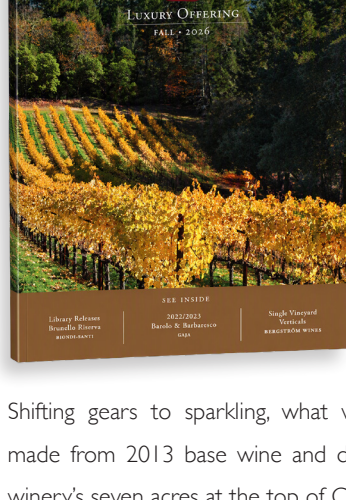


A Culture of Fine Wine: Rooted in Family, Inspired by Community

OCTOBER 2026

NEWSLETTER

FALL'S MOST ANTICIPATED: OUR LUXURY OFFERING IS HERE



With the scorching summer heat accelerating the growing season and expediting harvest by as much as a month, the thoughts of fall are a welcomed relief – and with them, the much-anticipated presentation of our **Fall Luxury Offering**.

This year, we have a bolstered domestic presence with the addition of Chateau Montelena, featuring the 2012 and 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon; two single vineyard Pinot Noir verticals – La Spirale 2021/2022/2023 and Silice 2021/2022/2023 – from the Bergström family; and the latest J. Schram vintages – Blancs 2017, Noirs 2017, and Brut Rosé 2017 – as well as a 5-year vertical of J. Schram Blancs 2005/2010/2015 from the Davies family.

This Offering features an extensive range from our Italian partners, including new vintage releases from the Gaja family's Piedmont, Montalcino, and Mount Etna properties, featuring their new 2024 IDDA Contrada Stella, crafted from 100% Carricante and grown on the southern slope of Mount Etna. From Montalcino, we're pleased to present vintages spanning over 40 years from the historic Brunello pioneer, Biondi-Santi; and from the Veneto, we are offering in limited quantity Dal Forno Romano's 2018/2019/2020 Valpolicella Superiore vertical.

Shifting gears to sparkling, what would the opening of the holiday season be without bubbles? Champagne Gosset unveils its first Cuvée Zero Dosage, made from 2013 base wine and disgorged after 10 years, and Bisol 1542 presents its 2025 Cartizze, the 'grand cru' of Prosecco Superiore produced from the winery's seven acres at the top of Cartize.

And representing the pinnacle of dessert wine, we are pleased to present the following 2018 vintages from Royal Tokaji: Betsék 1st Growth 6 Puttonyos, Szt. Tamás 1st Growth 6 Puttonyos, and Mézes Mály Great 1st Growth 6 Puttonyos, as well as the 2017 vintage of 'liquid gold' Essencia, the most concentrated essence of the ripest aszú berries.

All these wines and more are available for purchase starting October 1st! You can review the entire [Fall Luxury Offering here](#).

BIENVENIDO MIGUEL TORRES MACZASSEK!

Familia Torres U.S. Tour

For the first time in four years (!), we were thrilled to welcome fifth-generation Managing Director **Miguel Torres Maczassek** back to the U.S., making stops in NYC, DC, and Dallas to showcase the depth of his family's offerings from their ancestral home in the Penedès, as well as **Familia Torres Priorat**, **Pazo Torre Penelas** (Rías Baixas), **Pago del Cielo** (Rueda and Ribera del Duero), and **La Carbonera** (Rioja).

The events featured verticals of the flagship **Mas La Plana** culminating in the presentation of the 2020 vintage, marking the 50th vintage release of the family's iconic Cabernet Sauvignon. When asked what 50 years of Mas La Plana means for him, Miguel shared: **"We're not just selling wine, we're selling history – and that's what brings soul to our family business."**

But Miguel's focus isn't just on legacy; he and his sister Mireia are at the cutting edge of regenerative agriculture and the revival of ancestral varieties. That passion led Miguel to found the **Regenerative Viticulture Alliance**, Spain's first regenerative agriculture organization, whose international certification gives growers, producers, and consumers a tangible way to champion climate action.

Thank you to our friends in the trade who joined us to welcome Miguel back to the States, and to our account partners Barbonnia, Avra, Sirenetta, Del Mar, and Doris Metropolitan for hosting us!



