

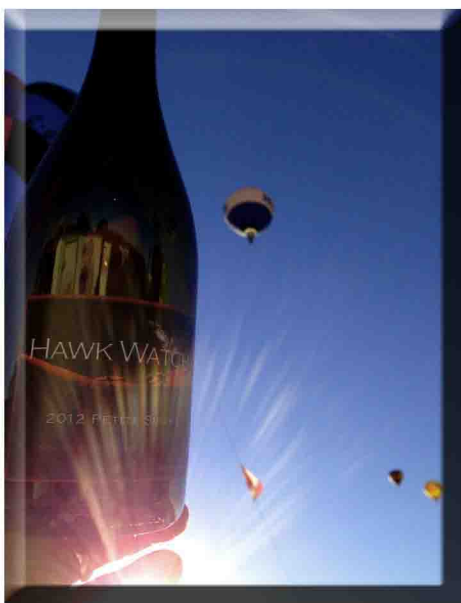
HAWK WATCH

FEBRUARY 2016

Wow, what is going on in February?! Last year we experienced 80 degree weather nearly the entire month and the same thing is happening this year! Aren't we supposed to be concerned about frost this time of year? Many customers and friends have asked if this warm weather affects the grapes, and the answer is a resounding YES! Although the grapevines are dormant right now (meaning that they aren't growing and they are essentially asleep), they're always on the lookout for cues that tell them it's time to come out of dormancy and begin waking up and opening up their buds. That's all fine and good except that we will almost certainly have more frost before winter is over this year. If the vines wake up and open their buds and then we get frost, the buds die and the grapes never form. So, right now our hope is for a return to cooler temps to keep the vines from waking up. Typically buds will begin to open in mid-April (in our location) so we have a few months to go yet! Being from the east coast, Lisa and I are amazed that we actually pray for cool weather in the winter when our friends and family are buried under several feet of snow and are enduring sub-freezing temperatures. Now, I'm not saying we need the weather to be that cool!

This quarter we're introducing three new red wines to our line up and we're very excited about all of them! Our 2013 Syrah was bottled in December but is showing beautiful fruit and spice notes, and is very drinkable now. Our 2012 Hypnotica and 2012 Cold Fusion were both allowed to age a full year in bottle before release which allows the natural tannins in the wine to soften and allows the wine to gain structure and complexity. Enjoy! Mike & Lisa

Pic of the Quarter!



In a hot air balloon high above the Arizona desert in Lake Havasu, wine club member Kevin Mulvehill soars with a bottle of Hawk Watch wine!

Zena & Zoro's Mouser Blog

So, this spring we turn 11 years old. Gosh, how time flies. It seems like just yesterday that we were little, newborn kittens living in a barn. Hey, wait a minute! We still live in a barn! What's up with that?!!



Coming Events!

March 12th
Library Wine & Cheese Pairing

April 23rd
8th Anniversary & New Release Weekend

May 21st
Wine Club Pick Up/Party

May 30th
Memorial Day / Dollar Dogs!

Wine Club Selections

Mixed Club

2013 Orange Muscat
2012 Cold Fusion
2013 Syrah

Reds Only

2012 Cold Fusion
2013 Syrah
2012 Hypnotica

2013 Syrah

After 9 vintages, I believe we can honestly say we've figured out Syrah. From careful selection and planting of specific Syrah clones in the vineyard, to crushing only a certain percentage of the fruit at harvest, to dialing in the oak treatment and aging time for each vintage, we truly feel like we now have the right "recipe" for producing world class Syrah. This is a good thing since we've always desired to make Syrah our flagship wine! Our 2013 Syrah was just bottled in December but is already showing really well with layers of fresh black raspberry, mocha and spice in the palate. It should cellar quite well, so plan on laying one down for a few years to let it truly come into its own. - 151 cases produced

2012 Hypnotica

Ok, so the name is a bit unusual, but there's a story behind the name, really, there is... Back in 2006 we began producing a wine called "Synthesis". We produced Synthesis for three years until we were made aware of the fact that the name "Synthesis" was trademarked by another winery (in Paso Robles), so we stopped using the name. The original Synthesis was a near 50/50 blend of Syrah and Zinfandel and it was well received by many of our friends, family and patrons. In fact, one of our closest friends even suggested that the blend made his dreams extra-vivid! Now, there's of course no scientific proof of that, but either way we thought the name "Hypnotica" was an appropriate name for a return to the original Synthesis blend of Syrah and Zinfandel. We've also added just a touch of Grenache to accentuate the Zinfandel fruit. Pleasant dreams! - 69 cases produced

2013 Orange Muscat

Ah, Orange Muscat my old friend and nemesis... Your vines are low-yielding, your grape skin is thick and hard to crush at harvest, you're the most frustrating, challenging wine to work with in the cellar, and yet.....your flavors and aromas are unparalleled. Notes of sweet clover honey and honeysuckle, pears, peaches and citrus make Orange Muscat really stand out in the Muscat family. Not quite as sweet as its "dessert wine" counterparts, our 2013 Orange Muscat is fresh and lively on the palate. It's summertime in a bottle! - 51 cases produced

2012 Cold Fusion

As you may already be aware, in the spring of 2015 we were awarded a 92-point score from Wine Enthusiast Magazine for our 2011 Cold Fusion; the highest score we have achieved to date. Cracking the 90-point barrier with this magazine is really tough to do, but if it was going to happen it was most likely going to happen with this wine. Grenache, Syrah and Petite Sirah play really well together, each one contributing something unique and special to the blend while at the same time supporting and accentuating the flavor and aroma profiles of the other varieties. Grenache is the happy, friendly grape offering up soft tannins, bright, perky red fruit, and hints of Bing cherry. Syrah is the dark and mysterious friend contributing notes of smoke, rich earth and leather. Petite Sirah is the grumpy, assertive neighbor that offers firm tannins, more earth and chewy dark, black fruit. Together they are sensational! Our 2012 Cold Fusion is every bit as tasty as the 2011. Perhaps we'll see what Wine Enthusiast thinks! - 93 cases produced

What is a "clone"?

You may have noticed in my write up about our 2013 Syrah that I used the term "clones". In viticulture, a "clone" refers to a vine variety (in this case Syrah) that is selected for specific qualities, which result from natural mutations. Cuttings are made from an original "mother vine" that exhibits key characteristics, such as resistance to certain diseases or desired cluster size, taste, smell, etc. We selected Syrah clones 877, 174, 470 and "Estrella River" for their unique qualities and contributions to the finished wine that we were looking for.