

HAWK WATCH

AUGUST 2014

Seems like just last week that Harvest 2013 ended, yet here we are at the leading edge of Harvest 2014 already! Mother Nature has really thrown us a curve this season, literally denying us our winter and waking up our slumbering grapevines a full month early. Although the growing season has presented us with several monumental challenges (including two April frosts that accounted for a 35% loss of our Syrah and Cabernet Franc fruit and the loss of our entire Orange Muscat crop to two torrential rainstorms in August) we remain optimistic. The quality of fruit that is hanging on the vines is excellent, and barring any additional "input" from Mother Nature we expect an excellent harvest. Harvest 2014 actually began last week with Viognier, and continued this week with Merlot. Zinfandel is not far behind, so we should be picking that fruit in the next few days. You may notice when you drive up to our winery, that we now have shade sails installed on the north side of our building. This is the area where we crush and press grapes during harvest and where I do all my barrel work throughout the year. It has always been brutally hot on that side of the building during the summer. Not good for people nor grapes! The shade sails work great to keep the area cool and actually have a nice look to them as well. Thanks to Dillon and the crew at Mullenix Construction for a job well done!



This quarter we've released several new wines including our **2011 Tinderbox** with its ruddy, earthy qualities, our **2011 Malbec** with classical wild, gamey characteristics of leather and smoke, and our **2011 Cold Fusion**, a Grenache dominant blend with Syrah that's soft, light and elegant. We're very excited about all three of these new releases and hope that you will be as well. With these new additions to our red wine line up, we admittedly have a lot of wines on our table! That's ok, and actually by design. Since the beginning, we've focused our winemaking efforts on very small-lot wine production often making fewer than 50 cases of a single wine. In the case of our new Malbec, only 49 cases were produced. What that means as a guest at our winery is that when you come

back for a return visit it's almost a certainty that we'll have a few new wines on the table for you to try. That makes the wine tasting experience that much more interesting and enjoyable for our visitors, and certainly keeps us on our toes as well!

Mike & Lisa

Mark Your Calendars!

Last Friday Night Sundown of the Season!

Friday, September 5th

Featuring solo blues performance by Tim Cash

Julian Grape Stomp and Festa

Saturday, September 6th

Wine tasting, grape stomping, food vendors, fun!

"Wine by Numbers"

Saturday, October 4th (tentative)

Epic vertical library "Numbers Series" wine and artisan cheese pairing.

2014 Taste of the Summit

Saturday, November 8th

4 wineries each serving 2 wines with gourmet food pairings!

November Wine Club Party

Saturday, November 22nd

Featuring solo keyboardist Danielle Taylor

Hawk Watch Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13th

Featuring solo saxophone by Jason Weber!

Pic of the Quarter!



*Engagements are happening at Hawk Watch!
Congratulations Don and Patty!*

Zena & Zoro's Mouser Blog



Hi, I'm Squeaky. Apparently there's a tradition in the Schnell household that when a new pet enters the family they're supposed to introduce themselves. Ok, so here I am. I'm almost a year old and I was born August 17th, 2013. I was adopted from Living Free Animal Sanctuary in April of this year. I have more energy than I know what to do with so sometimes I get in trouble. Well, excuse me for being a kitten! My new family is pretty cool though...

2011 Tinderbox

Although we grow 9 different varieties of grapes in our vineyard, we don't grow Zinfandel. However, that doesn't mean we don't absolutely LOVE a good Zinfandel! Zin is tricky to grow and often doesn't ripen evenly and because of its big, tightly packed clusters is more susceptible to the effects of Mother Nature's wrath. There are however a few daring souls that take the leap of faith and grow this finicky variety despite the challenges. Two of the best vineyards come to mind in Southern California, Gray Vineyard and Huis Vineyard. We are fortunate to have been able to source our Tinderbox fruit from both vineyards since its inception. Using 100% American oak and aging the wine for a full 28 months, we are able to coax out luscious notes of dried plum, leather, tobacco and fresh cedar. Zinfandel from Southern California is like no other. – 96 cases produced

2011 Cold Fusion

The marriage of Grenache and Syrah is literally a match made in heaven. Grenache with its over abundance of happy, bright red cherry fruit and Syrah with its earthiness and darker, more complex flavors and aromas.... Wow, opposites do attract! Our 2011 Cold Fusion is one such marriage with Grenache playing the dominant role. Our goal with Cold Fusion was to create the perfect backyard barbeque wine; a wine that was easy to enjoy and would appeal to a large audience. Let's face it, when you're barbequing with friends, a deeply structured, complicated wine is not always what you're looking for. Allowing Grenache to play the lead role in this blend helps to accomplish this goal allowing the brisk fruit flavors of Grenache to come shining through while being supported by a firm backbone of Syrah. – 93 cases produced



As many of you know, our Sequoia rose wines have been named after our cat "Sequoia" and a portion of the proceeds from the sale of these wines have been donated to Living Free Animal Sanctuary in Idyllwild, CA. We adopted Sequoia from Living Free in 1994 at the tender age of 2. Unfortunately, this year Sequoia passed away at the ripe old age of 21. He had a wonderful, long life and although he's gone, our dedication and devotion to Living Free remains strong. We will continue

to donate to Living Free through the sale of this wine indefinitely. To date we've donated over \$8,000 to the organization and with the help of our wine club members and patrons, have delivered a truck load of food, beds, blankets and other items to help the cats and dogs. If you ever have a chance to visit this wonderful sanctuary in the mountains we strongly encourage you to do so. Just be advised, you might come home with more than just a memory... – 69 cases produced

Wine Club Selections

Mixed Club

2013 Sequoia
2011 Tinderbox
2011 Cold Fusion

Reds Only

2011 Tinderbox
2011 Cold Fusion
2011 Malbec

2011 Malbec

Viva Argentina! Thanks to our South American neighbors, Malbec is officially on the map! An incredibly unique variety, Malbec is rustic red in color with wild, truffle-like aromas in the nose followed by smoky notes of fresh cut tobacco leaves, rich exotic spice and dark black fruit. We love this variety so much we've actually grafted 400 of our own vines over to Malbec, and are picking our first estate Malbec fruit off those vines this year! Because Malbec is historically known as a Bordeaux variety we age our Malbec in 100% French oak barrels for a period of just over 2 years (26 months). Although the wine is placed in neutral barrels for the final 6 months of barrel aging, we feel that continuing to age in barrel rather than bottle allows the wine to achieve greater depth and complexity. – 49 cases produced

2013 Sequoia

