

HAWK WATCH

AUGUST 2016

As is typical, although I have a full 9 months to get ready for harvest each year I simply can not seem to be prepared when the day finally arrives! That day was Friday, August 6th as we brought in the first 2 tons of our 25-ton season. As I write this there are 326 gallons of wonderfully aromatic Viognier juice fermenting in tank! I LOVE Viognier, as does Lisa and we have decided that Viognier will be our flagship white wine going forward. Every now and again we'll dabble in the world of Sauvignon Blanc, Grenache Blanc or something more exotic, but for now we are sticking to Viognier. Chardonnay enthusiast's, don't hold your breath. It ain't gonna happen, sorry... Harvest 2016 will prove to be a very interesting harvest for a few reasons, not least of which is weather related. After getting frost in April that essentially wiped out our Syrah crop completely we had blazing hot temperatures in June (to the tune of 116 degrees locally) which caused some fruit burn. Fortunately anticipating this and keeping a keen eye focused on the daily weather forecast allowed us to plan for the heat by leaving a little more canopy than is normal to shade the grapes from the scorching sun. This resulted in much less fruit damage than expected. Thus far from what I can see the fruit looks really nice and, although harvest is 2-3 weeks ahead of schedule this year, I am anticipating another excellent vintage in terms of quality. Vineyard yield also looks to be close to target at the local vineyards we contract with so if all goes well we should crush the full 25 tons we are hoping for.

A quick update on our new Tannat vineyard! Unfortunately we were not able to graft all of our Orange Muscat vineyard over to Tannat this year, but were able to get over 300 new Tannat vines in the ground adjacent to the Muscat. Next spring we will graft the remaining Orange Muscat over and the result will be a new 800-vine Tannat block. I'm hoping for great things out of this little block and from a grape variety that is just now beginning to get recognized on the international wine scene. Of course Uruguay has known the virtues of this obscure wine grape all along, it's their national grape! Happy Harvest 2016 everyone!! - Mike & Lisa -



Zena & Zoro's Mouser Blog



Ok, so we've heard stories of a "sister" wine that was made at the same time as our 2011 Signature Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, but hasn't be released yet. Wanna know what it is? Sorry, but we're sworn to secrecy...

What the heck is Tannat anyway?

Tannat is most closely associated with the winemaking region of Madiran, at the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains in southwestern France. Tannat makes decidedly robust wines, with pronounced aromas of smoke and plum, significant tannins and a wonderfully spicy finish.



Pic of the Quarter!



Long time (in fact our first!) wine club members Leo and Sandy Osterhout score some serious salmon on the Rouge River, Oregon. A perfect accompaniment to a bottle of our Signature Reserve Cab Sauv!

2014 Viognier

As certain white wines age in bottle (in particular some Chardonnays, Roussanne, and Viognier) they often become much more complex and structured making them even more interesting and flavorful with a few months or years of bottle age under their belt. This is certainly true of our 2014 Viognier. Now in bottle for over a year and a half the wine has begun softening and displaying notes of honey, melon and guava with stone fruits like pear, and peach rounding out the flavor profile. There is just a hint of nuttiness as well making the wine even more interesting with soft, mellow acidity on the palate. - 88 cases produced

“100”

As many of you already know, the name “100” refers to the 100th wine we had produced at the time of its release in May 2015. Now after being in bottle for over 18 months the wine has taken on a whole new complexion! A blend of 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Franc (a classic Saint Emilion / Bordeaux blend) was initially dominated by Merlot’s luscious ripe fruit with the spice and earth of Cabernet Franc residing in the background. Since bottling, the Cabernet Franc has stepped to the forefront as the Merlot had taken a back seat. Although already a year and half old, this wine has the essential components of longer term aging. Look for the “100” to continue to improve for several years, likely peaking in 2022. - 115 cases produced.

Where has our bottle been?

Answer: The traveling Hawk Watch bottle has been all over the globe! Below is a list of those places! Take a picture of you and /or your bottle in a unique location and we’ll add it to our list!

England	Italy
Norway	Mexico
Puerto Rico	Canada
Switzerland	Costa Rica

Plus dozens of locations in the United States including California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, Utah, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Nevada! Keep those pictures coming!

Wine Club Selections

Mixed Club

2014 Viognier
2013 The Deep Six
“100”

Reds Only

2013 The Deep Six
“100”
2013 Tinderbox

2013 Tinderbox

Long overdue, our 2013 Tinderbox is finally ready for release! It seems as though our Zinfandel has attained almost cult status with our members anxiously awaiting its arrival. Our newest release is sure to continue that tradition! Bigger, bolder and richer than any Tinderbox to date our 2013 is a beastly wine displaying ripe, juicy, brambly notes of boysenberry, black raspberry, and dark chocolate in the nose with a full, rich mouthfeel showing dark fruits, allspice and black cherry on the palate. Many of you have heard us say in the past that our philosophy on wine is simple: if a wine pairs well with food that’s wonderful, but a wine **MUST** be able to stand on it’s own as well. Our Tinderbox easily meets that requirement! - 122 cases produced

2013 The Deep Six

Our second release of our Bordeaux/Rhone blend is a return to our belief that thinking outside the box and painting outside the lines is often good for the soul and in this case, great for the palate! A Syrah-dominant blend of 58% Syrah, 17% Cab Franc, 9% Merlot, 8% Malbec and 8% Petite Sirah is an eclectic blend of 5 varietals that work well together. Being that the wine is more than half Syrah means that Earth and spice are forefront on the palate. A reasonable dose of Cab Franc strengthens those qualities while providing structure and complexity. Merlot and Malbec combine to offer subtle fruit elements while Petite Sirah gives the wine a tannic backbone that will allow for long term aging. - 151 cases produced