

2010 Fall Wine Release

Since beginning our Journey with you as Donelan Family Wines a mere ten months ago we have been rewarded for our hard work in the vineyards and the winery. Our wines have been critically acclaimed for their approachability, subtle complexity and lingering finish, these 2008 Donelan wines have set the bar high for our future vintages. More importantly, your praise and your support have been remarkable and very appreciated!

We have chosen a path to wine making that is not only true to the terroir of our incredible Sonoma County sites, but creates wines that represent the very best of each terroir. You have embraced our passion and in many cases made it your own.

Our philosophy of only using the *best-of-the-best* juice from our unique vineyard sites is represented in spectacular fashion with our Fall Release 2008 Donelan wines. Each wine is sourced from remarkable terroirs here in Sonoma County. The steep beautiful hills of Walker Vine Hill, the exquisite Richard's Family Vineyard with it's manicured lavender and surrounding wild forests, the intimate rolling hills of the Kobler Family Vineyard.

These Donelan wines are drinking *very well* right now, even in their youth. Those of you who have sampled these wines have been taken with the elegant nature they present. However, they will continue to acquire depth and complexity with a little age.

Additionally, with this 2008 Fall Release I am doing something that given the economic climate might make little sense but given the need makes perfect sense. *10% of all sales from the 2008 Fall Release and all winery sales for the next two months* are going to be given to *United Against Sexual Assault of Sonoma County*. I've included a detailed description of the need, the organization and the benefit this donation will provide the youth of Sonoma County at the end of this offer. It's important and I hope you will join us in helping these young people make their journey through life better.

All the best,

Joe

The Donelan 2008 Fall Release Wines

2008 Donelan Walker Vine Hill

750ml \$45.00 each.

2008 Walker Vine Hill is an exhibition of the 2008 vintage: there was great fruit to be had, but it had to be *discovered*. Like Kobler and Obsidian, the vineyard was influenced by frost. Going row by row to mark the frost helped us re-discover some

of the natural difference *across* designated “blocks” in the vineyard. We realized this small parcel has surprising variation in soil depth and water availability which leads to significant differences in cluster/berry size and over all complexity and quality. The 2008 vintage was harvested 4 times, and this led to an unveiling of the best fruit of the vintage. While excess heat in the beginning of September seemed to accelerate ripening, a significant cooling the rest of the month had us harvesting this parcel near its average date toward the beginning of October. The four harvests led to 6 fermentation lots and blending trials ensued during the summer of 09. With the mandate of “only the best,” production was lower than hoped for but the quality may well be superior to the previous two vintages for its purity, depth, breadth, length, and...silkeness

The aromatics are enticing, seductive, and have tremendous purity. The 2008 is silky and smooth, with several layers and dimensions encouraging another sip. We’d be surprised if this incredible wine was not consumed within 5 years (it’s that hard not to throw it back!), but it could certainly evolve beyond that time frame.

Robert Parker, February 2010, 94-97 points

“The 2008 Donelan Syrah Walker Vine Hill (100% Syrah, 55% whole clusters) possesses slightly lower alcohol (15.6% versus 15.9% in 2007). It represents a hypothetical Euro/California hybrid blend. More concentrated than the 2007, the inky/purple-hued, full-bodied 2008 reveals beautiful blue and black fruits intermixed with hints of graphite, toast, roasted Provencal herbs, meat juices, and pepper. Gorgeous purity, a fabulous texture, and a long, 40+ second, full-bodied finish suggest this terrific wine will drink well for 10-15 years.” Robert Parker, February 2010

2008 Donelan Kobler Family Vineyards
750ml \$45.00 each

Another vineyard impacted by frost. However, the low spring moisture proved an excellent source to control vine vigor and therefore yields. Resistant to the heat spells of early September due to their point of development, the berries benefited from the long, consistent, and dry September and October. The Viognier yields were extremely low, but we managed to take a page from the Northern Rhone and co-fermented it with the Syrah at 8% Viognier. Kobler Syrah was fermented 100% whole cluster and aged in no new oak.

