



WINES FOR ENJOYMENT

Volume one, 2008

In This Shipment...

There are a number of factors that go in to making great wine. Each vintner will emphasize one element over the other, whether it be weather/climate, tiling of the soil, picking and selection, fermentation, aging or just a good crop of grapes. The one unchangeable element that cannot be controlled is what the French call “terrior”.

It is the elusive sense of somewhere-ness that places emphasis on weather and climate that changes the character of wine most distinctly: “the geology of place”. Sogno del Fiore selects our wines based upon the importance of viticulture. That means we select for the region and who creates the wine as well as from where. We put emphasis on the source of the grapes, the area/region and most importantly the winemakers who create the taste. Just as you enjoy home cooking for the same reasons, we choose our wines because we know the makers.

Regarding the alcohol issue, this shipment will give you the opportunity to do a little comparison with the Cabernets because it is a classic example of the different styles of wine making. We are providing two styles, one from the Napa area and one from the Central Coast. The Cabernet story is becoming rather interesting. Napa Cabs have always been a preference for many wine drinkers and the consumers have always embraced it. In recent years a number of wineries, outside of Napa, have been producing some excellent Cabernets with very little recognition. Well, that has been changing and being supported by many of the experts. You will be seeing more non-Napa Cabs and we know you will enjoy them. **Remember, what matters the most is that you like it!**

Hello, Friends of Friends! Well another year is upon us and we hope everyone has created an appetite for some excellent wine. It is going to be an outstanding year for excellent wine as we have had the opportunity to taste some great wines and meet many new winemakers who have emerged through the ranks and are now have their own brand.

Wine making was a challenging year in 2007. There was very little rainfall and goofy weather patterns which affected the growing season. Production levels were off approximately 25 – 30%, in most cases. However, almost everyone we talked to reported that they felt the 2007 vintages look fantastic. So be prepared for some great wine when the 2007 vintages are released.

Over the past few years there has been much said regarding the wine styles and the alcohol levels in the wines. It has not been uncommon to get a bottle of wine that is clearly “over the top”, too high in alcohol. Many winemakers we know, from day one, have stated that their direction/goal is to produce a balanced wine with less alcohol typically one in the low 14% range. Many winemakers and growers are confident that they can achieve this goal and satisfy the consumer community.

Tasting notes and technical information have been provided by the winemakers for each winery. See bottle tags for tasting notes.



“Let it breathe”



2003
CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE
ALEXANDER VALLEY
LANCASTER ESTATE

2003 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE

Lancaster Estate is a family owned winery dedicated to crafting estate grown and bottled wines. The 53 hillside acres are located in the southern section of the Alexander Valley near Knights Valley and Chalk Hill appellations. This area is ideal for Bordeaux style wines.

The wine, unfiltered and unfined to retain purity, will express lush black cherry and plum, accented with cloves, anise and violets. Soft, supportive tannins provide structure for the rich fruit allowing the layers of complexity to carry over the long finish. This wine was the front runner to their 2004 Cabernet which was rated in the top 100 this past year. The wine is a blend of 80% Cabernet, 10% Cabernet Franc, 6% Merlot, 3% Malbec and 1% Petit Verdot.

Aging: 22 months, French Oak barrels

Ph: 3.77

Consume now through 2015

Alcohol: 14.4%



2005
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
SANTA YNEZ VALLEY
STAR LANE VINEYARDS

2005 STAR LANE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Star Lane Vineyard, located in the far eastern end of the Santa Ynez Valley, is both the warmest and the highest elevation vineyard in the appellation. The conditions mimic those of the best properties of the Bordeaux region. Careful selection and planting of the vines combined with years of wine making experience has produced a well-balanced wine that reflects the unique terroir of Star Lane vineyard. Aromas of blackberry laced with the notes of sage brush and chaparral that have become the hallmark of the vineyard precede tiers of currant, wild blackberry and savory herbs. The wine is a blend of 80% Cabernet, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. *Food & Wine Magazine's* annual "American Wine Awards" has honored the 2005 Star Lane Cabernet as the "**Best New California Cabernet - 2007**" in their Best Wines of 2007 feature.

Aging: 18 months 100% French Oak

Ph 3.85:

Consume now through 2012

Alcohol: 15.1


2004
SYRAH
SANTA BARBARA
PAREDON

2004 PAREDON SYRAH

This limited production wine was recently recognized by the Santa Barbara Wine Merchants as a wine to watch and enjoy, clearly a real sleeper with value. Paredon Vineyard is one of the few vineyards that is on the ocean side of the Santa Barbara mountain range. The vineyard is unique because it sits at twelve hundred feet above sea level. The vineyard is 7 acres planted with 5 acres of Syrah and 2 acres of Grenache Noir. The red clay sandstone soil adds to the expression of the fruit to produce a wine that is ultra smooth yet powerful and deep in purple color. You will sense layers of pepper, sage and blackberry. It improves in taste while open.


Aging: 12 months French Oak barrels

Clones: 07, 877, Noir

Consume now through 2012

Alcohol: 15.2

Cases Produced: 180


2003
ESTATE SYRAH
SANTA YNEZ VALLEY
BRIDLEWOOD ESTATE WINERY

2003 BRIDLEWOOD ESTATE SYRAH

This wine we could not pass up. It sold out fast, but we were able to get the last few cases available and we wanted to share it with you. You enjoyed a previous Syrah from Bridlewood, but this one is in demand. Bridlewood continues to produce quality affordable wines utilizing old world wine making techniques and new world vineyard management processes. We were fortunate to receive an allocation of this wine since most of it was pre sold and is no longer available in the marketplace.

This wine slowly emerges with hints of vanilla and coco powder framed by spicy oak that gives way to deep dark floral accent. Once decanted the wine develops dark cassis and licorice notes with hints of mocha. A beautiful wine, that balances the fruit, spice and oak. Wine Enthusiast, 93 pts.

Aging: 24 months, mixture of small French Oak barrels

Ph: 3.62

Consume now through 2010

Alcohol: 14.3%

Cases Produced: 780



2005
PINOT NOIR
SANTA RITA HILLS
AMPELOS VINEYARDS

2005 AMPELOS PINOT NOIR, lambda

Ampelos is the Greek word for vine. Each of the estate wines is given a Greek letter as a name. This wine represents another great product from the Santa Rita Hills appellation.

The wine will burst with rich cherry notes and a underlying flavor of cola. The nose will pick up a hint of milk chocolate and blueberries.

Wine Spectator, in their recent issue, highlighted Ampelos as a wine to watch and enjoy.

Aging: 17 months, 35% new oak, 65% neutrals

Ph: 3.34

Clones: 115, Pommard 04

Consume now through 2012

Alcohol: 14.5%

Cases Produced: 1435