



LIBRARY NOTES

EACH YEAR, OUR WINEMAKING TEAM TASTES NEARLY EVERY WINE LARKMEAD HAS EVER PRODUCED. OUR GOAL IS TO ASSESS AND REVISE DRINKING WINDOWS AND PROVIDE UPDATED TASTING NOTES FOR OUR STAFF AND COLLECTORS ALIKE.

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lillie Sauvignon Blanc & Tocai Friulano	3
Cabernet Sauvignon	4-5
Firebelle	6-7
LMV Salon	8-9
Dr. Olmo	10
Solari	11-12
The Lark	13
Reviews & Scores	14-21

LILLIE SAUVIGNON BLANC

VINTAGE	CELLAR NOTES
2018	Upon release, the bright and fresh aromas and flavors in this wine outshine the wine's hidden power and potential for aging. With an additional two to three years in bottle the 2018 Lillie will soften and its vibrancy will become floral. Five years after release, the wine's pale gold color will darken and notes of honeysuckle accented with candied lemon peel will shine.
2017	The density of texture on the palate makes this wine not only a hedonistic wine to drink now but also a candidate for aging. With an additional two to three years of bottle age, it will unveil layers of floral complexity behind the upfront orange, yellow and green fruit. At five to seven years, from its vintage date (2022-2024) the wine will become richer and more honeyed.
2016	Incredibly open and nimble, bright aromatics that are beginning to evolve. On the palate the wine is fresh, with a slight bitterness to carry the finish. Drink now and for 3-5 years.
2015	A warm vintage with deeper, honeyed tones of Sauvignon Blanc, this wine is gaining weight and ready to drink. Drink now and for the next 3-5 years.
2014	Great volume and a core of sweet fruit but the wine's open and revealing mid-palate makes it a great candidate to drink now.

TOCAI FRIULANO

2019	Don't hesitate to open this wine on release and drink all Summer and into the Fall. Serve chilled if you wish to tighten up the wine's mid-palate, or at cellar temperature if you wish to enjoy the wine's breadth. Although we recommend drinking this wine 1-2 years from its vintage date, don't hesitate to cellar for 3-5 years to watch the aromas and flavors evolve.
2018	With just over 100 cases of wine produced each year, it is very difficult to consider cellaring this wine too long, because it is too easy to revel in the vibrancy of its youth. That said, we've had great success with pouring our Tocai Friulano at dinners when the wine has 3-4 years of age on it.
2016	Wonderful full-bodied aromas lead to a dense texture on the palate, Drink now and for the next 2-3 years.
2015	Floral and saline notes dry out a fresh finish on this wine. Drink now.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

VINTAGE	CELLAR NOTES
2017	This is a truly exciting wine for the vintage and one that we will want in our glass at any moment - drinking now with its energetic palate, or in 12 months to two years when the wine starts to gain weight and the layers become more dense.
2016	The balance in this wine is superb and will allow for early, easy drinking. Aging will also be rewarded if you cellar the wine for an additional five to ten years from its vintage date to reveal its secondary characteristics. Drink now and for 20+ years.
2015	The wine possesses the immediate balance required for youthful drinking, it also has the backbone to hide out in your cellar for 10 years before opening.
2014	I recommend drinking this wine for the next 3-5 years. That said, an additional 10-15 years of cellaring will reward those who enjoy watching the darker, youthful flavors evolve into tobacco leaf and plum.
2013	Expressive and open flavor profile, aromas hinting at the secondary notes of winter spice and licorice. Tannins are softening and of medium body, this wine is a drinking beautifully now and will continue to do so for 5 more years, but don't be afraid to cellar for 5+ years.
2012	This is Larkmead at its finest in a classic warm vintage. The aromas and flavors are open and expressive purple flower, primary fruit and a hint of dried herb. Drink now and for 5 more years, cellar for 5+ to enjoy its evolution.
2011	Truly remarkable Cabernet from a tough vintage. The wine's primary red fruit character continues to evolve into floral notes and a delicate herbal character. Hold and drink on its tenth anniversary in 2021 and for a decade after.
2010	Wonderful fruit forwardness, a hint of red cherry and blueberry framed by elegant tannins from a cool vintage. A beautiful wine on its tenth anniversary, drink now and for the next 5+ years.
2009	Focused red fruit and herbaceous tones, quiet, mineral and stony notes frame this wine. Ready to drink now and for the next 3-5 years.
2008	Woody, bramble and piney notes are the core of this wine from a very low yielding and difficult vintage. The wine finishes with bittersweet chocolate and dried fruit. Drink now and for the next 3-5 years.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON (CONTINUED)

