



HAWK WATCH

AUGUST 2022

Well, our 18th harvest is underway, and things are looking great! Well, not for our vineyard necessarily as many of you recall we lost 70% of our fruit to back-to-back late spring frosts in April and May. But as they say, every cloud has a silver lining. The local vineyards in Temecula are having a spectacular year with good yields and high-quality grapes ripening nicely with the warm weather we've experienced. Due to our fruit loss we're forced to source more grapes from these quality vineyards than ever before. So, in a way, our loss is your gain! I'm really excited about having the opportunity to work with some fruit I've never gotten before and knowing the growers as I do, I'm certain I'll not be disappointed. As we speak, we have our 2022 Viognier, sourced from Nick and Cindy Palumbo's vineyard fermenting in one of our tanks. And we have 3 tons of Zinfandel from ancient, 112-year-old vines already fermented and pressed and ready for barrel. This will be our first ever "Old Vine Tinderbox". You'll have wait a few years to get your hands on that one though... Of course, as the cost of grapes, picking, shipping, supplies, packaging, storage, etc. rises our costs go up. So, you might notice a dollar or two increase in our bottle prices. We try to keep price increases to a minimum though so that you can still enjoy a bottle of Hawk Watch wine without breaking the bank. Wine club discount price for a bottle of our wine will remain about \$30.00.

As most of you know by now, we lost our winery greeter cat Zorro this month. He and his sister Zena were 7 weeks old when we got them, and I literally could hold each in the palm of my hand. After 18 wonderful years he decided it was time to retire. Although we were and still are incredibly sad about his passing, it is the circle of life. As the saying goes, "Death is the one thing we can all be certain of in life". Zorro was an amazing kitty, an awesome mouser, and a good friend to everyone he encountered. Even "dog-people" would comment on how affectionate Zorro was. And even though some likely would never admit it, they really liked him. He was a cool cat and will live forever in our memories. Thanks so much for the outpouring of support we got following his passing. The volume of heartfelt emails, texts and cards was incredible. We truly have a one-of-a-kind wine club family at Hawk Watch. So, as we move on to the next chapter remember to say hi to Zena. She's still around (mostly sleeping) and doing her best to fill her brother's shoes. And that's a pretty tall order...

As for wine, this quarter we bring you a brand new release we call "Cabernet Funk". A traditional blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, we've introduced a small amount of Zinfandel to give it an interesting hint of fruit forward funkiness. Always thinking outside the box we are! You all have a terrific summer, stay cool and hydrated, and visit us often! – Mike & Lisa

Introducing Hawk Watch!

***This 2 month old little
guy was officially named
Hawk Watch recently
and we're so excited!
Thank you Patti Taylor
for bestowing such an
honor upon us and for
being a member of our
wine club family!***

Pic of the Quarter!



Zena & Zoro's Mouser Blog



As most of you know by now, I no longer work at Hawk Watch Winery. A few weeks ago I was offered another job mousing in heaven (apparently they have a huge rodent problem up there...). I'm sorry to go, but when the Big Guy offers you a job you don't argue, you just take it. So until we meet again hugs and purrs to you all!

Wine Club Selections

Mixed Club

(Grandfathered Original Club Members)

2020 Sequoia
2018 Cabernet Funk
2018 Cold Fusion

Reds Club

2017 The Deep Six
2018 Cabernet Funk
2018 Cold Fusion

2020 Sequoia

Did you know that rose' wines are the fastest growing segment of the American wine market? For the last several years rose' and blush wines have continually gained market share at an unprecedented rate. Enter our 2020 Sequoia! Although many folks enjoy a rose' wine that has a hint of residual sweetness, the real serious rose' drinkers (and yes, rose's are serious wines!) prefer dry or nearly dry versions. Over the years we've reduced the residual sugar of our rose to near zero allowing some of the more subtle floral aromas to come to the forefront. By doing so, we actually make construction of this wine more challenging. Why? Well, residual sugar has the effect of elevating the fruit components of the wine, making the fruit stand out more on the palate. Without that residual sugar we have to employ other means to achieve the same effect. That often means using a different yeast stain, changing our fermentation temperature and using enzymes specially designed to help pull fruit aromas from the wine. Drier rose's tend to be a little more food friendly too, so they typically appeal to a broader audience. Is Sequoia still my go-to summer sipper? Absolutely! A bit darker in color than traditional rose's our 2020 Sequoia is ripe with luscious notes of strawberry, rose petals and watermelon in the nose with raspberry elements following through on the palate with additional hints of bing cherry. Enjoy now or cellar for 2-3 years. - 68 cases produced.



STOP WINE ABUSE!

With hot summer weather here, don't forget to take a cooler with you to put your wine in. If you don't have a cooler with you, feel free to bring your precious cargo into our tasting room while you visit. Don't leave your wine in the hot car!!

2018 Cold Fusion

This wine is one of my favorites to make, and coincidentally is also our most awarded wine scoring consistently in the 90-point range. It seems that each time I try this wine it tastes a little different than the last time. I love wines that gracefully evolve in bottle. When first released this was a fruit bomb with bright notes of cherry and strawberry (compliments of the Grenache, thank you very much), but as the wine has evolved the Syrah and Mourvedre have stepped up to the plate to introduce their classic, hot climate roasted, meaty elements with a little gaminess from the Mourvedre specifically, making the wine much more balanced and complex. Layers of black cherry, coffee, vanilla and sage combine to make a wine that is round and soft on the palate with ample fruit and acidity to pair with just about any dish. The quintessential summer barbeque pairing wine, the best pairing has (and always will be) with a glass! Enjoy now or hold for 4-5 years.- 94 cases produced

2017 The Deep Six

Every time I open a bottle this wine continues to surprise me. When initially released it was very tight and closed, but as the wine sits in bottle it continues to evolve and mature as flavors and aromas become more integrated and the palate gets fuller and more complex. Now, after three years in bottle, the Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah elements are in perfect balance and harmony revealing notes of smoke, leather, barbeque, ripe plum, black pepper and cherry. If you're looking for the perfect red wine to pair with literally anything grilled, this is it. Of course Cold Fusion is another excellent option! Sometimes when you toss convention overboard (aka to "deep six" convention) great things can happen. Bordeaux and Rhone grape varieties in the same bottle? Sure, "wine not"!! Enjoy

2018 Cabernet Funk

Nope, this is not a misspelling! Our latest blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Zinfandel is a non-traditional take on a traditional wine. At 50% Cabernet Sauvignon the wine is spicy and earthy on the nose with ripe red and black fruit on the palate. A small amount of Merlot and Zinfandel add an intense richness and complexity to the blend and a full, round mid-palate. The wine finishes long, silky and elegant with notes of caramel and vanilla. A little fun, a little sophistication, a lot of funkiness! Enjoy now or cellar for 6-7 years. - 96 cases produced.