

ROAD 31 WINE CO.

grin-inducing pinot

Spring 2007

Dear Trucker:

Greetings, greetings, greetings. I've been badgered by those of you who know that I missed sending out my typical fall "hello" letter. But, I've got an excuse. My wife and I purchased and began restoring a turn-of-the-century home back in August. We also moved into it before we even had the kitchen done. And, we did this all with a two-year-old. Enough said? Besides, a letter without an offering of wine can be a bit like being handed a menu at a restaurant without being allowed to order. So, I thought I'd just wait until this release.

Moreover, the 2006 harvest was about as crazy as they come. For those that came and helped sort at the pre-Starbucks hour, I cannot thank you enough. 2006 is going to be a year that is hard on the pocketbook (I think we left half the vintage back on the ground), but the wine is really, really solid. After nearly giving myself an ulcer with worry, I'm now pleased as a peach about the results. Grin-inducing indeed.

As for the 2004, it sold out (WAY out) in two short months. James Laube from Wine Spectator called the 2004 "graceful and delicate, with a smooth texture." Bob Ecker, a prominent critic here in Napa, described it as "bodacious." I'll let them argue the finer points; I'm just constantly in awe when and where new "Truckers" find me, or when restaurants honor the wine with a spot on their list (34 new restaurants this year).

As for the 2005 Green Truck Cellars Pinot Noir Napa Valley, I respectfully offer it up to you now. It's an American Idol finalist, and I'm not just saying that. I've slowly been bringing a couple of bottles out of the cellar now and then to introduce it to the world. It's a charismatic fellow, this 2005, and once people really sit down with it, they seem to be even more impressed that it has the intellect to back up its charm. It also has an adventurous streak to it.

The "fact sheet" is on the reverse of this letter, and the order form is also included. But, may I strongly urge (no, plead with!) you to use the online order system. Super-secret directions and passwords are on your order form. First crack at the vintage (with individual limitations based on history) goes to the Truckers, but if last year is any indication, there will be little left over for those that don't get to it before the deadline of February 26. Short supply is the downside of making such tiny batches. But I think you'll agree with me when I say the upside is worth it.

As always, I invite you to visit for a little tailgate at the caves if you are in Napa (just call ahead, as I am a one-man show, and when the man isn't available, neither is the show). And I am now particularly interested in visitors who have their own tool-belts and know something about lath and plaster restoration in old homes...

Keep on truckin',

Kent Fortner (Winecrafter / Truck-Owner)



NAPA VALLEY

1175 Azuar Drive, Quaters U Mare Island, California 94592 707.649.1200 www.road31.com