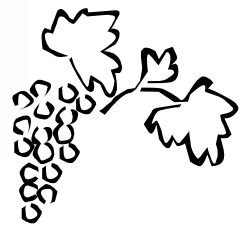




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The Grape Vine Newsletter

Wine Pairings for Christmas Dinner

Christmas is here again and it's time to plan our Christmas dinners. Whether you are planning Turkey, Prime Rib, Goose or Roast Duck, we have put together a terrific selection of versatile white and red wines that are sure to enhance the menu of any Christmas feast. Christmas dinner is one of the largest family gatherings of the year, and to make yours extra special, here are several wonderful wines to accompany your Christmas dinner. (Our picks in parenthesis can be purchased online)

Turkey	Red - Pinot Noir (Roudon Smith 2003 Carneros Pinot Noir \$21.95) White - Pinot Blanc (Girasole Vineyards 2004 Redwood Valley Pinot Blanc \$13.95)
Prime Rib	Red - Cabernet Sauvignon (White Crane Winery Livermore Valley 2002 Cabernet Sauvignon, East \$50.95) White - Sauvignon Blanc (Catacula Lake Vineyards 2001 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc \$12.95)
Goose/Duck	Red - Zinfandel (Topolos Vineyards 200 Russian River Zinfandel \$17.95) White - Chardonnay (York Mountain Winery 2001 Edna Valley Chardonnay \$18.95)
Ham	Red - Pinot Noir (Bouchaine Vineyards 2003 Napa Valley Buchli Station Pinot Noir \$15.95) White - White Riesling (Fenestra Winery 2002 Arroyo Seco White Riesling \$13.95)

Wine Humor

What men and fine wine have in common -
They start out like grapes, and it's the women's job to stomp on them and keep them in the dark until they mature into something you'd like to have dinner with.

What women and fine wine have in common -
They all start out fresh, fruity and intoxicating to the mind, then turn full-bodied with age and gradually go sour and vinegary and give you a headache.

Wine Trivia

- Cork was developed as a bottle closure in the late 17th century. It was only after this that bottles were lain down for aging, and the bottle shapes slowly changed from short and bulbous to tall and slender.
- When Mount Vesuvius buried Pompeii in volcanic lava in A.D. 79, it also buried more than 200 wine bars.

Holiday Sugar Spritz Cookies

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup butter
- 1 (3 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon orange zest

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Sift together the flour, salt, and cinnamon; set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, cream together butter and cream cheese. Add sugar and egg yolk; beat until light and fluffy. Stir in the vanilla and orange zest. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients. Fill a cookie press or pastry bag with dough, and squeeze cookies onto an ungreased cookie sheet.
3. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the cookies are golden brown on the peaks and on the bottoms. Remove from cookie sheets at once to cool on wire racks. (makes 6 dozen)

Quote of the Month

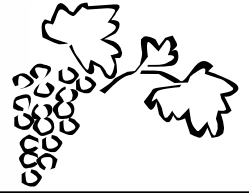
"Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance."

- Benjamin Franklin



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Wine Gift Baskets

Our wonderful collection of Wine Gift Baskets, Corporate Gift Baskets and Gourmet Food Gift Baskets are perfect for any occasion. **Customizable** - You can choose to include only reds, only whites, or a combination of red and white wines. You can even substitute bottles of our fine Private Label Wine (see below) with any wine gift basket we offer. We are definitely the most unique and complete Wine Gift Shop online!

Wine of the Month Club

Because California is widely regarded as the finest wine growing region in America and one of the best wine producing regions in the world, the vast majority of our featured wines are from **California's finest, boutique wineries**. Now and then, when our wine experts find an outstanding selection, we may feature wines from some of the best growing regions of Washington and Oregon. However, the vast majority of our featured wines are California wines - arguably the best wines in the world.

