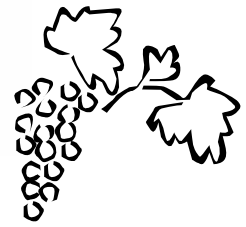




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## The Grape Vine Newsletter

### *Wine with a Romantic Valentine's Day Feast*

A bottle of fine wine makes a very nice addition to a romantic Valentine's Day dinner. Whether you are a seasoned wine connoisseur or simply enjoy a casual bottle of wine now and then, here are a few tips to help you pick a wine that's right for your meal.

**Chardonnay** is very versatile wine which can accompany many types of food. Fish and shellfish in butter, chicken and veal in cream sauces, Thai, pork and grilled beef are just a few that go well with this wine.

**Gewürztraminer** is floral and spicy. Drink this wine with rich appetizers and spicy food such as curry.

**Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon** both pair well with beef dishes such as stroganoff, lamb and steak with bordelaise and roasts. Grilled salmon, duck and pheasant also are a delight with these wines.

**Pinot Noir** This soft wine goes nice with beef tenderloin and prime rib. Poached fish in Pinot Noir is delicious!

**Riesling** is a light, sweet white wine that goes well with fish or pork, but nothing too spicy.

**Sauvignon Blanc** goes well with food flavored with lemon such as fish and chicken. Stir-fry dishes with beef and vegetables also can be paired with this selection.

**Zinfandel** has a robust, sometimes peppery flavor that goes well with spicy meat dishes, curry, turkey, pot roast, stew and rabbit.

### *Wine Humor*

Sally was driving through the desert in Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. Feeling sorry for the old woman, she stopped the car and asked her if she would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the old woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman, but the old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw and studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

"*What's in the bag?*" asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "*It's a bottle of wine - I got it for my husband.*"

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said, "*Good trade.*"

### *Wine Fun Facts*

- It takes about 2 1/2 pounds, or 600 to 650 grapes to make one bottle of wine.
- Over 10,000 varieties of wine grapes are grown around the world today.
- California produces over 20 million gallons of wine each year.
- The Mesopotamians are credited with producing the first wine around 6000 B.C.
- In the middle ages, wine was used as currency.
- There is a 1600 year old bottle of wine at the Speyer Museum in Germany.
- The corkscrew was invented in 1860.
- The largest cork tree in the world is called 'The Whistler Tree'. This tree is located in Portugal and averages over 1 ton of raw cork per harvest. Enough to cork 100,000 bottles of wine.
- In Anchorage Alaska, it's illegal to give a moose wine.

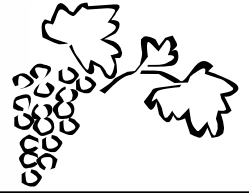
### *Quote of the Month*

Drink wine, and you will sleep well. Sleep, and you will not sin. Avoid sin, and you will be saved. *Ergo*, drink wine and be saved.  
*A medieval German saying*



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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!**

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## January 2006 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!

### *Boyer Winery - Monterey County, California*

The Boyer Winery was established in 1981 by owners and winemaker Patty and Rick Boyer who specializes in barrel fermented Chardonnay, Riesling, Syrah and Pinot Noir. The Boyer Winery is one of many distinct boutique wineries making a name for Monterey as one of California's spectacular wine producing regions.

Wine grapes were first planted in Monterey County, by Franciscan friars in the Spanish mission of Soledad, over 200 years ago, but it wasn't until the early 1960's, when the first shrewd plantings of vineyards began, that the full potential of Monterey County, as a wine-producing region, was discovered.

From those early beginnings, Monterey Wine Country has grown to more than 40,000 acres planted in vineyards varying in size from sixty to several thousands acres, making it one of the largest premium wine grape growing regions in California, worth over \$200 million.

All grapes grown in Monterey County are wine grapes, there are no table grapes or grapes sold for juice. Wines from these vineyards have unique qualities which make them easily distinguishable from those produced elsewhere in California or the world. All have intense varietal flavor, which means the true taste of the grape is reflected in the wine.

The remarkable grapes which produce these distinctive wines are the result of three key elements - the land itself, the near-perfect climate and the blend of traditional and innovative methods used by growers and winemakers of Monterey County.

The Boyers opened their new tasting room in the town of Speckles in May of 2005. Rich Boyer says the Monterey area yields some of the best wines in the country, and predicts the 2005 vintage will be one of the best in years. "We have sunny, sparkling days, and cool, foggy nights," Boyer notes. "So all we had to do was buy the best equipment we could find, and then let nature do the rest - we do minimal processing to the grapes, as they're already full of incredible flavor."

