



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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Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!
Tom and the Grapestompers Gang!

Hot Tip

Dried Fruit Preservative

"I dry a lot of fresh fruit during the summer so I mix 1/2 teaspoon potassium metabisulfite with 2 quarts water and dip fresh fruit in this mixture. It will keep fruit from turning brown when being dried. I find that it works much better than lemon juice."

Submitted by Don Santos, Salmon, ID

Submit your hot winemaking tip here:

www.grapestompers.com/submit_ideas.asp

Wine Kit News

Cellar Craft Limited Releases for 2012 Announced

By Brant Burgiss

Lots of you have been asking about the 2012 Limited Release lineup from Cellar Craft. It has now been confirmed. Here's a quick rundown with pricing:

January release: [#CFLR112—Pinot Noir](#) – from Sonoma Coast, California, \$139.00

February release: [#CFLR212—Nebbiolo](#) – from Madera, California \$139.00

March release: [#CFLR312—Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon/Chardonnay](#) (37%, 35%, & 28% respectively) from California and Yakima Valley, \$139.00

April release: [#CFLR412—Red Mountain Trio](#) – 50% Cab, 35% Syrah, and 15% Merlot – from Red Mountain, Washington, \$139.00

Pre-order deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to the release month of each kit. For instance, if you wish to order the Pinot Noir, you should place your order by December 15, 2011. Red wine kits shown above ship with crushed grape packs.

Vineco Update

Unlike other manufacturers, remember that **Vineco** has ONE shared order deadline for all 4 of their limited releases, **Tuesday, November 29th**.

December - [#VCLR112—Australian Shiraz Viognier](#) (New South Wales) - your price: \$125.00

January - [#VCLR212—Argentinean Torrontés Chardonnay](#) (Mendoza) - your price: \$117.00

February - [#VCLR312—Spanish Cabernet Sauvignon](#) (Penedès) - your price: \$125.00

March - [#VCLR412—Italian Nebbiolo](#) (Piedmont) - your price: \$125.00

Spagnol's 2012 Restricted Quantity (RQ) Offerings

By Pam Wyatt

You may recognize some of the names from years past, but the blends are totally different in the Restricted Quantity kits from RJ Spagnols this year.

[#RQ112—Hang Ten](#) (Muscat, Symphony, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay) only \$108.95. **Orders must be received by Nov. 21**

[#RQ212—Toro](#) (Manastrell, Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon) only \$114.95. **Orders must be received by Dec. 5.**

[#RQ312—Tango](#) (Tempranillo, Malbec) only \$114.95. **Orders must be received by Dec. 5.**

[#RQ412—Down Under Shiraz](#) (Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot) only \$114.95. **Orders must be received by Dec. 5.**

[#RQ512—Down Under Syrah](#) (Syrah, Merlot, Rosé) only \$108.95. **Orders must be received by Dec. 5.**

We have never had a bad RQ kit in all the years we've been ordering them, so be sure and get yours early before the order deadline is up.

Tom's Cellar Festival Thank You

By Tom Burgiss

Time sure flies when you are having fun! Last month Thistle Meadow Winery celebrated its 14th Annual Wine Festival and I can't believe time has gone by so fast.

I want to express heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this festival possible by setting up a winery, craft or food booth and everyone who came out to enjoy all the fun. Even though the weather was against us and we had a few "topsy-turvy tent tops" everyone seemed to have a great time.

Special thanks go out to all our wineries who attended this year; **Carolina Heritage, Carolina Mist, Chateau Laurinda, Grassy Creek, Native Vines, RagApple Lassie, Raintree Cellars, Slightly Askew, Surry Oaks, Waldesian Style and Wall Street.** If you didn't come and taste, you missed some really good wines. Every winery was very generous and donated a bottle of wine for our grand prize, an entire case.

Thanks to our food vendors, **Laurel Springs Fire Department Auxiliary** and **Tammy Weddington** for tempting us with her tasty **Kettle Corn.**

Thanks also to **Donna Pruett, The Balloon Lady** for providing everyone with her one-of-a-kind balloon creations. She could make over 400 items and I think she made most all of them for kids and adults alike at the festival.

All our craft vendors deserve a special thank you as well. Our festival would not be complete without them and we thank the record number attending this year for all their hard work; **Art By Francis, Bottle Tree Girls, Boxwood Cottage Barn Quilts, Cazbu Pugante, Cindy Edmondson, David Banguess, Jay Collins, Definitely Different, Little Bits & Pieces, Mary Sue Johner, Betty McConnell, Rene Mazzucco Bakery, mutsey's baubles, David Moose, Pond Mountain Farm and Forge, R & L Homemade Wood Products, Sherry's Fashion Jewelry, and Waterfall Mountain Arts.** We certainly appreciate all your hard work and unique items that you bring to our attendees.

