



## **OCTOBER 2018**

Hello Bootleg Society Members,

It's been 12 vintages since my dad passed on September 12, 2006, and with each passing day I'm still trying to figure out this complex wine business. Outside of the wine world, people would often ask him what he did for a living. Flippantly, he would respond that "I'm still trying to figure that out." While most would think he was joking, and part of it was a joke, there was actually some truth to the statement. Inquisitive at heart, and never content, he was always trying something new.

Whether it was planting some obscure grape variety, or trying some unorthodox blend of grapes, he always pushed the boundaries of what was expected. But simultaneously had a respect for tradition and classic approaches to winemaking. And fundamentally believed that it was not just a matter of being different, but that you had to be good. And you needed to know the difference between good, bad, and average wine.

These principles have guided my winemaking over the years. We are constantly trying new things, refining our approach, and making better and better wine. This month's club features our 2016 Souzao, a fabulous wine that did not exist when my dad passed. He didn't think Souzao would make a good table wine. That it was too acidic and best just for port. He was wrong. It makes a great wine that stands out in a crowd. It's not for everyone, but I believe it makes pretty tasty wine. Plus, it won a bunch of Gold Medals this summer.

My friend and colleague, Layne Montgomery with M2 wines likes to joke that my dad taught me everything I know, but he didn't teach me everything he knew. And he's right. That would be impossible. But he did show me a set of principles that have guided much of my winemaking and approach to life. And it is those principles that allow us to continue making better and better wine with each passing vintage.

I hope you enjoy this month's club selections!

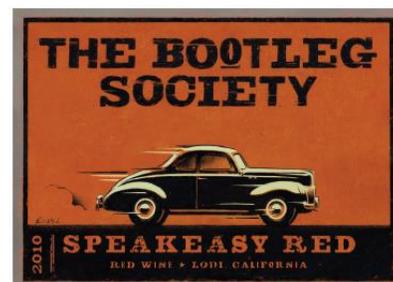
Cheers!  
Stuart Spencer

PS – Save the date for our Holiday Open House, December 1-2, 2018. We will open some delicious aged Vintage Ports from our past. Not to be missed!

# OCTOBER 2018 SELECTIONS

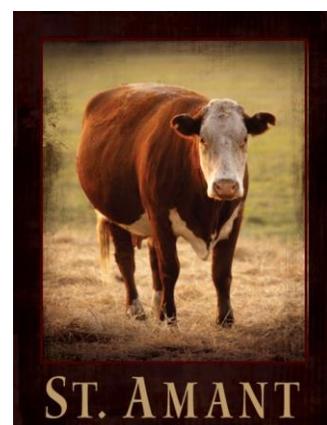
## 2016 Speakeasy Red - Lodi

I believe this is our 6<sup>th</sup> vintage of our California classic Zinfandel-based blend. It allows us to combine most interesting lots across all our wines from a given vintage to make a delicious red blend. And with average of 30-40 different lots each year, that is a lot of options. The wine is always roughly 65% Marian's Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel, and the other 35% a mixture of our other wines. This year's blend includes a larger percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon and a healthy dose of Mohr-Fry Ranch Petite Sirah. I think it gives the wine a touch more elegance and structure that should reward further cellaring. The wine has spice, pepper, delicious red fruits, and a nice lengthy finish. **\$24/bottle, 363 cases**



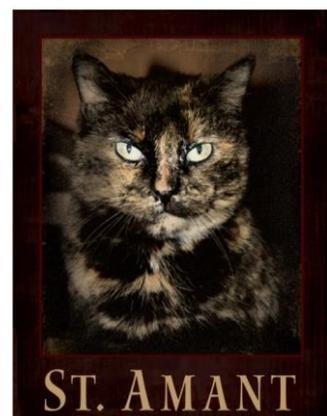
## 2016 Lloyd Martel Cabernet Sauvignon – Lodi

One of Lodi's oldest Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards farmed by our dear friends Lloyd and Jill Martel. Lloyd is one of Lodi's most meticulous growers. While most farmers hate to drop crop, Lloyd is compulsively committed to growing the best quality grapes. If he sees an extra cluster or shoot that isn't quite right, he cuts it off. And the results are incredible. The wine is classically styled with moderate alcohol (usually 13-14%), good acid and tannins, delicious fruit, and elegant texture. Aged in 50% new French oak, the wine should age gracefully for 10-15 years, but is hard to pass in its youthful freshness. **\$21/bottle, 112 cases**



## 2016 Souzao - Amador

Souzao is one of our Portuguese varieties grown in our Amador County vineyard, and is traditionally used for our port wines. A few years back we started making a couple tons as a stand-alone table wine. The results have been fantastic. Souzao is prized for its high natural acidity and incredibly dark color. At harvest, it makes Petite Sirah look like a rose. And the fruit is like an uber-concentrated bowl of berries – intense, concentrated, but with a lightness and freshness from the zesty acidity. And with age the wine develops a nice bouquet and complexity as the youthful intensity mellows. This wine has won several gold medals and will sell out quickly. **\$18/bottle, 95 cases**



## 2016 Syrah - Amador

Our Amador County Syrah has quietly made really good wine year after year. Syrah was industry's darling in the 1990's, but never really took off in the marketplace. Despite that fact it can make really good and interesting wine, the consumer never really embraced it. We have persisted. Planted in 1994, the vineyard is 22 years old with this vintage, and has settled down to the point of consistently delivering fresh, spicy, red and dark fruit driven flavors. It just simply tastes good and has the ability to pair with a wide range of foods. **\$18/bottle, 97 Cases**