- **You pick the number of bottles** - Monthly Wine Club memberships can be either 1-bottle per month or 2-bottles per month.
- **You pick the Wines** - all red, all white, or a mixture of both red and white wines. **You pick the Frequency** - Wine Club deliveries can be Every Month or you can Skip Months between deliveries.
- **You pick the Duration** - Wine Club memberships range from 2 to 12 months in duration.
- **You choose how to pay** - you can pay monthly or prepay the wine club membership up front - it's totally up to you.

We give you all the choices - **You make all the decisions!** No other clubs can compare.

Personalized Label Wines

We have a great selection of wine label templates available on our website that you can use to create your very own Private Label Wine. Simply click your favorite label template and change the words. You can also take a digital photo, or create your own label design and email it to us. Either way, we will print professional quality labels and apply them to your choice of our fine private wine selections. **Minimum order - only 1 bottle!**

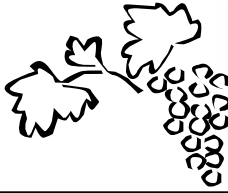
Our private label wines come in either red or white varieties and you can mix and match them as you please. You can even choose to substitute private label wines in any of our wine gift baskets!

Private Label Wines are perfect for Birthdays, all Holidays, Thank You, Congratulations, House Warming, Corporate Gifts and Promotional Items.

The Wine Store

We always purchase a few extra cases of the fine wines we send our Wine Club members, and the wines we include with our Wine Gift Baskets. While these fine wines last, we make them available to you in our Wine Store, at discount prices that you won't be able to resist. As a bonus, our Wine Club members can buy more of the wines they really enjoyed at these discount prices, while they are available. **Check it out NOW!**

Order Online fast & SECURE or call us toll free
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December 2005 **Classic Wine Club** Selections

Every month our **Classic 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're not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting!

Dreyer Sonoma Winery

The Dreyer Family winery was established in 1980, but the Dreyer Family has been involved in California agriculture for over fifty years, growing grapes, olives, tree fruit, cotton and tomatoes. The Dreyers branched into the premium wine business with the purchase of Grand Cru Vineyards in Glen Ellen, Sonoma Valley, California. The family sold this brand to another winery but continues to produce high quality and high value wines under the Dreyer Sonoma and Compass brands.

Jonathan Dreyer is general manager of the wine and grape operations. In addition to working sales and marketing for the family winery, he received a degree from the University of California Davis after studying viticulture and enology and agricultural economics.

More than twice the size as neighboring Napa, Sonoma County overflows with wineries and grape varieties. Within this appellation's one million total acres, over 190 wineries make their home. Practically every variety of grape grown in California can be found somewhere in Sonoma County.

Sonoma County is blessed with a bevy of the best of wine grape growing factors, presented in such a variety of combinations as to create a welcome, wholesome diversity of growing regions. The climate in the northern part of the county is considered "hot" while the south is "cool." Not only is Sonoma County revered for foodstuffs ranging from goat cheese to Muscovy duck, from Pacific oysters to flavorful, farm fresh produce that restaurants clamor for, nearly every type of wine grape can be splendidly grown in one or more of Sonoma County's regions, from the cool weather loving Pinot Noir and Chardonnay to the warm weather Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

2004 Dreyer Sonoma Chardonnay

This wonderful 2004 release is comprised of grapes from selected mature vineyards throughout Sonoma County, including vineyards in the Russian River, Alexander Valley, and Knights Valley sub-appellations. This wine was 60% barrel fermented under a French and American Oak regimen and aged sur lie (without the skins) for nine months. Golden in color, the grapes were picked with perfect ripeness and natural acidity. This wine has good balance between its Sonoma County fruit and the oak influence resulting in a rich, full bodied wine which shows the classic varietal character of a true Sonoma, California Chardonnay.

