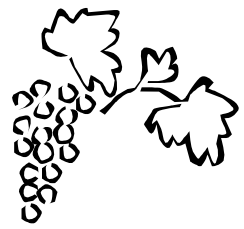




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The Grape Vine Newsletter



This Month's Wine Club Selections

Every month our Wine Club members receive one or two bottles of our featured wines. The wines you get depend on the membership you are enrolled in. If you are not yet a member, this should tease you into signing up. Happy wine tasting.

Clos du Lac Cellars

A "French Country Styled Winery" in California was the dream of Tim Evans, President and one of the winemakers of Clos du Lac Cellars. With a French winemaker's assistance, Mr. Evans converted the original Greenstone Winery into a French style country chateau making wines utilizing French vinification techniques. Together they worked to create several award winning wines that have distinctively unique characters which California wines are recognized for. Tim and his brother, Kelly Evans, are continuing their successful winemaking endeavor with the addition of Allen Kruetzer, a twenty-year veteran winemaker who received his Masters Degree in Enology from the University of California at Davis.

The original Greenstone Winery was known for its Amador style red and white wines as well as for its Zinfandel Port and Cream Sherry. Greenstone's original legacy continues to this day with their most popular labels still in high local demand. The Sparkling White Wine, Port and White Zinfandel that have been enjoyed by the local community over the past years are still being produced along with the estate Cabernet Sauvignon.

Since 1996, major changes have taken place at the vineyard and winery, along with the introduction of several new wines. These changes included the addition of modern high quality wine making equipment and a barrel replacement program that focuses on using only new French and American oak barrels. The winery's production capacity was increased to a 20,000 case annual capacity and a new sophisticated wine laboratory was constructed. The vineyard was substantially reconfigured and continues evolving with each growing season.

One of the vineyard changes included replacing the French Colombard vines with new Sauvignon Blanc, which produced grapes for one of our featured wines this month. Other facility changes include a renovation of their tasting room, expansion of the picnic area, and the construction of a new entry road. Many of these changes were made not only to facilitate the production better wines, but to provide a more enjoyable tasting experience for visitors.

The estate is located on State Highway 88 at the western gateway to the historic gold rush country and the Sierra Foothill wineries. The estate vineyard encompasses approximately 33 acres in various stages of development and consists of 10 different red and white varietals. The beautiful picnic area adjacent to the tasting room is available for special events.

Sauvignon Blanc Amador County 2003



Only 249 cases produced

Sauvignon Blanc is a versatile, generously-flavored grape that the French winemakers have lovingly exploited for generations as a natural companion to good food. Also called Fumé Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc is known for its pronounced flavors, yet there are so many styles of this varietal available that most everyone can find a Sauvignon Blanc to love.

This outstanding Sauvignon Blanc has won several awards including the Gold Medal for Best of Class and a Gold Medal for Best White Wine at the Los Angeles County Fair Wines of the World competition as well as a Bronze Medal at the Amador County Fair.

Tim Evans, the winemaker and a recognized chef of Thai cuisine, recommends serving this Sauvignon Blanc with a light to medium spicy fish or shrimp dish, herb roasted chicken or any white cream sauce dish that isn't too spicy.

Zinfandel California Shenandoah Valley 1999



Only 730 cases produced

Grown in California's Shenandoah Valley since the 1860's, it is the Zinfandel varietal that put the Sierra Foothills on the map as producers of fine California wines. Although the grape's exact origin is in debate, Zinfandel is widely considered California's indigenous red wine grape and it is the varietal most closely associated with Amador County.

In the hillside vineyards of the Shenandoah Valley, old vines, a warm climate, decomposed granite soils, and perennially low yields combine to produce weighty, concentrated zinfandels with ripe berry flavors and a pronounced earthy/spicy character.

This Zinfandel from the locally acclaimed Potter Vineyards makes a wonderful accompaniment to the heartiest of foods, such as tomato-based pastas, grilled lamb, and spicy sausages. With your first sip you will notice a nicely pronounced pepper followed by a fruity, cherry-plum finish.