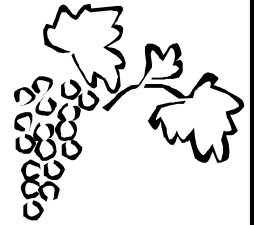




# WineGiftClub.com

The Internet's Premier Wine Gift Shop

## The Grapevine Newsletter



### *Favorite Wine Quotes*

"Good wine is a necessity of life for me."  
- Thomas Jefferson

"Hold the bottle up to the light; you will see your dreams are always at the bottom."  
- Rob Hutchison

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

### *Wine Tips*

Think big wine glasses are more show than substance? Think again. A fairly large glass makes wine taste better for two reasons. First, a big glass will allow you to swirl the wine vigorously without ending up with a dry cleaning bill when it swirls right out of the glass. That's important because a wine that's been assertively swirled opens up and smells and tastes more dramatic. Second, a large glass provides enough space above the liquid so that the aromas can accumulate and will be easier to smell. Wine served in a glass that's too small will seem to have almost no aroma. Since much of what we can taste is really smell, trapping those aromas so you can take them in is critical to your pleasure. So, good-size glasses? You bet.

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Lightly chilling a naturally tannic red wine, like a cab or a merlot, will make the wine seem less astringent and the tannin less pronounced. This is one reason a red wine served at traditional cellar temperature, around 65 F, usually tastes more balanced than when served at a warm temperature, say around 80 F.

### *Recipe of the Month*

The perfect salad fresh from the garden and a wonderful compliment to this month's featured Sauvignon Blanc from Topolos Vineyards. If you pick the corn just before making the salad... cut the cooking time to a blanch...30 second dip max.

#### **Sweet Corn and Tomato Salad with Cilantro**

- 10 ears fresh corn, husked
- 2 pounds plum tomatoes, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 3/4 cup finely chopped red onion
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar

Cook corn in large pot with boiling salted water until just tender, about 5 minutes. Drain; cool to room temperature. Cut corn kernels from cobs. Transfer corn to large bowl. Add remaining ingredients; toss to blend. Season salad to taste with salt and pepper.

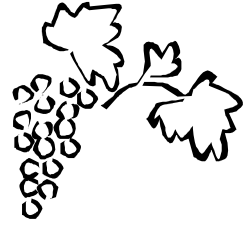
(Can be made 2 hours ahead. Let stand at room temperature, tossing occasionally.)

Makes 8 to 10 Servings



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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!**

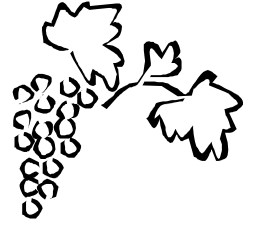
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## This Month's **Classic Wine Club** Selections

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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### *Topolos at Russian River Vineyards*

Topolos at Russian River Vineyards is an award-winning, family owned Winery and Restaurant located in Sonoma County. The Topolos Winery is an earth friendly operation. From the start Michael Topolos decided to avoid using pesticides and chemicals in his farming practices. To this day, the Topolos vineyards and winery operations have done their best to stay true to this philosophy. In the vineyards, Michael uses organic and biodynamic practices that forbid the use of synthetic chemical products. Rather, natural methods are used to create the healthiest soil that will in turn raise healthy vines that can stand on their own without the addition of synthetic chemicals.

The Topolos story starts in the 1960's when Michael Topolos, then a student at S.F. City College, picked up a job in a local wine shop to make ends meet. It was his catalyst into the wine industry. In 1966 he moved to the wine country, settling in Sonoma. While working as a wine buyer and traveling the world to procure fine wines, he formed his plan to plant a vineyard of his own. In 1972 he realized that dream, buying a 50-acre parcel of land with two other partners. On it he planted 5 acres of Zinfandel. The following year, 5 acres of Chardonnay grapes were added. Soon he was doing well enough to buy out his partners and quit his wine-buying job. In 1978, while looking for more vineyard land, Michael discovered that the Russian River Vineyards Winery was up for sale. Michael and his brother Jerry purchased the property and restarted the winery operations. They converted the 100-year-old manor house into a restaurant and tasting room.

The rest, as they say, is history...

#### *2001 Rossi Ranch Zinfandel*

*(Only 900 cases produced)*

Zinfandel has been the flagship grape for the Topolos Winery ever since Michael Topolos and his brother Jerry purchased the winery in 1978. This old vine Zinfandel showcases the rich intensity of fruit flavors that only very mature vineyards can produce. The Rossi Ranch vineyard, planted in 1910, produces a very low yield resulting in a concentrated wine with a long-lasting finish. The dominant flavors are opulent brambly fruit and dark chocolate with hints of mint: the essence of an old-vine Zinfandel. The full body, ideal tannin, and lingering finish make this a wine available for enjoying in the near future or extended cellar aging.

#### *2002 ECO Sauvignon Blanc*

Tropical aromas of pineapple and banana abound in this exotic wine. Feel the fullness in the mouth as flavors of coconut and citrus explode to create a sensation of paradise found. The spectrum of flavors is enhanced by the clean, fresh style with hints of lavender. You'll be certain to enjoy this off-dry wine with a variety of foods ranging from pizza to Thai cuisine.

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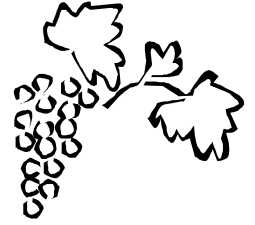
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## This Month's **Epic Reds Wine Club** Selections

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 names in America.

### *Porter Creek Winery & Vineyards*

Owned and operated by father and son, Porter Creek is a winery and vineyard estate located in the Russian River Valley. Winemaker Alex Davis carries on the winegrowing tradition begun by his father, George Davis in the 1970's. Alex brings to Porter Creek a childhood spent pruning and rolling barrels, a BS degree in Enology, and years of experience in France working with a wealth of renowned winemakers. With a strong commitment to the growing conditions in the Russian River Valley, Porter Creek's focus is on organic, single vineyard designate wines and grape varieties from the Burgundy and Rhone. Alex sources local vineyards of Rhone varieties, primarily Syrah, Carignane, and Viognier. Wines are handcrafted using old-world methods, adapted and inspired to Northern California's milieu. Alex employs natural fermentation and discreetly selects French Oak barrels for aging so as to enhance, but not obscure and overwhelm, fruit and body. Careful handcrafting and attention to detail result in finished wines of exceptional purity and refined character.

#### *2001 "Timbervine Ranch" Syrah, Russian River Valley*

*(Just 400 cases produced)*

This vineyard is situated on a hill so steep that a 4-wheel drive vehicle is necessary just to access the base of it. The fruit for this wine comes from a two acre sloping section with an ideal south-east exposure. The color is inky and the nose has a core of dark fruit with green olives and an attractive gaminess, similar to syrahs of the northern Rhone. On the palate it shows amazing power, but with integrated tannins. Decanting of this wine is recommended. This Syrah pairs famously with the more intense, hearty red meat dishes, but will also be a wonderful compliment to your favorite pasta dish.

#### *2003 Carignane "Old Vines", Alexander Valley*

*(Just 350 cases produced)*

The depth of character that comes from these very old vines lends to a wine that more than amply stands on its own. Old county records show that this vineyard was planted partially in 1928 and partially in 1908. Like previous vintages this wine shows dark ripe fruits on the nose and soft tannins, but with more concentration due to the extremely low yield of one ton per acre. Our suggestions for food pairing are grilled lamb chops or roasted game hens.

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### **Personalized Label Wines**

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