



Mansfield-Dunne

Mansfield-Dunne Spring 2013



New Year's Greetings from Mansfield-Dunne:

It has been an eventful 6 months since Mansfield-Dunne Wines released our first wine, the 2010 Peterson Vineyard pinot noir. The 2010 pinot has been well received by those who have tasted it and is sold out. We bottled 239 cases of the 2011 Peterson Vineyard pinot noir in August and are excited to be releasing our second vintage now with this newsletter. Finally, after a nearly perfect growing season and October harvest, the 2012 vintage is now fully fermented and resting comfortably in French oak barrels.

The 2011 Peterson Vineyard pinot noir contains a mix of all 5 clones planted in the vineyard (828, Pommard, 667, 777, and 115) and was aged in French oak (40% new) for 11 months before bottling. It is bright, medium garnet color with a vibrant nose of raspberries, rhubarb, Santa Lucia Highlands spice and a hint of fall leaves. The palate is youthful and supple and is well-framed with ripe tannins and balanced acidity. Berry fruits and Asian spices dominate while there are also some black pepper and smoked meat flavors as well. The long finish predicts that the 2011 Mansfield-Dunne Pinot will be improving for a few years and be at its best sometime after 2015. With an increased production of 239 cases (compared to 50 cases of the 2010 vintage), we are able to offer our allocation list members (i.e., you) a larger allocation for this vintage and expect to be able to satisfy all of your needs.

2011 Mansfield-Dunne Peterson Vineyard Pinot Noir

HARVEST DATE:

10/4/11

AGING:

11 months in French oak barrels,
40% new

BOTTLING DATE:

8/17/12

RELEASE DATE:

4/1/13

PRODUCTION:

239 cases

We will be participating in several
tasting events this year:

April 20, 2013
Pinot Days Chicago

May 18, 2013
Santa Lucia Highlands Gala

June 30, 2013
Pinot Days San Francisco

November 8-9, 2013
Big Sur Food & Wine Festival



2012 grapes before harvest

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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Ed hard at work



Grapes waiting to be crushed



Grapes heading to the de-stemmer



It's a dirty job, but the results are worth it!



Crushed grapes in the fermenters



Grapes coming off the crusher

We are happy to report that 2012 was an excellent year in the vineyard for the Peterson Vineyard, as well as the other vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation, with nearly perfect growing conditions. There were no late frosts or storms to upset the flowering or bud break. The Spring and Summer brought consistent temperatures in the 70's to the Santa Lucia Highlands with no significant heat spikes. And the Fall rains were kind enough to hold off until after harvest. These ideal conditions produced well formed clusters and even sized berries. The good balance between canopy and clusters produced a rare combination of strong yields and high fruit quality. Winemaker Ed Kurtzman believes the last time he saw a comparable vintage to 2012 was 1997, when there was a large crop of very healthy and high quality Pinot Noir. He believes 2012 has the advantage over 1997, however, because of the additional ripening time with the moderate late summer and early fall temperatures of 2012 as opposed to the heat spikes of 1997.



Clusters just before harvest 2012



Clone 115 from the upper terrace

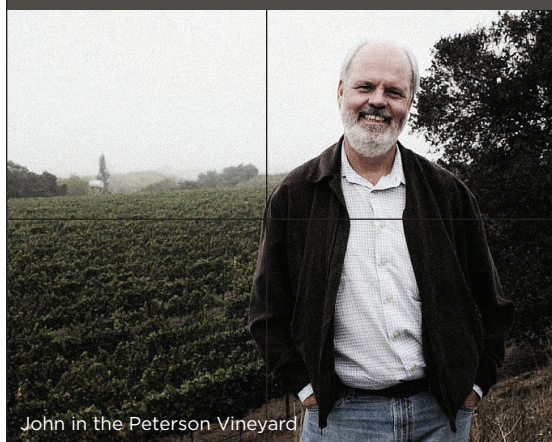


We finally got around to doing a proper photo shoot at the Peterson Vineyard and can now give you a glimpse of the vineyard. The 8.8 acres of pinot noir vines are now 6 years old and maturing nicely. The 1.05 acres of chardonnay were planted in 2011 and are coming along nicely. We plan to graft the new vines to the Hyde clone in 2013 and look forward to our first chardonnay harvest and Mansfield-Dunne chardonnay in 2014.

Finally, on the coming attractions front, plans are now underway to plant additional pinot noir and chardonnay vines on our second, undeveloped (and as yet unnamed) vineyard property a couple miles further south. This exciting property is at higher elevation of 1100-1200 feet and will give us the opportunity to work with a different microclimate within the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation. You can look forward to a couple new additions to the Mansfield-Dunne line with the 2015 or 2016 vintage. We will keep you posted on further developments in future newsletters.

Here's wishing all of you a happy and prosperous 2013,
John and Lynn Peterson

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! Please email me at john@mansfield-dunne.com



John in the Peterson Vineyard



Chardonnay plantings



Sorting of the 2012 grapes



Leftover stems