

# Brewer - Clifton

Bookends and Flowers

spring 2022

Shortly after we established our farming team in 2005, we embarked on our first vineyard development in 2007 with 3D located on Santos Road. While that post Sideways era was marked predominantly by Pinot plantings, our desire was to devote virtually all of this parcel to Chardonnay. We certainly adhered to that plan and elected to explore just a tiny section through the eyes of Pinot. Out of reverence for California's wine-growing history our specific choice was to prioritize two "heritage" clones, Pommard and Swan, to punctuate the installation and to pay homage to everyone who charted our eventual course.

*For the past decade, our 3D Pinot has been the spiciest, exotic, and most precise within our stable. This 2020 expression is significantly more substantiated by an underpinning of intense fruit, and has markedly more persistence in the mouth, likely attributed to the growing season and the vineyard now nearing fifteen years of age.*

While still euphorically immersed in the momentum of the era, we swiftly followed up 3D with our Pinot-focused vineyard of Machado in 2008. With one sliver of the site being pure light sand, we chose to devote that area to Chardonnay. During that same time, the coveted and aging Sweeney Canyon vineyard with which we had worked since our inception was in decline and before it perished we harvested its budwood to carry on our local legacy here.

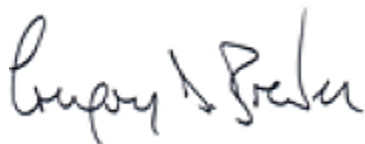
*Always the most effusive of our lineup, this vintage has incredibly pronounced white jasmine and lychee aromatics which are intoxicating in and of themselves. Very assertive and confident mouthfeel with a very dry impact.*

Only four miles away yet a viticultural world apart, we initiated our Hapgood vineyard planting in 2009. This extremely cold and sandy landscape is the yang to 3D's yin and consistently delivers fruit of moody darkness and density. This vineyard is equally devoted to Chardonnay and Pinot, with the latter clonal selections being exclusively 37 and 459.

*As always, the 2020 Hapgood bottling is exclusively clone 37 and epitomizes everything for which Brewer-Clifton strives. There is a raw, unbridled and primitive energy to this wine which is always evocative of this marine swept landscape that fuels our vines and lives.*

As always, we thank you from our core for your confidence in our appellation and our efforts within.

Respectfully,



Greg Brewer  
founding winemaker



## Spring 2022 Wine Notes

### New Releases

#### **2020 MACHADO CHARDONNAY**

The Machado Vineyard is primarily dedicated to Pinot Noir, with just a small, two-acre plot in the sandiest portion of the field planted to the Sweeney Canyon selection of chardonnay. Sweeney Canyon was the first vineyard we worked with in the Sta. Rita Hills and continued producing through the 2011 vintage. Incorporating the original and unique clonal material from that vineyard into our estate plantings was vital to carrying forward our heritage.

**Greg's Assessment** - *Always the most effusive of our lineup, this vintage has incredibly pronounced white jasmine and lychee aromatics which are intoxicating in and of themselves. Very assertive and confident mouthfeel with a very dry impact.*

#### Prior Vintages Reviews

2019: 97pts, *JebDunnuck.com*; 95pts, *Vinous*; 93pts, *Wine Enthusiast*; 92pts, *Wine Spectator*  
2018: 95pts, *JebDunnuck.com*; 94pts, *Wine Enthusiast*; 94pts, *Wine Advocate*; 94pts, *Vinous*  
2017: 95pts *Jeb Dunnuck*; 95pts, *Vinous*; 94pts, *Wine Enthusiast*; 93pts, *Wine Advocate*

#### **2020 3-D PINOT NOIR**

The primary emphasis of this predominantly sandy 10-acre vineyard is Chardonnay. In addition to Chardonnay, there is a smaller field of Pinot Noir planted to Swan, Pommard, 667 and 828 clones. The 3-D bottling is comprised of four barrels each of the Swan and Pommard Clones.

**Greg's Assessment** - *For the past decade, our 3D Pinot has been the spiciest, exotic, and most precise within our stable. This 2020 expression is significantly more substantiated by an underpinning of intense fruit, and has markedly more persistence in the mouth, likely attributed to the growing season and the vineyard now nearing fifteen years of age.*

#### Prior Vintages Reviews

2019: 98pts, #3 Top 100 wines of 2021, *Wine Enthusiast*; 95pts, *Wine Spectator*; 95pts, *Jeb Dunnuck*  
2018: 95pts, *Jeb Dunnuck*; 95pts, *Wine Enthusiast*; 94pts, *Wine Spectator*; 93pts, *Vinous*  
2017: 95pts, *Wine Enthusiast*; 93pts, *Wine Advocate*; 93pts, *Vinous*; 93pts, *Jeb Dunnuck*



## **2020 HAPGOOD PINOT NOIR**

The Hapgood Vineyard is located across the road from our Machado vineyard and is situated at the end of Hapgood Road. In slightly richer soil, the vineyard is planted to the 459 and 37 clones of Pinot Noir. The elevated clay loam content results in larger volume and a denser palate expression. The eight barrels selected to construct the Hapgood Pinot Noir bottling are 100% clone 37.