HARVEST AROUND THE WORLD

How Our Producers Managed a Challenging Vintage

Harvest is one of the most exciting (albeit nerve-racking) times of year! With many of our producers already wrapping up or finished, others just getting started, and plenty right in the thick of it, we caught up with a few of them to hear what they had to say about the 2026 vintage:

"We began harvesting in Montrachet on August 13th. Of course this is extremely early. On August 14th, we were in Les Folatières with more than 60 pickers and carriers in the Domaine team, while a second team was harvesting Chevalier. **The grapes are beautiful, they are healthy, and have maintained good acidity in this very early vintage. We managed to get everything in place in less than two days. The Domaine Leflaive team has been extraordinary in organizing this harvest and that's why we love it!**"

— **Brice de La Morandière, Proprietor of Domaine Leflaive, Burgundy, France**

"The vineyard has weathered the various heatwaves without too much damage so far. The water reserves built up in the soil during the spring proved beneficial. Nevertheless, the 2026 harvest promises to be small due to highly uneven flowering and a lack of water since fruit set. **The rain at the end of August gives us hope for a high-quality harvest."**

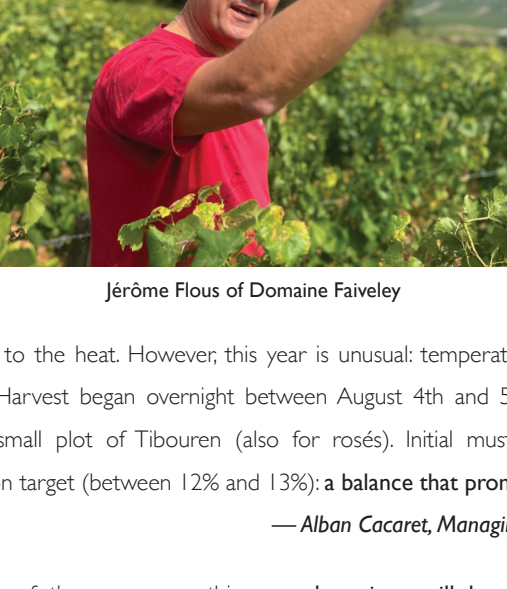
— **Jérôme Flous, Technical Director of Domaine Faiveley, Burgundy, France**

"Harvest began on August 2nd and wrapped on September 28th, making this an **unusually long, eight-week stretch for us**. The cellar team still has plenty to do as >80% of our tanks are full and there's a lot of barrel work on the horizon. I'm grateful for the incredible coordination between our vineyard and cellar teams. The ability to make picking decisions in real time and have pristine fruit at the winery just hours later is a tremendous advantage and a major contributor to the quality we're seeing in the wines."

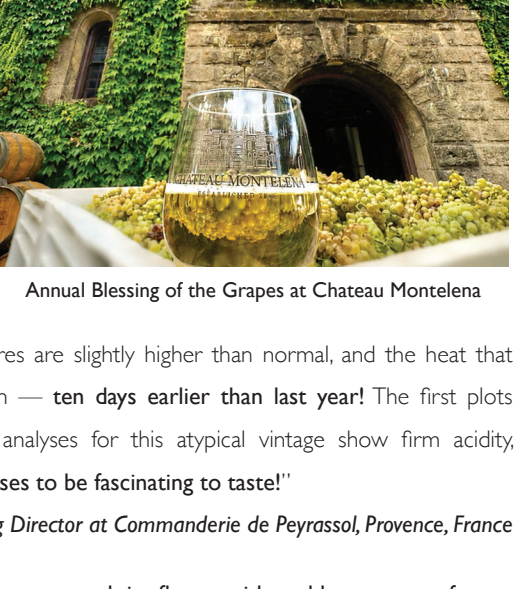
— **Matt Crafton, President and Winemaker of Chateau Montelena, Napa Valley, California**



Brice de La Morandière and his Father



Jérôme Flous of Domaine Faiveley



Annual Blessing of the Grapes at Chateau Montelena

"We are in Provence and our vines are well-adapted to the heat. However, this year is unusual: temperatures are slightly higher than normal, and the heat that arrived in May has persisted, with very little rainfall. Harvest began overnight between August 4th and 5th — **ten days earlier than last year!** The first plots harvested were Sémillon, Syrah (for rosés), and a small plot of Tibouren (also for rosés). Initial must analyses for this atypical vintage show firm acidity, high malic acid levels, and potential alcohol levels right on target (between 12% and 13%): **a balance that promises to be fascinating to taste!**"

— **Alban Cacaret, Managing Director at Commanderie de Peyrassol, Provence, France**

"Dryness, wind, and temperatures decreased weight of the grapes, so this year **the wines will be concentrated in flavor with noble aromas of pear, granny smith, citrus, and ripe tannins, which is really good for great white wines like we like to make.** 2026 will be delicious because we will have concentration, taste, length, ripe tannins, and good balance with acidity as well. This point (acidity) is the most important parameter for me to follow as we are very attached to freshness, minerality, and saltiness at Domaine Laroche, so we will take care of it!"

