

Description of Hitching Post wines for the Space Park Enology Club tasting:



2020 Cork Dancer Pinot Noir

A blend of Santa Maria Valley and Sta. Rita Hills vineyards, the Cork Dancer displays a rich, dark fruit profile with balanced structure and body that pairs perfectly with our grilled meats.

Vinous said this about the 2019 Cork Dancer Pinot Noir: “The 2019 Pinot Noir Cork Dancer is a juicy, exuberant wine that will drink well right out of the gate. Succulent red cherry, spice, rose petal and orange zest are all dialed up. The 2019 is fresh and vibrant, yet packs plenty of punch. It’s a delicious wine to enjoy over the next handful of years.”



2017 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir

Kathy Joseph's Fiddlestix Vineyard in the heart of the Santa Rita Hills makes some of the best wines of the region. We have been making this since 2001. This 2016 is intense with broad flavors of dark berry, earth, and underbrush. This wine tastes impressive today and is destined to evolve and improve over the next ten years.

Vinous said this about the 2019 vintage of Fiddlestix Pinot: “These are the best wines I have tasted from Frank Ostini and Gray Hartley at Hitching Post. A few years ago, Ostini moved the production of these wines back to Au Bon Climat (where he had been for the first 20 years) following the exit of Qupé from that facility. Ostini credits being surrounded by the talented Au Bon Climat team for the improved quality of his wines. Whatever the reason or reasons, these are very clearly the best wines I have seen in the dozen years I have been visiting Santa Barbara. As always, the Pinots are fruity and forward, but they have plenty of structure too.”



2019 Highliner Pinot Noir

For this, our top-of-the-line bottling, we blend our best barrels from our best vineyards. Our goal is to achieve balance and complexity in a graceful and elegant, yet compelling and complete expression of Pinot Noir from our region.

"HIGHLINER" is a barrel selection (50% new French oak) of maritime-cooled vineyards in Santa Barbara County, combining the forward fruit and richness of the Santa Maria Valley, with the earthiness and structure of fruit from the Sta. Rita Hills. The blend of vineyards can change with each vintage depending on which ones produce the best of the best for that particular growing season.

Vinous (93 Points): The 2019 Pinot Noir Highliner is a blend of sites in Santa Maria and the Sta. Rita Hills. Black cherry, plum, cloves, leather, mocha, and incense lend notable complexity to this mid-weight, refreshing Pinot Noir. There is good depth and plenty of freshness to pull it all together.

2012 HP23* (2012 Highliner)

"Highliner" is a barrel selection (70% new French oak) of maritime-cooled vineyards in Santa Barbara County, combining the forward fruit and richness of the Santa Maria Valley, with the earthiness and structure of fruit from the Sta. Rita Hills. This blend includes these vineyards & clones: Rio Vista 777, 115, Fiddlestix 115, 667 & 777, Bien Nacido, 115 and Pommard 4, and Julia's Pommard 4.

** HP23 is named for the 23 truckloads of lumber it took to dismantle the original home in Orange Co. and bring it up to Buellton and reassemble what is now the Hitching Post Restaurant.*

Wine Enthusiast (92 points): The Hitching Post team of Frank Ostini and Gray Hartley hit a home run on this Highliner, with a nose that features fried shiitake mushrooms, violet and sizzling balsamic vinegar. It boasts an elegant mouthfeel, with very round and widely expressive fruit, characterized by orange peel, olallieberry and more violet.

Wine Spectator (90 points): A deep, dense wine, the 2012 Pinot Noir Highliner is laced with pomegranate, dark raspberry, spice and plum. Still tightly-coiled and a bit reticent, the 2012 possesses gorgeous understated resonance in the classic, mid-weight style typical of Hitching Post Pinots. Highliner is a blend of fruit from Bien Nacido, Fiddlestix, Julia's and Cargasacchi.

