

TURLEY

Dear Friends,

I figured it was high time to introduce myself, seeing as how I've been writing to you all for nearly eight years now. I'm Christina Turley, Larry's oldest daughter (there's four of us—that's what the four stars on the capsules & corks represent!) and I'm the director of sales at Turley. Together with our winemaker Tegan Passalacqua, I compose these fair missives, as well as the tasting notes and many of the emails you receive. So, hello! Nice to meet you, and if we haven't already, I look forward to sharing a glass with you one day!

Tegan & I taste through the wines for each release multiple times, often in groups that include the mailing list and tasting room staffs, and of course Larry, the big cheese himself. Like much of what we do, it's a collaborative effort—especially helpful now, considering this fall release now has *seventeen separate wines!* For those of you keeping track at home, that means we have a new addition: please help us welcome an extraordinary new member of the Turley family, the DuPratt Vineyard Zinfandel! Planted pre-Prohibition on its original rootstock up 1500 feet on Mendocino Ridge, DuPratt is Turley's 1st bottling from Mendocino County. It's an incredibly unique site—see the full tasting note below for details. Can you tell we're excited!

In fact, "excited" barely covers our feelings about the 2016 vintage. This was the year we welcomed the long overdue return to "normal" rainfall in California. The wines are prettier, more at ease, though still very powerful; imagine a relaxed Bruce Lee. He's laid back, sure, but all that intensity is still there, simmering right beneath the surface. (As always, this excellent analogy courtesy of Tegan.)

Where the brutal climate has dominated the past few vintages, in 2016 the sites themselves were allowed to really strut their stuff. Indeed, I found the word "distinctive" popping up repeatedly in my notes. Each of the vineyards in '16 have neatly distinguished themselves from one another, and the individual wines are more truly, classically themselves. This was the *most Fredericks*, the *most Ueberroth*, that we've had in recent memory. These wines taste how I feel after the first full night's sleep in ages: healthy, formidable, and more definitively myself. Finally, if you're looking for more light reading to inspire you while you peruse the notes below, I strongly suggest [this poem](#), "Bottle of Wine" by Carl Dennis.



The four Turley girls: Savannah, Christina, Whitney Tennessee & Nell Montana (l-r)

Old Vines Young Love,
Turley Wine Cellars

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2016 “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.

Deeply fragrant dark purple fruits, ground Provençal herbs, and lavender abound on the nose. The significantly lower crop on Howell Mountain in 2016 (we have only 1/3 the Cedarman we had last year) makes for a great deal more concentration in the fruit, evident in the strong, ripe, brambly berry and savory spice flavors. With its signature Howell Mountain texture, tannin, and long finish, the Cedarman is an ideal cold weather wine. Decant it to enjoy the wine’s evolution over the course of an evening.

2016 “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; thus, while most vineyards in the region were furrow irrigated, the rolling hills of iron-rich clay and volcanic soil in Dogtown have been dry-farmed from the start. The vineyard has some of the most consistently low yields and best natural acidity of any other we’ve farmed.

We’ve worked with this vineyard 21 years now, making it one of the longest-running wines in Turley’s farming history. The wine has an intricate nose of dusty herbs, exotic spices, and red jeweled fruits, along with a touch of Palo Santo. The palate is rife with bright red fruits, vibrant acidity, and distinctively suave tannins. This 2016 Dogtown has an elegant structure and texture reminiscent of our favorite wines from sandy soils like Salvador and Duarte. A true Turley classic.

2016 “DuPratt Vineyard” Zinfandel, Mendocino Ridge

Please welcome the incredible DuPratt Vineyard to the Turley family. Planted in 1920 at 1500 feet up on Mendocino Ridge, this vineyard is surrounded by giant Redwoods and is often called the “vineyard in the sky.” Indeed, the site is so remote that the vines still survive on their own original rootstocks, as Phylloxera has never made its way up there. Located above the town of Philo and only 5 miles from the Pacific Ocean, it is the coolest site from which we’ve ever made wine. Though we’ve worked with Mendocino fruit for many years, DuPratt is the 1st Mendocino County bottling from Turley.

