



BONNY DOON VINEYARDS

2011 Spring Offering



Like Columbus who sought a trade route to Asia, Randall Graham set sail in 1979 for the Great American Pinot Noir, foundered on the shoals of astringency and fineness and ended up running aground in the utterly unexpected New World of Rhône and Italian grape varieties. Since early 2004, Bonny Doon has practiced strict adherence to Biodynamic viticultural practices. All of the growers with whom they currently work also use strict Biodynamic practices in the farming of grapes which they purchase. Bonny Doon believes that these Biodynamic practices give them the best opportunity to produce the most distinctive and interesting-the best-wines possible.

Vin Gris De Cigare 2010 - 12/750ml Net \$144 *Biodynamically Farmed*

Just about 15% of this Vin Gris is composed of traditional white Rhône varieties, which adds a surprising richness and foundation to this wine. A small portion of the juice derived from saignée or "bleeding" from the tanks used to produce our Le Cigare Volant. But, in truth, the lion's share of the Grenache came from bespoke sections of the Alta Loma Vineyard, harvested at the appropriate maturity level for this style of wine. Neither did we engage in much batonage - the stirring or resuspension of lees post-fermentation - with this particular vintage. A simplicity of winemaking protocol really gave us the most frank and elegant expression of these grapes.

Le Cigare Volant Blanc 2008 Beeswax Vineyard - 12/750ml Net \$216 *Biodynamically Farmed*

From what far-flung, telic appellation might be dispatched a white cigar? Le Cigare Blanc is the white analogue of Le Cigare Volant, our homage to the complex blended wines of Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape. The great white Cigare is not unlike the great white whale; rarely seen, difficult to catch, yet its name is legend! Luckily when the Cigare is from Bonny Doon it is much easier to track down and enjoy. Since 2003, they have produced this wondrous blend of Roussanne and Grenache Blanc. It is a rich, savory wine with greater power and extract than one typically finds at Bonny Doon. A single vineyard Cuvée. The grapes are derived exclusively from the Beeswax Vineyard in Arroyo Seco. Farmed in accordance with the principles and practices of Biodynamics, surrounded on three sides by wilderness and shielded from the cool Pacific Coast winds by the Santa Lucia Mountains, Beeswax Vineyard grows complex, concentrated and mineral intensive grapes, produced from deeply rooted vines. Dedicated to producing wines in a more unaffected, hands off style, with a particular emphasis on the expression of terroir, or unique sense of place. Our 2008 Le Cigare Blanc is beautifully balanced with a silky texture, evocative flavors and a long satisfying finish - keep this wine in mind when pairing molecular gastronomic dishes found at uber restaurants Alinea, wd-50 or El Bulli.

Bonny Doon 2009 'Contra' (Old vine Carignan blend) - 12/750ml Net \$144

Contra is a wine that reflects the opposite of modern wine sensibilities - of wines overworked and amped up, pushed and prodded into Procrustean palate-numbing sameness. A rebours, this wine is a contrarian blend of mostly old-fangled grape varieties from mostly older vineyards, located primarily in Contra Costa County. Contra is a somewhat contradictory flashback/forward to the straightforward, frank wines of yester- and future-year. A field blend that contravenes contraindicated convention, with aromas of cherries and licorice, flavorful cassis, blackberries and silky tannins. A wine (hardly) contraindicated for gastronomy, it is above all, contrapuntal. Dedicated to producing wines in a more unaffected, hands-off style, with a particular emphasis on the expression of terroir, or unique sense of place, Bonny Doon Vineyard fashioned the 2009 Contra from hand harvested grapes from the Northern most reaches of the Central Coast - old vines from Contra Costa County's Gonsalves Vineyard and its more Southern climes, Santa Maria Valley's famed Bien Nacido Vineyard. Hand sorted, indigenous yeast fermented in individual lots, extended maceration and 100% ML, before blending to achieve to a wine that is bursting with life, exuberance and deep vitality.