**Greg's Assessment** - *As always, the 2020 Hapgood bottling is exclusively clone 37 and epitomizes everything for which Brewer-Clifton strives. There is a raw, unbridled and primitive energy to this wine which is always evocative of this marine swept landscape that fuels our vines and lives.*

### Prior Vintages Reviews

2019: 98+pts, *Jeb Dunnuck*; 96pts, *Wine Enthusiast*; 94pts, *Vinous*

2018: 98pts, *Jeb Dunnuck*; 95pts, *Wine Enthusiast*; 94+pts, *Wine Advocate*

2017: 96pts *Jeb Dunnuck*; 94pts, *Wine Advocate*; 93pts *Wine Spectator*; 92+pts, *Vinous*

### Historical Re-release

#### **5 year – 2015 HAPGOOD PINOT NOIR**

We couldn't be more thrilled to finally be re-releasing this wine. After the explosive scores & reviews were published in 2017, we committed to squirreling away a pallet of this wine to offer it up now. At our recent tasting of this wine, the youthful energy and deep fruit of this wine have evolved, fully revealing expansively spiced, tertiary flavors that are broad on the palate. In reading Doug Wilder's assessment from 2017, it's remarkable the number of notes that matched our tasting from 2022. This is what cellared Pinot Noir is all about; we encourage buyers to consume within 24 months to catch this wine performing at the peak of its powers.

*From the first hint of the bottle opening there is something beyond ordinary in this wine. Bottomless dark aromatics; cherry, spice box, currant in a richly dense balance. The palate is uncannily precise on entry with bright essences of cranberry, supple orange that give way to enormously silky textured dark cherry, spice and forest floor. Exceptional and utterly flawless. Tasted over three days with consistent results.*  
- **100 points, Doug Wilder, Purely Domestic Wine Report, Sept 2017**

*Pale to medium ruby-purple colored, the 2015 Pinot Noir Hapgood has notes of black cherries and black raspberries with hints of black pepper, dried herbs and damp earth. Medium to full-bodied, rich, densely and superbly structured with grainy tannins and a racy acid line, it has an epically long, complex finish.*  
Yum

- **95+ points, Lisa Perotti-Brown, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate, Sept 2017**

*Another ripe, sexy, voluptuous effort is the 2015 Pinot Noir Hapgood, and I always love this cuvée. Coming from a site just beside the Machado Vineyard, it never lacks for oomph and the 2015 gives up lots of kirsch, strawberry and framboise notes, with more spice, dried earth, flowers and savory herb notes in the background. Ripe, full-bodied and powerful, it still stays gracefully and lively, with a great finish. This is a classic Sta. Rita Hills Pinot made with the idea to show exactly what this terrific terroir can deliver.*

- **96 points, Jeb Dunnuck, Jebdunnuck.com, Aug 2017**



### **2015-2019 HAPGOOD CHARDONNAYS**

Hapgood Chardonnay is 100% clone 76, drawn from the sandy, north facing incline of the vineyard. Production of this wine is always our smallest, ranging from a minuscule two barrels in some vintages up to six. The beautiful tropical element of this wine is partially derived from its rooting in the ancient riverbed at the foot of the spine of the Sta. Rita Hills.

**Aroma:** Pineapple, White Flowers | **Flavor:** Stone Fruit, Citrus, Nectarine | **Texture:** Voluptuous, Deep

**2019** - *More ripe orchard fruits, toasted nuts, brioche, green almond, and crushed stone-like minerality emerge from the 2019 Chardonnay Hapgood. A focused, medium-bodied, vibrant 2019 with beautiful purity, good acidity, and a clean finish, it too can be drunk today or cellared for 15+ years.*

- 95 points, Jeb Dunnuck, [Jebdunnuck.com](http://Jebdunnuck.com), Aug 2021

**2018** - *The 2018 Chardonnay Hapgood has soft notions of citrus blossoms, white peaches, salted almonds and spring honey on the nose. In the mouth, it's medium-bodied with bright, mineral and citrus-laced fruits, and it finishes long, bright and uplifted.*

- 92+ points, Erin Brooks, *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate*, Oct 2020

**2017** - *The 2017 Chardonnay Hapgood is ample and broad in the glass, with a real sense of phenolic intensity that gives the wine its overall shape. Tangerine, sage, mint, chamomile and dried flowers add aromatic nuance, but it is the wine's vertical feel that stands out most. The 2017 Hapgood is a superb Chardonnay endowed with tremendous character and sheer class.*

- 95 points, Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, Sept 2019

**2016** - *The 2016 Chardonnay Hapgood opens in the glass with notes of pear, peach pit and iodine, framed by a light touch of nutty reduction. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, tensile and saline, with lovely length and a slightly austere, uncompromising personality that will likely unwind with a few years of bottle age.*

- 92 points, William Kelley, *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate*, Apr 2018

**2015** - *The 2015 Chardonnay Hapgood comes from a site just across the road from the Machado Vineyard and consists of slightly deeper, richer soils. It offers slightly more tropical notes of pineapple, buttered citrus, white flowers and cream corn. It's rich, voluptuously textured, deep and packed with fruit and texture, all while staying balanced and pure. It's another sensational white.*

- 96 points, Jeb Dunnuck, [Jebdunnuck.com](http://Jebdunnuck.com), Aug 2017