

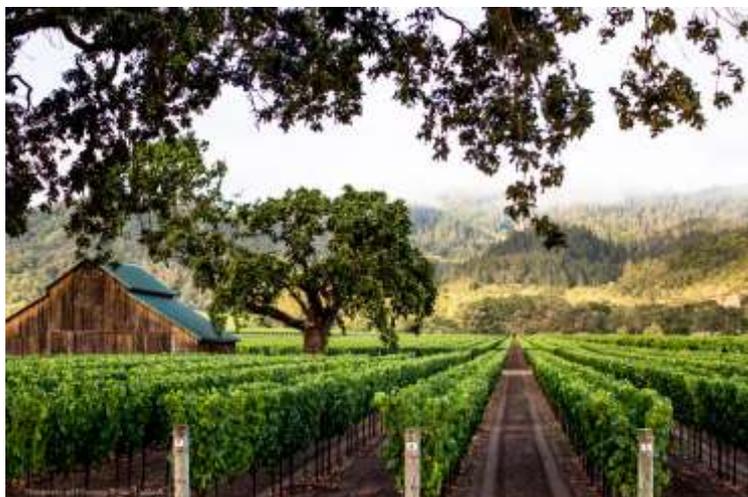


**TO STRIVE,
TO SEEK, TO FIND,
AND NOT TO YIELD.”**

— ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON. *ULYSSES*

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Ulysses Vineyard – Christian Moueix



Christian Moueix sicherte sich diesen historischen Teil der Charles Hopper Ranch bereits 2008. Nur 5 Min von Dominus entfernt. Mit dem Mikroklima hier war Tod Mostero (winemaker auf Dominus und Ulysses) bestens vertraut. Trotzdem brachte Christian erst mit dem Jahrgang 2012 seinen „Jungfernjahrgang“ auf den Markt, der sofort höchste Bewertungen aller Kritiker erhielt.

Im November 2016 besuchten wir Ulysses und verkosteten mit Tod den 2013er Jahrgang. Noch besser als 2012. Und dann ging das wieder los: bei nur 800 Kisten für die gesamte Welt ausreichend Flaschen für meine Kunden zu ergattern.

Im Sommer 2017 waren wir erneut bei Christian und Tod, um auch 2014 zu verkosten. Ulysses lässt sich mit keinem anderen Napa vergleichen, den ich kenne. Unique!!



5% Ankunftsrabatt auf Jahrgang 2014

Jahr	Wein	Weingut	Einh	EUR/Fl. brutto
2014	Ulysses - Moueix	Napa Valley – 6er HK	0,75	159,00
2014	Ulysses - Moueix	Napa Valley – 1er HK	1,5	329,00
2014	Ulysses - Moueix	Napa Valley – 1er HK	3,0	855,00
2014	Ulysses - Moueix	Napa Valley – 1er HK	6,0	1998,00
2013	Ulysses - Moueix	Napa Valley – 6er HK	0,75	159,00
2013	Ulysses - Moueix	Napa Valley – 1er HK	1,5	355,00
2013	Ulysses - Moueix	Napa Valley – 1er HK	3,0	890,00
2013	Ulysses - Moueix	Napa Valley – 1er HK	6,0	2290,00
2012	Ulysses - Moueix	Napa Valley	0,75	159,00
2012	Ulysses - Moueix	Napa Valley	6,0	2290,00

2014 ULYSSES – Moueix, Napa Valley

Michael Grimm (19+-19,5): „...dichte, kompakte, reife Frucht, warm, sehr blaubeerig zu Beginn, dann rotbeerig auslaufend, spicy, extrem viel Frische und Struktur, sehr lang und elegant im Finish“

James Suckling (98): „...The evolution of this wine has been phenomenal since I tasted it in barrel a year ago with the same black cherry, plum and citrus character but with a turn to orange leaf, dark Chinese tea, and mushroom. Full body, fine and velvety tannins with a touch of dust to the texture. So much chocolate and fruit undertones with forest floor and hints of tobacco, too. The mouthfeel and complexity are seductive. Better from 2022 but a joy to taste. Spring 2018 release.

