



# BENOVIA

WINERY

*2017 Fall Release*

BY MARY DEWANE, GM & FOUNDER

## IT'S FINALLY HERE: BENOVIA'S VERY FIRST SPARKLING WINE

"Tiny bubbles, in the wine, make me happy, make me feel fine"... You can often hear Joe singing joyfully around the winery when we get to open our very own bubbles, bringing a smile to anyone passing by. I think a lot of us feel that way about sparkling wine, but how did Benovia get the idea to make a sparkling wine in the first place?

In 2012 everything went perfectly for mother nature with abundant sunshine when necessary, a little rain in the early winter time, but overall, a long and fairly dry vintage. We were so fond of the vintage, as yields were just a little higher than the chilly 2011 vintage, that Mike's passion for Champagne, the historic region in France that produces the best sparkling wine in the world, had him thinking it would be really fun to produce his own. So, it was set into motion to pick fruit early, at significantly lower Brix levels to retain higher acidity levels, from some of the best chardonnay blocks on the Martaella Estate Vineyard to make Benovia's very first bubbles. Mike wanted to create the best Russian River Valley sparkling wine he could that reflected characteristics of some of the great Champagnes of the world he enjoyed. The 2012 Blanc de Blancs would become just that, but not right away. What is it about these tiny bubbles that light up our eyes and souls and instill happiness with every sip and what makes these bubbles so elegantly 'tiny' and dance across our tongues so joyfully?

Our sparkling wine was made in the méthode champenoise style, as with traditional Champagne. This traditional style naturally forms the CO<sub>2</sub> bubbles within each bottle via a process called "secondary fermentation" (as opposed injecting gas bubbles into a tank), dissolving the gas within the wine, producing much tinier bubbles than the alternative. We added very little dosage, a sugar and wine mixture of just 0.45g/L, deeming it extra brut, and the crisp freshness becomes apparent immediately as you take a sip. The wine spent over four years aging on its lees (dead yeast cells) which imparts layers of brioche, hazelnut and that creaminess on the palate that we love from fine Champagne. This wine showcases the beauty and elegance we have discovered from this unique Estate property in the heart of the Russian River Valley, expressing delicate white flowers, mandarin orange and tropical fruit aromas and flavors. Considering this wine comes from a single Estate vineyard and a single vintage, was aged on the lees for an extended period of time and only 250 cases were produced, our sparkling wine is very unique, exclusive and special. Ultimately, sparkling wine is not only celebratory but extremely food friendly so every sip becomes better than the last. We hope you toast the coming holiday season with family and great friends, allow these tiny bubbles to be the star at your next celebration, or on any Tuesday night with some fried chicken or truffle fries.

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*May your joys be as deep as the ocean, and your misfortunes as light as its foam.*

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## BENOVIA® 2017 FALL RELEASE TASTING NOTES

A warm February and March lead to early bud break in 2015. The warm winter transitioned to May temperatures that were colder than in January and February. These cold temperatures at bloom delayed flowering and fruit set was compromised. The poor set resulted in yields being reduced by as much as 50% in some of our vineyards. The summer weather can be characterized by cool nights and foggy mornings and resulted in veraison that was 1 to 2 weeks ahead of 2014. The harvest was our earliest on record for Benovia and ended quickly due to the low yields.

- Mike Sullivan, Winemaker



### 2012 BLANC DE BLANCS SPARKLING WINE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

\$50 | Limited

This 2012 Russian River Valley Blanc de Blancs is 100% Chardonnay and made in the traditional Champagne style, extra brut, and aged on the lees for almost five years. Aromas of candied orange, pineapple and ginger, waft from the glass and are complimented by the fragrance of warm hazelnut and cream. With generous flavors of Mandarin orange and ripe apricot, the palate is rich and full on entry with a savory and lingering finish.

### 2015 LA POMMERAIE CHARDONNAY , RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

\$48 | Extremely Limited

This intense and concentrated single vineyard Chardonnay begins with vivid aromas of citrus blossom, pineapple and green papaya. Then the vibrancy of the wine's aromas are matched by its opulent texture and layered flavors of candied orange rind, crème brûlée with a mineral laden finish.

