



FUTURES NOTES

Wine Garage Hot Deal

Feb 2011

**THESE WINES ARE SOLD ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS!!!
FULL CASES ONLY - ORDER NOW!!**

Wine Garage
2009 St. Helena Cabernet Sauvignon
Napa Valley FUTURES
\$20/btl \$240/case

When the recession started affecting the wine industry in 2008, sales of expensive Napa Valley Cabernets declined drastically. The 2009 growing season was fraught with cancelations of grape contracts up and down the Valley. Very savvy vintners executed deals at the last moment with distraught grape growers, who were gazing upon acre after acre of grapes hanging on the vines that were un-sold and were soon to become raisins. One of my winemaker friends purchased 100 tons of high quality Merlot for \$1 per ton. There were deals to be had that year and this wine was one of them. I was approached by a friend who had a nice vineyard in St. Helena right off of Silverado Trail. He had just got the news that the "Rock Star" winery who had been purchasing his Cabernet was backing out of their deal. Since he had unsold grapes he asked me to make him an offer. Later that day I called Massimo, our winemaker, and told him that harvest season just got longer. The vineyard was beautiful, planted to Cabernet clone 877 and clone 7. We hand harvested the fruit at a very ripe 27.5 brix. We hand sorted the fruit when it came in the morning of October 7th. No expense was spared making this amazing wine. We used 100% new French oak, racked the juice 4 times per year. I just tasted it again and WOW, lots of spice, fruit, and depth. I want the wine to stay in barrel until next fall when we will bottle this amazing Cab and we will ship the cases next January, 2012. I believe in sharing the benefits of the deals I score with you - our great customers.

Wine Garage
2008 Zinfandel "Pato Vineyard"
Contra Costa County
\$15/btl \$180/case

In the past the fruit from this vineyard was split between Turley and Neyers. My buddy, Ehren Jordan, winemaker for Turley told me that Bruce Neyers was willing to sell off a few tons of his share. I JUMPED at the chance to get grapes from this 120 year old vineyard in the famous Oakley area. It was supposed to be a secret though, and I wasn't allowed to put Pato Vineyard on the label because Mr. Pato wanted only groovy cult wineries to make wine from his fruit. The vines grow practically 100% in sand - the roots are sometimes 30 feet long just to get any nourishment at all from the clay layer found below the sand. This stress makes the head pruned vines look like "dwarf vines", growing perhaps only 2- 3 feet tall. I made Zin from this vineyard in 2007 and it sold out quickly. The 2008 harvest was an amazing year, especially in Oakley. Unfortunately this was going to be the last year I was to get fruit from the Pato Vineyard. Neyers gave up their rights to the vineyard (without alerting me ahead of time) and Dave Phinney from Orin Swift Winery, the maker of the "Prisoner" Zin blend, swooped in and snagged it. This is the last call for Wine Garage Pato Vineyard Zin and guess what, I WILL PUT PATO VINEYARD on the FREAKING LABEL. This wine rocks, with a brick red color in the glass and a nose of freshly picked blackberries, cloves, and pipe tobacco. Red fruits dominate the palate with cranberry, strawberry, pomegranate, and baking spice. Cedar, bramble, and strawberry pie pick up the mid-palate. The finish is lush with fruit and a hint of tannin. Our best Zin yet by far. I am pricing this wine at \$35 dollars in the store but if you buy now you can score this great wine for more than half off at 15/btl.