

Dry Creek

VINEYARD

FAMILY WINEMAKING
SINCE 1972



WINE CLUB
NEWSLETTER

February 2016



Greetings!

The “El Niño” winter storm pattern has found its way across Northern California and the rain has begun to fall. We still have a long way to

go until we are out of the drought but as a family of farmers, you can bet that this rain brings a warm smile to our faces. What a wonderful way to bring in a new year!

As we say good-bye to 2015, we look back on it fondly. It was a year filled with joyful events, travels and culminated in a harvest that was as early as any we have seen in a long time. Our winemaking team is excited by the prospects of a harvest that was challenging and demanding but that had exceptional fruit.

The wine cruise down the Danube River took us through rolling hillsides, lush vineyards and medieval castles from Budapest to Vilshofen. Our voyage had us enjoying incredible meals and of course, world-class wines, as we took in sights and experiences with old friends and new. Reunion BBQ anyone?

2015 bestowed upon us the honor of being proclaimed one of Wine & Spirits Magazine’s Top 100 Wineries of the Year! This is a hard earned award that is being worn proudly by every member of our team. Our winery family is both humbled and particularly proud of the hard work and all that we have accomplished these past years.

We look to 2016 as a brand new and exciting challenge that started in January with our participation in Super Bowl 50. We were one of the featured wineries chosen to represent Sonoma County as an “Official Destination Partner” at the Super Bowl 50 Fan Village in San Francisco! How is that for an open lane to sail into 2016?

As always, I love to hear from you so please feel free to write me at wineclub@drycreekvineyard.com and share your feedback on your club shipment or any of your experiences with Dry Creek Vineyard.

My best,
KIM STARE WALLACE
President



RESHAPING OUR ESTATE VINEYARDS

We like dirt. For as long as our winery has been around, the concept of soil, sun and geography (that pesky word *terroir*) has been fascinating. And really, for any wine geeky person, why wouldn’t it? How amazing is it that the very same grapes, grown right next to each other, can literally taste different! We experience that firsthand, walking through vineyards during harvest and tasting different blocks of Zinfandel grapes. It is quite remarkable.

One of the (many) cool things about working at a family-owned winery is that decisions can be made with an eye toward the future and without all that corporate winery mumbo jumbo. A prime example of this is what is going on at our iconic DCV3 Estate Sauvignon Blanc Vineyard. Planted by David Stare in 1972, this was the first vineyard planted to Sauvignon Blanc in the Dry Creek Valley. Not only is this vineyard historically relevant for our winegrowing region, we also see it as our crown jewel in our Sauvignon Blanc program. Like any vineyard,



DCV3 - Estate Sauvignon Blanc Vineyard

eventually it needed to be replanted. First, we let the ground lay fallow for almost 5 years. Not an easy decision and not exactly profitable, but completely necessary to allow the soil to naturally regenerate itself. Then, rather than plant vines that will maximize yields (and thereby ROI), we took a decidedly different track. We planted 3 different selections of Sauvignon Blanc – Sauvignon Musqué, Sauvignon Gris and Sauvignon Blanc clone #378. Is this the most economically profitable way of doing things? No. Is this really cool and going to give us the ability to work with small lots of interesting wines that we could potentially bottle exclusively for wine club members? Yes. How fun is that?



DCV2 - Estate Four Clones Zinfandel Vineyard

Another exciting project is our new(ish) Zinfandel vineyard planted in front of the winery. Three years ago, when this vineyard went in, our neighbors thought we were nuts. Who in the world plants a head pruned Zinfandel vineyard these days? Answer: Dry Creek Vineyard. Again, this is not cost effective and produces extremely small yields, but this vineyard is a



WINE CRUISE
DRY CREEK VINEYARD

CRUISING THE ROMANTIC DANUBE
October 7 - 14, 2015

Every now and again, life presents us with an opportunity to tick something off the old bucket list. For us, that happened in October with a wine club cruise along the romantic Danube River.

We started the journey in Budapest, learning about Hungarian history and culture. We then visited the historic Egers wine region, one of 22 Hungarian appellations, most famous for its "Bull's Blood" red wines. After boarding our beautiful AMA Waterways ship, La Serena, our river cruise meandered through four scenic countries- Austria, Germany, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

From our start in Budapest to our conclusion in Prague, this trip was filled with great wines, memorable sightseeing, wonderful meals and newfound friends.

It doesn't get much better than that, does it?!

FEBRUARY 20 - 1 pm - 4 pm

Barrel Tasting - Wine Club Exclusive

Join us for our Winter Release Barrel Tasting as we welcome club members to taste from some of our incredible, small lot wines from barrel. Current vintages of club only wines will be available to taste as well. *Complimentary for 2 wine club members plus 2 guests.*



APRIL 23 & 24

Passport to Dry Creek Valley

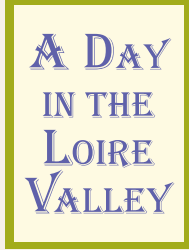
We're celebrating over 40 years of family winemaking in the Dry Creek Valley. The weekend will be filled with delicious victuals, salty shanties and a stem to stern selection of fabulous wines! Look for our mainsail and come on aboard! Visit www.wdcv.com to purchase tickets.



