



FEBRUARY 2017

Hello Bootleg Society Members!

It would appear we live in a feast or famine world when it comes to our weather. After many years of drought, this winter has given us record rainfall, flooded vineyards, and nervous farmers. Our vineyard in Amador County has had a steady stream of water flowing through it for over a month. The storms in early January washed out our driveway and made the vineyard only accessible on foot. The creek bordering the property is overflowing with water. It's running through our vineyard, out our neighbor's property, and back into the creek. At it's deepest, it's only 10-12 inches, but still inaccessible.

We are better off than some of the other Lodi vineyards along the Mokelumne River watershed that are completely underwater, and have been for the past month. Fortunately, the vines are dormant, and should be fine if the water recedes. The bigger challenge is gaining access to the vineyard to prune it and perform other needed cultural activities. And the even bigger challenge is that there is an estimated million acre feet of water in the snowpack that feeds our watershed, and the reservoirs only have room for approximately 5-10% of that runoff. How much rain we continue to receive, and how quickly the snow melts will determine a lot on how the 2017 growing season turns out.

This is one of the reasons we established a long-term relationship with the Fry family featured in this month's wine club. Three of the four wines featured in this club are grown at their home ranch just south of the city of Lodi. And that ranch is unaffected by the recent flooding. By purchasing some of our grapes, and sourcing from another vineyard, we are able to diversify our business and reduce risk. If we have a crop failure in our vineyard, which has happened in the past, we still have a quality source for grapes and the ability to keep a steady stream of high quality wines coming out. And the thing that really sets these old vineyards apart is their consistency. In our 20 years of working with the Fry's we have only had one marginal or challenging harvest. That explains a lot why Marian's Vineyard, at 116 years of age, is still producing high quality of wines.

This wine club also celebrates our 20-year partnership with the Fry's. As I have explained in the past – we work with those that are honest, trustworthy, and have integrity. They have that in spades, and we would not be here today, as a successful winery, without their help.

This winter reminds us that Mother Nature is in charge. That farming and winemaking are subject to her whims, and that the quality of wines are at her mercy. It's what makes it interesting, challenging, depressing, and ultimately rewarding. Here's to a dry mild spring!

Cheers!
Stuart Spencer

FEBRUARY 2017 WINE CLUB

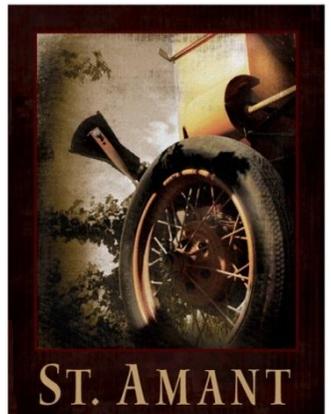
2015 Mohr-Fry Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel - Lodi

It's hard to believe, but the 2015 vintage is our 20th anniversary edition of our iconic Mohr-Fry Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel. Too many, it's a wine that has come to define us – our most popular, largest production, and most widely sold. A lot of our customers simply call it Mohr-Fry. 2015 is a classic vintage - a blend of four separate blocks planted from 1901 to 1944. All head-trained and own rooted. Moderate yields delivered a spicy, peppery old vine zin. Deep red and black fruit flavors with an underlying smoky toast - a delicious Old Vine Zin! **\$18/bottle, 2556 cases**



2015 Marian's Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel - Lodi

A warm spring, early bud-break, and a mild summer delivered the earliest harvest in 20 years. Our first pick of Marian's Zin was on August 28th – nearly a week earlier than 2014, and three weeks earlier than our historic average. The 2015 vintage is one of my favorite Marian's in recent years. It's a prettier and more elegant wine than recent vintages. It has spicy, floral, perfumed red fruit aromas. The aromas follow through on the palate with rich spicy raspberry and black berry flavors. A real winner! Gold Medal – 2017 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. **\$24/bottle, 305 cases**



2014 Mohr-Fry Ranch Petite Sirah - Lodi

This is our 2nd vintage of the Mohr-Fry Ranch Petite Sirah, and it is as delicious as the first. The vineyard is situated directly across from Marian's Vineyard and was planted in the mid-1990's. Picked in late September, it delivers delicious berry fruit, characteristically dark, but with a nice spicy savory finish. The label features Bruce Fry's ever-present yellow lab Summer, and for many, the label only makes it worth buying. We only bottled 65 cases and I'm sure it will go quick. Enjoy! **\$21/bottle, 65 cases**



2015 Barbera - Lodi

This vineyard is a mystery. It's 45 years old, and looks like it's 100. Tired, dilapidated, and funky. Most winemaker wouldn't give it a 2nd look, but we know better. Regardless of how ugly the vineyard may look – it consistently delivers a delicious wine. And 2015 is spectacular. It had one of the most aromatic fermentations – filling the cellar with beautiful fruit aromas. Perhaps the darkest and most concentrated Barbera we've ever made. This wine is just a baby and should only get better in the years to come. It blends ripe red fruit aromas of cranberries and strawberries with earth undertones that complement the lively acidity making for a delicious wine. Gold Medal – American Fine Wine Invitational **\$18/bottle, 574 Cases**