Thanks to **Ashe County Humane Society** for attending and updating us on the needs of animals in our area and thanks to **Upper Mountain Research Station** for handing out their wonderful (winter grown) fruits!

Congratulations to our festival prize winners, **Clayburn Hill of Germanton, NC, Oldest Man in Attendance; Grace Mabe of Laurel Springs, Oldest Woman in Attendance; Marilyn & Les Willey, of Cherry Lane, NC, Couple Married the Longest; and Francis Newbrough from Florida who Traveled the Longest Distance** (620 miles) to attend the Festival. Special thanks to **Scarlett Shepherd of Laurel Springs**, who drew all the winning names out of the hat!

Winners splitting the case of wine were **Frank Huber** and **Frances Durham.**

So many thanks to everyone who had a part in our festival this year. Make plans now to attend and have fun with us in 2012. Always the **FIRST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER.**

Later, Tom



Customer Feedback

Thanks! Love the biodegradable packing peanuts.

Christine Klahn
Rutherfordton, NC

I am a "newbie" at this winemaking "thing." Thanks again for your promptness.

Thomas Truelove
Homestead, FL

This [Equipment Kit \(#1010\)](#) is a wedding gift for a good friend of mine, He likes the wine I make from your kits. It is time to get him started. Again thank you for your fast service.

Ricky Kane
Aberdeen, MD

I enjoy ordering from you guys. Excellent products and great service, thanks!

Kenneth Bowen
Maxton, NC

Thanks for your prompt service.

Phillip Winslow
Grifton, NC

As a first time wine maker I happened on your page, gosh wish I'd been here first. Will be very helpful for rest of process and future endeavors.

Lisa Cassidy
Westerly, RI

You guys rock! Thanks.

Cheryl Lisi
Murfreesboro, TN

New Products

Here is a list of new products we've recently added to our online catalog:

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
5524	Tappo Pour Filter, \$4.75
5959	Thistle Sipper 1/2 pint, \$10.00
5960	Thistle Sipper, pint, \$12.00
5530	Bottle Candelabra, \$15.00
5528	Cork Candles, \$9.00
5537	Ice Wine Cooler Bag, \$4.85
5527	Zipper Wine Glass, \$17.00

[See all these new products online now.](#)

If you have a suggestion for a new product, please call us at 1-800-233-1505.

REMINDER:

[#WE3171 Raspberry Chocolate Port](#)
Limited Number Available
Special price Only \$99
Order NOW while this kit is still available

[#VCLR112—Australian Shiraz Viognier](#)
[#VCLR212—Argentinean Torrontés Chardonnay](#)
[#VCLR312—Spanish Cabernet Sauvignon](#)
[#VCLR412—Italian Nebbiolo](#)
Only \$125.00 Each

Orders must be received by Nov. 29th

[#RQ112—Hang Ten](#)

Only \$108.95

Orders Must be received by Nov. 21

Corky's Corner

Winemaking Definition

Aldehyde:

A component of wine that is formed during the oxidation of alcohol. It is midway between an acid and an alcohol.



Don't Preserve It

If you purchase juice at your local market to make wine, be sure to check the label and get juice labeled with NO PRESERVATIVES.

The preservatives in the juice will not allow the yeast to work.

Have a winemaking tip to submit?

Go to:

