



H A R V E S T 2 0 0 9

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While we don't want to "count our chickens before they are hatched," this year's growing season has been outstanding. While harvest arrived earlier than expected, we couldn't have asked for a better scenario. Temperatures have been moderate and we've not had to deal with late season frost, prolonged heat spikes or unseasonal rains. Then again, Mother Nature can change her mind at any moment. More on that topic later.

The Harvest season began with a few minor heat spikes which accelerated flavor development and ripeness of pinot noir and chardonnay. Better yet, each evening the temps often dropped off into the



50s, which allowed the grapes to "rest" & retain their natural acidity. Early taste tests point towards an excellent vintage for the 2009 burgundies.

Now, let's examine Mother Nature's proclivity for changing her mind. As we entered October everything appeared to be "smooth sailing." Our Rhone & Bordeaux varieties, continued to benefit from warm, consistent weather

which permitted flavors to develop at a comfortable pace. With a bit of luck everything would reach full maturity in a couple of weeks and Harvest 2009 would proceed in a nice, orderly fashion. Not so fast!

Here we are on the 11th of October, & the thermostat reads 52 degrees. To make matters worse, the forecast calls for rain and periodic showers over the next few days. What does all this mean? Well, at the very least, it's a humbling reminder that in the end, all of the cards are held by Mother Nature. For all the perceived romance of the wine business, in the end, we are all a bunch

**EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!**



**650 Cases Produced**

Try as we might to remain "under the radar," word has continued to spread about our little winery. In just the past few months we've been profiled in the Napa Valley Register, the Wall Street Journal (twice), KCBS-SF, the Aspen Daily News and Visión Hispana.

If you've met Rolando in person, or if you've ever stopped by the winery to visit, you already know that all this attention makes us somewhat uncomfortable. In reality, all it does is encourage us to work that much harder.

While we've always been

confident in our winemaking style, even we were a bit surprised when the Wall Street Journal placed the proverbial spotlight on our 2006 Chardonnay Russian River. In what was less than a glowing appraisal of California Chardonnay, the writers described ours

## “ RED STITCH WINE GROUP ”

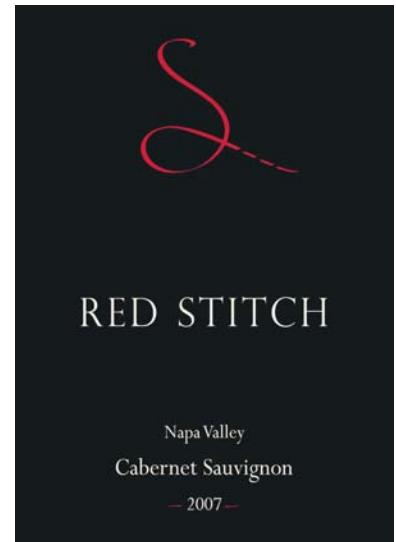
One of wine's greatest gifts, aside from the way it can enhance any meal or occasion, is its ability to bring people together. Common bonds & enduring friendships are often initiated over a great bottle of wine. We are fortunate that many of our clients ultimately become our good friends as well. Sometimes these friendships even morph into business ventures.

Such is the case with the Red Stitch Wine Group. Nearly 3 years ago, Dave Roberts & his wife Tricia, along with the Aurilia's, Rich & Raquel, found their way to our winery. It didn't take long to realize that as a group, they had the wine bug, bad! As such, it came as no surprise when they teamed up with fellow wine tasting

buddies, John & Noelle Micek to start their own label. Of course, Rolando was thrilled when they asked him to craft a signature wine that would express their collective passion for wine, friends & family. Given Dave & Richie's careers in the Major Leagues, they'll be the first to tell you that there is a direct correlation between winning and teamwork.

As their consulting winemaker, Rolando guided them thru several days of palate exhausting blend tastings until they finally arrived at a blend that is 95% Cabernet and 5% Malbec. Only 150 cases were produced, so their premiere release is bound to sell out quickly.

To get on their mailing list or learn more about Red Stitch, please visit:  
[www.redstitchwine.com](http://www.redstitchwine.com)



## V I N T A G E   R E P O R T   2 0 0 9   ( C O N T I N U E D )

of farmers simply hoping for a few more days of sunshine!

Fortunately, cooler heads should prevail. Since most of the grapes still hanging on the vines are cabernet & syrah, and they tend to be thick skinned, they are best equipped to withstand a few days of rain. If the rain is followed by warmer days and a nice breeze, any moisture that might be trapped within the grape clusters should dry out, thus averting any potential mildew problems. Of course, the final chapter of this story has yet to be written. Depending on the weather, harvest could



be done up in as little as two weeks or could be extended into the middle of November. Rather than keep you “on the edge of your seats” until our next newsletter in Spring 2010, we'll be sure to send out a Harvest Recap once we've wrapped up harvest and had a chance to reflect back on another interesting year. To help minimize the impact on the environment, the

Recap will be sent out via email blast, so please keep an eye on your incoming email.

