

Hi Friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful 4th of July and is enjoying the summer.... Careful it will be over all too soon! I am astonished it is July already. First let me bring you up to date on Jake. He is almost 5 months now and quite a treasure. Here he is with his winery clothes on. Got to love him!



OK... so what is new at the vineyard and winery?

I finished thinning the grapes for the year on Friday and since they are turning color (veraison) the nets were applied today so those pesky birds don't get them. I WILL share my apricots with the birds but I WILL NOT share the grapes. There is a wonderful crop this year. I lost a few due to sunburn when it reached 111 degrees the weekend before last but they are well-canopied after the thinning and the nets help too.



Thinned grapes from one vine



Beginning of veraison

Believe it or not, the grapes are 6-8 weeks from harvest. Another cycle will end and begin!

Press Release

A group of Solano County winemakers met last month, organized by the county's Farm Assistance Revitalization and Marketing (FARM) program. All of the attendees are small (OK maybe not as small as Julie LePla Winery) and have many of the same challenges. We are looking for ways to collaborate and increase awareness of the area wines. The article (with a picture of me!) is attached. I appreciated meeting the other local winemakers and the publicity doesn't hurt either.

2008 Vintages

Zinfandel – I will be bottling the ranch-grown Zinfandel soon but the release could be 3-4 months away. It has a spicy nose, lots of cherry and berry and a lasting finish. Due to the frost last year there will only be about 25 cases.

Petite Sirah – I have learned that sometimes a winemaker just needs to be patient. I wasn't happy with the Petite Sirah until just recently and now it shows a lot of promise. So I will be patient and let it spend more time the barrel. When bottled there will be around 18 cases.

Barbera – I liked this wine from the start. I can imagine pairing it with a spaghetti dinner or pizza. Again, more barrel time is needed and there will only be around 7 cases when bottled.

2007 Vintages

Zinfandel – Cherry, strawberry and vanilla are noted in this wine. There are 25 cases left and it is available now from my website (www.julielepla.com) or at Winestyles in downtown Vacaville.

Cabernet Sauvignon – I bottled 40 bottles in early June. It had aged in new French oak for 14 months when I racked it to glass carboys to await bottling. It is rich with plum, black cherry and tannins and has balanced acidity. I think it will spend another year in the bottle before releasing it.

There you have it... the update from Julie LePla Winery. While I don't have an official tasting room I am happy to provide some private tastings at any of the pleasant sitting areas on the Ranch. I will throw in the 5 minute tour.. which is about all it will take to show you around. Just give me a call, my Friend!

Julie Larson

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