



WINES THAT DELIVER

BY PATRICK MCNEIL

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By JEFF BURKHART | jeff@thebarflyonline.com | IJ correspondent September 29, 2020 at 12:00 p.m



2018 REGULAR FELLOWS RED WINE

Unusual Marin County reds, perfect for an unusual year

“All the leaves are brown, and the sky is gray,” goes the 1960s Mamas & the Papas song, “California Dreamin,” which was written in New York about being nostalgic for California’s mild fall-to-winter weather. It doesn’t feel so ironic now, not after a month of ashy dreariness.

Marin’s viniculture industry is in flux. Kastania Winery (on the Sonoma-Marín border) recently sold, Point Reyes Vineyards was for sale, so was Devil’s Gulch Ranch, known for its pinot noir in West Marin. Even the 50-year-old Pacheco Vineyards is now selling most of its prized cabernet sauvignon fruit, and rumor has it that McEvoy (the largest producer of Marin County wines) is scaling back its Marin wine program.

But not to worry – the California we know and love is coming back, and leading the charge are a host of Marin County winemakers thinking outside the Marin County pinot noir box. For your drinking pleasure here’s a roundup of some of the most interesting red wines available, just in time for October. All are made with Marin County fruit or by Marin County winemakers, and in some cases, both.

2018 Regular Fellows Red Blend (85% Montepulciano, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Primitivo), 13.5% ABV, \$36

This brand new release by ace red wine specialist Patrick McNeil, of Nicasio, includes well-integrated tannins, dark chewy fruit and well-balanced acidity. Regular Fellows is anything but, and might be one of McNeil’s most delicious wines, ever, and that is saying quite a lot. Using Marin fruit; Montepulciano from McEvoy Ranch and cabernet sauvignon from Pacheco Ranch, along with a dash of hot weather Lodi primitivo thrown in for good measure, this wine is sure to please. Only 85 cases produced so get some before it’s gone. Home delivery is available as are mix and match six packs.

THE BUTCHER SHOP - NICASIO, CA

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