VINTAGE	CELLAR NOTES
2007	This vintage continues to impress as it unfolds year after year. The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon is lean, elegant and red-fruit focused. It's drinking wonderfully now and will continue to evolve over the next 3-5 years.
2006	The power of this wine upon release is beginning to throttle back and the wine has become lean and focused – cherry and dried tobacco and espresso bean dominate. Drink now and for the next 3-5 years.
2005	Big blue fruit forwardness, truly expressive on its fifteenth anniversary. Secondary notes of licorice and wet tobacco express themselves. A beautiful wine from a cooler Napa vintage, drink now and for 5+ years.
2004	Stuck in time, this wine continues to show itself as lean but layered. Dried cherry notes add to a lifted finish on this wine. Enjoy now and for another 5 years.
2003	A tough vintage and this wine is in an awkward state, drink now or hold and check back in at its 20th anniversary in 2023.
2002	Sweet fruit dominates the palate of this delicious and inky wine that is showing its evolution to a savory wine of substance and secondary red fruit and herbaceous character. This wine will continue to drink well for the next 5+ years.
2001	Complete, lovely secondary and tertiary aromas of tobacco and dried herb, cloaking a red cherry core, drink now.
2000	One of the unsung vintages in 2000-era Napa, this wine is a treat to taste and the aromas and flavors are subtle and joyous but this is a mature wine, drink now.
1999	Always a favorite wine of the Larkmead staff, the wine brings pleasure and is showing well for its age, drink now.
1998	Similar to the 1999, the wine is holding its fruitfulness, density and fresh structure, drink now.

FIREBELLE

VINTAGE	CELLAR NOTES
2017	The structure and balance of the 2017 Firebelle foreshadows a long life. Expect the wine to gain some weight in bottle over the next 3-5 years and reach its prime drinking window from 2025-2035. Feel free to decant upon release, but it is not necessary if you open the bottle an hour or so before serving.
2016	An agile and buoyant wine, the 2016 Firebelle is easy to drink right now but will benefit by stripping its youthful skin and expose some of its secondary and tertiary notes that will begin when the wine reaches 5+ years post vintage. Drink now and for 15-20 years.
2015	Though the vintage might lead you to expect a broader, softer fruit profile, here the wine is lean and muscular. We recommend a two-pronged approach. Drink now and enjoy its precociousness, and then revisit in 5 to 7 years when the fruit and savory notes evolve and the wine reveals its cigar box and dried herb tones.
2014	Though always a wine that provides early pleasure in the glass, the Firebelle will also reward cellaring. With 10-15 years of age, this wine will show its classic Bordelaise plum character wrapped in dried tobacco and cigar ash. Drink now and over the course of the next 15-25 years.
2013	This wine continues to impress with deep, high toned aromas and nuanced flavors that are completely integrated in the supple tannins. This wine finishes with a great structure. Drinking beautifully now and will so for another 5-10 years.
2012	Savory, loamy, and mineral tones masking the wine's red and blue fruit core, drink this complex wine now.
2011	A vibrant and delicious wine that keeps getting better with age. Red cherry, and herbaceous tones dominate but patience will be rewarded with cellaring, drink now and for 5+ years.
2010	A bold, rich Firebelle. A powerful wine full of dense blue and red fruits and earth tones. Delicious and ripe, drink now and don't hesitate to cellar for an additional 5+ years.
2009	High toned and floral, lean and taut, showing the effects of a tough, low-yielding vintage for Merlot. Drink now and for the 3-5 years.

FIREBELLE (CONTINUED)

VINTAGE	CELLAR NOTES
2008	Cola and red fruit dominate this spicy, ready to drink vintage of Firebelle. Cellar for an additional 3-5 years, but not more.
2007	An elegant, supple wine with pure fruit and spice. Focused and drinking well now and will continue to do so for 3-5 years
2006	A complex nose settles into a soft and elegant palate, delicious to drink now and for the next 3-5 years.
2005	A bright, minty freshness elevates the aromas of this dark blue wine. This wine is dense and fruitful and fun to drink while it is lifted by its floral and herbaceous tones. Drink now and for the next 5 years or more, a beautiful wine.
2004	A wine of good nuance and complexity, showing its balance with secondary and tertiary notes and primary blue fruits. Drink now and for 3-5 years.
2003	A mature wine, drink now.

