain, they are mature and well-integrated, making for a deeply satisfying Rattlesnake Zinfandel. Worth decanting if you’re looking to enjoy it in the near future.

2015 Turley “Sadie Upton Vineyard” Zinfandel, Amador County

We are honored to be working with this jewel of a vineyard in Amador County, whose story is almost as compelling as the wine itself. In 1922, smack-dab in the middle of Prohibition and while her husband was away working for the railroad, a then 21-year-old Sadie Upton decided she was going to plant herself a vineyard close to their home at 1500 feet near Plymouth, CA. Now, 92 years later, the vines are still kicking in the gumption-riddled tradition of their creator. The wine was made exclusively by Karly for the past 30 years and we are beyond excited to be able to share Sadie’s moxie with you today.

Black raspberry, preserves, and plenty of red fruits and freshly damp stone on the nose. Bright, well-balanced acidity, fine-grained granitic tannin and the kind of concentration that can only come from an old-vine vineyard: simultaneously focused yet expansive, dense yet graceful on the palate.

2015 Turley “Estate” Zinfandel, Napa Valley

This vineyard is special to all of us here at the winery; right in our backyard, it’s what we see every day at work (and from the family home!). In 2006, we planted 6 acres of head-trained dry-farmed Zinfandel that compliments the original planting from ten years prior, all of which are certified organic.

The 2015 is distinctively, elegantly Estate: savory notes of rhubarb, orange, cranberry and garrigue on the nose. Well-integrated tannins provide a rounded, thoroughly satiating texture on the palate. The Turley Estate is perhaps the closest to the classic Aida Zinfandels of our early days, as the original vineyard was just across the creek from our estate today.

2015 Turley “Vineyard 101” Zinfandel, Alexander Valley

Located in Sonoma, this pre-Prohibition vineyard is estate-owned and certified organic. At only 2 1/2 acres, it is the smallest site we make into a vineyard designate, which is a shame, since the wines are consistently a staff favorite. The wines are aromatic and light, with lots of fruit and great acidity.

Vineyard 101 was the first old-vine vineyard Larry purchased, and it is the longest-running estate bottling that we have. The wine is jewel-like in its concentration, with multi-faceted red and black fruits that lure you in. Incredible tension between acid, fruit, and tannin alike make for a wine that veritably bounces out of the glass and across your palate.

2015 Turley “Rattlesnake Ridge” Petite Syrah, Howell Mountain

Above St. Helena on the northeastern ridge of Napa Valley, the Petite Syrah from Rattlesnake Ridge Vineyard is another fantastic expression of Howell Mountain. Dark, powerful, inky, funky; this high elevation, sun-drenched, but cool and windy site brings out the best characteristics of Petite Syrah.

Wild aromas of savory herbs and roasted game recall the flavorful remains on the cutting board after carving a juicy piece of meat for dinner. Dark red and purple fruits and plenty of dry tannin on the full-bodied palate prove once again that Howell Mountain outshines us all. A bit of time in bottle and healthy decanting will reward the patient imbibers twice over.

2015 Turley “Estate” Petite Syrah, Napa Valley

Planted adjacent to the Estate Zinfandel, this Petite Syrah is also certified organic. The area used to be Wappo Indian grounds and obsidian arrowheads are commonplace in the rocky volcanic soils. The wines are classic Napa Valley Petite Syrah: dark and brooding on the nose, bright and vibrant on the palate. *Black peppercorn, wild game, ripe blueberries and savory umami aromas all develop in the glass over time. With fine-grained tannins and a lush texture, the wine is exceptionally drinkable, especially with grilled meats. We recommend tossing it in a decanter to best bring out all the wine has to offer.*