### 2015 LA POMMERAIE PINOT NOIR, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

\$60 | Extremely Limited

This extraordinary and expressive Pinot Noir gives an immediate impression of depth and concentration in the glass, with remarkably explosive aromas of dark plum and boysenberry. The palate is viscous and rich, yet light on its feet, with fine-polished tannins and an exceptionally balanced acidity.

### 2015 MARTAELLA ESTATE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

\$60 | Limited

Deep ruby in color the vibrant raspberry, Bing cherry and sarsaparilla aromas leap from the glass. On the palate, the wine's juicy mouthfeel is buoyed by cherry and blackberry flavors, building through the mid-palate to the fine grain tannins on the finish. An intriguing blend of power and restraint this Pinot Noir is both savory and delicately sweet.

### 2015 TILTON HILL VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, SONOMA COAST

\$60 | Extremely Limited

Deep violet in color, this alluring and hedonistic wine has amazing extract and purity of fruit focus. Vibrant fruit aromas of ripe black cherry and raspberry soufflé harmonize with East-Indian spice notes and notes of forest floor. Heady aromas lead into equally vibrant flavors of blackberry, Queen Anne cherry and white pepper. On the palate, the juicy red fruits compliment the velvet-like texture and spicy finish.

### 2015 ZINFANDEL, SONOMA COUNTY

\$40 | Extremely Limited

This wine exhibits lively aromas of vine-ripened blackberries, black raspberry and baking spices. On the palate, the wine's exuberant fruit is in perfect harmony with bright acidity, fine grained tannin and a spice-laden finish. Utilizing Burgundian production techniques produce and elegant and restrained Zinfandel, while still capturing the intensity of the varietal.



ALL OF THE WINES LISTED ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED.

# NICOLE'S CORNER

BY NICOLE KOSTA

DIRECTOR OF EVENTS & CERTIFIED SOMMELIER



G'day, my name is Nicole Kosta and I am thrilled to have joined the Benovia team in May this year. I have been collecting Benovia wines in my own personal cellar since I discovered them back in 2014 when I moved to Sonoma County, so the opportunity to be able to work side by side with Mike, Mary, Joe and the team was a perfect fit. Being only my fourth

vintage in wine country I only dreamed of working at such a well-regarded boutique winery as Benovia, however with my background as a sommelier and food and beverage director working in high end restaurants and hotels, it was a natural transition to bring the best of luxury service and hospitality to the wine country.... From concrete skyscrapers in San Francisco, to rolling vineyards of the Russian River Valley, I was finally home!

I grew up in Australia and always had a passion for travel and so ended up in the USA with an organic chemistry degree and an ambitious outlook for my future. It turns out my natural affinity for people drew me out from working in a laboratory to back in restaurants where I'd sworn in college I would never work again, and then became inspired to become a somm. One of my most favorite parts about studying, living and breathing wine is always learning something new, as every vintage in every place that makes wine is different. Secondly, discovering how each vintage, region, and winemaker can affect the future of each wine made that year, and how each bottle is a living, evolving entity is so

very fascinating to me. I have a cellar of almost one thousand bottles (yes you might say I have a small problem, but it's an awesome problem to have!), and the majority of the wines I have I am patiently waiting for them to age, some a little, some a lot.

The fantastic thing about collecting Benovia Wines is that our winemaker owner Mike Sullivan truly understands the vineyards we work with, and how to integrate the oak barrel program to create a backbone for the wines, allowing the wines to gracefully age, without masking the opulence of Sonoma County fruit. Given my obsession with understanding the intricacies and nuances of aging wine, I have been digging around the Benovia cellar and have surfaced some gems that, if you are new to Benovia you'll want to snatch up right away, or if you have been collecting the wines for some time, you may have some in your cellar, wondering when that optimum moment to drink them is. I have worked closely with Mike to create this helpful vintage chart that we hope will help guide all our fellow Benovians to optimal wine drinking enjoyment.

As your personal Benovia somm, I want to invite you to let me personally curate a list of library wines to add to your own cellar, or enjoy these holidays. Our library is quite small so I will personally work with you to choose the right selection of wines to enhance your wine journey, whether it be today or years from now. Please contact me via email at [nicole@benovia.com](mailto:nicole@benovia.com) or call my office at (707)703-1647, but please note that I do travel around the country hosting events with our ambassadors so please be patient if I don't get back to you right away. And you never know when I will be in your city next, I hope to meet you all along my Benovia journey.

Cheers, Nicole.