Bonny Doon 2006 Le Cigare Volant Red - 12/750ml Net \$280 91 IWC

This cuvee, the 22nd edition of Le Cigare Volant, is dominated by the chief red in residence: Syrah. Our traditional Syrah source in Santa Maria Valley was this year supplemented with the exceptional Central Coast Chequera Vineyard. Chequera Syrah is very fragrant and elegant, not quite classically New World or Old. Bien Nacido produces the closest analogue we have found to a Northern Rhône wine - tannic and meaty in the lower registers; peppery, fruitful and delicately floral in the top, all the while showing great balance and harmony. For those with particular sensitivity, a smidge of our own Biodynamic Estate Grenache adds a discreet spiciness. "A blend of Syrah, Grenache, Cinsault with just a trace of Mourvèdre and Carignane, make for a bright and wonderfully gamey wine".



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Bonny Doon (375 ml) 2008 Vinferno White - 12/375ml Net \$180

We were just minding our Beeswax when it became clear we could contrive to produce a decadent single vineyard dessert wine from the air-dried grapes of the noble white cépages, grenache blanc and roussanne. Vinferno is er, darned rich, fragrant and honeyed - nary a trace of brimstone - with non-trivial lashings of quince and Asian pear and a finish that seems to last an eternity. This wickedly great cuvée will transport you to a realm beyond your wildest imaginings. 2008 brought unseasonable dryness to the Beeswax Vineyard in Arroyo Seco, with low humidity and few rain showers, providing deeply concentrated and flavorful grenache blanc and roussanne for a vin de paille style dessert wine. Quite juicy, full of apple, pear and quince fruit aligned with apricots, hazelnuts and a hint of lavender honeycomb.

Bonny Doon (375 ml) 2007 Vol Des Agnes (Roussanne) - 12/375ml Net \$264

One simply has no choice - it is written in the Book of Love - but to describe Le Vol des Agnes (or The Angel's Flight) as quite out of this world, indeed, at the risk of being called the Boy Who Cried Roussanne! The 2007 Le Vol des Agnes is certainly one of the greatest dessert wines we have ever produced at Bonny Doon Vineyard. 2007 brought unseasonable dryness to the Beeswax Vineyard in Arroyo Seco, with lower humidity and fewer rain showers than ideal for the development of the noble rot, botrytis. The fruit was gently pressed to a juice of 33° brix before undergoing fermentation on its own indigenous yeast in 70% stainless steel and the balance in acacia barrels.

Ca' del Solo is the frontier outpost, Biodynamic estate vineyard of Bonny Doon Vineyard, dedicated to producing wines with a particular emphasis on the expression of terroir, or unique sense of place. Our winemaking is generally hands-off, respectful of the originality of the vineyard site. 2008 vintage expresses the beautiful crystalline mineral aspect of the Monterey County soils, bracingly crisp citrus and great persistence on the palate.

Ca' del Solo Albarino 2008 - 12/750ml Net \$160 *Biodynamically Farmed (End of Vintage - Less than 10cs in stock)*
Pale straw color with green highlights and slight effervescence. Bright aromas of lemon blossom, white ginger and sage remind one of the pilgrim journeys along the winding paths leading to Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. Citrus rind, wild herbs and green almond flavors continue this Spanish interlude as the 2008 vintage finishes long, crisp and briny

Ca' del Solo Muscat 2008 - 12/750ml Net \$144 *Biodynamically Farmed (End of Vintage)*
The 2008 vintage expresses the beautiful crystalline mineral aspect of the Monterey soils, musky, melony aromatics, clean acidity and a just off-dry finish. Muscat is not like any other for it is a Moscato giallo or "Yellow Muscat." Traditionally found in the Alto-Adige region of Northeast Italy, this rare variation on the Muscat theme has a slightly different floral aspect than the more ubiquitous Muscat Blanc au petits grains (aka Moscato Bianco) - still lots of lavender and white flower, it possesses a certain discreet herbal aspect that prevents it from being "too pretty."