

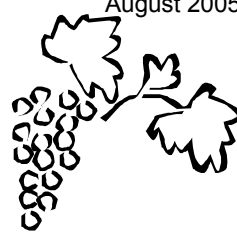


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The Internet's Premier Wine Gift Shop

The Grapevine Newsletter

August 2005



Favorite Wine Quotes

"Wine is the most civilized thing in the world."

- Ernest Hemingway

"The discovery of a good wine is increasingly better for mankind than the discovery of a new star."

- Leonardo da Vinci

"There are no standards of taste in wine... Each man's own taste is the standard, and a majority vote cannot decide for him or in any slightest degree affect the supremacy of his own standard."

- Mark Twain

What's Your G.P.A.? (Glasses per Acre)

One acre of land averages

- Five tons of grapes (10,000 pounds)
- 13.51 barrels of wine at 7,552 ounces each
- 797 gallons of wine at 128 ounces each
- 3,958 bottles of wine at 25.6 ounces each
- 15,940 glasses of wine at 6.4 ounces each

One barrel of wine contains

- 740 pounds of grapes
- 59 gallons
- 24.6 cases of wine
- 295 bottles of wine
- 1,180 glasses of wine

One case of wine contains

- 30 pounds of grapes
- 307.2 ounces of wine
- 12 bottles of wine
- 48 glasses of wine

One 750 ml bottle of wine contains

- 2.4 pounds of grapes
- 25.6 ounces of wine
- 4 glasses of wine

One glass of wine contains

- 9.76 ounces of grapes
- 6.4 ounces of wine

Recipe of the Month

Italian Bruschetta

- 2 tomatoes, chopped or 1/2 container mixed cherry tomatoes
- 6 fresh basil leaves, torn into small pieces
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- Coarse salt to taste
- 8 slices coarse country bread, each about 1/2 inch thick
- 2 large cloves garlic

Turn oven to broil.

In a bowl combine the tomatoes, chopped garlic, basil, olive oil, vinegar, and salt. Toss well.

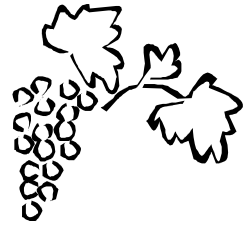
Brush the bread on one side with olive oil and broil the bread until lightly toasted on both sides.

Arrange the bread on a platter and spoon the mixture over the bread.

Serves 4



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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 California 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!**

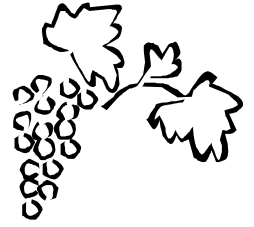
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This Month's **Classic Wine Club** Selections

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!

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Santa Cruz Mountains AVA

Astonishingly, given the hardships of viticulture in the Santa Cruz Mountains, this appellation hosts some of North America's elite wineries. The area is large, crossing the borders of three counties. However, with less than 1500 acres under vine, the Santa Cruz Mountain AVA is small compared to similarly recognized appellations. Microclimates are particularly important here, as the climate can change substantially depending on which side of the range and at what elevation vineyards lay. The coolest climates are at the lower elevations on the Pacific side. In this environment, vineyards which can be as low as 800 feet (with most actually closer to 2,000 feet) are greatly affected by ocean winds and fog, making varietal selection critical. Low-lying inland vineyards are generally the warmest in the appellation, but still benefit from the moderating effects of San Francisco Bay.

Roudon-Smith Vineyards

This trim, little wooden winery is tucked in a beautiful and sunny setting within the tall redwood trees of the Santa Cruz Mountains and is owned and operated by the Hunt family. The winery is dedicated to the production of exceptional wines from the vineyards of the Santa Cruz Mountains, including their estate-grown Chardonnay. They also purchase grapes from selected vineyards in other premier regions of the state. Traditional wine-making methods result in elegant, long-lived wines, the perfect complement to a meal. Roudon-Smith Vineyards provides fine, affordable, distinctive and endlessly drinkable wines that have helped build the reputation enjoyed by California wines today. Roudon-Smith Winery has been noted as one of the top ten California "Food Wineries" by the Wine and Food Companion of New York.

