

# c.a.v.e.

courtship and vigilant enology

Spring 2011

Finally the abundant rain of 2011 is over. We are grateful the ground is full of water and as the sun warms the earth the grapevines are slowly waking up. Little green leaves are starting to push from dormant buds as the vintage of 2011 begins in its own small way.



*Treborce Zinfandel Bud Break in April*

One of my favorite things during the spring and summer months is the anticipation of what the new vintage will bring. For me the excitement grows throughout the season as I watch the grapes develop and ripen and the wine making process begins. It is easy to let our imaginations run wild with thoughts of gold medals, buzzing wine writers and our wine club members all atwitter over the new vintage – ahh the sweet smell (and taste) of success!

*Continued on reverse...*

Right now I am making the final decisions on which barrels to buy for the new vintage. Over the past month we have tasted the young 2010 wines in barrel to help validate these decisions as the taste of each barrel begins to show itself for the first time. If you have been to the winery for barrel tasting events you can relate to this process.



*Barrel Tasting our 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon*

In early June we will be bottling the 2009 Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cab Franc as well as the 2010 Russian River Valley Chardonnay. Gee, it seems like just a couple of months ago we harvested those grapes and already the wine is ready to be bottled. I am always pleased to see the finished wine go into bottle, take a short nap then get released to our loyal followers – the flirtatious, smitten and devoted. And now it will be your turn to experience the anticipation of the new vintage. I hope you enjoy the experience as much as I do!



Cheers!

*John Pepe*

John Pepe, Winemaker