

ROSA D'ORO

V I N E Y A R D S



DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Wine Club Selections

Moscato Dessert Wine – According to Wikipedia.org, “The Muscat variety of grapes of the species *Vitis vinifera* is widely grown for wine, raisins and table grapes. Their color ranges from white to near black. Muscat almost always has a pronounced sweet floral aroma. Muscat grapes are grown around the world. The breadth and number of varieties of Muscat suggest that it is perhaps the oldest domesticated grape variety, and there are theories that most families within the *Vitis vinifera* grape variety are descended from the Muscat variety.”

Our "White Port" is made from Moscato Giallo (Italian for Yellow Muscat) grapes from Nova Vineyard in Yolo County. It has wonderful characteristics of floral, honey, almond and grapey aromas and flavors with a 6% residual sugar and 18.5% alcohol from the addition of grape spirits during fermentation. Aged in neutral French oak for 24 months, giving it a hint of candied ginger. Enjoy with a plate of aged cheeses, dried fruit & nuts, or your favorite pie or cheesecake recipe. Only 63 cases produced in 375mL bottles. Retail \$16 per bottle, Club Price \$12.80.

Reorder Special 30% off per bottle ~ \$11.20 ~ through December 31, 2013.



Aglianico vines in November.



Snow-dusted Dolcetto & olive trees in January.

Carmen – Named after Nick’s granddaughter, and Latin for poem or song, our second Port-style red dessert wine utilizes our Estate Dolcetto once again, but this time it is complemented by rich and velvety Petite Verdot. Fortified with grape spirits in the middle of the deep, dark night in true Porto fashion, this blend is drinkable young with its ample fruit and fine tannin, but will also benefit from significant aging that will allow more complex nuances of minerality, earth and spice to evolve. Winemaker notes: 50% 2010 Estate grown Dolcetto with two years spent in neutral oak and 50% 2011 Petite Verdot from Nova Vineyard in Yolo County with one year spent in 3-year old oak. Unfined and unfiltered, 8% residual sugar. Enjoy with caramels, chocolates, biscotti, or crème brulee with stewed fruit. We hand bottled 94 cases of 375 mL bottles. 19% ABV. Retail price \$20 per bottle. Wine Club price \$16.

Reorder Special 30% off per bottle ~ \$14 ~ through December 31, 2013.

Big Valley District and Kelsey Bench American Viticultural Areas approved

MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2013 LAKE COUNTY NEWS REPORTS

KELSEYVILLE, Calif. – David Weiss, chairman of the Big Valley District and Kelsey Bench Growers Committee, announced the recent publication of the final rule establishing two new American Viticultural Areas, or AVAs in Lake County by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

Weiss noted that the process to finally getting these new AVAs approved was a lengthy one. “The addition of these two new AVAs helps to further define the distinct characteristics of Lake County as a wine region,” Weiss said. “The committee knew that both of these areas were unique growing regions that needed to be formally recognized with the creation of these AVAs.”

Members of the grower committee included Weiss, Don Eutenier, Vincent Price, Walt Lyon, Buz Dereniuk and Steve Tylicki. Rick Gunier, CPI Marketing, was hired by the committee to work with them on making this vision a reality. “Big Valley was one of the first areas to plant wine grapes after Prohibition in Lake County,” Gunier said. “Kendall-Jackson got its start in this area. I am pleased to see both the Big Valley and Kelsey Bench finally getting the recognition for their unique characteristics that these areas have long deserved.”

“This was really a team effort,” said Terry Dereniuk, author of both petitions. “I could not have completed the project without the help of our local growers who shared the history and data that supported establishment of both AVAs.”

Myron Holdenried, owner of Holdenried Vineyards and one of the first to plant wine grapes in this area in the 1960’s, added, “We have always felt the Kelsey Bench produced very unique grapes and wines and deserved special recognition.”

“We are excited to see the establishment of officially recognized AVAs for these two long-time viticultural areas,” said Debra Sommerfield, president of the Lake County Winegrape Commission. “This recognition underscores the distinct qualities that make Lake County a uniquely diverse and fascinating high-elevation winegrowing region – a region formed by volcanic and tectonic forces and carved by the flows of an ancient lake.”

Nick Buttitta, chair of the Lake County Winery Association Board of Directors shared Sommerfield’s enthusiasm. “The establishment of these AVAs gives wineries another tool to tell the story of their wine to consumers. Including the name of the AVA on the wine label identifies the location where the grapes were grown and our distinctiveness.”

The Big Valley District-Lake County AVA covers approximately 11,000 acres of land with six bonded wineries, 43 vineyards and roughly 1,800 acres planted. Once part of the ancient lakebed of Clear Lake, this area is covered in prime agricultural soils. It was the first settlement in Lake County and has a long history of agricultural activity. The boundaries of this region include Clear Lake to the north, Mount Konocti and the Red Hills-Lake County AVA to the east, Merritt Road and Bell Hill Road to the south, and Highland Springs Road to the west. Sauvignon Blanc is the most widely planted varietal in this area.

The Kelsey Bench-Lake County AVA includes about 9,100 acres with one bonded winery (Rosa d’Oro Vineyards) and 27 vineyards. Vineyard acreage totals about 900 acres with many acres planted to red varietals. The term “bench” was selected to reflect the topography of the area with higher elevations and hills. Rich soils cover a large portion of the Kelsey Bench with good drainage favorable to growing grapes. The boundaries of the Kelsey Bench AVA are the Big Valley District to the north, the 1,600-foot elevation line that runs east of Kelsey Creek to the east, Kelsey Creek Drive to the south, and Adobe Creek Drive to Highland Springs Road to the west.

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau published the final rule establishing the Big Valley District and Kelsey Bench AVAs in the Federal Register on Oct. 2. The rule will become final 30 days from the date of publication.