Varietal Composition: 100% Chardonnay
Release date: July 2005

Appellation: Russian River, Alexander Valley, Knights Valley
Total Cases Produced: 5000

2003 Dreyer North Coast Merlot

The grapes harvested for this Merlot come primarily from Mendocino County where the Merlot grape excels in the slightly cooler climate. This Merlot is dry, rich in flavor and smooth at its finish. Possessing a great mouth feel and balance, this Mendocino and Sonoma County grape blend has a deep garnet color and a rich, silky texture. The tannins are firm and smoothly integrated, and the fruit shows ripe berry notes balanced with an influence of oak aging. The blending of Cabernet Sauvignon into this wine softens the mouth feel while at the same time provides a firming backbone to create a very a lovely wine.

Varietal Composition: 76% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation: 76% Mendocino County, 24% Alexander Valley

Time in Oak: 14 months

Type of Oak: American, 20% new

Release date: March 2005

Total Cases Produced: 2200



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December 2005 Epic Reds Wine Club Selections

Every month our **Epic Reds Wine Club** members receive two bottles of our featured red wines. These wines are some of California's boutique winery's finest offerings. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting!

Boeger Winery, El Dorado California

The Boeger Winery is located in El Dorado County, in the Sierra Nevada foothills, made famous by the 1849 California Gold Rush. As a matter of fact, only 15 minutes from the winery, gold was discovered in the town of Coloma, by James Marshal. Boeger Winery sits on an 1850's ranch and winery homesteaded by the Fossati-Lombardo family - the original house, cellar, and distillery are still used today.

During the era of prohibition, the winery was allowed to continue to produce wine for the local churches and the Fossati-Lombardo family. On the door to the tasting room you will see the Federal stamp that served as the license to distill during this time.

DREYER
SONOMA

Greg and Sue Boeger purchased the ranch in 1972 and converted the old Fossati-Lombardo house into a tasting room which was opened to the public in 1974. For 29 years the Boeger family has dedicated themselves to bringing you some of the Sierra Foothill's finest wines.



Boeger Winery has 55 acres of producing vineyard at the home estate, and grows over 90% of the grapes that they use in their estate bottled wines. The winery also leases or manages another 40 acres within the county. The terrain of the vineyards is characterized by steep hillsides, rocky soil, every exposure, and numerous micro-climates. These types of varied conditions are what allow them to grow over 30 different varietals all within a relatively small area.

Greg Boeger spent much of his childhood at his grandfather's winery in Napa and there started his lifelong interest in winemaking. Greg graduated from UC Davis and moved to El Dorado county to start the first commercial winery in the area since prohibition; the year was 1972.

Justin Boeger, Greg's son graduated from UC Davis in 1998 with a degree in fermentation science. After apprenticing under his father for 5 years, Justin is now the sole winemaker for Boeger Winery. Following in the pioneering tradition, Justin has introduced several new wines and techniques to Boeger Winery, including the very popular Pinot Noir program. The apple not falling far from the tree, Justin has already won several prestigious awards for the winery, including Best Meritage and Best Pinot Noir of the Sierra Foothills.

2003 El Dorado Pinot Noir

Spiciness is the name of the game with this Pinot Noir. The spicy aromas are dominated by a cedar-clove combination followed by caramel and French oak components.

On the palate, the oak characteristics come through more strikingly, including caramel, vanilla, and butterscotch. Very soft tannins and good acidity make for an easy-drinking wine that is great by itself or with gentle foods. This wine benefits from a small amount of breathing and is not meant for serious aging. **Only 326 cases produced**

2002 Reserve Petite Sirah

Black Pepper, caramel, vanilla, clove and honey are just a few of the aromatic components that jump out of a glass of this 2002 Reserve Petite Sirah. A very complex wine, more and more aromas develop as the wine breathes.

Tannin structure dominates this wine, as is typical with Petite Sirah, however, a soft acidity balances it out. Due to the tannins, this wine will age well for quite a few years. For those that like the tannin of Petite Sirah, enjoy it by itself. For those that are intrigued by its flavors and aromas, but aren't used to tannins, try it with your heartiest meat recipe. **Only 348 cases produced**