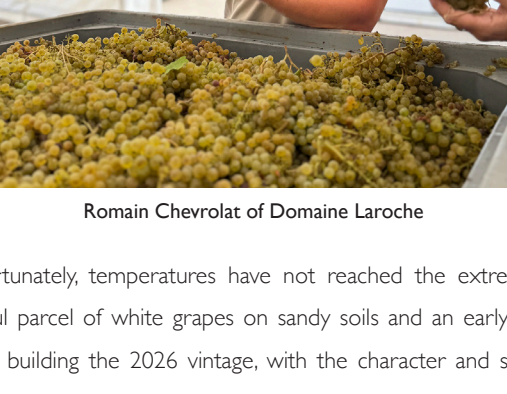
— **Romain Chevrolat, Winemaker at Domaine Laroche, Chablis, France**

"Our sparkling harvest is 99% done, with an early, light crop bringing bright, tart flavors. Yields are as low as we have seen since 2015. March warmth along the Pacific Coast led to an early budbreak. Bloom was difficult in April, leading to poor fruit set in places. Pinot Noir yields are 50% of normal on average. That's a hit, **yet the fruit is delicious. That's a win.** Our Davies red Pinot Noir harvest kicked off the week of August 24th with Ferrington in the Anderson Valley. 2026 will be one of those unique vintages that we will reflect on positively for decades to come."

— **Hugh Davies, Proprietor of Schramsberg Vineyards and Davies Vineyards, Napa Valley, California**



Commanderie de Peyrassol



Romain Chevrolat of Domaine Laroche



Hugh Davies, Schramsberg Vineyards and Davies Vineyards

"It was an undeniably hot and dry summer, but fortunately, temperatures have not reached the extreme levels we have experienced in other vintages in Châteauneuf. As of now, we expect to pick a beautiful parcel of white grapes on sandy soils and an early-ripening red parcel that tends to be early every year. These two vineyards will serve as the foundation for building the 2026 vintage, with the character and subtlety of each of the other parcels added afterward. **2026 will certainly be a vintage with nice concentration, velvety tannings and great complexity, but of course, only time will tell!**"

— **Antonin Coulon, Proprietor and Winemaker of Domaine de Beaurand, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France**

"**The grape harvest is the culmination of seven months of work.** The year 2026, marked by a very rainy winter, swept aside by an early and warm spring. With a head start of over a month, the vines faced their first heatwave by mid-June, followed by two more in July and August. As a result, the harvest started very early on August 24th—a record in the vineyard's history. The berries are concentrated and a beautiful golden yellow, with a fine acidity. **It promises to be an expressive and elegant vintage."**

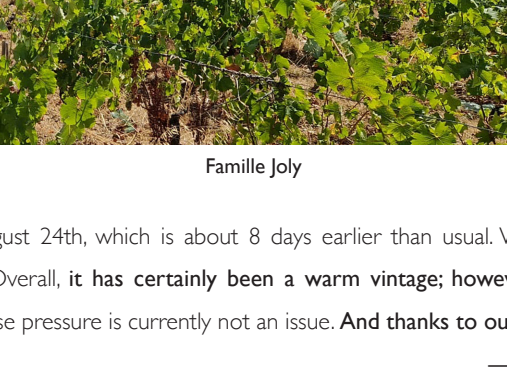
— **Vincent Joly, Proprietor and Sales Manager at Famille Joly, Loire, France**

"After a month and a half of unbearable heat, with temperatures reaching 102°F during the day and 82°F at night, we were preparing ourselves for a difficult harvest. Instead, **the grapes have shown remarkably good acidity.** In fact, we haven't seen malic acid levels this high in the last 8 or 9 years. Aromatic maturity has been fully achieved, and the aromas are actually very intense. Sugar levels, while balanced and not excessive, also indicate that the grapes have reached full ripeness. **Overall, the white grapes are looking excellent. Nebbiolo is now enjoying these conditions.** It started raining yesterday, and for its ripening process this is truly manna from heaven. Let's hope the weather continues to cooperate!"

