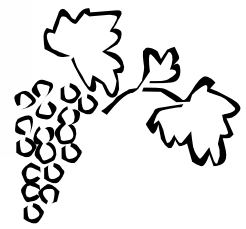




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The Grape Vine Newsletter

Happy Mother's Day - Wine Benefits to Women

Red wine is the toast of the town when it comes to health benefits for women this Mother's Day. Of course these benefits apply to men as well, but this month it's all about the women, so be sure to let the wine flow this year during your Mother's Day celebrations!

When it comes to reducing a women's risk of heart disease and cancer, there is one easy and pleasurable method of prevention - a little red wine each day. That might be why studies touting the health benefits of red wine consumption always get a lot of attention. Properties in red wine have been shown time and time again, through clinical testing, to help prevent heart disease, some cancers, and reduce inflammation caused by arthritis. Some studies have also shown that moderate amounts of red wine will also help prevent or delay the onset of Alzheimer's Disease and raise the HDL (good) cholesterol levels in women.

"Red wine in small amounts has been shown to have beneficial effects," says Christine Gerbstadt, MD, RD, spokesperson for the American Dietetic Association. "The antioxidants in red wine may be more concentrated than in other foods because of the fermentation process they go through," says Gerbstadt.

However, those women who favor white wine are out of luck. White wines do not have any of the same benefits as red wine because the healthy antioxidants are found in the skin and seeds of the grapes, which are left in during the winemaking process for red wines only. White wine is fermented without the skins of the grapes.

If you're going to drink red wine strictly for its health benefits, one small glass a day for women is enough according to Gerbstadt. As with any alcohol, moderation is important when enjoying your favorite wines this Mother's Day. And remember, good moms, like fine wines, only improve with age.

Wine and Cheese Pairings

Serve these Cheeses with these Wines

Soft Brie	Merlot, Champagne
Camembert	Cabernet Sauvignon, Chenin Blanc
Cheddar (mild)	Claret, Chardonnay
Cheddar (sharp)	Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon
Jack	Syrah, Sauvignon Blanc
Provolone	Sangiovese, Chardonnay
Mozzarella	Sangiovese, Riesling
Smoked Gouda	Pinot Noir, Pinot Grigio
Swiss	Gewurztraminer

Women & Wine Statistics

- Women make up 52% of the adult population of the United States.
- About 56% of the wine drinkers in the United States are female.
- Women purchase 55% of the wine consumed in the United States.
- Women drink around 60% of all wine bought in the United States.
- The majority of regular white wine drinkers are women - 69%.
- Red wine lovers are pretty evenly split between the sexes, but women still have managed to edge men out on this category as well - 51% of red wine drinkers in the United States are women and 49% are men.

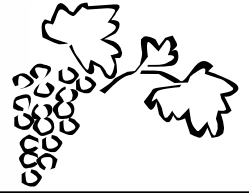
Quote of the Month

"A man loves his wine the best; his wife the most, but his mother the longest." ~ *Irish Proverb*



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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
www.WineGiftClub.com 1-888-840-2337



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!

Hunter Hill - 2001 Estate Merlot

Only 15 minutes from the town of Santa Cruz, Hunter Hill Vineyard & Winery is a family owned and operated vineyard and winery specializing in fine red wines and port. Located above the village of Soquel in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the vineyards capitalize on the sunny days, moderate nights, and long cool growing season which bring this appellation due recognition for world class wine production.

Vann and Christine Slatter had been working away at their Hunter Hill Vineyard above Soquel since the late 1990s. Vann is the winemaker and handles the vineyard while Christine does the marketing and sales. In 2005 Hunter Hill produced about 2,000 cases of wine, selling most of it exclusively from the winery's tasting room.

Hunter Hill Vineyard is planted on the six acres which includes the winery and residence. This land has been in the family for over 100 years and previously was a productive fruit orchard. Beginning in 1990 the first Merlot vines were planted with additional vines every 4 years.

Successful viticulture on his property and a love of fine red wines inspired Vann Slatter, to develop his unique style of approachable, carefully crafted wines. Although Vann is talking about adding a little white wine to the lineup, the winery for now is focused only on reds, because that's what Vann likes to drink. "I make wines for my own palate," he says. "If it doesn't sell, I can always drink it."

Merlot vines were the very first grapes planted on the property and continue to yield their signature wine, the Estate Merlot. This is a very velvety merlot with a rich magenta color leading to ripe aromas of herbs, briar and smoky oak. Chocolate and hints of tobacco round out the nose. Lots of concentrated fruit gives this wine a mouth filling impression. We found this wine to be excellent for drinking right now, however, Vann tells us that it is designed for long term aging, and will improve cellared over the next five to ten years.

