



c.a.v.e.

courtship and vigilant enology

winter 2015

The Really Big News!

On November 8, 2015, Pech Merle celebrated the one-year anniversary of our new tasting room in downtown Geyserville! What an accomplishment! For those of you who haven't been able to visit yet, what more of an excuse do you need to come to Sonoma County than to visit us? We can't wait to see you again and share a glass of wine and all of the new vintages on hand. The decor, art, wines and experience in the Tasting Room is constantly evolving so come visit us.



The 2015 Harvest

You know how it feels right after you've finished a project that took lots of time, energy and money? How you like to kind of sit back, relax and admire your work for a while, right? Well that is how I am feeling right about now with harvest. Okay, "admire" may be a little bit much since final results for vintage 2015 are not exactly known yet but just having gotten it all done without any disasters is an accomplishment. Twenty fifteen will go down as the earliest onset of harvest ever in Sonoma County. It will be remembered for how light the crop was (down 40% or more in some vineyards) and most notably how good the quality is.

Light crops usually result in superior wine quality since the vines are able to ripen the grapes to a greater extent than if they had more clusters on them. And from what I can see of the wines in tanks and barrels right now it does look very promising. I don't want to mince words: I'm flat out excited about it!



The Pinots have rich red color and vibrant fruit, the Cabs are very dark and richly textured with more tannins than in recent memory, and the Zins are darker, have great acidity and are high in alcohol, as usual. But some of our favorites like Alioto Zin and Oehlman Pinot are going to be scarcer in 2015 since the vines in this harvest didn't yield as much fruit as in the past. I'll keep you posted on the 2015 progress in future newsletters.

Revisiting Some of Our Current Favorites - Tasting Notes for 2011 Cuccio & Treborce Zin

Before we run out of these two wines I wanted to revisit them with you since they are drinking so well right now. Here are my tasting notes from November 16; please enjoy these wines with friends and family over the holidays as they are in top form right now.

2011 Cuccio Zinfandel

eye - deep red, slight bricky edges

nose - black raspberry and bay spice, slight vanilla, nice dark berry fruits, clean

mouth - rich tart berry entry, ripe dark berry fruit, spicy, nutty oak mid-palate with a solid fruity finish.

2011 Treborce Zinfandel

eye - dark purple-ish red

nose - jammy black fruits, rich, soy sauce and slight dark cocoa

mouth - rich textured dark fruit entry, layered, plush mid-palate, round, full dark berry fruit follow-through and finishes with toasty oak notes.

Acclaim: Recent Pech Merle reviews in the December 2015 issues of Wine Enthusiast

2012 Russian River Laguna de Santa Rosa Pinot Noir

90 POINTS. An earthy wine from the Laguna Ridge neighborhood within the Russian River Valley, this features a light yet richly textured mingling of cinnamon, clove, wild strawberry and aromatic violet. Offering depth and length, this is a delicious representation of both the region and the vintage. - V.B. (12/1/2015)

2012 Alexander Valley Cabernet Franc

90 POINTS. Black pepper and baking spices surround a full-bodied and structured core of raspberry and black cherry in the small production wine. It finishes in balance and with a touch of elegance.
- V.B. (12/31/2015)

*John Pepe*
John Pepe, Winemaker