

NOVEMBER 2024 CLUB SELECTION



2023 FPWM DORNFELDER SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS, CALIFORNIA



We are proud to release the newest addition to our family of Ferry Plaza Wine Merchant Private Label wines—our 2023 FPWM Dornfelder. We developed our house label program with the objective of offering unique proprietary varietal wines that over-deliver with regard to the price/value/quality equation. We've been doing this for many years to great success working with different producers and sourcing fruit from appellations across the state. Plus, we love the opportunity to play winemaker—to determine exactly how to form the wine and make it into something we know our customers will enjoy. We only work with trusted winemakers whose wines we have supported and highly respect. Sometimes they come to us with an idea and sometimes we reach out to them with a particular style we want to develop. We often go through several rounds of blending trials before we're happy with the overall balance and flavor profile.

The 2023 FPWM private label bottling is 100% Dornfelder, sourced from sustainably farmed grapes grown in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA of Monterey County. Dornfelder is a red varietal prevalent in the Rheinhessen and Pfalz regions of Germany. A cross of Helfensteiner × Heroldrebe; its extended pedigree is therefore: [Pinot Noir Précoce × Schiava Grossa] × [Blauer Portugieser × Blaufränkisch]. Bred in 1956 by August Herold at the Weinsberg Research Centre in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, Dornfelder is lauded as, “the most successful of the modern red German crosses, making dark, velvety wines.”

Remarkable dark magenta hue. Inviting aromas of fresh red and blue fruits mingled with floral tones. The palate is full of crunchy fruit flavors of skin-on red and black plums, blackberry and red currant, layered with a hint of violet flowers. Notably silken velvet mouthfeel with petal-like tannis through the lip-licking finish—simply scrumptious!

100 cases produced.

Excerpt from: *Wine Grapes*, Jancis Robinson, Julia Harding & José Vouillamoz

Cellaring Recommendation: 3-5 YEARS

RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

- RETAIL: \$32.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$27.20
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: [Fennel Pork Meatballs](#)



NOVEMBER 2024 CLUB SELECTION



2021 VERMILLION RED WINE CALIFORNIA



Helen Keplinger grew up in a wine and food-centric family and was herself always fascinated by science, art and nature; hence, she gravitated towards winemaking and in 1998, earned a master's degree in Enology from UC Davis. With degree in hand, Helen embarked on what would be a remarkably impressive lineup of apprenticeships with famed winemakers including Heidi Barrett of Paradigm Winery in Napa Valley and Kathy Josephs of Fiddlehead Cellars in Santa Barbara not to mention her work with renowned, Bordeaux-based Oenologist, Michel Rolland and master Vineyard Manager, David Abreau. Helen also spent several years in Priorat, Spain making wines for Cellers Melis and while taking side trips to France with her husband, DJ, developed a fascination with Rhône varietals. Back in the states, Helen continued landing gigs at noteworthy estates including Kenzo, Sarocka, Fort Ross, Arrow & Branch and Bryant Family Cellars before finally launching her own label, 'Keplinger Wines' in 2006. With a focus on small-production, single vineyard, Rhône-style wines from unique and diverse sites in Napa, Sonoma and the Sierra Foothills, Keplinger Wines has gone on to accrue many press accolades including Food & Wine Magazine's '2012 Winemaker of the Year'.

Vermillion is Keplinger's second label, and is made from much of the same high-quality fruit (from Dry Creek Valley in Sonoma and El Dorado County in the Sierra Foothills) and expert winemaking as the pricier, allocated Keplinger wines. Appropriately named after the collection of brilliant red hues revered by 20th Century Renaissance painters, this blend is 40% Grenache, 36% Syrah, 14% Petite Sirah, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Mourvèdre. Aged for 16 months in French oak.

Enticing aromas of mottled raspberries dusted with baking spices. The palate shows flavors of red cherry, red plum, currant, cranberry and pomegranate, followed by notes of exotic spices such as sandalwood, cinnamon and cardamom. Beautifully composed, with solid structure and depth; the lush texture, bright acidity and supple tannins, combine to form this almost too-easy-to-drink red blend. Savor it on its own or pair it with your holiday turkey!

Cellaring Recommendation: 5-7 YEARS

RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

- RETAIL: \$36.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$30.60
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Crisp-Skinned Butterflied Roast Turkey w/ Gravy



NOVEMBER 2024 CLUB SELECTION



2021 MABON 'HERITAGE BLEND' RED WINE SONOMA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Jeff Smith founded Hourglass in 1997 from his family's 4-acre parcel located just north of St. Helena, where Napa Valley forms its narrowest point, the "pinch" of the Hourglass. The storied Cabernet Sauvignon produced from this vineyard would begin the vision that continues to unfold today. The magic of this vineyard property would soon prove itself, as it debuted in a blind tasting alongside the recognized California Cabernet giants of the day and held its own in that rare company.

Today, under the guiding hand of winemaker Tony Biagi, Hourglass continues to refine its approach and bring its estate wines to new heights of craft and expression. Hourglass strives to farm their vineyards mindfully, and produce terroir-driven wines of the highest character.

Mabon is Jeff's passion project—a way for him to honor his family's legacy while embracing the unique character of Sonoma Valley. The soul of Mabon lies in the historic Rossi Ranch, a unique vineyard originally planted in 1910 and grafted to the original rootstock in 2007. This extraordinary site is a unique field blend of Zinfandel, Carignan, Petite Sirah, Grenache, and Cinsault—a testament to an earlier era of California viticulture. The 2021 Mabon Heritage Blend was processed using traditional red wine vinification techniques, and was aged for 16 months in new (50%) and seasoned (50%) French oak barrels, resulting in a wine that captures the complexity and intensity of old vines while expressing a remarkable freshness and purity of fruit.

Aromas of dark brambly berries with layered with spices. The palate is richly fruited with layers of spiced blackberry, dark plum and cassis, followed by notes of freshly cracked black pepper and toasted oak; the velvety tannins are gracefully supported through the luxuriant finish.

Cellaring Recommendation: 5-7 YEARS

RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

- RETAIL: \$57.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$48.45
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: [Grilled Garlic & Mint Pesto–Stuffed Leg of Lamb](#)