LMV SALON

VINTAGE	CELLAR NOTES
2017	This is a wine of meditation, mindfulness and reflection. This LMV Salon will live to see our next momentous anniversary with the potential to age 20-30 years from release.
2016	The LMV Salon has always been a wine that is easy and early to drink. However, the inherent beauty and posture of this wine endows it with the ability to age gracefully for 20+ years.
2015	This wine demands cellaring. We recommend aging it for at least 3 to 5 years before opening, but longer is ideal. If you open it upon release, please decant at least one hour before serving. Best from 2028-2035.
2014	The attraction of this wine is in its density; from its impenetrable aromas to its strict palate, the LMV Salon begs for cellaring. If you drink upon release, please decant before serving. I will personally cellar this wine for seven to ten years before revisiting. Best from 2025-2035.
2013	Intense and powerful wine hiding layers of fruit, rocks and floral notes This wine will continue to evolve over the next 5-7 years and cellar for 10 years or more. Decant if drinking now.
2012	Red fruited, lean and powerful, a style not characteristic of the warmer, drier year. We owe this character to the blend of Cabernet Franc in this wine. Great structure in the wine will allow it to age effortlessly for an additional 10 years but it will not disappoint drinking now.
2010	Red fruit, herbs, spices and earth tones. This wine continues to evolve, opening itself up with each passing year. Drink now but don't hesitate to cellar for an additional 5+ years.
2009	Focused and lean on the palate; bright and floral, atop flavors of fresh, macerated fruit that makes this wine drink perfectly now. Feel free to cellar for an additional 3-5 years as the wine will continue to hold its ground.
2008	Beginning to show classic aged Cabernet notes of plum and tobacco, a treat to drink now.

LMV SALON (CONTINUED)

VINTAGE	CELLAR NOTES
2007	Red licorice, spice and sweet fruit dominate this elegant wine. A supple core of delicious red fruit lingers on the palate with each sip. Drink now and for the next 3-5 years.
2006	Impeccable balance, fresh and powerful, while aging into an elegant, red fruit focused wine. The fresh finish and refined, sweet tannins make this a ready to drink wine but can hold up to another 5-10 years of cellaring.
2005	Blue plum skin and roasted meats lead a dense aroma and flavor profile that is a true joy to drink. Drink now and for the next 5+ years.
2004	Lean red and blue fruit, showing a refreshing dried herb note. Ready to drink now and will continue to impress for the next 3-5 years.
2003	This is a mature wine, drink now.

DR. OLMO

VINTAGE

CELLAR NOTES

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2016 | The Dr. Olmo is an incredibly versatile bottling, both in the glass today and in the cellar where it has the potential to age for three decades or more. When drinking upon release, decant for 30 minutes to an hour to bring the wine's secondary and tertiary characteristics into play. |
| 2015 | Dr. Olmo has a medium mid-palate weight but a tannin structure that remains on the sides of your mouth for what feels like two days. This lasting finish bodes well for the age worthiness of this wine; taking us on a trajectory that will last two decades or more. |
| 2014 | Should you prefer to consume it upon release, we recommend opening the wine two hours before drinking, or to at least decant it. However, due to the wine's classic structure, another 5-10 years of cellaring will add to its depth and nuance. |
| 2013 | Patience will be well rewarded with the inaugural vintage of this bottling. The anticipated drinking window will be 10-20 years after vintage date. |

