



The Stomper

The Free Monthly Winemaking Newsletter
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Welcome to the latest issue of "The Stomper", a newsletter of winemaking hints and other wine-related articles. You are receiving this newsletter because you requested it. Instructions to cancel are at the end of this newsletter. Feel welcome to pass along this newsletter to your winemaking friends; we only ask that it be sent in its entirety. HOT TIPS are sprinkled throughout the newsletter, and if you look carefully, you may even find a HIDDEN SPECIAL!

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Feature Article

New Wine Label Created for Stomper Subscribers

by Brant Burgiss

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone! All of us from grapestompers.com hope you have a very fun, safe, and romantic Cupid's Day. Share the wine you've made with special friends - make the event memorable. What to do? Here are some ideas: jump in the hot tub with a glass of your favorite wine; share a quiet moment on the couch while watching a favorite romantic movie; pour some Raspberry White Zinfandel and serve with something deep, dark, and CHOCOLATE!

Last month's article about removing labels from wine bottles generated a lot of emails. It seems everyone has a favorite way to get rid of the labels so the bottles can be used again. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for additional hints regarding the easy removal of wine labels.

This month we've made another special wine label just for our Stomper subscribers. It was made specifically for use with Avery label type 5164 (or any other label that measures 3.33" X 4.0"). This label is in PDF format, so as long as you can read this newsletter, you can download, view, personalize, and print the label for your own personal use. Just fill in your winery's name, the type of wine, and the vintage year!

Click on the link below to see the new wine label:

http://www.grapestompers.com/download/pdf/Wine_Label_03_5164.pdf

The label features a beautiful bunch of grapes on a dark green background. We won't tell you what kind of grapes they are... that's YOUR job. See if you can guess the variety of grapes that are featured on the label.

Send your guesses to info@grapestompers.com. If yours is the FIRST correct guess, you will receive \$10.00 off your next order!

Important Announcement

Summer Mist Promotion Set for March 2006

We have just learned that Heron Bay is sponsoring a special promotion scheduled to take place sometime towards the end of next month. Here's the deal....

Buy 2 Summer Mist kits and receive a free wine chiller!

That's right - all your favorite easy-drinking wines from the Summer Mist line, including:

- ◆ Raspberry White Zinfandel
- ◆ Tropical Fruit Pinot Grigio
- ◆ Green Apple Riesling
- ◆ Black Cherry Pinot Noir
- ◆ Cranberry Shiraz
- ◆ Strawberry White Zinfandel
- ◆ Black Currant Merlot
- ◆ Pink Grapefruit Blush
- ◆ Wild Blueberry Blush
- ◆ Peach Chardonnay

Supplies of the wine chilling bags are limited. Details regarding the specific dates and any other information concerning this promotion will be posted on our [web site](#) as they become available. Until then, please be patient and await the start of the promotion!



Tom says, "Happy Valentine's Day!"

Hot Tip

Another Wine Label Removal Tip

To remove particularly stubborn labels, give them a quick spray with WD-40.

Let the bottle sit for about five minutes and then just peel off the label.

grapestompers.com would like to thank both Yates Smith of Gastonia, NC and Frank Chumley of Bonita Springs, FL for providing this tip.

Wine Kit Research Benefits Our Customers

by Tom Burgiss

Valentine's Day is making its way on the calendar, so just to do something extra for our customers, we intend to send a Valentine's label in **every** order (small or large) we ship prior to Valentine's Day. Put this free label on a bottle of wine you already bottled! This will be done automatically for you - no request is needed... it's just our way of saying THANKS for doing business with us. While we are on the subject of wine labels, **may we make a request?** At the *end of your order* when you order a wine kit you will be picking out your wine label choices. After you have selected the options of tagged, untagged, blank label paper or no paper (our blank paper has a glue on the back of each sheet) and then choose your background, you will see a larger empty box to place your **label text**. This is where you type in your winery name (or other line of text), date, etc. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO FILL OUT THIS SPACE SO YOU WILL HAVE WHAT YOU DESIRE on your wine labels.... otherwise we are in the dark and we might not guess properly.

