



February 2020

Hello Bootleg Society Members!

Fifty years ago, my parents bought 43 acres in the Jackson Valley of Amador County. I was six weeks old. My dad had grown up on a small dairy farm in Patterson, California and wanted to get back into farming. They knew nothing about wine or growing grapes but were told a vineyard would do well. They planted Zinfandel and it grew. The plan was to be a grower selling each year's crop off to wineries. The plan changed!

Ten years later after broken contracts and a winery customer filing bankruptcy and stiffing us for the money they owed, my mom and dad started selling wine. My dad concluded that he was quite capable of going broke himself and didn't need anyone else's help. And by selling bottles of wine with our name on it, we at least had a little more control over our destiny.

The journey has neither been straight nor easy. Spring frosts, fall rains, black widow and rattle snake bites. Stolen wine, flooded warehouse, missing fingertips, and a phylloxera-infested vineyard. Dead beat distributors, smashed knees, lawsuits, good wine and bad. Broken tractors, nursery mix-ups, bottling mishaps, collapsed tanks and forklift accidents. If "learn by doing" is true, then we are geniuses. But along the way something strange yet amazing happened. We created something special, something worth talking about, and something worth persevering.

Three months ago, I turned 50, and for my entire adult life I've worked two jobs. I'm fortunate that my "day job" is in the wine business and affords me the opportunity to make wine for St. Amant. But it's not always easy. Long days turn into long weeks, and the journey is never complete. But I am fortunate. I am part of something that is bigger than myself, that began when I was six weeks old, and continues grow and evolve 50 years later. And along that path we've made some great wines that are worth talking about. We've met incredible people, have dedicated and loyal employees, and made life-long friends.

And none of this would have been possible without great customers like yourselves that have embraced our journey, supported our vision, and buy our wines. I may not be here in 50 years, but our vineyard will, and our wines will live on. Enjoy the journey!

Cheers!

Stuart Spencer

February 2020 Wine Club

2018 Mohr-Fry Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel - Lodi

This is our 23rd vintage of our iconic Mohr-Fry Ranch Old Vine Lodi Zinfandel. Our largest production and most popular wine. In 2018 we avoided the heat waves we saw at harvest in 2017 resulting in a fresher livelier Zin. Because it's our largest volume wine, it's a blend of multiple picks and fermentation lots over several weeks. This has given us more flexibility and opportunities to add complexity into the final blend. And the 2018 delivers on all fronts with a classic mix of red and dark fruit flavors, but with an underlying spiciness that is a signature of the vineyard. A very drinkable unpretentious wine that's meant to be enjoyed.

Gold Medal – 2020 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
\$18 / Wine Club - \$15.30 / Case Club - \$14.40 / 1942 cases

2018 Marian's Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel – Lodi

A slightly larger yield in 2018, with just over 3 tons/acre picked from the 8.3 acre Marian's Vineyard planted in 1901. A later harvest began on September 12th and finished on the 18th. We ended up with four lots and selected the best barrels from the best lots for our "Marian's Vineyard" Zinfandel. The balance is blended into the Mohr-Fry and our Speakeasy Red. The 2018 is a delicious wine that will reward cellaring. It has sweet fruit that fills the mouth, hints of spice, perfumed black and red fruits, and a rich flavor-packed palate. A delicious and complex wine!

\$24 / Wine Club - \$20.40 / Case Club - \$19.20 / 320 cases

2017 Mohr-Fry Ranch Petite Sirah - Lodi

The Mohr-Fry Ranch Petite Sirah vineyard is situated directly across from Marian's Vineyard but was planted in the mid-1990's on split canopy trellis system. The wine is quintessentially Lodi, and classic Mohr-Fry Ranch Petite Sirah. It has all the guts one expects in Petite but with the balance, elegance and complexity you get from Mohr-Fry Ranch!

Double Gold - Sunset Magazine International Wine Competition
Gold Medal – 2020 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
Gold Medal/93 Points – California State Fair
\$21 / Wine Club - \$17.85 / Case Club - \$16.80 / 449 cases

2018 Barbera, Leventini Vineyard - Lodi

Our 21st vintage of Barbera crafted from the Leventini Vineyard planted in 1972. Not the prettiest vineyard, but year in and year out this ugly duck produces delicious wines. A freak rainstorm in late September delayed ripening resulting in a lighter, brighter and fresher vintage. Picked the third week of October, the wine has bright fresh flavors of cranberries, dried cherries, and wet earth. Exceptional balance, delicious up-front fruit, and zesty flavorful finish. A real winner. And a great price!

Gold Medal – 2020 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
\$18 / Wine Club - \$15.30 / Case Club - \$14.40 / 818 cases