SOLARI

VINTAGE

CELLAR NOTES

- 2016 Don't be afraid to drink this wine upon release, though decanting is recommended. If you wish to cellar this wine for some time (two decades or more) you will be well rewarded. Best from 2025 to 2040.
- 2015 Please decant this wine in its youth, but consider cellaring this wine for at least two decades before seeing Solari's full potential. Best from 2020 to 2040.
- 2014 There is a nobility to this wine, and a remarkable ability to both provide pleasure in its youth and stand the test of time. This wine will age impeccably for more than two decades. If drinking in its youth, please open and decant for 2-3 hours before serving.
- 2013 Incredibly powerful wine that is stuck in time. Vivid purple flower notes flow over bramble fruit and savory tones. Looking forward to checking back in on this wine in 2023 and 2033!
- 2012 True to the warm vintage, this wine is supple and fruit forward but elegant and confident enough to reveal its secondary tones of dried herbs and spices. Enjoy now and for 10+ years
- 2010 A lovely, open and expressive wine with a hint of crunchy red apple skin that adds lift to the wine's dense blue and black fruit core. Arguably the greatest Solari produced at Larkmead, drink now and for 10+ years.
- 2009 Lean and focused, mineral and dried fruit. A perfect drinking wine at the table, decant before opening and drink now and for 3-5 years.
- 2008 Elegant but spicy, and an easiness on the palate. Perfumed top notes of cranberry and violets. This is a wine to drink now and over the course of the next 3-5 years.
- 2007 Open and revealing secondary tones, hints of dried cranberry and raisin, cedar and tobacco that linger in the fineness of the tannins. A beautiful and elegant wine to drink now and for the next 5+ years.

SOLARI (CONTINUED)

VINTAGE	CELLAR NOTES
2006	A powerful wine full of red clay and wet rock that mask a dark blue fruit character. This wine is in a perfect drinking window right now and we anticipate that window not closing anytime soon. Drink now and for the next 10 years, a spectacular wine.
2005	A sleek and luxurious wine with blue and black fruit tones, a hint of licorice and a savory note of soy. This wine is drinking well now and will continue to cellar and perform well in the glass for 5-10 more years.
2004	Red cherry, macerated blackberries, dried tobacco reveal itself in this elegant wine on the palate. Drink now and don't be afraid to cellar an additional 5+ years as this wine is just starting to express a new character of itself.
2003	A mature wine. Drink now if any bottles remain in your cellar.
2002	Opulent sweet fruit profile, hint of dried cherry and herb bring freshness to this mouth coating wine. A pleasure to drink now and for another 5+ years.
2001	The inaugural vintage of Solari showing its subtle fruit and food friendliness, drink now. <i>(Note from January 2019.)</i>

THE LARK

VINTAGE	CELLAR NOTES
2015	If drinking upon release, open the wine two to three hours before serving and enjoy over the course of the night; no decanting is necessary as the wine has impeccable grace and will reveal itself with time in the glass. Best from 2020 to 2040.
2014	The Lark is an incredibly deceiving wine; it appears to be the most approachable in the mouth due to its refined mid-palate and exquisite tannin profile; however, it is this balance between weight and structure that will allow this wine to age gracefully for more than two decades. Best from 2020 to 2040.
2013	Finally beginning to open up. This wine is truly magnificent from the first sip to the lasting flavors on the palate, a pure and elegant wine of balance and sophistication. Feel free to drink now and a decant if opening, however don't hesitate to cellar this wine for another 5-10 years for it to truly start expressing itself.
2012	Delicious and fruit forward expression of Cabernet from Larkmead. Hints of purple flowers and chocolate covered cherries. An impeccable balance on this wine will allow it to age an additional 10+ years.
2009	Elegant, low tone forest floor and fresh floral aromas, drink now and for an additional 5+ years.
2007	A mature wine with hints of tart red cherry and licorice. Drink now or hold and wait for its full secondary and tertiary character to take hold in another 2-3 years.
2006	Similar to 2007, this wine is blossoming into a mature wine; lean on the palate and full of aromatic savory notes. Good balance and great structure in this wine, drink now and for the next 5+ years.



REVIEWS & SCORES

REVIEWS & SCORES

		WA	VI	WS	JS	JD
2018	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	-	92	-	93	-
2017	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	-	92	90	91	-
2016	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	-90	90	-	91	90
2015	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	91	90	93	92	90
2014	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	90	92	-	-	-
2013	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	89	93	87	-	-
2012	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	92	91	-	-	-
2011	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	-	92	86	-	-
2010	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	-	92	-	-	-
2009	Lillie Sauvignon Blanc	92	92	-	-	-

REVIEWS & SCORES (CONTINUED)