Since Pam is making over 10,000 labels per month for our customers, as well as labels for commercial wineries, this will really help her immensely!

P.S. A few of you will say, "send the same labels as last time" Unfortunately, there is no way to store all that information on our label program... So please specify the background label you want each time you order.

Shipping wine....Each day the FedEx and UPS trucks back up to our loading dock and the most interesting observations are the destinations we ship to...Which reminds me of a couple of stories to relate... so hang on! I had a lady email me from Hawaii about a shipment and after checking I emailed her back stating that the shipping was going to cost MORE than the product.... So here is the answer she wrote back- She called to my attention that the mild weather in Hawaii allows her the pleasure of not having to pay for a heating or air conditioning expense and to send it on!! I sent it on!!

And finally, just the other day, we shipped one of our servicemen an order. He emailed us back and stated that he did not receive one of the boxes... It turned out that in that same area, there were TWO soldiers with the same name, but with different initials.. and he was able to find his package plus he made a new friend with the same name!

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Latest Wine Kit News

Limited Release Order Deadlines

In the last two issues, we talked about all the new kits scheduled for release by Heron Bay, RJ Spagnols, and Cellar Craft in the first part of 2006. Most wine kits of these types are available only by pre-order. **Here is the list of limited release wines that must be ordered this month or else you will miss out:**

Heron Bay Appellation Series - This series of wine kits introduces winemakers to appellation specific varietals and varietal blends that are currently found in some of the world's finest wine regions. The kit described below comes in both 8L (Blue Label) and 16L (Platinum Label) sizes, and is available by pre-order only.

- Napa Valley Cabernet Franc Merlot - order by March 9, 2006
grapestompers price: 8L: \$59.99 (Item HB989); 16L: \$87.99 (Item HB995)

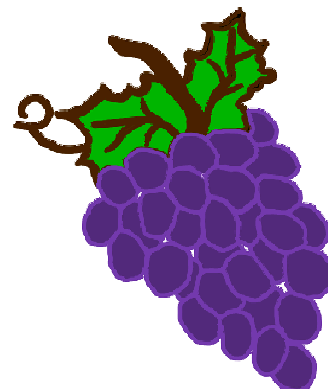
For a complete description of the 2006 Appellation Series, visit the Heron Bay Wines web site at www.heronbaywines.com

RJ Spagnols RQ (Restricted Quantities) - Pre-order only

- Australian Shiraz Viognier - Item RQ406 - order by February 28, 2006
grapestompers.com price: 16L: \$73.05

Cellar Craft Limited Release Collection - The kit shown below comes in a 16L format without any oak (it's naked!) to veil the alluring body and taste.

- Santa Barbara Naked Chardonnay - Item CF0096 - order by February 15, 2006
grapestompers.com price: 16L: \$99.99



Customer Feedback

Dear Tom,
Wow, I placed my order just the other day and today it was awaiting me on my doorstep! Once again, you have proven to be the best business I've ever dealt with!

Anne Whitnell
via the web site

Hi Tom and Gang:
We have ordered 4 kits and supplies from you and our wine has been fabulous! We wonder why we haven't made our own wine before now....

Thanks for the great info in your newsletter. As always, we look forward to doing business with you. I've even had the benefit of talking to you personally by phone a couple of times.

Your customer service is fantastic!

Vicky & Dave Warry
via the web site

Hey grapestompers gang,
I just want to say that it's been great dealing with your company. I've only bought two wine kits so far and Tom has been every helpful in every way!

I have made several wines in the past, and I'm sure glad I found your site!

Go Grapestompers! LOL, Take care.

Steve Clarke
Blue Springs, MO

New Products

Here is a list of new products we've added since last month:

2126 Bottles, Amber Transition \$8.99
2125 Bottles, Ant. Green Trans \$9.99

Now accepting pre-orders for LE kits:

HB989 Cab Franc Merlot 8L, \$59.99
HB995 Cab Franc Merlot 16L, \$87.99
RQ406 Aus. Shiraz Viognier 16L, \$73.05
CF0096 Naked Chardonnay, 16L \$99.99
CF0097 Italian Barbera, 18L \$121.99

If you have a suggestion for a new product, please call us at 1-800-233-1505. Special orders welcomed for unique winemaking items or supplies.

