

HAWK WATCH

MAY 2017

Whoohoo! After 3 consecutive years of Mother Nature robbing us of a large percentage of our grape crop by serving up late spring frosts, she finally threw us a bone! Even though in mid-April we had two consecutive weeks with a low temperature of 31 degrees, we somehow escaped frost damage! So, for the first time in several years, our vineyards are loaded with fruit and poised to begin the long march to harvest. From what I'm seeing in the vineyard, 2017 might be an epic year for not only grape quantity but also quality. This year we have also begun amending our vineyard soils with micro- and macronutrients for the first time and are receiving professional counsel on how to improve our vineyard yield and fruit quality. We are SO excited! Speaking of excited, we have a few surprises in store with our May wine club shipment. First, we have resurrected Malbec after a 3 year hiatus. As you'll read on the back of this newsletter, our 2014 Malbec is unique in several ways; most importantly it is our first 100% estate Malbec! Next, we are offering our 2013 "The Deep Six" for the second time since its bottling in February 2016. Why? You'll be amazed at how deep and rich this wine has become after resting in bottle for 15 months! Also, since our 2014 Tinderbox is not quite ready for release, we're placing a bottle of our 2014 Hypnotica in our wine club this month. A blend of Syrah and Zinfandel (50/50), it's an intensely aromatic and decadent wine that will surely keep our Tinderbox fans happy for a few months while we await the release of our newest Zinfandel. Finally, if you're looking for an intensely ripe, juicy white wine to sip as the days warm and summer approaches, then you'll enjoy our newly released 2016 Viognier. It screams summer in a glass!

You're all likely aware of the fact the Lisa and I were able to finally take a much need (and some might say well earned...) vacation to New Zealand this year. It was a trip of a lifetime and a bucket list item for me. New Zealand is a magical place with friendly, helpful people, wide open spaces, beautiful vistas around every corner, and an incredibly calm, unhurried lifestyle. Upon return to the hustle, bustle and gridlock of LA the contrast was even more pronounced. It reminded us that life is not about putting the pedal to the metal all the time. Sometimes it's ok to slow down a bit, stop and smell the roses. In fact it's not just ok, it's necessary to maintain your sanity! Lisa and I would like to again thank you for being part of our lives, for being wine club members and for giving us the opportunity to get out of dodge for a little while for a much overdue vacation and, most importantly, a critical reality check!

Mike & Lisa

Zena & Zoro's Mouser Blog



**13 years and still mousing!
Happy Birthday Zena and
Zoro. and thank you for all
your hard work!**

After 13 years without a true vacation, we finally got away for 10 days in New Zealand! OK, sure the 13 hour flight was a drag. But to enjoy a cup of delicious coffee with scones each morning with this view of the "Bay of Islands" was worth the trip.

PIC OF THE QUARTER!



Wine Club Selections

Mixed Club

2016 Viognier
2014 Hypnotica
2014 Malbec

Reds Only

2014 Hypnotica
2014 Malbec
2013 The Deep Six

2014 Hypnotica

Back by popular demand, our 2014 Hypnotica is bigger, more robust and beefier than prior vintages. This time with an even 50/50 split of Syrah and Zinfandel, the wine bursts on the palate with ripe dark fruit, black raspberry, black cherry and cocoa. The rich, spicy aromatics are followed by a full, round mouthfeel with soft elegant tannins. Although the Zinfandel element is very much showcased right now, I suspect that with proper cellaring the Syrah component will move its way to being more in balance with the Zinfandel. Due to the high percentage of Zin in the blend however, this is not designed to be a long-aged wine as Zinfandel inherently lacks some of the qualities necessary for long term aging. That being said, the wine should age gracefully over the next 4-6 years. - 124 cases produced

2014 Malbec

Well, well, well.... Malbec has returned. Finally! Because of the difficulty in acquiring Malbec fruit each year, we haven't been able to make a varietal Malbec every year. As such, we have (to date) only made three; 2009, 2011 and now 2014. Since Malbec is somewhat scarce, we made the decision in 2011 to plant our own! What you are receiving in this wine club is the first ever 100% *estate* Malbec from Hawk Watch. The wine embodies everything I love about Malbec; grunge, earth, wildness, gaminess and a backbone of deep, dark, fruit. I used exclusively French oak (30% new equivalent) to age the wine for nearly 28 months before bottling. Although the wine is still a bit tight, it's already displaying the nuances Malbec is known for. Unlike some Malbec's from Argentina, our unique climate produces Malbec that tends less toward fruitiness and more toward earth and aromatic spice. - Only 49 cases produced

2016 Viognier

Ok, so if I was ever going to be stranded on a desert island and could only take a single bottle of white wine with me, what would it be? Well, first things first. Let's get one thing straight. If I were going to be stranded on a desert island I would only bring reds! But if I **HAD** to take a white wine, it would absolutely be a Viognier. Viognier is known to have intense tropical fruit aromas (pineapple, lemon, lime, tangerine, melon), low acid and a full, round palate. Our 2016 Viognier is no exception. The tropical aromas are very evident as you pour the wine into a glass. All the citrus fruits come to the forefront. On the palate the citrus again is evident with additional notes of guava, mango and melon. The mouth is round and soft with just enough acid to accentuate the fruit and offer structure to the wine. This is arguably one of the best white wines we've produced. I hope you enjoy it as much as I would on my desert island!
- 101 cases produced

2013 The Deep Six

Periodically, we encounter a wine that has changed so dramatically since it was initially released, that we feel compelled to place a bottle in our wine club a second time. Our 2013 "The Deep Six" is a rather complex blend of 58% Syrah, 17% Cab Franc, 9% Merlot, 8% Malbec and 8% Petite Sirah. As you can clearly see more than half the wine is comprised of Syrah. Therefore when initially released last August, the Syrah fruit dominated with elements of spice and earth with notes of red and black raspberry. Fast forward 9 months and the three Bordeaux elements (Cab Franc, Merlot and Malbec) have stepped up their game, and are much more in balance with the Syrah fruit offering complimentary elements of rich, ripe black cherry and boysenberry, with a hint of vanilla and coconut. The tannins have also softened revealing a luscious wine with plenty of aging potential. - 145 cases produced.

2017 Summer Concerts!

This year for the first time we'll be having an evening concert (5pm-8pm) once each month during the months of June, July and August! The concerts are free to all and open to the public. See dates below for details:

Saturday, June 17th - Alaina Blaire
Saturday, July 15th - Bill Magee
Saturday, August 12th - Joe Baldino