

SONG HILL WINERY



Winter 2017
Wine Club Newsletter

Song Hill Winery
521 County Rd 9
Victor, NY 14564
Ph: (773) 551-9245
www.songhillwinery.com

Winter is here! Happy Holidays! Our farm is cloaked in snow and all of the wines from this year are racked and settled down to age on oak or cold stabilize through the winter months. The late start to this year and cool temperatures made a perfect year for vintage sparkling wine. The grapes showed nice, crisp acidity and were not overly ripe, which should mean beautiful, balanced champagnes.



And speaking of champagne: finally we are releasing our very first: the 2013 Sparkling Cuvée, a blend of our 3 signature varietals: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Cabernet Franc. It was produced in the *méthode champenoise*, meaning the way that champagnes are produced in France. We have been waiting for 3 ½ years for the small amount of yeast added at bottling (along with sugar to create the carbonation) to break down and release their proteins into the wine. Then, over time, those proteins bonded with the grape proteins and the result is wine with both crisp acidity and aromas of rising bread dough. This wine can be served now, just in time for New Year's, or you can hold on to it for many, many years as it has outstanding longevity.

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We are also releasing our 2015 Diamond; another sparkling wine produced in the *méthode champenoise*. You will recognize the classic varietal characteristics of this wine: tropical fruit and lemon drop candy flavors. This wine, however, is a bit nostalgic for us. It was the last vintage that Tom Mitchell of Pa'tridge Run Farms (Hyatt Hill Vineyard) produced for us. He passed away suddenly a couple of months after harvesting these grapes at the age of 71. We will be thinking of him and his surviving wife Marcy as we drink this wine. The vineyard has been sold to Ravines Wine Cellar and we miss working with Tom and Marcy. We hope that as you are enjoying this wine, Tom's energy, passion, dedication, and wisdom are reflected in your glass. To the right is the last photo I took of Tom as he was driving his tractor during the 2015 Diamond harvest.



Upcoming Events: On Tuesday, January 9th we will be having a wine pairing dinner at **Roam Café** on Park Avenue in Rochester, NY. Many of you know that Roam regularly carries our Barrel Blanc and Cabernet Franc. And some of you may remember the fantastic wine dinner we had there in 2015. This one promises to be excellent as well. Be on the look out for more information.

