



## **MAY 2017**

Hello Bootleg Society Members!

Wednesday night my power went out for two hours. It was a hot night, the house was heating up, the kids were trying to do homework by candlelight, and everyone was getting a bit grouchy. I then get a text message from my 13-year-old daughter. The one who's picture graces our Verdelho. From her bedroom, because that's what kids do now. The text read, "Can I have more Chardonnay I had a bad day." I said, "No." She said, "Just a little bit I had a bad day and it tasted good." I capitulated, and said "Ok."

At this point, you are probably wondering what kind of father I am. I will admit that I do let my kids taste our wines, but we don't make Chardonnay, have no plans, and never will. What I did have was a Chardonnay based soda that someone gave me. It's actually made from Chardonnay grape concentrate, carbonated water, citric acid, and natural flavors. They also make a Pinot Noir and a Rose soda. They actually taste pretty good – a little like sparkling apple cider, but with more delicate flavors. My daughter, who fancies herself a bit of a soda connoisseur, had got out the Riedel glasses, and conducted her own comparative tasting. Swirling, sniffing, tasting and drinking she settled on the Chardonnay soda as her favorite.

While I don't regularly drink Chardonnay at my house, I can appreciate having a glass of wine at the end of a bad day. And I hope this month's club selections, the vinous antithesis of Chardonnay, can brighten your day. The club includes four unique and distinct St.Amant Wines – our 2014 Trousseau, 2015 Touriga, 2015 Tempranillo, and our 2015 Lodi Native Marian's Vineyard Zinfandel.

2015 was a remarkable vintage - the earliest in my memory. We began picking Zin in late August, and continued right into our Tempranillo. One of the nice things about an early harvest is that the wines often retain more of their natural acidity, and come across brighter, fresher, and more lively. And because the crop was also incredibly small (not a good thing for a farmer), the wines have a lot of concentration, intensity, and fruit. Ultimately, what this means for you, the customer, is that I think the wines from 2015 will age very well. And while they taste delicious now, and will be hard to avoid at the end of a bad day, they will only continue to improve.

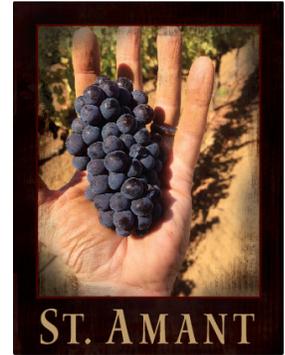
Let's hope these wines bring a little cheer and wash way those bad days.

Cheers!  
Stuart Spencer

# May 2017 Wine Club

## 2014 Trousseau – St.Amant Vineyard, Amador

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 its Portuguese name, Bastardo. A name it earned because of its difficulty to farm. The 2014 Trousseau is characteristically light in color with a distinct spicy cherry quality. It's very much on an ugly duckling variety – at first glance it doesn't look like much, but after tasting it has depth of complexity. **\$21/bottle, 58 Cases**



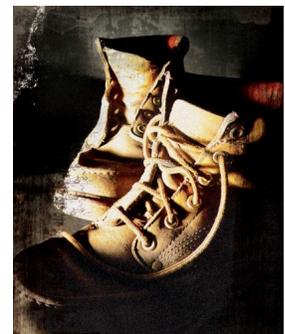
## 2015 Touriga– St.Amant Vineyard, Amador

Our Touriga (Touriga Nacional) is arguably one of our most distinct and interesting wines we make. Touriga is Portugal's most prized variety forming the backbone of their great port wines, and more recently making outstanding dry wines. We've been growing it since 1980, and started making a "Touriga" in 2006. Touriga is an extremely late ripening variety and tends to benefit from warm vintages with light yields. 2015 was our lightest vintage in years, and the resulting wine is a bigger and more robust version, but still retains the fresh floral and crushed berry qualities that make it such a delicious wine. **\$18/bottle, 105 cases**



## 2015 Tempranillo – St.Amant Vineyard, Amador

In our nearly 20 years of farming Tempranillo in our Amador County vineyard 2015 was smallest ever. A miniscule crop and an early harvest led to a wine with incredible concentration and structure. Our 2014 won the Best Red Wine of California at the State Fair, but in my honest opinion, the 2015 is just as good. At bottling the wine was absolutely beautiful – bright, fresh and aromatic with layers of flavors; incredible concentration and a delicious lingering mouthfeel that goes on forever. I think this vintage is one to keep, although it's hard to resist in its youthful exuberance. **\$18/bottle, 595 cases**



## 2015 Lodi Native Marian's Vineyard Old Vine Zin

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 site. The wines have received incredible critical acclaim. Wine Enthusiast has scored our 2012 92 points, 2013 93 points, and 2014 93 points. Our 2015 is just as good with has vibrant fruit, floral aromas, luxurious berry flavors and a layered texture that seems to melt in the mouth. **\$35/bottle, 108 Cases**