— **Gaia Gaja, Proprietor of GAJA Properties, Piedmont, Italy**



Domaine de Beaurand



Famille Joly



GAJA

"It was an early vintage for us as we started on August 24th, which is about 8 days earlier than usual. We started with Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio, before moving to harvest Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir. Overall, **it has certainly been a warm vintage; however, the vines received timely rainfall throughout the season,** providing necessary water. Thanks to this, disease pressure is currently not an issue. **And thanks to our diurnal shifts, acidity levels are in line with our style."**

— **Karoline Walch, Proprietor of Elena Walch, Alto Adige, Italy**

"The 2026 harvest began on August 21st with Grillo for Passito, the earliest start ever recorded at Feudo Montoni. The harvest is early and heterogeneous, requiring close monitoring of each vineyard and variety. Despite high temperatures, **grapes entering the cellar are showing good overall balance, acidity, and aromatic definition.** All grapes are being harvested at night to ensure lower fruit temperatures on arrival at the cellar and to preserve acidity, aromatic quality, and berry integrity."

— **Fabio Sireci and Melissa Mueller, Proprietors of Feudo Montoni, Agrigento, Sicily**

"The 2026 vintage was characterized by a wet winter and growing season, resulting in vigorous vegetative growth, which was carefully regulated through attentive canopy management. From the onset of ripening, temperatures began to rise progressively, with particular increase from July to present day. During the final phase of August, we had recorded temperature peaks above the seasonal average. **We therefore expect an earlier onset of ripening across all Contrade and, consequently, an earlier start to harvest."**

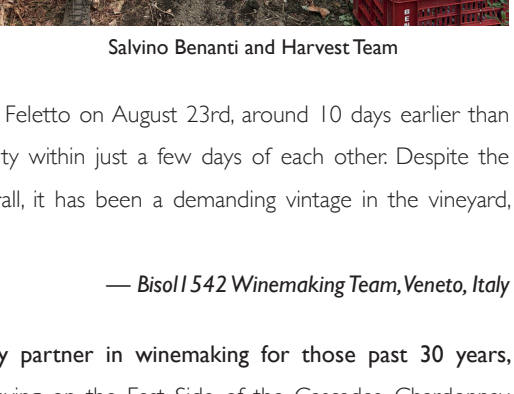
— **Salvino Benanti, Proprietor of Benanti Winery, Mount Etna, Sicily**



Elena, Karoline and Julia Walch



Feudo Montoni



Salvino Benanti and Harvest Team

"The 2026 harvest started on August 19th with Chardonnay in Farra di Soligo, followed by Glera in Rua di Fieletto on August 23rd, around 10 days earlier than last year. The harvest has been particularly fast and concentrated, as most of our vineyards reached maturity within just a few days of each other. Despite the extremely hot and dry summer that led to below-average yields, **grape health has proven excellent.** Overall, it has been a demanding vintage in the vineyard, but the first results are giving us good confidence in the quality and character of the 2026 wines."

— **Bisol 1542 Winemaking Team, Veneto, Italy**

"**2026 is my 30th vintage of making wine in Oregon, and, perhaps as a gift from Mother Nature, my partner in winemaking for those past 30 years, we are having a cooler than recent vintage scenario** with lovely weather and smoke from forest fires staying on the East Side of the Cascades. Chardonnay seems to be leading the charge on ripeness and we love vintages where we can start with Chardonnay. Overall there is great health in the vineyards and in the crop across all 5 monopole estate crus. Folks are likening this to potentially 1993 which was a cooler year that yielded legendary wines for the cellar. We'll see if that holds true as the next few weeks arrive."

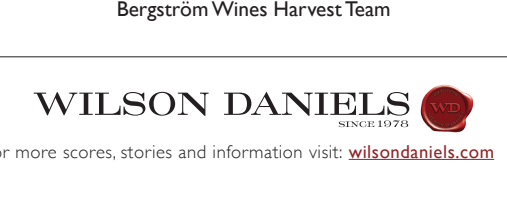
— **Josh Bergström, Proprietor and Winemaker of Bergström Wines, Willamette Valley, Oregon**

"**2026 is another very unique vintage.** After a rainy and cold winter, we experienced the warmest March ever recorded, with temperatures in the 90s toward the end of the month, which dramatically accelerated and shifted the whole season forward—or so we initially thought. Spring and Summer have been extremely mild, and in the end, we started harvest on August 17th and 18th (which is NOT our earliest ever) with some Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay and then no further picking until August 27th. So we are pretty much back on an average schedule for picks."

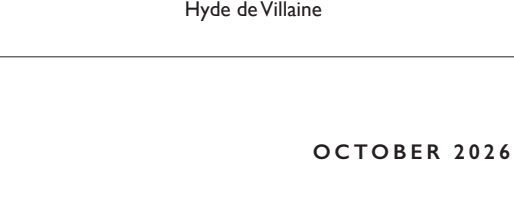
— **Guillaume Boudet, Winemaker at Hyde de Villaine, Napa Valley, California**



Bisol 1542



Bergström Wines Harvest Team



Hyde de Villaine