

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM PHIL, ANNE,
&
JACKSON
STARR

Fine Wine, Fun People...Starr Quality!!

SIRIUS SIPPER NEWS



CABERNET FRANC

Cabernet Franc (pronounced Fronk, unlike the French Franc (Frank)) is one of the five Bordeaux varietals. The other four are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petite Verdot, and Malbec. Traditionally Cabernet Franc has been used as a blender to help tame it's larger, "wild" child Cabernet Sauvignon. Yes, that's correct. Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc are the genetic parents of Cabernet Sauvignon! Cabernet Franc, now more so than in the past, is also bottled as a varietal and slowly gaining recognition in New World wine regions such as California, New York state (Finger Lakes region), Australia etc..

Cabernet Franc tends to be more lightly pigmented than Cabernet Sauvignon yet produces wines with the same level of intensity and richness. It also tends to have a more pronounced perfume nose with notes of raspberries, black currants, violets, and graphite. It has slightly less tannins than Cabernet Sauvignon and tends to produce a wine with a smoother mouth feel. New World examples of Cabernet Franc tend to emphasize the fruit more than tannins so delaying harvest of the grapes beyond traditional Old World sugar levels is common to try to minimize the green leafy, bell pepper character.

Cabernet Franc is usually a bit lighter than Cabernet Sauvignon, making a bright red wine that contributes finesse and lends a peppery perfume to blends with more robust grapes. Depending on the growing region and style of wine, additional aromas can include tobacco, raspberry, bell pepper, cassis, and violets.

We planted our first Cabernet Franc vines in 1997 and have done two additional plantings since. We feel it has a very bright future here at Sierra Starr and we have received multiple Gold Medals in the last four vintages in a row.

We at Sierra Starr Vineyard would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.....and to thank you from our hearts for being "Sirius Sippers" and great supporters of Sierra Starr wines.

THANK YOU !
Phil, Anne, & Jackson Starr



Amusing Oenophile Trivia *How much do you know?*

- 1) If you don't have a wine cellar, how can you best store wine before drinking it?
- 2) How many varieties of wine grapes exist in the world today?
- 3) How many standard wine bottles equals one Nebuchadnezzar?

Answers on back



December Wine Club Shipments

Two Wines, Four Golds

Both of these selections earned multiple Gold Medals, and are poised to get your holidays off to a golden start!

2011 "Rising Starr" Cabernet Franc

The cooler growing season of 2011 provided brightness and freshness to this Cabernet Franc. Fresh fruit, vibrant acidity, and an earthy character, think black cherries, cranberries with a savory streak, and beets (yes, beets). We purchased some fruit from a lower elevation vineyard to add some ripeness, body, and dark fruit flavors to this cooler vintage. Awarded a Gold medal at the Finger Lakes Wine Competition, and a Gold medal at the El Dorado County Wine Competition, this wine showcased what a classic Cab Franc has to offer.

Sirius Sipper Price: Bottle \$18.40.....Case \$220.80

2010 "Phil's Selection" Zinfandel

Our Phil's Selection is the best of what Sierra Starr Zinfandel has to offer. This wine is a blend of different blocks picked at perfection and blended with great care. Combined with about 10% Petite Sirah, and aged in a small percentage of new American oak, this wine is loaded with style. Phil's is full-bodied with lots of dark spice and fruit. Savor the blackberry pie and strawberry preserve, sprinkled with ground pepper and accents of balsa wood. Receiving a Gold medal at both the Finger Lakes Wine Competition and the Best of the Bay Wine Competition, this Zinfandel obviously stood out in a group of its peers..... and we think you'll see why.

Sirius Sipper Price: Bottle \$20.00.....Case \$240.00

Starr Search

Our Starr Search this month finds a bottle of Jack's Blend being enjoyed on a Baltic cruise by Sirius Sippers Michael and Kathy Tillisch, and Debra Pohlson.

Thanks for including Sierra Starr on your journey!



Michael & Kathy Tillisch with Debra Pohlson

Wines Available for Purchase

Wine Club Member Price	Bottle	Case
"Starr Bright" Champagne	\$12.80	\$153.60
Almond Sparkling Wine	\$12.80	\$153.60
Peach Sparkling Wine	\$12.80	\$153.60
2013 "Solstice" Sauvignon Blanc	\$13.60	\$163.20
2012 "Celestial" Chardonnay	\$13.20	\$158.40
2013 Reserve "Cosmic" Chardonnay	\$16.00	\$192.00
2012 "Sun Spot" Rosé of Zinfandel.  & BEST OF CLASS	\$12.80	\$153.60
Jack's Blend VI 	\$12.80	\$153.60
2009 Old Clone Zinfandel. 	\$14.40	\$172.80
2010 "Phil's Selection" Zinfandel 	\$20.00	\$240.00
2011 Syrah	\$20.00	\$240.00
2011 "Rising Starr" Cabernet Franc  NEW RELEASE	\$19.20	\$230.40
2010 "Starr Dust" Claret	\$16.00	\$192.00
Five Starr Port  375ml	\$16.80	\$201.60
750ml	\$26.40	\$316.80
Aurora 375ml   & BEST OF REGION	\$20.00	\$240.00
750ml	\$32.00	\$384.00

Tasting Room

124 W. Main St.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-477-8282



Vineyard & Winery

11179 Gibson Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-477-8277

www.SierraStarr.com

2014 EVENTS

December 12th & 19th

FRIDAY NIGHTS
Cornish Christmas & Cello Chocolate Wine Pairing
6-9 PM
(Downtown)

December 27th
SATURDAY

Three Bubbly Pairing
Noon - 5PM
Complimentary Bubbles
(downtown)

January 24th
SATURDAY

Wine & Crab Pairing
Noon - 5PM
(downtown)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Trivia Answers

- 1) Answer:** Keep it somewhere cool & dark. Heat & sunlight are wine's enemies. Try a closet or dark corner of the basement.
- 2) Answer:** Over 10,000.
- 3) Answer:** 20! That's one big party bottle!

