

POLLAK VINEYARDS

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Founded in 2003 as a small family owned operation, Pollak now boasts over 26 acres planted to French vinifera grapes. Working with Virginia viticultural veteran Chris Hill, "Turtle" Zwadio meticulously manages Pollak's more than 16,000 vines scattered among five distinct vineyard sites on the farm's 98 acre estate. Varieties include Chardonnay, Viognier, Pinot Gris, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and most recently Petit Manseng.

Hand crafting has always been a big part the Pollak method. Winemaking is supervised by consulting winemaker Michael Shaps. Cellar Reserve members know Shaps well. He was originally trained in France, and now works with a

number of Virginia operations in addition to his own Virginia label and his partnership in a Côte de Beaune (Burgundy) winery.

Pollak is located in western Albemarle County near the Nelson County line. The somewhat understated architectural lines of their tasting room mirror the understated elegance of their wines. While the vineyard and winery can be seen from the I-64 overlook, visitors relaxing on the porch are a world away from the hustle and bustle of the interstate in the distance.



Pollak Vineyards 2008 Meritage

In the glass this outstanding red blend (44% Cabernet Franc, 43% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot) presents with deep dark garnet lines filling the glass with color from rim to rim. The dark center core provides little indication of the waterfall of flavors contained within.

In the third tasting of this wine, I did not decant it, resulting in a tighter than average nose. With a significant effort of swirling and oxidizing this still developing wine, undertones of cedar and red licorice were dominant.

On attack this wine provides a carpet of red cherry and raspberry notes leading quickly to an expansive mid palate that included cascading layers of strawberry, plum and hints of milk chocolate. The exceedingly well integrated finish lingers on the rear of the palate like a good friend after a summer barbeque. Dark fruit tones dominate with a hint of pipe tobacco.

Though drinking very nicely now, those who can wait will be rewarded with increased mid palate complexity and an extended finish.

HOLD until Fall 2011 – Spring 2014



Hiddencroft

"I think we're at a point where it's going to explode for Virginia right now,"
Virginia's First Lady
Maureen McDonnell
— as quoted by Robert Fulton in the Virginia Wine Gazette Spring 2011

Hiddencroft Vineyards was probably the biggest surprise gold medal winner in the 2011 Governor's Cup. Only the well informed Virginia wine connoisseurs were even aware of this Loudoun County gem. It is well known that Loudoun County is clearly making great wines and it's expanding the number of wineries (and vineyards) in production.

The aptly named Hiddencroft Vineyards is situated on twenty six secluded acres in Lovettsville. Founded in 2001, Hiddencroft opened the tasting room portion of their building in 2010. As the northernmost winery in Virginia, Hiddencroft has significant followings in Maryland, West Virginia as well as the Old Dominion. The tasting room/production facility building is much like Hiddencroft's wines, graceful and understated.

To describe owner Clyde Housel as passionate is an understatement. Often found behind the tasting room bar, he is eager to share his viticultural vision, winemaking philosophy, and, most importantly, his wine.

2008 Cabernet Franc

Wine is a living thing. When I tasted this wine in February, in the gold medal media tasting, my notes indicated the wine had great promise but needed more time to develop. Either my tasting bottle was off or boy has the wine matured in these last four months. This most recent tasting was vastly different than in February!

Well integrated does not begin to describe the flavor profile of this classically styled Cabernet Franc. In the glass, the wine presents a deep purple hue filling the glass with color. The slightly closed nose hints of green pepper, licorice and plum.

A most subtly, almost fuzzy, attack is filled with red cherries. The twenty two months of oak aging results in generous but gentle round tannins and a mid palate highlighted by strawberry and a touch of rhubarb. The full bodied white pepper finish has silky tannins that embrace the rear of the palate and refuse to let go.

Pairing this wine with braised beef would be easy but I would also serve with lamb or hearty vegetable kabobs. While this wine has aging potential, I tend to believe it is near its apex in the complexity incline.

DRINK NOW - Winter 2013



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The next shipment of The Cellar Reserve will take place in September 2011
Note the new address for the Cellar Reserve: 17435 Louisa Road Louisa, VA 23093

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cellarJOURNAL

rare, aged Virginia wines for you

exceptionally fine Virginia wines

Cooper Vineyards

Louisa County's Cooper Vineyards was founded in 1988 by Jacque Hogge and Geoffrey Cooper. Situated in the rolling hills halfway between Charlottesville and Richmond, Cooper Vineyards has over eleven acres of grapes planted on site and sources grapes from many neighboring growers.