Robert Parkler (94): „...The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon, which was aged for 17 months in 45% new French oak, is a blend of 92% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The wine is dense purple, with sweet cedar wood, unsmoked cigar tobacco, crème de cassis, and black raspberries in a classic, almost St-Julien/Pauillac style. This emerged from a valley floor vineyard on the west side of Napa, where Christian Moueix told me that 2014 was characterized by generally slightly higher than average temperatures for the summer with only minor heat spikes in June and July. August and September went off without a hitch, and the harvest took place during the month of September. This full-bodied wine will hit its peak in 3-5 years and last for 25-30.“

2013 ULYSSES – Moueix, Napa Valley

Michael Grimm (19+): „...Dichte, reife, warme Frucht, sehr elegant, spicy, soft, blaubeerig, würzig, Weichsel, Süße am Gaumen, Schoko, softes Finish, perfekte Balance.“

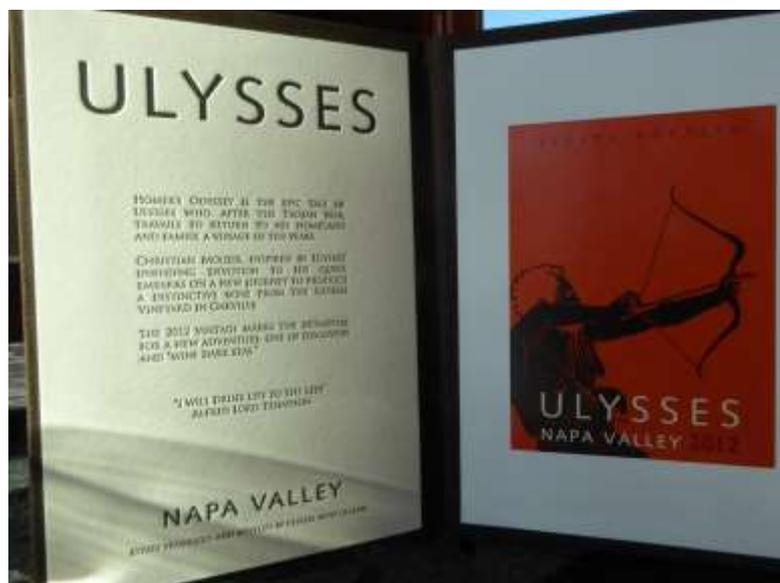
René Gabriel (19): „...Extrem dunkles Purpur mit lila und violetten Reflexen. Komplexes Bouquet mit viel dunklen Pflaumen, Brombeeren und Lakritze, zeigt generell mehr Frucht wie der 2012er. Dunkle Edelhölzer und Brazil-Tabak im zweiten Ansatz. Im Gaumen bereits mit etwas angerundeten Tanninen aufwartend. Diese Gerbstoffe sind harmonisch im konzentrierten Körper eingefügt, komplett schwarzbeeriges, nachhaltiges Finale welches schwarze Schokonoten, Tabak und Edelhölzer zeigt. Er wird schon bald zu gefallen wissen bei ungehindertem Potential. Vom Stil her passt dieser schier bullige 2013er besser in die kompetitive Napa-Szene. Dieser Wein wird seinen Erstlingsjahrgang 2012 bald schon übertreffen und die dazu passenden Ratings sind auch tendenziell etwas höher“

James Suckling (98): „...Fabulous subtle aromas of black currants, violets and lilacs with a hot stone undertone. Full-bodied and dense, it shows such wonderful energy and synergy that delivers a firm yet gentle tannin backbone and complex mouthfeel that seduces you. Evolves wonderfully. Second wine from this new estate, which is owned by Christian Moueix of Dominus and Bordeaux. Release is March 2017.“

Robert Parkler (96): „...The 2013 Ulysses is absolutely mind-boggling, as so many wines from this vintage are. Gorgeous blueberry and blackberry fruit, along with the telltale cassis and floral notes, jump from the glass. Again, this is Pauillac-like, with some cedar wood and subtle barrique smells. Again produced nearly all from Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is full-bodied, powerful, rich and long, with slightly sweeter tannins than the 2012. Production in 2013 was 960 cases, and Moueix told me that the entire growing season averaged about two and half weeks ahead of schedule from bloom break to harvest. This is a prodigious effort and will certainly stand as the great Ulysses of the first trio to be released. I suspect it will be drinkable in 3-4 years and keep for 30 or more, given the Moueix track record“

