



MAY 2019

Our family has been making wine for nearly 40 years! It has been quite a journey and some of you have been supporting our efforts for decades. Wine brings people together, and we cherish all the friendships that have been made over a glass or two of St. Amant wine. Our wine club is also intended to be a journey or exploration as you join us in this great adventure that is St. Amant. This month's club introduces a new wine for us, but an old grape for Lodi.

Alicante Bouschet was first planted at Mohr-Fry Ranch in 1922 during the middle of Prohibition. It was prized for its dark color and thick skins that were easily packed and shipped back east for home winemaking. Citizens could legally make up to 200 gallons for personal consumption, and Alicante became a grape of choice.

The variety first came into existence in the mid-1800's when French Botanist Henri Bouschet crossed Grenache with the teinturier grape Petit Bouschet. Teinturier grapes are red-fleshed, whereas most red winegrapes are white fleshed with red skins. The resulting Alicante Bouschet came to be prized for delicious fruitiness and incredibly dark color.

I became interested Alicante for two reasons. First, Alicante has been historically used as a blending variety with Zinfandel, and many of California's historic old vine vineyards had Alicante Bouschet vines interplanted in the field. Secondly, Alicante Bouschet has been widely grown in the Alentejo region of Portugal where it is often blended with Tempranillo. The Alentejo has a lot of similarities to Lodi, CA with long dry summers, and the variety seems ideally suited to our similar climate.

The original Mohr-Fry Ranch Alicante Bouschet vineyard was redeveloped in 2013 and came into production in 2016. The 2017 included in this month's club shipment is our first effort at making an Alicante Bouschet, and I'm delighted with the result, and feel it has a small but interesting place in our winery. The variety tends to ripen late, and the resulting wine has an elegance that belies its dark color.

I hope you enjoy the Alicante, and the other three wines in this month's selection. I think all four wines turned out particularly good this year. And thank you again for continuing to support our effort at making original hand-crafted vineyard driven wines.

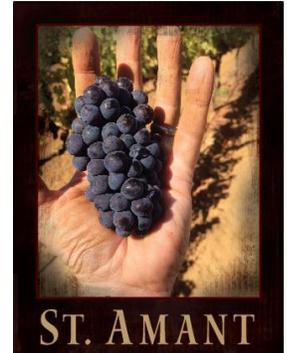
Cheers!

Stuart Spencer

MAY 2019 WINE CLUB

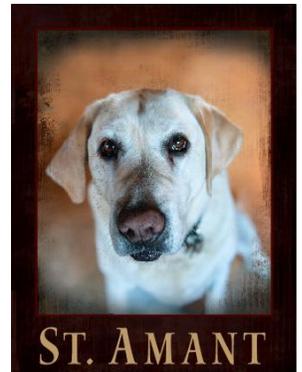
2016 Trousseau – St.Amant Vineyard, Amador

This is the 4th vintage of our Trousseau, a relatively obscure variety native to the Jura region of France. This variety has been a component of our vintage ports since 1981 and the principal component of our Tawny Port. We like to call it by it's Portuguese name, Bastardo. A name it earned because of it's difficulty to farm. The 2016 Trousseau is characteristically light in color with a distinct spicy cherry quality. It's very much an ugly duckling variety – at first glance it doesn't look like much, but after tasting it has depth and complexity. **\$21/bottle, 151 Cases**



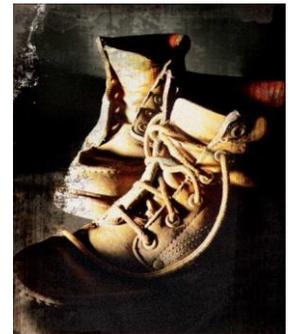
2017 Alicante Bouschet – Mohr-Fry Ranch, Lodi

Our inaugural vintage Alicante Bouschet comes from a 15-acre vineyard planted at Mohr-Ranch. Alicante is a red-fleshed variety known for its dark color and fruity flavors. It is also a late-ripening variety and was the last block we picked in 2017. Fermented in small open top bins, the wine was aged in neutral French oak barrels to let the variety's true character shine. Garnet color with uplifted raspberry, cedar and spice aromas and flavors. At only 12.9% alcohol it has a Pinot Noir like texture, silky and satiny, with delicious flavors and refreshing acidity. **\$21/bottle, 73 cases**



2017 Tempranillo – St.Amant Vineyard, Amador

Our Tempranillo has become one of our most popular and consistent wines we produce. And in all honesty, delivers an incredible value. Tempranillo seem completely at home in our vineyard. It grows extremely well and consistently ripens without many issues year after year. The 2017 is once again a real winner. At bottling the wine was beautiful – bright, fresh and aromatic with layers of flavors; incredible concentration and a delicious lingering mouthfeel that goes on forever. With 200 less cases due to low yields the 2017 is going to disappear quickly. **\$18/bottle, 612 cases**



2017 Lodi Native Marian's Vineyard Old Vine Zin

This is the 6th vintage of our Lodi Native Marian's Vineyard Zinfandel. A collaborative project I started with five other local winemakers to shine the spotlight on Lodi's historic Zinfandel vineyards. We each choose an old zin vineyard and make the wines in a non-interventionist style to highlight the unique attributes of each vineyard site. The wines have received incredible critical acclaim. Wine Enthusiast has scored our 2012 92 points, 2013 93 points, and 2014 93 points. Our 2017 comes from a challenging vintage for Zinfandel, but is delicious with vibrant fruit, floral aromas, luxurious berry flavors and a layered texture that seems to melt in the mouth. **\$35/bottle, 105 Cases**