2003 Santa Cruz Mountain Estate Chardonnay

The Anna Maria Estate Vineyard is on a South/East sloping hillside at a 900 ft. elevation of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This vineyard has full sun exposure throughout the day along with consistent temperature and summer heat. The Estate wine is always made in a French style using well-aged oak barrels so little oak flavoring is being extracted out of the barrels into the wine. This wine does not go through malo-lactic fermentation, so it is not characterized as being buttery, but instead is considered to be elegant, full bodied with lots of flinty minerals and citrus fruits. This Chardonnay will pair very nicely with shellfish, wild meats and cream sauced pasta. The grapes were harvested the 2nd week of September 2003 at 22 Brix, 3.35 pH and 0.74 TA.

2003 Carneros Pinot Noir

This 2003 Carneros Pinot Noir is the first red wine release that the Hunt family has bottled under the Roudon-Smith name. At an outcome of 15.2% alcohol, this is a full-bodied and hearty red wine filled with lots of spice, blackberries, cherries, plums, hints of vanilla and carries a nice oak balance. Because this wine was just bottled on August 6, 2005, it should be perfect for uncorking by early to mid September. Roudon-Smith harvested almost 12 tons of Pinot Noir grapes on September 17, 2003 at 25.5 Brix, 3.30 pH and 0.62 TA.

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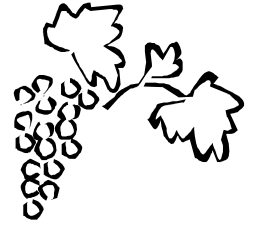
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This Month's **Epic Reds Wine Club** Selections

This is our top-shelf wine club and is limited to only 750 members. Every month our **Epic Reds Wine Club** members receive two bottles of California's finest red wines. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun. Happy wine tasting!

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Russian River Valley AVA

Twenty odd years ago, the beautiful redwood-clad Russian River Valley was an unassuming mixed agricultural area, which drew little attention in status wine circles. Since then, the cool-climate consciousness that has swept across wine regions from coast to coast has given this low-lying valley and its 10,000 acres of vineyards considerably greater cachet. Russian River Valley, granted official appellation standing in 1983, is now one of the most recognized AVA names in America. One sixth of Sonoma County's total vineyard acres fall within the Russian River AVA boundaries, all sharing to varying degrees the defining characteristic of cooling fog that is drawn inland from the Pacific each day.

Christopher Creek Winery

Nestled in the rolling hills of the Northern part of the Russian River Appellation in Sonoma County near Healdsburg, California, is where you will find Christopher Creek Winery. Christopher Creek is a small, family owned winery with a history of producing award-winning, estate bottled and hand crafted wines. With the growing interest in the Rhone style wines, Petite Sirah, Viognier and Syrah, Christopher Creek Winery offers wines produced from older as well as newer vines. The estate vineyard is located in the Northeastern part of the Russian River Appellation, where the climate is warmer. Christopher Creek Winery produces some of the consistently best Syrah, Zinfandel, and Petite Sirah in the Sonoma area.

2003 Russian River Estate Petite Sirah

The favorable growing season coupled with sun-exposed fruit helped develop rich tannins and let the complex flavors of cassis, blackberry, coffee and spice fully develop. This wine will continue to age well over the next 7 to 10 years. Decanting a half hour before serving is recommended. Our suggestions for food pairing are Ahi tuna, game birds (especially duck, goose and quail), turkey, venison, lamb, pork and beef.

- Gold Medal — Grand Harvest Awards (Top 6% of all wines tasted), March 2005
- Gold Medal — San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, February 2005
- Gold Medal — Jerry Mead's New World Wine Competition, April 2005

2002 Dry Creek Zinfandel

Classical Dry Creek Zin in style, the wine exhibits a medium-dark ruby hue, with forward strawberry and raspberry jammy fruit, hints of vanilla, white pepper, spice and a mouth feel that lingers. While still quite young, this intense, perfectly balanced and bright wine is remarkably approachable with medium tannins and an aging potential of about 3 to 4 years. The wine pairs wonderfully with risotto, pasta, turkey, duck, lamb or chicken.

- Chairman's Award (Best of Class) — Riverside International Wine Competition, April 2004
- Gold Medal — Grand Harvest Awards, February 2004
- Gold Medal — Jerry Mead's New World International Wine Competition, February 2004

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