### *Boyer 2004 Riesling*

White Riesling is a late-ripening variety that delivers outstanding wines in cool growing regions such as Monterey. Boyer's White Riesling has a crisp, sweeter, effervescent quality with flavors of orange blossom and apricot. It is a refreshing wine which is best served chilled—take it out of the refrigerator about 10 minutes before serving.

The grapes were whole-cluster pressed using a gentle membrane press. The juice was then cold settled for approximately 30 hours before fermentation, allowing unwanted solids to separate and sink to the bottom. The remaining juice was allowed to ferment for approximately five weeks before bottling. Only 250 cases produced.

### *Boyer 2000 Pinot Noir*

Pinot Noir creates a lasting impression on the palate and its aroma can be intense. It is full-bodied and rich but not heavy, high in alcohol, yet neither acidic nor tannic, with substantial flavor despite its delicacy. The most appealing quality of Pinot Noir may be its soft, velvety texture, like liquid silk, gently caressing the palate. Pinot does not have the longevity in the bottle of the darker red wines and tends to reach its peak at five to eight years past the vintage.

Boyer's 2000 Pinot Noir is all of the above and more! This exquisite vintage is perfect for drinking right now or may be laid down for another one to two years. Best served at about 65° - chill in the refrigerator about 15 minutes before serving. Only 500 cases produced.



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## January 2006 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!

### *Downing Family Vineyards, Napa Valley California*

Established in 1998, Downing Family Vineyards produces small case lots of ultra-premium Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Petite Sirah. Their premier vintage of Zinfandel was released in May 2001 and their premier vintage of Cabernet Sauvignon was released six months later.

Master winemaker Randy Mason, who has his own award-winning label, brings years of taste and artistry to the Downing Family Vineyards wines. These extraordinary wines are carefully made in very small batches at the renowned Napa Wine Company. Downing Family wines were first released in 2001 with rave reviews from wine experts throughout the Napa Valley region.

The labels represent things about which John and Tracy Downing are passionate - flying, fly fishing, sailing and cycling. Because of a shared fervor for flying, they decided to call their Zinfandel "Fly By Night." The airplane on the label depicts a Beechcraft Staggerwing, an innovative marvel of style and grace. When they are not flying, the Downings spend time catch-and-release fly fishing. The Cabernet Sauvignon is packaged in an award-winning bottle encircled by a delicate line with a barbless fly at its end. The Shiraz label has a J/105 sailboat like the one John and Tracy race. The Petite Sirah label has a bicycle and when time permits you will find the Downings' cycling with their son. John and Tracy believe that these wines provide an elegant way to relax and enjoy life.

### *2002 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon*

This fantastic wine is 100% Cabernet from two great Cabernet Vineyards in Napa Valley. It is a blend of fruit from the Del Bondio Rutherford valley floor vineyard on the west side of Napa Valley and the Moore Vineyard in Napa Valley's eastern hills, a combination that works remarkably well together. In blind tastings this wine has consistently rated better than many of Napa Valley's icon wines. The blend of the two vineyards is two-thirds valley floor fruit and one-third hillside fruit. Early barrel samples indicated that this wine was going to be very special and it has now developed into a quite extraordinary wine.

This wine shows all of the characteristics that you expect from a great Rutherford Cabernet; the famed Rutherford dust, a nose that is almost floral and a finish that lingers until next Tuesday! The concentration from the hillside fruit gives this wine a completely new dimension and a complex, elegant offering with tannins that will make it particularly age worthy. It is perfect for drinking now but will also age well for several more years. Only 934 cases were produced.

### *2001 Oakville "Fly by Night" Zinfandel*

Fly by Night Zinfandel comes from a nine acre block from the 54 acre Pelissa Vineyard, a single, organically farmed vineyard in Oakville, right across the road from Opus One. Grapes have been grown on this land for about a hundred years, and in 1995 a block of Zinfandel was created using cuttings from some of the old Zinfandel vines that were probably planted in the early 1950s.

This Zinfandel is an elegant, well balanced wine, as described by Decanter magazine, who rated the 2001 Fly by Night Zinfandel as one of the ten best at the 2004 ZAP tasting in San Francisco.

The little airplane on the bottle is a Beechcraft Staggerwing, the first and in the Mason's opinion, the most beautiful airplane ever produced by Beech. "The airplane symbolizes a style and elegance that we have tried to capture with our Fly by Night Zinfandel.

Starting with the 2000 vintage, they began bottling their Zinfandel in Stelvin screw cap bottles, which have a distinct advantage over natural cork bottles - a "zero incidence rate" of tainted cork contamination.