



# c.a.v.e.

courtship and vigilant enology

winter 2016

## Cheers to 2016!

We winemaker-types just can't help ourselves this time of year. With harvest kicking into high gear the excitement and anticipation of another great harvest definitely gets our hearts pounding. The winery is packed with tons of fresh fruit and loads of busy yeast cells working their magic. The many smells and tastes are just fantastic.



In California we seem to say the same thing every year: it's another great vintage. But this year is a little different. For the first time in at least four years the season started with a full measure of water in the soil (called field capacity) thanks to abundant rains over the past winter. Even though spring bud break and new shoot growth started a little early there were no damaging spring frosts or fruit damaging summer heat spikes. Canopy growth was excellent and in fact more lush than usual, again due to lots of available water in the soil. The warm late summer and fall periods allowed the fruit to hang for a long time and ripen just perfectly with outstanding sugar/acid/flavor balance in the clusters. 2016 is shaping up to really outstanding in every way and with this year's early season rains starting in October, it's never too soon to get excited about the next harvest as well. Vintage 2017 starts now!

## Speaking of vintage... A word on 2013.

2013 was a growing season that saw the drought come on strong. The ground was warmer due to less rainwater content and the vines had to stress more to get the nutrients they needed. Although there were some very warm days during the ripening season these Zins hung on the vine until early October allowing them to get fantastic flavor development on the vine without becoming overripe or raisiny. A winemakers delight. Lucky for you, this shipment is full of 2013!

## New Releases - 2013 Cuccio & Treborce Dry Creek Valley Zinfandels

### 2013 Cuccio Vineyard Zinfandel

Deep red color. Nose is vanilla spice and cracked white pepper that invites you in. Mouth is pure black plum and cherry fruit on entry, round and balanced on the mid-palate, smooth and satisfying long finish. An age-worthy Zin for sure.

### 2013 Treborce Vineyard Zinfandel

Inky dark color due to the 8% Petite Sirah co-fermented blend. Nose is deep dark ripe cherry/berry fruit, inviting and intense, screaming "taste me now"! Mouth is dense jammy fruit on the entry with a viscosity that coats the palate and fills the mouth w/perfectly ripened Zin/PS pleasure. Easy to enjoy now or with additional aging.



*John Pepe*  
John Pepe, Winemaker