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Tasting the Wines of Crocker & Starr, 2017 Releases

👤 Christopher Null 📅 February 14, 2017

Crocker & Starr is a small outfit in St. Helena, owned by Charlie Crocker (who handles the grapes) and Pam Starr (the winemaker). Together they work the organic vineyard to pull together the best of both the Old World and New World with a goal of showcasing a bit of Napa's unique terroir.

With a gentle, hands-off winemaking approach, Starr walked a few wine writers through an online tasting of the winery's current releases. **Thoughts on four exceptional wines follow.**

2015 CROCKER & STARR SAUVIGNON BLANC

Quite brisk and acidic, but balanced with big peach, pineapple and some vanilla notes, the lattermost of which linger on the finish. Citrus peel notes add nuance. Fun stuff, easy to love. **A- / \$34**

2014 CROCKER & STARR CABERNET FRANC

Quite a dense wine and a bit of a bruiser; give this one time to open up to showcase its charms, which include coffee and licorice notes atop dusty blackberry bramble, chocolate syrup, and a hint of roasted meats. Incredible depth and length. One to savor as part of a lengthy, lingering meal. **A- / \$80**

2014 CROCKER & STARR STONE PLACE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The winery's centerpiece, this is an old vine cab with notes of blueberry and currants, with ample oak up front but layers of lush, fresh fruit lingering on the back end. While still youthful, this is approachable now and highly worthwhile. **A / \$120**

2014 CROCKER & STARR "CASALI 6"

92% malbec, 4% cabernet sauvignon, 4% petit verdot. Casali is Italian for "farmhouse." This is a lush and nicely balanced wine, one which rides the line between sweet and savory with aplomb. The nose is densely spicy, with cloves and some more savory notes, but on the palate it's blueberry, some cherry, and a bit of strawberry that sets the agenda. The slightly sweet back end is an intriguing counterpart to what's come before. **A- / \$80**



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