A real stunner of a wine, we are thrilled to have bottled our first DuPratt. The combination of old vines, high elevation, and extreme isolation and acidity makes it truly unique; imagine a cross of the Ueberroth and Howell Mountain wines, and you’d start to have an idea of what DuPratt tastes like. Profound aromatics of dark berries, mountain garrigue, and high-toned white spices flood the nose. These notes carry through to the palate, which is most noticeable for its invigorating acidity, an excellent foil to the depth and powerful tannins. Give it as much time as you can stand in the bottle, as this wine will only improve with age; either way decanting it will help speed up that process when you just can’t take it anymore!

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2016 “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.

Officially in the newest cool-kid AVA of Moon Mountain, the Fredericks Vineyard is a genuine rarity: old vine concentration and complexity coupled with mountainside structure and tannin. The nose is so distinctive, so classically Fredericks, that even a novice could pick it out of the lineup: cool ripe blueberry, high tones, and tartly sweet berry pie with a dusting of spiced herbs. The palate is where the old high-elevation vines really shine, showing off excellent structure, pleasingly substantial tannin, and a long finish. We recommend giving this wine some time in the bottle (if you can!) and decanting before enjoying.

2016 “Hayne Vineyard” Zinfandel, Napa Valley

The Hayne Vineyard is one of our most exceptional sites. Located in an idyllic and 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-five 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.

The 2016 Hayne Zinfandel is striking in its elegance. Noble red and blue fruits and fragrant purple flowers on the nose shine through onto the palate as well. The texture of this wine is truly exceptional, indicative of its blue-blooded and deeply-set roots. Lovely, lively acidity up front, refined and delicate on the mid-palate, then swiftly followed by immense structure, depth, and power through the finish. These 116-year-old-vines in the stony, well-drained soils have produced not just the best Zinfandel, but an overall ideal wine, period, year after year.

2016 “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 vineyard is one of the most exceptional sites in California. The wine is powerful and inky in its youth, and becomes more feminine and refined with age. She is likely to outlive us all.

Dense, graceful, and impeccably well-integrated, the Hayne Petite Syrah from 2016 is a wine for the ages. This vineyard is the closest thing we have to a grand cru in California, and the wine over-delivers year in and year out. Dark fruit, lovely acidity, sublime texture and gravel tannins all work in tandem with one another: the difference between an experienced orchestra and a guitar solo. 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.

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2016 “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.

This wine, like the vineyard itself, has such a unique and distinguishing aromatic profile. Tomato leaf, baked rocks, brambly fruit and brush, the 2016 Heminway is definitely more savory than saccharine. The texture speaks to the particularity of the site: on its own little mountain top, surrounded by Chiles Valley, planted in iron-rich volcanic soils. The wines are plush without being heavy, and have a deeply satisfying texture and structure found only in mountain vineyards. Definitely an age-worthy wine that will benefit from decanting when you decide to enjoy.

2016 “Judge Bell” Zinfandel, Amador County

As the Amador 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.

Drinking Judge Bell is the closest we’ll ever get to time travel. These 111-year-old vines are deeply rooted in the organically-farmed granite soil, and the wine they produce is distinctively Amador in its pure luminous red color and red-fruited aromatics. The texture further tells the story of the Sierra Foothills, once the epicenter of California’s Gold Rush, with its highly-polished, fine-grained mountain tannins. Drinking exceptionally well now, but will age if you have the patience.

2016 “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 mix 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.

It’s always difficult to put into words just how special, multi-faceted, and charming this wine is. Citrus flowers and zest, purple fruits, and smoked peppers on the nose; imagine all the scents of an exotic dinner party under the stars, with food cooked over an open fire, and you’d get close. The palate is firmly medium-bodied with a little added density on the finish, and flavorful, long-lived tannins that carry those aromas and images through to the end. One you’ll want to come back to again and again, and you’ll discover something new every time.

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2016 “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 50 to 130 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.

Thanks to the fortuitous acquisition of the old-vine Steacy vineyard, the Turley Old Vines has never been better. In 2016, it has some of the best freshness and acidity we’ve ever seen in this wine, as well as a deeply satiating spice and luscious, succulent fruit. As always, these fruits run the gamut from red to blue to black, and the wine has the kind of natural depth, complexity, and grace that can only come from truly old vines.