		WA	VI	WS	JS	JD
2017	Cabernet Sauvignon	91	93	-	94	92+
2016	Cabernet Sauvignon	92	93	93	94	-
2015	Cabernet Sauvignon	93	92	-	-	95
2014	Cabernet Sauvignon	93	92	-	95	92+
2013	Cabernet Sauvignon	93	91	-	94	-
2012	Cabernet Sauvignon	93+	93	86	94	-
2011	Cabernet Sauvignon	90	89	-	93	-
2010	Cabernet Sauvignon	-	95+	-	95	-
2009	Cabernet Sauvignon	-	94	-	-	-
2008	Cabernet Sauvignon	95	92	-	-	-
2007	Cabernet Sauvignon	94+	91	-	-	-
2006	Cabernet Sauvignon	94	92	-	-	-
2005	Cabernet Sauvignon	91	90	81	-	-
2004	Cabernet Sauvignon	96	90	89	-	-
2003	Cabernet Sauvignon	94	90	87	-	-
2002	Cabernet Sauvignon	93	90	92	-	-
2001	Cabernet Sauvignon	90	90	90	-	-
2000	Cabernet Sauvignon	88	-	89	-	-
1999	Cabernet Sauvignon	-	87	93	-	-
1998	Cabernet Sauvignon	-	-	85	-	-
1997	Cabernet Sauvignon	-	-	92	-	-

REVIEWS & SCORES (CONTINUED)

		WA	VI	WS	JS	JD
2017	Firebelle	90	93	-	94	-
2016	Firebelle	-	93	93	96	-
2015	Firebelle	91+	90	-	-	93
2014	Firebelle	94	94	-	94	-
2013	Firebelle	94	92	-	94	-
2012	Firebelle	96	91	87	94	-
2011	Firebelle	87	88	-	91	-
2010	Firebelle	-	94	-	94	-
2009	Firebelle	-	93	-	-	-
2008	Firebelle	94	92	-	-	-
2007	Firebelle	93	91	-	-	-
2006	Firebelle	91	91	-	-	-
2005	Firebelle	91	91	90	-	-
2004	Firebelle	91	90	-	-	-
2003	Firebelle	92	90	72	-	-

REVIEWS & SCORES (CONTINUED)

		RP	VI	WS	JS	JD
2017	LMV Salon	92	92	-	96	-
2016	LMV Salon	93	94	90	97	-
2015	LMV Salon	94+	95	-	-	94+
2014	LMV Salon	95	94	-	94	-
2013	LMV Salon	97	95	93	95	-
2012	LMV Salon	94	94	93	95	-
2010	LMV Salon	94	97+	87	96	-
2009	LMV Salon	-	95+	94	-	-
2008	LMV Salon	92	93	-	95	-
2007	LMV Salon	97	93	-	-	-
2006	LMV Salon	95	93	-	-	-
2005	LMV Salon	96	92+	89	-	-
2004	LMV Salon	98	91	89	-	-
2003	LMV Salon	96	92	87	-	-

REVIEWS & SCORES (CONTINUED)

		RP	VI	WS	JS	JD
2016	Dr. Olmo	95	94	-	97	95+
2015	Dr. Olmo	94+	97	94	97	96
2014	Dr. Olmo	95+	-	-	97	95
2013	Dr. Olmo	96	96	-	96	-

REVIEWS & SCORES (CONTINUED)

		RP	AG	WS	JS	JD
2017	Solari	92+	94	-	95	96+
2016	Solari	97+	97	94	97	96
2015	Solari	93+	96	91	97	99
2014	Solari	99	95	-	96	98+
2013	Solari	96	97	-	96	-
2012	Solari	99	94+	95	95	-
2010	Solari	96	98	88	98	-
2009	Solari	-	96	91	-	-
2008	Solari	96	94	-	96	-
2007	Solari	96+	92	-	-	-
2006	Solari	96	92	-	-	-
2005	Solari	99	92	82	-	-
2004	Solari	99	92	94	-	-
2003	Solari	96+	93	81	-	-
2002	Solari	100	92	92	-	-
2001	Solari	93	90	92	-	-

REVIEWS & SCORES (CONTINUED)

		RP	VI	WS	JS	JD
2017	The Lark	91+	94	-	95	96+
2016	The Lark	96+	97	-	98	95+
2015	The Lark	95	95	93	98	98
2014	The Lark	96+	95+	86	97	-
2013	The Lark	100	97	-	97	-
2012	The Lark	99	95+	94	98	-
2009	The Lark	95+	97	88	-	-
2007	The Lark	96+	94	-	-	-
2006	The Lark	96	94	-	-	-