Cedar Mountain - 2005 Pinot Grigio

Cedar Mountain Winery was established in the Livermore Valley in 1990 by Linda and Earl Ault. The winery is surrounded by the Ault's 14 acre vineyard, Blanches Vineyard. Their first release was the 1990 Estate Chardonnay, but that same year they also made a small lot of Cabernet Sauvignon, 160 cases, which was released for sale in 1993 and rapidly gained national attention. The following year Cedar Mountain produced another Gold Medal winning Cabernet, the 1991 Estate, setting a pattern to be followed by all the later vintages which continue to wine gold and double gold medals.

Cedar Mountain Winery combines the many creative interests of Linda and Earl - wine, food, and art. Earl is an accomplished sculptor, watercolorist, and large format photographer while Linda is a recognized amateur gourmet chef.

Together they manage the farming activities and operate the winery with Earl as the winemaker. The Aults believe that quality wines begin with the grapes in their vineyard. They specialize primarily in Livermore grown and produced wine whose full potential is realized with fine oak cooperage and focus on their estate wines as well as Port wines from their vineyards and from the Sierra Foot Hills.

Cedar Mountain's hand made wines are available only in limited quantities and can be found at the winery and in local specialty shops and restaurants. Cedar Mountain produces only 4000 cases of wine per year.

Their 2005 Pinot Grigio from the Del Arroyo Vineyard is produced from the only Pinot Grigio vineyard in the Livermore Valley. This refreshing wine is full of crisp melon & honeysuckle aromas and flavors with a long finish, that is well balanced with crispy acidity.



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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!

Hunter Hill Winery

Hunter Hill Vineyard & Winery is a family owned and operated vineyard and winery specializing in fine red wines and port. Located just 15 minutes from downtown Santa Cruz, above the village of Soquel in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the vineyards capitalize on the sunny days, moderate nights, and long cool growing season which bring this appellation due recognition for world class wine production.

Vann and Christine Slatter have been producing wonderful wines from Hunter Hill Vineyard since 1998. Hunter Hill, in fact, was named after the Slatter's beloved Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Hunter, who passed on to doggy heaven about five years ago, where the treats are frequent and the birds fly very slow. Her friendly muzzle still graces many of the Hunter Hill wine labels as well as their business cards.

Chris's grandparents bought the undeveloped property in 1904, when there were plenty of wild boar in the mountains, and began planting apple orchards on the wonderfully hilly slopes; she and Vann moved there in the 1960s. In 1990, Vann decided to put in more grapes: merlot at first, then syrah, a little cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and finally pinot noir. The grapes were only used to produce wines for the Slatters' personal use, until 1998 when their first wine was released commercially.

"We've owned this land for 100 years now," Chris says, with dedicated enthusiasm. "And we've always been stewards of the land." Her grandparents raised six children on this spot: she's subsequently raised two sons, a husband, and up to this point in time, several thousand grape vines.

During our visit to this boutique winery, we sampled wines around a wonderful redwood bar and took in the stunning panoramic views of the Nicene Marks redwood forest and the winery's gardens. You may also bring a picnic lunch to the hilltop gazebo and enjoy your food and wine with a beautiful view of famous Monterey Bay.

The winery only produces about 2000 cases of wine per year, and was a little known gem, popular only with the locals who knew where to get some of the area's best made wine - that was until late last year when the news got out that Hunter Hill's Mesa del Sol Vineyards 2002 Syrah was named the Best Wine in California at the 2005 California State Fair!

All of a sudden wine lovers from all over the country were beating a path to the winery to sample their creations, and the 2002 Syrah sold out immediately. We managed to reserve a batch their 2001 vintage which was produced identical to the 2002, but was not entered into any competitions. Our wine experts were lucky enough to sample the 2002 vintage next to the 2001 and were happy to report that the two wines compared very favorably.

2001 Syrah, Arroyo Seco, Mesa del Sol Vineyards

This wonderful Syrah from the Mesa del Sol Vineyards in the Arroyo Seco Appellation is the first yield from an extraordinary vineyard that produced the Best Wine in California that very next year! The vineyard was planted high above the river gorge by Jake and Ann Hougham and the fruit was processed by Vann Slatter to create this wonderful, full and jammy Syrah. This is a delicious wine, with rich blackberry overtones and frothy mocha flavors accented by light white pepper. Be sure to give the glass a good swirl before sticking you nose in and let it breathe for a few minutes before putting the glass to your lips.

2003 Pinot Noir, Hellenthal Vineyard, Sonoma Coast

This wine exhibits forward aromas of bright cherries and cedar with hints of exotic spices and pomegranates. Softly perfumed in an elegant style, the wine finishes with spice and lightly smoked oak. In 2005 it won a gold medal at the California State Fair and a Silver Medal at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. Rated 95 points!

Both of these wines should be chilled for 10 to 15 minutes in the fridge before serving and may be aged for 10 years or more.