



Locals Choice Wine Club

June 2006 Tasting Notes

Eric Ross 2002 Russian River Valley Old Vine Zinfandel

Topel 2003 Meritage

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Hello Locals Choice Club Members,

Your June 2006 Locals Choice Wine Club wines are either ready for pick up at the tasting room in Geyserville, or will be on their way to you shortly if you have selected the shipping option.

Are you all enjoying your summer so far? I hope all of you are busy planning your vacations, enjoying school graduations and most of all indulging in lots of wine libations!

My garden here in Sonoma county is full of roses, many in my favorite color orange, and the surrounding vineyards are green and lush. The weather is warm and the BBQ grill is ready to roll giving us lot's of great wine and food pairing choices.

This June you are in for a treat as we introduce you to a wine from our newest addition to Locals. Topel Winery and an exciting new release from Eric Ross Winery. Both were just too tempting to pass up. The winemakers are passionate about what they do, have great stories to tell and will make you want to try all of their offerings over and over again!

As always the tasting notes are included with your wines, but I would also like to ask you to go to www.tastelocalwines.com/recipes/ and you will find Diane and my food pairing recommendations as well as some great recipes to try.

Remember that the 5% follow up discount applies for 45 days so call us if you need more wine to enjoy during your fun summer events.

I have also enclosed a small token of my appreciation, in my very favorite color, to thank you for your loyal membership and your ongoing support of Locals.

Cheers and Happy Summer Sipping from all of us at Locals,

Carolyn, Tim and Diane



Topel 2003 Meritage, Le Maritage
(Cabernet Sauvignon Blend)
Mendocino County
Winemaker Mark Topel
Alcohol 14.2%, 730 cases
\$25.50 Retail, \$21.68 Your Club Price

Topel Wines is our latest addition to Locals and I am very happy to have found their excellent wines and to be able to share them with you.

This Meritage wine, meaning a California blend of *Bordeaux varietals*, is absolutely magical. Hidden Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (60%) is artfully blended with Estate Merlot and Petit Verdot, along with Cabernet Franc grown on a neighboring property in the hills above Hopland. A striking use of 12% Petit Verdot informs the wine with the dark, inky influence of its color and soft texture. Rich, slightly sweet fruit dominates a full mouthfeel, and the wine's tannins are still firm, indicating that this wine is ready to enjoy, but will still improve. Serving this wine with a rich meat dish will further soften the tannins at finish, enhancing your enjoyment of its fruit.

Eric Ross 2002 Old Vine Zinfandel
Russian River Valley, Occidental Vineyard
Winemaker Eric Ross
Alcohol 14.5%, 258 cases
\$28 Retail, \$23.80 Your Club Price

The Wine

Our 2002 Old Vine Zinfandel Occidental Vineyard fills the nose with spicy black pepper and blackberry as dense chewy fruit carries through the mouth. The soft and balanced flavors in the mouth finish with crisp acidity, a perfect wine to be matched with food.

The Grapes

Grapes for this wine come from the Occidental Vineyard which sits at 900 feet in the Russian River Valley. The vineyard is dry farmed and the vines were planted in the 1930's.

Winemaking

The grapes were hand picked in the early morning, then crushed into small fermenters. Caps were punched by hand twice daily, during a cool 10-day fermentation. The wine was pressed into Demptos and Sequin Moreau American oak barrels for aging 18 months before bottling.

Locals Tasting Room is Open
Every day except Tuesday, 11am-6pm.

Remember as you find the wines you love, we offer an extra 5% discount (total 20%) on follow-up orders from this collection of wines, for 45 days...while supplies last only as a few of these selections are extremely limited in supply.

I always enjoy hearing what you think.

Drop me a line at Box 124, Geyserville, CA 95441.
Or email us at yummy@tastelocalwines.com.



Mark and Donnis Topel at work