

# WINE AND GOOD FOOD

DRINKING AND EATING OUR WAY THROUGH WINE COUNTRY

Napa

## Tasting with Crocker & Starr Wines

February 18, 2017

I have taken part in a lot of virtual wine tastings but rarely am I ever as captivated as I was during our tasting with Crocker & Starr's winemaker Pam Starr. She graciously hosted a group of bloggers and shared four of her new releases with us. Her deep knowledge of winemaking and passion for wine were not only evident throughout our conversation but also shine through in her wines.



Crocker & Starr, a partnership between Pam Starr and Charlie Crocker, was established in St. Helena in 1997. For the last 20 years, they have made wines that showcase the terroir of Napa Valley. They farm sustainably and/or organically and avoid relying on winemaking additions and heavy-handed new oak. The result is beautifully balanced wines that truly showcase the grape.

I loved learning from and tasting with Pam...her energy and passion are contagious. If you find yourself in St. Helena, they offer a variety of unique and personal tasting experiences (which I personally need to check out soon!). You may even be lucky enough to run into Pam while you are there!



Here are my notes from the wines we tasted together:

### *The Crocker & Starr Lineup*

#### 2015 Crocker & Starr Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley (\$34)

Aromas of guava, citrus, and pear lead into a creamy palate that showcases bright acidity entwined with tastes of lemon, lime, melon, and peach. Refreshing and delicious!

#### 2014 Crocker & Starr Cabernet Franc (\$80)

On the nose, there are intense aromas of dark fruit with subtle notes of coffee and violets. The palate offers rich flavors of black currants, coffee, black pepper, and vanilla. While powerful in flavor, this wine is still refined and balanced. It will only improve with a few years in the cellar.

#### 2014 Crocker & Starr Casali 7th Edition (\$80)

This blend of 92% Malbec, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot begins with aromas of black plum and sweet oak. The palate is flavored with rich tastes of blackberries, violets, vanilla, and anise. A definite crowd pleaser!

#### 2014 Crocker & Starr Cabernet Sauvignon Stone Place (\$120)

Crocker & Starr's Stone Place Cabernet opens with aromas of black fruit, sweet tobacco, and vanilla. Bold flavors of blackberries, dark chocolate, coffee, and vanilla are met with subtle streaks of acidity. Silky tannins and pure fruit make this stand out of the tasting!



CHARLES COMMUNICATIONS  
ASSOCIATES, LLC