

## 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!

### *Stevenot Winery*

Wine, gold, history and heritage are all part of the rich and colorful tradition that is Stevenot Winery. Located in the Sierra Foothills of Calaveras County in the heart of California's Gold Country, Stevenot's beginnings hark back long before their first release of wine in 1979. The first Stevenot's came to the area during the great Gold Rush of the mid 1800's. During that time vineyards began cropping up throughout the region as miners from France, Germany, and Italy were creating a demand for wine on an unprecedented scale.

At one time the Sierra Foothills rivaled the areas of Napa and Sonoma combined in vineyard acreage with over 100 wineries established. Although the industry eventually declined with the advent of prohibition, it wasn't long before a 5th generation member of the Stevenot family took up where his family had left off and established the winery in the late 1970's. Recognized as one of the pioneers of the rebirth of wine production in the Sierra Foothills, Stevenot Winery quickly secured its reputation for producing world class wines and for their innovative and award winning style.

In January, 2006 a compelling new era at Stevenot Winery began when the Munari family took ownership of the property, bringing with them a new expertise in the wine industry. As stewards for the 500 acre estate, the Munari's are proud to be part of a long and rich tradition of hand-crafted, artisan wines.

Just as the land around the winery is rich in gold and other precious metals, it is also rich in limestone and iron, creating an incredible soil that is the envy of their fellow vintners. In the same ground that hopeful miners once searched for gold, Stevenot Winery grows some of the most sought-after fruit in the region. The calcium that is in the limestone enables their vineyards to pull out and absorb more nutrients from the ground on a consistent basis; ensuring that the fruit matures in balance with the flavors. This balance is further maintained by the high iron content in the soil, making flavors more complex and colors incredibly vibrant.

As a result, their red varietals demonstrate deep, earthy, Burgundian undertones, while their whites show a lovely, crisp, fruit driven quality.

### *Estate Chardonnay, 2004 - Sierra Foothills*

*Silver Medal - 2006 Tasters Guild Wine Lovers Consumer Competition*

A beautifully crisp and clean Chardonnay, this wine demonstrates wonderful fruit aromas of apricot, pear, pineapple, and honeydew melon accented with hints of pear blossom; flavors of honey, pineapple, and lemon punctuated by fresh and bright acidity.

This wine is best enjoyed lightly chilled. A nice accompaniment to a wide range of dishes, serve chilled with your favorite cheese, pasta, poultry, or seafood dishes.

### *Estate Merlot, 2004 - Sierra Foothills*

*Wine Enthusiast Magazine ~ Top 100 "Best Buy" Wines for 2005*

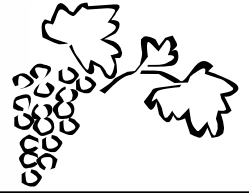
Offering rich red fruit in the mouth, cherries, strawberries, and currant are complimented by notes of cassis, licorice, leather, and a hint of green tea. Fully integrated and highly structured, this balanced, dark, full bodied Merlot delivers a creamy texture and supple tannins that linger during a long delightful finish.

A wonderfully food friendly wine, enjoy with an array of dishes including roast lamb, grilled snapper, cheese soufflé, or pesto lasagna.



# WineGiftClub.com

The Internet's Premier Wine Gift Shop



## This Month's 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!

### *Crooked Vine Winery*

Dale Vaughn-Bowen, owner of Crooked Vine Winery in the beautiful Livermore Valley, puts a little bit of herself in each bottle of wine produced. Dale is active in all aspects of the business from the vineyards to the winemaking operation. "Making premium wine requires a lot of time and effort", she says. "We hand pick the vineyards, hand sort the grapes, and only use the best barrels for aging." This is not Dale's first experience in winemaking as she is also the owner of Stony Ridge Winery, which was established in 1999, where she quickly earned a reputation for producing exceptional wines.

Crooked Vine actually started as an experiment during Dale's first Stony Ridge harvest. She set aside a few barrels of Chardonnay, Zinfandel, and Sangiovese that she thought stood out from the lot. The resulting wines exceeded her expectations and provided the impetus to start a higher-end separate label from Stony Ridge. The rest is history with an increasing number of awards and accolades received with each new release.

One of California's oldest wine regions, the Livermore Valley played a pivotal role in shaping California's wine industry. Located 30 miles east of San Francisco, the Livermore Valley has an east-west orientation, making it unique among northern California winegrowing regions. This east-west orientation of the valley allows the coastal fog and marine breezes to come in from the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay and cool the valley's warm air, resulting in warm days and cool nights ideal conditions for producing fully-ripened, balanced fruit. Consisting primarily of gravel with excellent drainage, this soil tends to reduce the vines' vigor and increases flavor concentration in the grapes.

The selections we have chosen for you this month will pair nicely with a wide array of foods. However, as Dale eloquently states, "All you really need to enjoy the complexity of Crooked Vine wines is a clean glass."

#### *Estate Zinfandel, 2003 - Livermore Valley*

*California State Fair 2006 Wine Competition - Gold & Best of Class*

*San Francisco International 2006 Wine Competition - Bronze*

*San Francisco Bay 2006 Wine Competition - Bronze*

**145 Cases Produced**

An elegant well-rounded Zinfandel revealing vibrant flavors of raspberry & pepper folder over hints of cocoa, cardamom & cedar. Serve this fantastic Zinfandel selection with a wide array of foods, from pasta with chanterelles to rich earthy flavors of ratatouille. Pairs extremely well with a mild cigar.

#### *Estate Petite Sirah, 2003 - Livermore Valley*

*Orange County Fair 2006 Wine Competition - Gold*

*California State Fair 2006 Wine Competition - Gold*

*San Francisco International 2006 Wine Competition - Gold*

**226 Cases Produced**

A lush Petite Sirah revealing vibrant flavors of boysenberry, rose and lavender folded over hints of vanilla and chocolate. This elegant and age worthy red has a long enduring finish befitting of Crooked Vine.