Antonio Galloni (95+): „...Gravel, smoke, graphite, savory herbs, tobacco and iron are some of the signatures in the 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon. A typical wine from the eastern sector of Oakville on the border with Yountville, the 2013 is loaded with feral, savory notes, while the expression of blue/blackish fruit lies a bit more in the background. In 2013, the main signature is an expression of structure that is both vertical but also incredibly insistent through to the finish. In other words, this is a super-classic 2013 built for the cellar.“

2012 ULYSSES – Moueix, Napa Valley



Michael Grimm (18,5-19): „...sehr dichte Farbe, komplex, Aromen von Cassis und Kirschen, spicy, feine Röstnoten, alles noch sehr jung aber in großer Balance, lang mit sehr guten Tanninen.“

René Gabriel (19): „...Tiefes Purpur, satt in der Mitte, Granatschimmer am Rand. Klassischer Cabernetbeginn mit viel dunklen Beeren und schwarzen Kirschen, zeigt Tiefe an und dokumentiert eine schöne Würze im Untergrund, dicht und an der Luft nur langsam zulegend. Im Gaumen fleischig, verlangende Konturen in der Adstringenz aufweisend, satt, leicht körnig im Extrakt mit gut stützender Säure. Von der Vinifikationsart her beruhigend klassisch. Man könnte ihm durchaus eine gewisse Bordeaux-Affinität (Saint Estèphe) attestieren. Das ist kein spontaner Jung-Cabernet Sauvignon, sondern ein Klassiker der Zeit brauchen wird um sich (noch) mehr von

sich zu zeigen. Also wirkt hier die Moueix-Signatur ganz deutlich. 19/20 2020 2036“

James Suckling (97): „...Subtle aromas of crushed berries and tile. Mushrooms. Almost dusty. Full to medium body, powdery tannins and mouthfeel. Bright acidity that gives the wine beautiful and enticing freshness. Gentle and ethereal red. The first vintage of the new wine from the owners of Dominus. The vineyard is located in Oakville near Vine Hill. Drink or hold“

Robert Parkler (93): „...The 2012 Ulysses (800 cases) is 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest other Bordeaux varietals. A structured, dense purple wine that displays plenty of cedar wood, crème de cassis, licorice and graphite, the wine is full-bodied, rich, backward and dense, but beautifully pure fruit and an almost Pontet-Canet-like purity and density are hallmarks of this brilliant wine. Forget it for 4-5 years and drink it over the following 20-25.

I had the privilege to taste this new estate vineyard wine from Christian Moueix several months before the 2012 would be released. Moueix purchased the old Schmidt Ranch, which is just to the north of his iconic Napanook vineyard. The AVA is different, as he is on the southern border of the Oakville appellation. This is pure valley floor soil with great drainage, just to the south of Martha's Vineyard and the famous To Kalon of both Mondavi and Andy Beckstoffer. Several vintages have been made, but not yet released. The first official release is the 2012. This is a completely different style of wine than those produced at Dominus. While the property is much smaller (40 acres vs. the very large Napanook vineyard), a similar élevage is employed, with 40% to 50% new French oak, and bottling after the wine spends 20 months in wood. Moueix told me

that the site, even though it is so close to Napanook, is warmer in the summer by several degrees and colder in the winter. Additionally, the soils are deeper. What Moueix has done is produce a wine that is in complete contrast to Dominus. The wines of Dominus are known for their silky complexity, and even though there is virtually no Merlot in any of the top vintages, they always have an almost Pomerol-like lushness and opulence. Ulysses, on the other hand, is a Napa version of a first or second growth Pauillac. The crème de cassis, the licorice, the purity and the graphite notes are present in all three of these vintages, just in varying degrees.“



<http://www.ulyssesvineyard.com>



Christian Moueix: „...Our team's intention is to produce a wine reflecting the exceptional potential and individuality of the Ulysses Vineyard. Our approach is minimalist, with attentive observation and restrained intervention. Harvested at perfect ripeness and with the utmost care, the grapes undergo both cluster and berry selection before a gentle vinification and aging. The wine, estate bottled, calls to mind “authenticity, purity and radiance.”

Ulysses is a distinctive Cabernet Sauvignon with a touch of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It should be decanted prior to serving. Our first vintage, Ulysses 2012, is a finely sculpted wine with elegance and lift.

Along the Napa Valley's Oakville bench and extending over an alluvial fan at the foot of the Mayacamas Range, the site is exceptional for

winegrowing.

