



Message in a Bottle

Greetings from Jeff Gordon...

Dear Friends,

It has been some time since you have heard from us. No, we did not drop off the face of the earth, we just came close. Most of you know we sold the winery. That "sale" did not go very well. The new owners defaulted and we now have the winery back. We have been working very hard to get our affairs in order. I think we will have that all accomplished sometime next year. One casualty of the transaction was our tasting room in Pasco. We sold the property when the deal was struck with the buyers. When they defaulted we were unable to negotiate a reasonable lease with the landlords, so we closed.

Enough of that. Our wines have continued to gain momentum this year and have garnered some well-deserved recognition. We have worked hard at upgrading our winemaking facilities. We have expanded the production facility to add a 6000 square foot barrel room. This gave us the opportunity to add a fermentation facility that is first-rate. It has already made a difference in the quality of the wine. Feel free to stop by and take a look when you are close by.

We are just finishing crush at the writing of this newsletter. Our crop this year is smaller due to a cold spell last January. It was only cold for a short period of time, but that is all it took to render damage to the vines. The coldest spots in the vineyard were at -9 degrees F. It wasn't the coldest in the state, but cold enough to cause some crop loss.

As we move forward, we are looking at our first harvest of our "Clone 6" Cabernet Sauvignon next year. It is a very low-yielding clone, and it should produce grapes that are very concentrated and flavorful. We planted our first plants of this variety 5 years ago and we will harvest the 5 acres we planted next year. As you can see, things move very slowly in the wine industry.

We are excited to be back at the helm with renewed enthusiasm and devotion to our brand and our industry! I sincerely appreciate all of you for sticking with us and believing in Gordon Brothers. As the holidays draw near, I want to thank you for your support and wish you a blessed Christmas and a very happy and prosperous new year.

Cheers!

Jeff Gordon

PS: Be sure and visit our new website at www.gordonwines.com!

Inside this issue:

Harvest Report	2
Production Facility Expansion	2
Awards	2

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Upcoming Releases:

January 2005

- 2003 Late Harvest Gewurztraminer
- 2001 Syrah

May 2005

- 2003 "Katie's Vineyard" Sauvignon Blanc

2004 Harvest-to-Cellar Report by Dave Harvey, Winemaker

This year's crop, although small, is already showing the distinct qualities that have made the Gordons' reputation for great fruit a mainstay over the years.

The old block (planted in 1980) of Cabernet is showing great promise just after being pressed. It usually takes a month or so in the barrel for red wines to start showing well after

being run through the rigors of fermentation. Very special wines show well through fermentation and just after pressing. The 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon is one of these rare wines. At pressing the production facility was filled with the aromas of cherry and berry. Even the cellar crew commented on the wonderful aromas, flavor, and black color - impressive when you consider how dead our

senses become after 60 days of intense labor and long hours.

Unfortunately, it will be a couple of years before I can share this vintage of Cabernet Sauvignon with the public. For now we can all enjoy our 2001 reds, all of which have received many accolades in the press and won prizes at competitions across North America.

Production Facility Upgrades by Jeff Gordon, owner

We have made significant improvements to our physical facilities over the past two years that I am confident will improve the quality of our wines.

First and foremost, we doubled the size of our production facility. We originally built a 6000 square foot building which held our tanks and barrels. Before making the addition, we had to store some tanks outside because it was so crowded inside. The new 6000 square foot addition is primarily a barrel room and storage. We now can perform daily winery tasks in a building that provides the space to do it efficiently and safely.

We also have installed our first bottling line. Previously, we used a mobile bottling company. Because it was such a popular service, we had to schedule our bottling 6 to 8 months in advance. Now we can bottle at our own speed and make sure our wines are bottled at the optimum time.

The most important improvement I believe we have made is adding a "punch down" system for our red grapes. To get the color out of the red skins, there are basically two methods you use: One is to pump the juice over the top of the berries. The other is to punch the berries down into the juice. Prior to this addition, we only had the ability to pump over. There are different reasons for doing each of these functions, but being able to punch down the grapes gives us the an added tool to enhance the quality of our fruit.

All of the improvements we have made were necessary steps to improving the quality of our wines. In the coming year we will be releasing some of those wines that have had the benefit of these improvements. I am sure you will be impressed!



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. Needs time to settle in, but then it should be a beauty."*

2002 Sauvignon Blanc – Katie's Vineyard

Tasters Guild 17th Annual International Wine Competition – Gold Medal

2001 Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasters Guild 17th Annual International Wine Competition – Gold Medal

Wine & Spirits Magazine—93—*"Classic cabernet and classic Washington."*

2001 Merlot

Wine Spectator – 88—*"Firm and Spicy, with mature overtones of dried orange peel and musky floral notes around a core of cherry and espresso flavors."*

Dallas Morning News – Gold Medal

2001 Syrah

Wine Spectator – 91—*"...this is a big step up."*

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