Cooper Vineyards opened a new tasting room this spring. Beyond being very visitor friendly, the tasting room is also in the process of becoming LEED platinum certified, making them the first winery in that category on the East Coast and the second in the country.

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, validates the construction of a green building and is broken into a four-tier award classification system ranging from Certified to Platinum, the highest level of certification.

Some features of the new tasting room at Cooper Vineyards that adhere to the LEED Platinum qualifications include using rainwater collection and low flow fixtures to reduce water usage by 40%, structurally insulated panels for the roof and walls, geothermal heating and cooling system for the building, low voltage LED lighting coupled with daylight and occupancy sensors, solar panels which provide over 15% of energy needs for the building, and the use of many recycled and locally sourced materials for the construction.



*"However, most impressive were the Norton wines. Many of the (Virginia) Norton wines are excellent, with spice notes, great concentration and soft mouthfeel." – David Sturm
Cork'd May 2010*



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Cooper Vineyards Norton Reserve 2008

The Norton grape was "invented" by Richmond Dr. D.N Norton in 1820. Often called the oldest cultivated America grape, it grew in popularity nationwide through the late 1800s. In 1873, the Monticello Wine Company (located in Charlottesville) won a major international award at the Vienna Exposition for its Virginia Claret wine made with Norton grapes.

Cooper Vineyards 2008 Norton Reserve boldly lives up to this rich heritage. Dark, almost black in the glass, this wine exudes a nose filled with plum and anise. Norton can be a bit of a one note wine but not in this iteration. The attack features sharp acid with strawberry undertones. The mid palate expands to include dark stone fruit and further

strawberry notes. Licorice dominates on the round tannic finish with nice acid balance and a touch of white pepper.

Pairing Norton can be dangerous as it is a big red. I tend to think of big beef dishes the intensity of the fruit contrasts well with the marbled beef.

While my experience cellar-ing Norton is limited, I believe this has true aging potential. Those with patience to wait even 24 more months will likely find a wine that is more subdued on the finish with even rounder tannic structure on the mid palate. That being said I enjoyed this wine too much to give it a Hold recommendation.

DRINK NOW – Winter 2013

Welcome

to the ninth shipment of the Cellar Reserve. With the summer months upon us, I do hope you have the opportunity to enjoy the longer days, spend some quality time with family and relax with the wines of the Cellar Reserve.

Please know we are on the prowl for great Virginia wines. We work hard to bring you exclusive, high end Virginia wines that exceed your expectations. By chatting up winemakers and owners, we are able to identify and acquire exceptional unique wines.

We are always open to your feedback. Please let me know what you think of this quarter's selection. I am always ready to hear any ideas you may have for the club. Happy Summer!

Cheers,
Stewart Reynolds, President screynolds@vawineclub.com



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EDITOR'S NOTE

You Be Judge - Part II (Plan B)

Sometimes even the best laid plans don't pan out. When the Virginia Wineries Association handed out six gold medals in their Governor's Cup competition in February, I tasted all the gold medal winners (they were fantastic) and thought we could ship all these wines to our Cellar Reserve members in two shipments. Obviously, the public thought the wines were fantastic as well and bought up all of Keswick's 2009 Cabernet Franc. Once released, their inventory of this silky smooth Cabernet Franc did not last even a few months.

Cellar Reserve President Stewart Reynolds then asked me, based on my tasting of the Silver medal winners in February; did I think there were any that really deserved gold? Looking over my notes from the event, one wine stood out, Pollak Vineyards 2008 Meritage. Cellar Reserve members loved the Pollak Petit Verdot feature last year. Yes, I thought this would complement this shipment.

But, did Pollak have any of this great wine left in their cellar? A quick call out to our good friends at the Greenwood winery found that they had a few cases in reserve that they would be happy to share with our Cellar Reserve members.

So now it is up to you. With this shipment, you now possess five of the six 2011 Governor's Cup gold medal winners.

Does Pollak's 2008 Meritage belong in this exclusive company? Should it have won a gold medal? Please let me know.

Respectfully Submitted,

Neil Williamson, Chairman, Tasting Panel
Editor, Cellar Journal