

April 2005

Arthur Earl Winery

Society Pages

Springtime Notes

We have just completed our Vintners' Festival weekend and it was great to see so many of you at our barbecue on Friday night, or at the Festival on Saturday. Attendance records were set at both events. We were also very busy in the tasting room all weekend, continuing an upward trend since the release of the movie *Sideways*. Have you seen it? While we are not in the movie, you may recognize many other familiar sites around the Santa Ynez Valley, as the movie was filmed here. As a result, many more people are discovering what you already know about our Valley and our wines. We are currently a bit short on Italian varieties, as we are out of both Nebbiolo and Barbera, which is normal for this time of year. We will be releasing new vintages of these wines in mid-June, but in the mean time it gives our visitors a chance to try some of our other great wines. The Mourvedre and Grenache are the best sellers right now. For those of you who have to have that Italian touch, we still have some *Il Re*, our Italian blend of Nebbiolo and Barbera in one wine. It looks like June will also see the release of a new vintage of Pinot Grigio, which will be in your shipment. For those of you who live near or dine on the Westside of Los Angeles, there are now three restaurants where you can find our wines. Two are in Venice, *Joe's* and *Lilly's French Café*, both on the upper end of Abbott Kinney near Main. *Joe's* was recently named 20th best restaurant in LA by *Los Angeles Magazine* and is one of my favorite haunts when I go to the big city. The third restaurant is *Nook*, a new eatery on Santa Monica just east of Barrington. It is hard to find, but has gotten great reviews. We hope to have some other ones to tell you about soon. Hope to see you soon. Art

This Month's Wines

This month you are receiving five wines for the price of just two. Figuratively speaking that is. Our two featured wines are our two blends, *Il Re* and *A Genoux*. This is our second vintage of *Il Re* and it is just as popular as the first. This one has a little extra Nebbiolo in the blend and the combination adds a little complexity to the great flavors of the individual varieties. *A Genoux* is our Rhone blend and contains Grenache, Mourvedre and Syrah. This is fairly typical of the wines from the southern Rhone valley of France, but with a little less emphasis on Grenache. Like the *Il Re*, it gains a lot of complexity from the blending. You get the Grenache at the start, the Mourvedre in the middle and the Syrah on the finish. Both of these wines are fun with food, or can be lingered over by themselves. Enjoy!

2002 Il Re ~ Carrari Vineyard ~ Santa Barbara County

Barbera and Nebbiolo are Italian varieties, produced throughout the Piedmont region, and are, in fact, the most planted grapes by far in that part of Italy, and in other parts of the Northwest. Italian Barberas and Nebbiolos can be very dark in color and equally full-bodied, even heavy and acidic, but these wines produced in the coastal regions of California are more medium in color and body and softer in tannin and acidity. This blend is a full-bodied but soft-textured wine with minimal tannins and good acidity. It exhibits wonderful aromas and flavors of fruit, mostly cherry, and is a pleasant, easy drinking, red wine that is very food friendly. 222 cases made.

2001 A Genoux ~ Central Coast

Syrah, Grenache and Mourvedre are the three dominant red varieties found in the red blends from the southern Rhone region of France, including appellations such as Chateauneuf-du-Pape and Cote du Rhone. These blends are long time traditions in this part of France, which is a testament to their success. It is an example of how the whole can be more than just the sum of the parts, as the complexity of the wine attests. Start with the dark red color to get a hint of the structure and body of this wine. Much of the complexity of the blend comes through on the nose and the palate with hints of coffee and chocolate from the Syrah, cinnamon from the Grenache and clove from the Mourvedre. Enjoy with roasted meats and dark sauces. About 360 cases made.