The soil is composed of deep, gravelly, clay loam and is particularly well-suited to growing Cabernet Sauvignon. Since the acquisition, Christian Moueix and his team have pursued an in-depth understanding of the soil and microclimate and have undertaken a lengthy and meticulous vineyard restoration.

Dry farming, the foundation of Ulysses' sustainable farming practices, enhances root depth and resistance to drought, resulting in a wine that is a pure expression of its terroir“

Sie alle kennen Dominus Estate und den Zweitwein Napanook. Nun kommt mit OTHELLO ein dritter Wein von Dominus auf den Markt.

Jahr	Wein	Weingut	Einh	stock	EUR/Fl. brutto
2012	OTHELLO	Dominus Estate	0,75		36,90
2013	OTHELLO	Dominus Estate	0,75		39,00

Tales of Brave Ulysses

Christian Moueix's latest odyssey starts to bear fruit



Photo by: David Yellen

James Molesworth

Posted: Jun 5, 2017 10:20am ET

Christian Moueix is no stranger to historic wineries, from **his cluster of Right Bank properties in Bordeaux** to **Dominus Estate in California**. In 2008, he added another to his coterie, when he purchased 40 acres of vines just a few miles up the road from Dominus in Oakville.

The **Swanson Vineyards** property was being used at the time for the winery's popular Merlot, though it has a vine-growing history that dates back to the late 19th century. With no family interested in taking over the running of the property, Clarke Swanson decided to sell. Moueix, who likes to ride the back roads on his bicycle in the evenings, already had his eye on the place. A deal was struck, and Ulysses was born.

Though he's happy at Dominus,

Moueix had been thinking about another odyssey. "When this opportunity came up, a short mile away, close to Dominus, it was the right fit," says Moueix.

Since purchasing the property, Moueix and his team, led by **winemaker Tod Mostero**, have replanted nearly the entire vineyard. They switched from Merlot to mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, with a little Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. They also switched from a cordon trellis system to lyre, to give the fruit zone more shade and aeration, protecting it from harsh late-day sun and late-season heat spikes (see the accompanying video for more on this).

The property is similar to Dominus in its alluvial fan of dark loam and silt over gravel, though overall the soil is "fluffier and easier-draining," according to Mostero. As new planting went in, irrigation was also removed, as Moueix prefers **dry farming**. The consistency of the soil helped make the switch easy.

"When you dry farm, water stress is going to arrive during the season. But we've seen here that it comes steadily and evenly through the season and vineyard, rather than in spikes in different parts of the vineyard, and that's a function of the soil," says Mostero.

As replanting progressed, crops from 2008 through 2011 were declassified. The 2012 Ulysses is the first vintage to make it to market, and the wine mirrors the vineyard plantings, with a high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon (around 85 to 90 percent) followed by Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The wine is vinified at the Dominus facility in basically the same technique; with **pigéage (punch-downs)** but no **pumping-over**, then pressed off and moved to barrel for 18 months in 40 percent new oak, the rest second- and third-fill barrels.

Despite the similar winemaking and slightly similar soils, Ulysses wine is markedly different from that of Dominus. Ulysses comes across as brighter and more vivid, while Dominus is often marked by dark choco-

late notes and more robust yet refined tannins. The 2012 Ulysses (800 cases made) shows exuberant fruit, with bright cassis and cherry compote flavors that are fresh and expressive. It's nearly all fruit, though, without serious depth or density, likely a function of young vines. As Moueix notes, "To be expected. The wine doesn't have its verticality yet."

In contrast, 2013 and '15 show noticeable progress, a result of the vineyard steadily maturing and additional blocks coming on line. A warm, dry year, the 2013 (960 cases) offers another very expressive beam of cassis and plum fruit, but more noticeable hints of anise and loam start to appear. The 2015, still in barrel, takes greater strides, with more depth and complexity (or "verticality," as Moueix calls it) while the expression and layers of fruit keep pace. All three vintages are outstanding, with the 2015 clearly the best of the bunch. As the vineyard comes into full production, quantity could reach 3,000 cases.

"The '15 is what we hoped for when we started in 2008. We know these things take time," says Moueix. "But of course I'm not in a rush. It's the odyssey of a life in wine, learning to understand a vineyard, then improving and making mistakes along the way. Maybe it is my last odyssey, but it's also rewarding."

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