



CHARLES CREEK
VINEYARD

TECOLOTE TIMES

December 2010



4th Quarter Wine Club Tecolote Selection 2006 "La Vista" Cabernet Sauvignon Stagecoach Vineyard (And a new iteration of Pinot Grigio)!

Another year coming to a close; Holidays are fast approaching and our **4th Quarter Club selections** are about to fly. 2010 will be remembered in our little corner of the world for an abnormally cool summer (with a few unfortunate heat spikes); oddly, though, as I write this in November the weather is very warm and balmy. Where were days like these when we really needed them?

To end the year with a bang, our star for Q4 is the new, **2006** installment of the legendary "La Vista" Cabernet Sauvignon (grown on Napa Valley's eastern Vaca Range) but for those wine occasions where refreshment is the goal, you will also be pleased (and quenched) by our crisp, new **2009 Mendocino Pinot Grigio!**

Next shipment: March 2011.



Your 4th Quarter wines:

2006 Cabernet Sauvignon-"La Vista" Stagecoach Vineyard-Napa Valley

The legendary **Stagecoach Vineyard** rises to an elevation of 1700 feet above the eastern portion of Napa Valley's Oakville district, stretching from the western side of Atlas Peak to the southern portion of Pritchard Hill. **Cabernet Sauvignon** grown on this site is prized for its intensity, longevity and complexity of flavor.



Following hard on the heels of the 94 pt (Wine Enthusiast), award-winning **2005 "La Vista"** (which appeared in your May Club pack), this **2006** offering is tightly wound with good weight and structure for the cellar. Given time to aerate in the glass, a classic nose of red fruits (tart cherry, pomegranate), menthol and spice emerges. The flavors of juicy plum, cherry and red currant are accented by bright acidity and firm yet pliant tannins. Good French oak is evident in the lingering finish, which is redolent of dark roasted cocoa, pie-spice and caramelized saccharides (wood sugars).

Roasted or braised meats with rich wine based sauces or wild, foraged mushrooms (chanterelle, hen-of-the-woods) would serve admirably with this classic Napa Cabernet.

The Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon; 100% Stagecoach Vineyard, Napa Valley

The Stats: Alcohol: 13.9%; Total Acidity: 0.48 G/100 ml; pH: 3.45; RS: Nil

Bottle: \$55.00

Members Price: \$46.75

Members Case price (per Bottle): \$41.25

Tasting Room and Gallery
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2009 Pinot Grigio – Mendocino County

A long, near-perfect growing season with mild to warm temperatures and very few heat-spikes resulted in a textbook **2009** vintage-at least for the early ripening varieties (such as our Chardonnays and Pinot Gris). The cool temperatures of this Mendocino County vineyard ensured bright, lively acidity and well developed fruit flavors.



Grown in the mild climate of Mendocino County, west of Anderson Valley, this bright, richly fruited **Pinot Gris (AKA Grigio)** surprises with its fleshy texture while it engages with somewhat tropical aromas and flavors of apricot, Fuji apple and pear. While lively and refreshing as an aperitif this appealing white is also substantial enough to serve in Chardonnay's stead at the dinner table (we test drove it with chicken-mango sausage and caramelized onions). Delightful (and such a deal)!

Blend: 100% Pinot Gris; 100% Mendocino County; cold, anaerobic stainless steel fermentation

The Stats: Alcohol: 14.5%; Total Acidity: 0.78 G/100ml; pH: 3.10; RS: 0.4%

Bottle: \$14.00

Members Price: \$11.90

Members Case price (per Bottle): \$10.50



2006 Merlot-Napa Valley

This well structured **Merlot** may bring to mind the more Merlot-centric wines of right-bank Bordeaux rather than the typical California iteration of this varietal, with the above-mentioned **Stagecoach Vineyard** providing the substantial Cabernet Sauvignon component to the blend.



The nose is suggestive of dark, briary fruits and hints of pencil shavings; in the mouth notes of black plum/cherry are accented with cedar, spice, licorice and toasty oak. Tannins are moderate; drinking over the next 2-4 years would be recommended.

Serve with:

Grilled or slow-cooked meats come to mind (frequently); moderately spiced pulled pork would pair well.

Blend: 100% Napa Valley- 88% Madrigal Vineyard, 12% Stagecoach Vineyard

The Blend: 88% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon; 22 months in French & American Oak Cooperage

The Stats: Alcohol: 14.9%; Total Acidity: 0.65 G/100 ml; pH: 3.46; RS: Nil

Bottle: \$25.00

Members Price: \$21.25

Members Case price (per Bottle): \$18.75



Addendums (if not erratums):

Our **WHITES ONLY** clubbers will receive a pair of the eminently age-able **2008 La Sorpresa Chardonnay "Sangiaco Vineyard"** (one to drink young; one to stash) in addition to the aforementioned **Pinot Grigio**.

REDS ONLY: Along with the **2006 "La Vista Cab/Sauv.**, our Vin Rouge members will test drive our new **2006 Napa Valley Merlot** and revisit the **2007 Lake County (Tejada Vineyard) Tempranillo** (paella anyone?)

More info on these (and other CCV wines) at www.charlescreek.com

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