2016 “Pesenti Vineyard” Zinfandel, Paso Robles

This certified organic estate-owned vineyard was planted in the 1920s 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 clarity, as well as chalk and floral characteristic aromas unique to the site, and to Zinfandel in general.

Yields were down once again in Paso Robles, though luckily in 2016 we started to see the sliiiiightest bit of relief, rain-wise. As a result, the Pesenti Vineyard Zinfandel is deeply concentrated yet refreshing. The tart red fruits on the initial nose are present as always, followed by Pesenti’s signature bright acidity and smooth tannin. The wine has a refined yet approachable palate presence, complemented by plenty of lift from the calcareous Pesenti soils, carrying through to a long invigorating finish.

2016 “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.

The 2016 Pesenti Petite Syrah is the perfect finisher to a meal, especially if that meal includes anything well-spiced or smoked. White pepper and big dark fruits leap out of the glass, while the underlying notes of purple flowers and subtle savory smoke draw you in. The palate is dense and chewy, with more dark fruits and loads of spice; a bold, deeply flavorful and satisfying wine. We recommend giving it some time in the bottle and decanting well ahead of mealtime to best experience this powerful Petite.

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2016 “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! The nose pulls you in with aromas of peach fuzz, purple flowers and dark berry fruits. Salvador is instantly pleasing on the palate thanks to the lush, supple tannins that can only come from a vineyard of this age planted so deeply in these Delhi blow sandy soils. Downright delicious straight out of the gate, but all that old-vine intensity and structure along with the fruit's bracing acidity means this wine will age excellently, if you're so inclined.

2016 “Ueberroth Vineyard” Zinfandel, Paso Robles

Planted in 1885, Ueberroth is the oldest of our Zinfandel vineyards. Located only a few miles from the Pacific, 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. Pretty purple and black fruits, with a deeply intriguing spice and minerality character on the nose. The palate is multi-layered, with immense focus on the fruit supplemented by an equally bracing acidity. Always refined, always delicious, never enough to go around! Ready to drink now and will age nicely thanks to the immense power & structure inherent to this wine.

2016 “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 Carignane vines sprinkled throughout. Long-time Turley followers may remember a wine with the same name from the mid-1990's, though this is a different vineyard source, located just off Alexander Valley Road in Sonoma.

Dense dark blue and purple fruits lead off on the nose, followed swiftly by a bright, vibrant lift and a hint of wet stones. We have both the age of the vines and the cool climate of the site to thank for the wine's vivacious acidity on the palate, as well as the fine-grained texture and juicy, almost saline and deeply-flavorful fruit. Drinking great now!

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2016 “The White Coat” White Wine, California

Though the blend has changed over the years, The White Coat (named for Larry’s past as an Emergency Room physician) is composed of white Rhône grapes from three of our Estate vineyards across California. The rich, textured Roussanne from Rattlesnake Ridge on Howell Mountain in Napa is moderated by acidity and structure provided by the Grenache Blanc grown in the calcareous soils of the Pesenti Vineyard in Paso Robles. Finally, the blend is rounded out with a touch of refreshing, mineral Vermentino (also known as Rolle) from the granitic and quartz-laden Cobb Vineyard in Amador. The result is an exceptional, dynamic white wine that is truly California.

Exquisitely aromatic, with white flowers, ripe stone fruit, and crushed minerals on the nose. With great acidity and 13.8% abv the wine is lithe on the mid-palate, while maintaining the substantial body and finish we love so much about this unique California white wine. Since it sees all French oak barrels (of which only 10% are new) and we don’t stir the lees, all the of texture comes from the grapes themselves. This is a serious white wine, the likes of which you can’t find anywhere else!

2016 “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 the little-known white grapes 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.

A part of the tiny Fountaingrove AVA in Sonoma, Zampatti is in a particularly cool location, just one of the factors that makes this wine so unique. We get the cool growing season aromatics like those seen in Russian River Valley, but the wine has a great deal more structure, owing to the rocky, uplifted seabed soils. On the nose, it smells like the most perfect blackberry pie, fresh from a wood-burning oven: ripe brambly fruits, baking spices, the sun shining down through tall trees. The wine is just as multi-faceted on the palate, with all those blue and black fruits paired with pure, lively acidity and lush tannin, resulting in a deeply satisfying texture.

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