## O F F   T O   T H E   R A C E S



**WARNING:** *We couldn't make this up if we tried!*

In the midst of our pre-harvest party a couple of months ago we received a voice message from our good friend and client, Mike Totah. An avid horse racing fan, Mike wanted to make us aware that a horse named Mi Sueño was running in the 8th race at Del Mar. After sharing a good laugh with Rolando, he suggested that we call Mike back and ask him to put down a sizeable bet on the horse to win. Long story short, after a couple of hours of phone tag and a couple rounds of tequila shots, we never re-connected with Mike.

Fast forward.....You guessed it. The race goes off, the bet

## OFF TO THE RACES (CONT.)

never gets placed and Mi Sueño comes from the back of the pack to ... WINS!

Jumping on the internet we quickly discovered that the horse was owned by Michel Moreno of Lafayette, LA. Wouldn't you know it, a few days later we received an order from the very same Michel Moreno. With curiosity gnawing at us we decided to call his office. Unable to reach him we left a message in hopes that he might call us back. A day later we received a call from the office of Mr. Moreno. We quickly learned that he had indeed named his horse after the winery." Michel & his wife



MI SUEÑO CRUISES TO VICTORY AT DEL MAR!

PHOTO BY: BENOIT

were introduced to our Los Carneros Chardonnay during a visit to Napa 5-6 years ago.. After learning more about the story behind the winery, they promised themselves that one day they would name a horse, Mi Sueño. In speaking with Michel he shared with us that his parents had come over from Cuba and that they had lived in public housing. Today, Michel is not only the successful owner of Moreno Energy, but he's also assembled a world-class collection of thoroughbreds under the Southern Equine Stables banner.

And the "Dream", continues!

## UVA TRATTORIA ITALIANA

How many times have you heard that you can judge the quality of a restaurant by the number of locals that dine there? When you are in the mood for a "soul-satisfying meal" this criteria alone, would be more than enough reason to visit Uva. In the heart of downtown Napa, Uva offers tasty, reasonably priced cuisine that can best be described as "Italian Comfort Food."

The ambiance is casual and uncomplicated, but always lively since it boasts live music up to 6 nights a week.

As a longtime stalwart of the Napa Valley food scene, with stops at Bistro Don Giovanni and Cuvee, this is Aaron Diaz's first foray into restaurant ownership. His ability to blend delicious food, a warm atmosphere and a

friendly staff is proof positive that he's learned his craft well.

As a friend of many years, we applaud Aaron for pursuing his dream. So, the next time you are in the mood for a good meal in a friendly, relaxed setting, don't forget about Uva!



1040 Clinton Street  
Napa, CA  
(707) 255-6646  
www.uvatrattoria.com  
Open 7 Days a Week

## MI SUEÑO - IN THE NEWS (CONT.)

as "Classy and plush, let's you come to it. Nice acidity and good balance." They went on to proclaim that "It's not surprising to us that two of our favorite wines came from relatively new kids on the block, wineries that don't seem to be affected yet by Chardonnay fatigue."

These items can be viewed in the NEWS section of our website or you can use these web addresses:

- Wall Street Journal Profile on Rolando <http://online.wsj.com> (Search: Rolando Herrera)
- Wall Street Journal Chard RRV Review <http://online.wsj.com> (Search: Rolando Herrera)
- KCBS - SF Profile <http://cbs5.com> (Search: Rolando Herrera)
- Aspen Daily News [www.aspendailynews.com](http://www.aspendailynews.com) (Search: Rolando Herrera)
- Napa Valley Register [www.napavalleyregister.com](http://www.napavalleyregister.com) (Search: Rolando Herrera, July 22)
- Visión Hispana [www.visionhispanausa.com](http://www.visionhispanausa.com) (Search: Rolando Herrera)



910 Enterprise Way,  
Suite M  
Napa, CA. 94558

Phone 707.258.6358  
Fax 707.258.6359  
www.misuenowinery.com

## FOUR MI SUEÑO WINE CLUBS TO CHOOSE FROM

### SELECCIÓN PLATINO (12 BOTTLE CLUB)

- 2 Shipments per year
- 12 bottles per shipment - Mixed
- 15% Discount on all club shipments
- 15% discount on all purchases
- Approx. cost \$400-\$550  
(plus tax & shipping)

### GRAN SELECCIÓN (6 BOTTLE CLUB)

- 2 Shipments per year
- 6 bottles per shipment - Mixed
- 10% Discount on all club shipments
- 10% discount on all purchases
- Approx. cost \$250-\$300  
(plus tax & shipping)



**MEMBERSHIP  
GUARANTEES  
ACCESS TO  
OUR LIMITED  
PRODUCTION  
WINES!**

Prices Subject To Change

### SOLO ROJO (RED WINE ONLY)

- 2 Shipments per year
- 6 bottles per shipment
- 10% Discount on all club shipments
- 10% discount on all purchases
- Approx. cost \$250-\$300  
(plus tax & shipping)

### TRES AMIGOS (3 BOTTLE CLUB)

- 2 Shipments per year
- 3 bottles per shipment
- 5% Discount on all club shipments
- 5% discount on all purchases
- Approx. cost \$135-\$150  
(plus tax & shipping)