Corky's Corner

Winemaking Definition

Aperitif

An aperitif is a type of wine (usually 14% or more alcohol by volume) to which a blend of herbs or spices have been added.

It is typically served before a meal to stimulate or encourage the appetite.

The best known aperitifs are vermouth, kir, schnapps, and champagne.

Look for other wine-related definitions by viewing our online Glossary at www.grapestompers.com/glossary.asp

Hot Tip

Another Way To Mix Bentonite

My favorite way to make up bentonite is to mix it with about a cup of water in a sanitized container with a tight fitting lid. Store this mixture in the refrigerator the night prior to starting your kit. Just before adding to the primary fermenter, just give it a good shake, and it's all mixed up.

Our thanks to Chris Proctor from Thomasville NC for providing this tip.

Have a tip to submit? Let us know your favorite winemaking tip by going to:

www.grapestompers.com/submit_ideas.asp

Monthly Specials

Specials for February 2006

| Item # | Description | Reg. Price | Special |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| CF8923 | Cellar Craft Poussé Blanc, 16L | \$68.99 | \$54.99 |
| HB983 | HB Pinot Blanc, 8L (expires Feb 2006) | \$70.53 | \$29.99 |
| CF8941 | Cellar Craft White Merlot, 16L | \$87.99 | \$69.99 |
| HB953 | HB Sauvignon Blanc, 16L | \$79.99 | \$49.99 |
| HB969 | HB Cream Sherry, 6L (makes 3 gal) | \$51.66 | \$39.99 |
| HB978 | HB Tropical Fruit Pinot Grigio, 6L | \$49.99 | \$39.99 |
| HB910 | HB Vieux Reserve, 8L (expires Feb 2006) | \$55.99 | \$29.99 |
| ***** | 30 Free corks with ANY concentrate purchase this month! | | |
| 2101 | Clear Bordeaux Bottles, 750 ml, case | \$12.27 | \$9.81 |
| 2610 | Universal Carboy Cap | \$2.08 | \$1.66 |
| 2251 | Brass Bottle Washer | \$10.63 | \$8.49 |
| 2786 | Beer Bottle Capper | \$12.82 | \$10.26 |
| 2711 | Super-Kleer Clarifier | \$1.79 | \$1.43 |
| 2612 | Mini Jet Filter Pad - Coarse | \$2.56 | \$1.99 |
| 2613 | Mini Jet Filter Pad - Polishing | \$2.56 | \$1.99 |
| 2614 | Mini Jet Filter Pad - Sterile | \$3.08 | \$2.56 |
| 4604 | Wine Glass Charms | \$15.95 | \$12.49 |
| 5108 | Wine Kitchen Towel (grape design) | \$7.73 | \$5.99 |
| 2909 | Vacuum Wine Saver | \$9.87 | \$7.89 |
| 4326 | Wine Breather | \$19.25 | \$14.99 |
| 3100 | Complete Wine Kit - Red | \$241.42 | \$199.00 |
| 3200 | Complete Wine Kit - White | \$232.29 | \$189.00 |

Guest Column

Getting Free Wine Bottles

Our article about cleaning and recycling wine bottles generated a lot of emails... here's how one customer solved his bottle supply problem:

I read your article in the January 2006 'Stomper' about recycling wine bottles. Here is my story...and I'm sticking to it! Many cities and towns now days have curbside recycling. My little town is no different. I have gotten to know the regular recyclers very well and every Monday and Wednesday I get 'delivered' right to my back door anywhere from half a dozen to several dozen wine bottles they have picked up along the curbs.