## CELLAR STATUS OF BENOVIA WINES

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Bubbles	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Green	Black	Black	Yellow	Black
Rose	Blue	Yellow									
RRV Chardonnay	Black	Black	Black	Black	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Yellow
La Pommeraiie Chardonnay	Blue	Green	Yellow								
Three Sisters Chardonnay	Black	Blue	Green	Yellow							
RRV Pinot Noir	Black	Black	Black	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue	Green	Green	Yellow
Cohn Vineyard Pinot Noir	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
La Pommeraiie Pinot Noir	Black	Black	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
Martaella Vineyard Pinot Noir	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
Tilton Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
Bella Una Pinot Noir	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Black	Black	Green	Black	Yellow
Grenaché	Black	Green	Black	Green	Yellow						
Zinfandel	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow

Drink ■ Drink/Hold ■ In Barrel ■ Did not produce ■



## OUR NEW BENOVIAN WINE CLUB IS COMING!

Our fans have been asking for a wine club for some time and although we love our Concierge Service, we have decided to upgrade your wine collecting experience with us. At Benovia, we truly believe that our experiences with wine is a journey, from that first sip of whatever it was (white zinfandel!!!!) to the acquired palates you have now; from New York to the Russian River Valley to Burgundy, with old friends and new. We want to continue this wine journey with you, so starting in early 2018 we will be converting all our existing concierge members to our Top of the Hill, Winemakers Path and Trailblazer wine clubs. These options will offer the same allocation allotments you have previously chosen, with some additional benefits, along with adding our Top of the Hill Club which even includes a two-night stay at one of our cottages. If you have any questions regarding your current membership or joining the wine club please contact the winery at (707)921-1040 or email [teambenovia@benovia.com](mailto:teambenovia@benovia.com).



## MEET OUR TEAM

We have some new and some not so new faces about the winery, but what is similar about all of despite our uniquely different backgrounds is our passion for Benovia Wines and what makes them so special. We hope to meet you at the Fall Release Party, the Ranch House for a tasting, or on the road sometime soon.

## JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

*Events are subject to change. For the most up-to-date list, Please visit our website: [www.BenoviaWinery.com](http://www.BenoviaWinery.com)*

**We can't wait to connect with our fellow Benovians at these exciting events this season.**

### FALL RELEASE PARTY

Sunday November 5, 2pm-5pm

Phoenix, AZ

At a private home, by invitation.

### BUBBLES BY THE BAY

Tuesday November 7, 6:30pm-9pm

Red Dog Restaurant & Bar, San Francisco, CA

Featuring a walk around tasting of all West Coast sparkling wines.

### RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY WINEGROWER'S SINGLE VINEYARD NIGHT

Thursday November 9

San Francisco, CA

Get your tickets at [www.rrvw.org](http://www.rrvw.org)

### BUBBLES & BITES

Benovia Ranch House Visitor Center

Join us on the 4th Friday of each month through the end of the year for this special event. Each month we find a fantastic pairing for our limited production 2012 Blanc de Blancs sparkling wine, curated by a local chef. The events have been selling out quickly so make sure to book your tickets at [www.benovia.com](http://www.benovia.com)

October 27 – Gourmet French Fry Bar by Chef Austin Perkins

November 24 – Dim Sum by Eight Cuisine

December 22 – Savory French Pastries by Pascaline Patisserie

## HOW TO ORDER

Simply log in to your secure account at: [www.BenoviaWinery.com](http://www.BenoviaWinery.com).

You can also place your order by calling us at 707-921-1040, or e-mail your order to: [teambenovia@benovia.com](mailto:teambenovia@benovia.com)

*We value your friendship and patronage. If there is anything we can do to make your experience with Benovia more rewarding, please let us know.*

3339 HARTMAN ROAD, SANTA ROSA, CA 95401

707.921.1040

[WWW.BENOVIAWINERY.COM](http://WWW.BENOVIAWINERY.COM)

BENOVIA® IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF  
BENOVIA WINERY, LLC



BENOVIA<sup>®</sup>

WINERY

*2017 Fall Release*

— FEATURED WINES —

2012 BLANC DE BLANCS SPARKLING WINE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

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2015 LA POMMERAIE PINOT NOIR, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2015 MARTAELLA ESTATE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2015 TILTON HILL ESTATE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, SONOMA COAST

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