



Message in a Bottle

2005 yields full crop once again!

With harvest winding down we are assessing the quality of the 2005 crop. We are very happy to date with the wines that are being produced. With the decrease in crop we had in 2004 due to winter damage we were looking for a good crop in 2005 to once again fill the tanks. By the end of the year we will have enough wine to replenish the low inventories from last year. It is very difficult not to over-produce in a year like this, but we maintained our discipline and kept our croploads moderate in order to preserve the quality of the 2005 vintage. The wine will show that quality when it is released.

On the marketing side, Gordon Brothers enjoyed the largest sales growth it has ever experienced! This is due to the dedication of people like you to our brand and to our continued drive to produce very high-quality wine at a fair price. This year our wines overall received higher ratings and awards than any year in the past. We are committed to keeping this standard and enhancing it.

We wish you a great holiday season and a very prosperous new year!

Cheers!

Crush 2005 Cellar Report by John Gabriel, winemaker

Great wines are made in the vineyard. We wait on Mother Nature to deliver the perfect balance of sugars, acidity, and flavors. Although harvest this year was about three weeks later than usual, it has been a very good year for wine grapes, though not without challenges. We experienced a drought this past year, but it contributed to great flavors in our grapes. Our old block Merlot, in particular, came out with great varietal expression. Our Syrah came in this year with very small berries and more open clusters than we have seen in previous years. Small berries mean more intense flavors and color, due to the higher skin to juice ratio. As harvest winds down, we are finishing our primary fermentation on our Cabernet Sauvignon. Overall we are very happy with the quality of the fruit, which promises to produce award-winning wines you have come to expect from Gordon Brothers.



Winemaker John Gabriel (left) and cellar crewman Ivan Reyes prepare the juice for fermentation.

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Current Releases:

- » 2003 Sauvignon Blanc
- » 2003 Chardonnay
- » 2003 Late Harvest Gewurztraminer
- » 2001 Merlot
- » 2002 Syrah
- » 2002 Cabernet Sauvignon
- » 2000 Tradition

Cellar master learning the trade

Norberto E. Canseco is a happy man for many reasons. He has been married to his beautiful wife, Flor, for 17 years, during which time they were blessed with two great kids, daughter Ariadna age 16 and son Irving, 13.

Another reason for Norberto's happiness is his recent promotion to Cellar Master at Gordon Brothers Cellars. Norberto began his career at GBC in August of 2000, just in time for a busy harvest.

Norberto says that he loves all aspects of his job. When asked, he could not come up with one thing he didn't like. During his 5 years, he says he has learned to do many new things, and is learning winemaking, literally from the ground up. He especially likes working with John Gabriel, the new winemaker at Gordon Brothers Cellars! John says the feeling is mutual. He says that Norberto is efficient, dependable, hard-working, loyal and has great people skills. John also stated that Norberto did a great job in keeping the cellar running smoothly during the three month search for a new winemaker.

We all applaud Norberto's work and congratulate him on his promotion!



'00 Tradition, '03 Chardonnay featured in Wine Club special

Attention wine club members! The following wines are our featured "new releases" for the month! Through December 15, we are offering our members a **30% case discount** (limit 2 cases). Call or email us right away for this incredible special.

2003 Chardonnay

Smooth and appealing for its balance, this wine holds a combination of pear, peach and vanilla flavors. Lively acids deliver flavors that linger on the palate. Serve with Thanksgiving turkey or seafood.

2000 Tradition

This wine has proven to be a special

one, and has won two "Best of Class" awards this year (see "Awards & Accolades for a complete listing)

Blackberry and plum flavors combine with toasted oak and hints of pepper. Jammy cassis and spice dominate the mid palate, finishing in a haze of oak and fruit. Built for aging, this wine should cellar for many years.

This wine would make a great centerpiece to your holiday meals. Serve with beef, veal or wild game.

These wines are sure to add to your enjoyment of the holiday season. For more information on joining our wine club, visit our website or call us at (509) 547-6331. Happy holidays!

Awards & Accolades

2000 Tradition

Wine Spectator—90— "Ripe and generous, brimming with blackberry, currant and plum flavor, nicely shaded with white pepper and toast, framed with mildly gritty tannins."

2005 Wines of the World Competition—**Best of Class Red Blends and Meritage \$30 and up.**

"Best of Class," Gold Challenge Wine Competition, an invitation-only wine competition that judges only Best of Class or Double Gold medal wines selected from major U.S. wine competitions. This year, the winners were selected from a field of more than 175 entries.

2003 Chardonnay

Wine Spectator—89, Smart Buy— Smooth and appealing for its balance, this lovely combination of pear, peach and vanilla character has just enough acidity to keep it lively and let the flavors linger.

2002 Cabernet Sauvignon

Columbus Food & Wine Affair 2005—**Gold Medal**

2002 Kamiak Cellar Select

2005 Chicago Value Wine Challenge—Silver Medal, 87 Points, Top 50 Wines \$10 and under.

Coming Events

November

19—Wine tasting at The Wine Alley in Renton, WA. Join Gordon Brothers winemaker John Gabriel for a special tasting of the wines! For more information, visit www.thewinealley.com.

January

21—Celebration of Washington Wines at Chateau Ste. Michelle, benefiting wine education at WSU. www.wineauction.wsu.edu

February

25—2006 Fete Wine Auction benefiting Children's Developmental Center. www.childrensdevelopmentalcenter.org

Join our wine club! Visit www.gordonwines.com for details.