

Cozy Winter Wine Time

We had a blessedly wet fall that arrived before the grapevines were dormant. For the past few years, we did not get a good rain before the vines went dormant and over time this can stress the vines. So when people ask how the 2022 harvest is shaping up – well, as of today the future looks great.

This month we say goodbye to Spindrift Cellars! We are officially retiring the Spindrift label that we started in 2003, and have just about sold out of all of the wines. Check out some of our photo memories of all the good times we have shared! Compton Family Wines continues to thrive and we look forward to creating many more memories with you!

– Matt, & Tabitha Compton

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THE COMPTONS, THEN AND NOW



2002



2021

SPINDRIFT MEMORIES



WINTER 2022 RECIPE

ANGELA'S FENNEL & SAUSAGE PASTA



This recipe is from Angela, Compton staff member, and is Angela's own family favorite recipe – paired with Compton's 3 Pigs Pinot Noir.

Ingredients

- 1/2 -1 cup 3 Pigs Pinot Noir
- Olive Oil
- Salt and Pepper
- optional dried chili or red pepper flake
- 1 large fennel bulb
- 1 medium white onion
- 6 cloves garlic
- 2 tsp fennel seed
- 1 lb hot Italian sausage (remove any casing) *
- 28oz can San Marzano Peeled Tomatoes
- Hard Italian cheese like Parmesan or Pecorino Romano for garnish



*you can make this dish vegetarian by omitting sausage

Instructions

Heat a generous splash of olive oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add the sausage meat, using a fork or wooden spatula to break the meat into small pieces. Allow to fry for around 10 minutes, until the sausage is nicely browned.

Add the onion, fennel (not including the fennel tops), fennel seeds, (optional) chili and garlic. Fry the mixture for a further 15 minutes or so.

Add the 3 Pigs Pinot Noir and use your wooden spoon to loosen up and incorporate any browned bits on the bottom of the pan. allowing the mixture to cook until the alcohol evaporates. Add the canned tomatoes, season with salt and pepper, then cover the pan with a lid and simmer gently for about half an hour. Smash up the tomatoes with a wooden spoon as you simmer. Add in coarsely chopped fennel fronds at the end when you start cooking your pasta.

Bring a pan of generously salted water to a rolling boil, before adding your chosen pasta. Rigatoni or the new pasta shape, Cascatelli, work well. Cook the pasta until al dente. Be sure to save a cup of the cooking water to add to the sauce.

Strain the pasta, reserving a cup or so of cooking water. Add the pasta to the pan containing the sauce. Toss to combine, adding a splash of starchy cooking water as necessary to loosen the sauce.

Serve immediately with 3 Pigs Pinot Noir, finishing the dish with more freshly cracked black pepper and Italian hard cheese.



