

Dear Friends,

The wonderful sound outside our windows the last month has been the reverberation of rain falling on Napa Valley. The local reservoirs and irrigation ponds are full again (though we wouldn't mind if March stays wet) and the hills surrounding the valley are as green as Ireland. As we get ready to greet the spring we have great hope for a wonderful growing season to come.

A Tale of Two Pinots

In our first vintage, 2002, we made two beautiful Pinot Noir wines; one from the Stanly Ranch, that most of you will know, and one from a vineyard on Westside Road in the Russian River Valley. Both made lovely wines and in fact are still drinking beautifully. Sadly the vineyard in the Russian River was sold that year and the fruit was no longer available to us. We finally found another vineyard that we liked in 2007, and we are very pleased to introduce to you our **2007 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir**.

This is a very exciting wine offering a mix of spicy blackberry and wild berry fruits that infuse the aroma. It is rich and full bodied on the palate, supple and elegant, with good acidity that promises that it will only get better. This wine shows off the fruit forward style that has made the best wines from the Russian River so popular, while never losing the delicacy and subtly that says Pinot Noir.

We are nearing the end of the **2006 Stanly Ranch Pinot Noir** and this is your last chance to purchase this wonderful wine. Grown from a Pommard clone (known locally as the Martini clone) on 40 year old vines, many people upon enjoying this wine think that it could have come from the Cote d'Or. While we are very proud of the Los Carneros vineyard that it is grown in, we understand how the spicy, black cherry fruit, with mineral and earthy components could conger up the comparison.

A Shift to the Left

Last year we extolled the virtues of our **2005 Headwaters** explaining that the source of the Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Petit Verdot fruit was predominately from the Coombsville area on the "right bank" of the Napa River. With the blend mostly Merlot in 2005 we thought that the similarity to wines from right bank of the Gironde River weren't so far off.

Now we are extremely excited to make available to you our newly released **2006 Headwaters**. In 2006 we turned the blend around a bit, with 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, and 4% Petit Verdot, still mostly from Coombsville area vineyards. Though the blend may be more reminiscent of the Medoc this year, the great flavors that you enjoyed in the 2005 are very apparent in the 2006 release.

As a testament to that, Jim Laube who last year rated the wine with 92 points, got even a little more excited about the 2006 naming it a **"HOT WINE"** in the March 4th *"Wine Spectator Insider"* and rated it with **95 points**. The review reads:

"Ultrarich, complex and concentrated, with ripe currant, black cherry and blackberry fruit that's notably elegant and polished for a wine this size. Ends with ripe, mouthcoating tannins. Long on finesse. Drink now through 2017."

The Best Sommelier in the World

Third party endorsements are very important to a young brand in exposing the wines to new consumers as evidenced by the many calls we received since the Wine Spectator review. We were also delighted when in January Andreas Larsson, holder of the title "Best Sommelier in the World 2007", published the recent edition of his *"The Wine Guide"*.

In the Napa Valley section of the guide Andreas selected both our **2005 Michael Black Vineyard Merlot** and our **2005 SummitVine Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon** amongst his **Top Picks**, a distinction of which less than 15 Napa wines earned. The reviews follow:

2005 COHO SummitVine Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon – "The nose is very intense and shows some black truffle, minerals and dark berries, elegant and "tres Bordeaux", the palate is firm and full, packed with dark fruit, blackcurrant and plum, refreshing tannins and long persistence, the nose is sublime and the palate very well balanced in a Bordeaux style."

2005 COHO Michael Black Vineyard Merlot – "Very expressive and generous nose, some earthy mineral notes, dark fruits, plums and chocolate, the palate is more restrained and shows a firm structure, dark fruit and long finish, well-made."

A special note to those of you new to COHO. We are delighted that you are interested in learning about us and hopefully purchasing our wines. Our intention is to produce balanced, elegant wines that deliver superior price performance. If we succeed than we know this won't be a short "spring fling" but ideally a long time "relationship".

Many of you found us as a result of the great review of the **2006 Headwaters** in the "*Wine Spectator Insider*" (thank you Jim Laube). We are happy to make this wine available to you for sale. However as the quantities are limited, first time purchasers of COHO wines will have an allocation of up to 2 bottles of the **2006 Headwaters** (limits on the other wines are as listed). We wish that we had the ability to offer you more, and we appreciate your understanding.

Secondly, a word about shipping. You will notice that we are only listing shipping prices in California. We will ship to all the other states that we can. We do not list these prices as it varies by state. We ship UPS Ground (except FL – 2 Day Air) and will get you the best price we can. As a general rule the Central part of the country will be around \$50.00 a case, and \$60-70 in the East. Those of you in the very "special" states know that it maybe a little more than that.

Thank you all again for your interest and support of COHO.

To sunny days day ahead!

Brooks and Beth Painter
Gary Lipp and Sheila Barry