

DAMAS VINEYARDS WINE CLUB NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017

Hello Fans of DAMAS! Here is a brief vineyard update, as well as some surprising news (okay, I won't keep you in suspense--the big news is that we are releasing a Chardonnay. Read more below).

We think the rainy season is finally over (though we got a surprise ¼" or so the last week of May), with a whalloping 47 inches of rain delivered from the skies since last October. Early Spring stayed cool, so the vineyard had not started leafing out by Easter, which is usually the case.

What a difference a month makes – the vines are now growing by leaps and bounds. The olive trees are loaded with pollen and flowers that will soon become tiny olives.

We've been working our tails off to get the vineyard and orchard in shape, and the summer garden planted, because we'll be heading to Slovenia and Croatia this month. This is the part of the world where it is believed that Zinfandel originated, so we plan to do some tasting. We believe research is important, no matter what they think in DC.

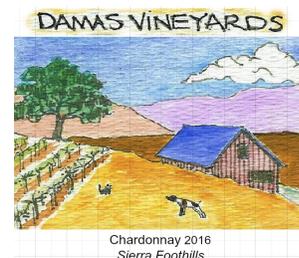
June 9 is National Rosé Day!

(Who makes this stuff up?) We have plenty of Primrose – our blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Primitivo (7%) available if you need help celebrating.

When we moved to California in 1980, we applied ourselves to becoming familiar with California wines. Like many other foolish folks, we focused on Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, ignoring what we thought

were more minor, less important varieties. The trouble is, we found the Cabs just a tad boring, and the Chardonnays mostly over-oaked. Some were so over-oaked, we thought we were chewing on popsicle sticks when we took a sip. Pretty soon we joined the ABC club, and our mantra became "Anything But Chardonnay!" when asked if we would like a glass of white wine. Imagine our surprise when, on a later trip to Europe, we found ourselves loving French Chardonnays, which are made with little or no oak involvement, whew.

Still, once back home, we continued to eschew California Chards. Recently, however, we were running low on white wines again, so started tasting around Amador County to see if a fun white wine might be available for adoption. We tasted half a dozen possibilities. The one we liked the best was a Sierra Foothills Chardonnay made by a nearby Amador County winery with just a touch of toasted oak. We arranged to buy a pallet (just 56 cases), and while we were waiting for our label approval, that very Chardonnay won a Gold Medal at the California State Fair! Yoo-hoo, and lucky you, because in spite of that, we plan to sell this Chardonnay under the DAMAS label for only \$10 a bottle (case price). We'll plan a release party soon, to taste the Chardonnay and some very special red wines too. Cheers,



Mara & Deborah