

WHAT'S LISA DRINKING?

By Lisa Bishop Forbes and Alice Sutro

In this feature, we ask a local winemaker to tell us what he/she is drinking now -- one of their wines and one of another winemaker's in our community.

Photography by Sasha Gulish

Lisa Bishop Forbes has lived and worked in beautiful Sonoma County for 25 years. Lisa's formative winemaking experiences were at Dry Creek Vineyard with its iconic Sauvignon Blanc and Zinfandel, and at Chalk Hill Winery making its rich and complex Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Bordeaux reds. Opportunity knocked a few years ago in the form of Ektimo Vineyards and Ross Road Custom Crush in Green Valley near Sebastopol. Lisa jumped at the chance to make Russian River Pinot Noir and work with several clients on their unique wine projects. With SUTRO she gets to revisit her passion for making cooler climate Cabernet, elegant Merlot, and crisp nuanced Sauvignon Blanc.

"I love the camaraderie among Sonoma County winemakers," says Lisa. "Working with smart, passionate people makes all the hard work worth it. We share ideas, learn new things, taste some amazing wines, applaud each other's successes, and offer help when needed. The collaborative spirit is alive and well!"

"I feel incredibly lucky to have found Lisa to be the consulting winemaker for SUTRO Wine Co. She is a font of knowledge and experience, with particular attention to this section of Chalk Hill Road where we source estate grown fruit from my family property Warnecke Ranch & Vineyard," says Alice Warnecke Sutro. Alice is the owner and operator of SUTRO Wine Co. She lives and works at Warnecke Ranch and founded SUTRO in 2012. Lisa just recently joined Alice in her mission of creating wines that showcase the incredibly unique terroir of her beloved family ranch. Alice is the first in her family to make vineyard designate wines from this private valley in the volcanic Mayacama foothills. It is nestled along the banks of the Russian River, where her family has lived since 1911, and grown grapes since 1973. Says Lisa, "I am so happy to work with Alice and be her winemaking counterpart. The SUTRO wines are unique and reflective of the Warnecke Ranch terroir. Excellent fruit makes my job easy!"

SUTRO 2019 SAUVIGNON BLANC

I am really enjoying the SUTRO 2019 Sauvignon Blanc. It has my ideal mix of bright acidity with a long finish, and lots of peach and lemon flavors. Sauvignon Blanc is one of my favorite white wines for any time, but especially in the spring and summer. This is a great example of the versatility of Sauvignon Blanc when it's grown in the right vineyard with loving care.

2017 MoniClaire PETITE SIRAH

My friends Peter and Mary Beth Smiderle grow amazing Zinfandel and Petite Sirah on their hillside property overlooking Dry Creek Valley. My current favorite is their 2017 MoniClaire Petite Sirah, a big yet beautifully balanced wine with a finish that goes on for days. The MoniClaire wines are tiny volume – seeking them out is definitely worth the effort.



Alice
WARNECKE
SUTRO

Isabel (5), Eliot Sutro, Adin (3)

Lisa
BISHOP
FORBES



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Leigh and Laurie Wachter

lwachtercreative.com

welcome@lwachtercreative.com