HIDDEN SPECIAL

Capsule Heat Shrink Machine - Shrink your capsules with ease! 110V electric. Regularly \$210.00, it's on sale through February 28, 2006 for only \$119.00 each

These range from 750 ml to 4 litre/gallon size bottles and include champagne bottles. Some of the bottles are very unusual and interesting. I fill and soak the bottles in very hot water for about an hour and usually the labels just peel right off. Some are more stubborn, but very few. You were discussing the Aussie bottles and how hard they are to clean off, these usually peel right off also, if they don't I get out the Goo-Gone and that gets the gummy stuff off quickly. I brush the insides out and give them a final rinse with hot water and put them in the dishwasher to drain dry. After drying I stuff a cotton ball in the bottle to keep foreign matter out. Next I box them according to size and shapes and wait 'til bottling time. I have found that 20 Bordeaux, 750 ml size, bottles fit

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This month with each purchase of a concentrate kit we are including free corks for you!

We are proud to say for the past 4 years we have been receiving our corks directly from Portugal and we are very pleased with their quality. I must admit to you, I am from the old school and still prefer a corked bottle instead of one that uses an artificial closure*. Our corks are agglomerate styled, formed by first grinding the cork up in small pieces, then the pieces are microwaved to kill the bacteria. Next, the pieces are compressed and then punched out to the correct size, microwaved again, and finally shipped to us in a sealed plastic bag under a nitrogen atmosphere. With every shipment we receive a grading sheet that shows the quality of the received corks.

We use this same type cork in our winery ([Thistle Meadow Winery](#)) and over the thousands of corks we have used, we can count on one hand any leakage we have experienced. **So we highly approve and recommend them!** You may wish to dip the corks in a solution of Potassium Metabisulfite before corking.

* "artificial closures" is the correct terminology for the so called *plastic corks!*

While visiting in South Australia at a winery located near Jacob's Creek, I was told the following in a *stern way*, by a lady doing the wine tasting: "A cork is a cork...there is no such thing as an artificial cork !!!!!" So I bought a bottle of wine, and readily agreed!

Thanks again, Tom.



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nice in a banker/file box I purchase at Office Depot. At bottling time, I rinse the bottles out with sulfite sterilizing solution and fill them. The unusual shaped or decorative bottles I just rinse out and leave the label on them and display them on shelves. I also save many of the labels and stick them all over the walls in my wine room in my garage for color and decoration, it's kinda neat! I now have a surplus of several hundred bottles. What does this cost me, just a few bottles of wine at bottling time for the recyclers and everybody is happy!

Jos. W. Bower, Savannah, MO
sourdoughjoe@ccp.com

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Just email us a 3 or 4-paragraph article to articles@grapestompers.com. If your article is published, you'll receive a discount on your next grapestompers.com order.

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Wine Drops

Wine Drops is a catch-all for various tidbits that we find interesting. It may be anything - a wine recipe, a wine joke, links to neat web sites, etc. This month, we offer a veritable smorgasbord of information.

Wine Kit Name Changes

Heron Bay Wines has informed us that they will be replacing the following product names with the equivalent CHWTA names:

Franjolais will change to **Bergamais®**

Vieux Reserve will change to **Vieux Chateau du Roi®**

Unwooded Chardonnay will change to **Chamblaise®**

After consulting with many retailers, Heron Bay agreed that using the CHWTA branded names would reduce consumer confusion regarding these styles of wine.

Neat Web Links

[Play The Wine Binning Game](#)

Think you know wine? Take this online quiz and see how you stack up!

This Flash-powered game, provided by Berry Bros. & Rudd, will definitely test your wine knowledge.

[Solve the Pinot Noir Puzzle](#)

Remember the sliding tiles game from your youth, where you moved tiles around to unscramble a picture? Here's an online version provided by wine guru Lisa Shea. Requires Java.

<http://gethuman.com/us/>

Ever get tired of calling a big company on the phone and getting caught in the unending spiral of "Dial 1 for this, punch 2 for that..."? Well, this web site gives you the SECRET telephone numbers to popular companies where you can actually speak to a HUMAN (just like at grapestompers).