MAY 14 - 1pm - 4 pm

A Day in the Loire Valley - Wine Club Exclusive

Revel in the sights, sounds, food and *joie de vivre* of A Day in the Loire Valley. Sample our Loire-inspired wines while you relax and enjoy family and friends in the comfort of our gardens with music, food pairings, artists and more! *Complimentary for 2 club members plus 2 guests.*



JUNE 12

Healdsburg Jazz Festival

This is a great way to spend the afternoon on our beautiful picnic grounds! Once again you'll enjoy jazz legends, new talent and local favorites while enjoying Dry Creek Vineyard wines! Please visit www.healdsburgjazzfestival.org for more information and to purchase tickets.



JUNE 17

Summer Zinfandel Dinner

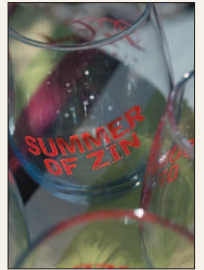
Join us for a relaxing, casual evening in beautiful wine country amongst the vines and enjoy a family-style, farm to table dinner! Details to come so stay tuned. Extremely limited seating. **\$95 per person.** 2 tickets per membership.



JUNE 18

Summer of Zin

Back by popular demand, the Sun Kings are the Bay Area's premier Beatles cover band. They are simply amazing! Each year, we sell out our picnic area and witness an awesome concert with Dry Creek Vineyard wines and food available for purchase. Gates open at noon. Concert starts at 1:00 pm. **\$28 - exclusive wine club member price**
\$35 - general public



JULY 23

Summer Vineyard Dinner

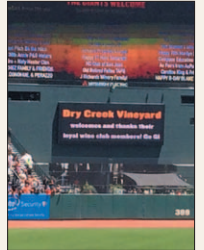
Join us for a relaxing, casual evening in beautiful wine country amongst the vines and enjoy a family-style, farm to table dinner! Extremely limited seating. **\$95 per person. 2 tickets per membership.**



AUGUST 14 - 1:05 pm Game time

Giants Game - Wine Club Exclusive

Join us for an incredible day of baseball, when the World Series Champion Giants play the Baltimore Orioles! In our private lounge we will have a pre-game reception including scrumptious gourmet fare and delicious Dry Creek Vineyard wines. Space is extremely limited for this event. **\$195 per person. 2 tickets per membership.**



SEPTEMBER - TBD

Sailing Adventure - Wine Club Exclusive

Join us for a spectacular day on the San Francisco Bay aboard a classic schooner. This club member only event begins with lunch, followed by a three hour sail. Be sure to watch for more details as there will only be a handful of slots open for this exclusive experience. **\$150 per person.** 2 tickets per membership.



SEPTEMBER 24

Harvest Dinner - Wine Club Exclusive

Join us the evening before our Harvest Experience for a memorable dinner amongst the vines and break bread with fellow club members and our winemaker Tim Bell to celebrate Harvest 2016. Extremely limited seating. **\$95 per person. 2 tickets per membership.**



SEPTEMBER 25 - 1 pm - 4 pm

Harvest Experience - Wine Club Exclusive

Join us for an afternoon of fun and educational activities to help celebrate the season. Taste through our delicious wines, mingle with your friends and fellow club members and enjoy the ambiance of our cellar and outdoor garden. *Complimentary for 2 wine club members plus 2 guests.*



NOVEMBER 26 - 1 pm - 4 pm

Holiday Celebration - Wine Club Exclusive

This wonderful Thanksgiving weekend tradition is the perfect way to spark your holiday spirit. Our tasting room and cellar will be adorned for the season along with creative gift giving ideas, wine and food pairings and fabulous wine club exclusive wines for tasting. *Complimentary for 2 wine club members plus 2 guests.*



DECEMBER 3

Holiday Winemaker Dinner Wine Club Exclusive

A culinary extravaganza! This is an exclusive club member only dinner. Join proprietors Don and Kim Stare Wallace with winemaker Tim Bell as they lead you through an incredible wine and food experience. Truly a night to remember! **\$150 per person. 2 tickets per membership.**



To RSVP, or for more information on these events, please contact Salina Littleton at wineclub@drycreekvineyard.com, or call her at 707-433-1000 x123.



RESHAPING OUR ESTATE VINEYARDS.....

throwback to a bygone era. It's just 4.4 acres, but it has 4 different clonal selections of Zinfandel all planted on St. George rootstock. The current release (2013) is terrific!

Finally, our DCV6 Bullock House Vineyard is yet another fantastic new vineyard in our arsenal. We are especially excited about the few acres of Cabernet Franc we have planted. It's a Chinon clone from the Loire Valley. It is perhaps the best Cabernet Franc we have ever produced at Dry Creek Vineyard. The future is certainly bright for our Bordeaux blends!

As the years go on and new vintages are released, we are excited about what the future holds. We don't know exactly what we will get from these newly planted vineyards, but isn't that what makes wine so special? Finding that unexpected gem or new thing that keeps you learning and appreciating all that wine country has to offer.



DCV6 - Bullock House Vineyard

OUR LATEST ACCOLADES

2014
DRY CHENIN BLANC
 Clarksburg



90 POINTS | 100 BEST BUYS OF 2015



2013
HERITAGE VINES ZINFANDEL
 Sonoma County



90 POINTS | TOP 100 VALUES OF 2015



2012
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
 Dry Creek Valley



91 POINTS | EDITORS' CHOICE



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 Content: 100% Recycled, 50% Post-Consumer Waste,
 Processed Chlorine Free