The 2008 Kobler Syrah offers a wonderful experience in the savory nature Syrah can show. Accented with dark black fruits since bottling the wine has begun to develop into lovely Cote Rotie-like aromas of white pepper and plump fresh blackberries. Also loaded with dried salami and black olive tapenade this wine continues to broaden its aroma profile as time passes. While full bodied, the wine is one of the most supple mouth feels of all the 2008 offerings, finishing with a freshness that beckons another glass. Enjoy!

2007 Richards Family Vineyard
750ml \$90.00

Richard's Family Vineyard is nestled in the Schultz Valley near Annadel State Park in Sonoma Valley. While generally conceived as a warmer region, this east facing isolated parcel buttressed to the west by the Sonoma Mountains is surprisingly cool and produces excellent Syrah wine. This young planting has already produced several vintages of Syrah with great character garnering *Robert Parker scores of 96 in 2004 and 96-98 in 2006*. The rocky soils used to provide footing for a lavender farm. Most of the lavender was replaced with Syrah, but several rows remain, enticing us to believe they leave their own mark in each vintage.

The vineyard consistently produces very low yields, rivaling Obsidian with its rocky soil profile and applying early season vine stress that keeps vigor and yields to tiny 1.5-2 tons per acre. I've never seen a wine that takes so much time to develop. The arc of barrel evolution doesn't seem to peak until 30-36 months of aging. Aromatically it is *without equal*, loaded with fresh lavender, oregano, roasted meats, and ripe rich blackberry. Yet with all its power and uniqueness in the aroma profile, the wine has a delicacy and finesse on the palate making the whole package incredibly compelling. The 2007 Richard's is one of our most spectacular wines.

Ordering Your 2008 Fall Release Wines

The 2008 Fall Release is available for immediate shipment weather permitting.

We have provided several ways to make ordering as convenient as possible: you can call Joe directly at 203 658 1248 to discuss your order personally, you can email Joe at jpd2@donelanwines.com, or if you are a new customer you can register on our website and order through our online wine store.

We look forward to sharing these marvelous wines with you and thank you again for your support on our exciting journey, which only grows better with each year.

Donelan Family Wines.

Improving Life's Journey Through Education.

In this period of challenging economic times you have many options to invest your hard earned funds: your family, home, special interests, wine, and/or your favorite charity. I have always believed that the importance of education can help pull us *all* up and make a better community, state, country and world. So with this our first Fall Release offer as Donelan Family Wines® our family has decided to invest in the community where we harvest our grapes and make our wine, Santa Rosa (Sonoma County) California. We could have chosen from many deserving needs but the one in particular that cried out to us was *United Against Sexual Assault of Sonoma County*. It is our personal belief that our young people are crying out for help and advice.

United Against Sexual Assault of Sonoma County (UASA) is Sonoma County's sole rape crisis center, offering prevention, intervention, and counseling services regarding rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and related crimes. The organization serves all of Sonoma County, serving a great number of young people with an unparalleled education on gender equity, healthy relationships, and sexual violence prevention.

We are donating 10% of *all* wine purchases generated from this Fall Release Letter and the sale of any other wines you purchase from us over the next two months. You may buy from this latest release of Donelan Wines or inquire about our remaining 2008 Donelan Wines - Cuvee Christine and Cuvee Moriah - or any of our older Pax Wines. We hope as you think about purchasing our wines you also think about the double enjoyment you will get by helping these young people in their journey as they learn about self respect, courtesy and good works as you enjoy our wine.

We certainly appreciate your support of *our* journey and wines but especially for the young people in our Santa Rosa Community. Please email, call or fax us with your order or any questions you may have. Many thanks again for your support on this journey.

For more information about UASA please contact Ms. Alexis Marbach via email at alexismarbach@gmail.com or by phone at 707-703-9751.

All my best for a great Harvest Fall.

Joe Donelan