www.grapestompers.com/submit_ideas.asp

Monthly Specials

Specials for November, 2011

Item #	Description	Reg. Price	Special Price
46004	BS Lager Beer, 7.2L (Exp.11/11, 1 Avail.)	\$41.99	\$29.39
3741	Pilsner Beer, 15L (Exp. 12/11, 1 Avail.)	\$44.13	\$29.99
3731	Stout Beer, 15L (Exp. 10/11, 1 Av.)	\$44.13	\$25.00
3135	CC Shiraz, 15L (Exp. 10/11, 1 Avail.)	\$119.23	\$79.00
3130	CC Cabernet Shiraz, 15L (Exp. 11/11, 1 Ava.)	\$119.23	\$83.46
VC2394	Gewurztraminer, 10L (Exp. 12/11, 1 Avail.)	\$84.62	\$59.23
VC2397	Cabernet Sauvignon, 10L (Exp. 12/11, 1 Ava.)	\$89.99	\$62.99
VC3192	Chocolate Hazelnut Port, 12L (ONLY 2 LEFT)	\$95.00	\$89.00
3235	CC Johannisberg Riesling, 15L	\$105.77	\$84.62
3122	VDV Valpolicella 9L	\$77.88	\$62.30
3271	GC Pinot Grigio, 10L	\$72.98	\$58.38
3184	CSP Italian Chianti Reserva, 16L	\$128.85	\$103.08
3279	OB Blueberry Shiraz, 7.2L	\$67.21	\$53.77
CF0050	South African Pinotage, 18L w/crushed grapes	\$150.23	\$120.18
CF8923	Poussé Blanc, 16L	\$95.54	\$76.43
HB135	Chardonnay, 8L	\$70.00	\$56.00
HB065	Barolo, 8L	\$73.85	\$59.08
VC6023	Legacy Pinot Noir, 16L	\$112.00	\$89.60
VC6014	Legacy Piesporter, 16L	\$104.62	\$83.70
VC012	Sangria Zinfandel Blush, 7.5L	\$67.08	\$53.66
2735	Bentonite, 4 oz.	\$1.58	\$1.26
2733	Fermax Yeast Nutrient, 4 oz.	\$2.87	\$2.30
2732	Potassium Metabisulfite, 4 oz.	\$2.12	\$1.70
2250	Carboy Drier	\$9.13	\$7.30
2240	18" Plastic Paddle	\$3.17	\$2.54
2605	Carboy Brush	\$5.58	\$4.46
2601	Plastic Wine Thief	\$6.25	\$5.00
2737B	American Medium Oak Chips, 1 lb.	\$4.77	\$3.82
2648	Dried Elderberries, 8 oz.	\$9.25	\$7.40
5217	Wine Away Stain Remover, 8 oz.	\$9.59	\$7.67
5131	Acrylic Stemware Rack	\$10.29	\$8.23
5459	Minuet Wine Bottle Rack, 7 bottles	\$22.99	\$18.39
5469	White Balsamic Vinegar, 16.9 oz.	\$7.89	\$5.99
4459D	Polo Cap, Wine Is Good, Burgundy	\$15.00	\$11.69
3100	Complete Wine Kit - Red	\$303.33	\$245.99
3200	Complete Wine Kit - White	\$297.16	\$236.99

Important Announcement

And The Winner Is...

By Pam Wyatt

As you are now aware, Thistle Meadow Winery is branching out! Tom has purchased a space for our new wine shop in the old Factory building in downtown Kernersville, NC. We plan to carry all the same wonderful wine that you can find at Thistle Meadow as well as a select variety of wine making supplies and concentrate kits.

In the September issue of the stomper, we asked for help from all of you in naming the new wine shop.

We had lots and lots of great suggestions for names and thanks to everyone who participated. After much debate and deliberation, the winning name will be "**Thistle Stop Wine Shop**".

We actually had three of you pick this very same name which we thought was amazing. As you read in the September issue of the Stomper, Tom has graciously offered a \$100 gift certificate to the person who came up with the winning name to apply to their next order from grapestompers. As it turns out, we will be splitting this between three folks and they will have a \$33.00 certificate each!

Let me interrupt for a second to tell you about this month's Hidden Special. We are offering the #2263 Italian Floor Corker with the chromium iris. Regular price is \$147.18 and this month you can have this great corker for only \$99.00. That's a saving of over \$48.00 off the regular retail price and would make the perfect gift for the special winemaker on your list. Who knows, you may even get a bottle of wine from the recipient! Don't forget to mention the Hidden Special in the comments section of your online order form to get the special price.

The winners were **Paul Weikel** of **Roswell, NM**, **Mark Courtney** of **New Berlin, IL** and **Nick Thompson** of **Jamestown, NC**. These guys will have the winning amount applied to their next order. A big thank you goes to **Mike Sherertz** of **Shanghai, China** for submitting "The Thistle Stop" which was very close.

Again, we thank you for your participation and we wish everyone could have won. Who knows, you may get the chance again in the future to name another new shop for a new Thistle Meadow Winery branch!

Looking forward to seeing you in Kernersville at Thistle Stop Wine Shop!

The Stomper

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Wine Drops

Wine Drops is a catch-all for various tidbits that we find interesting. This month we share another reason to drink wine, some news about brandy, and a chance to tell us what you would like to see next month.

Diabetes is a rapidly growing health concern in the United States. Cases of Type 2 diabetes have increased by more than 60 percent since 1991, and health experts estimate it will affect 40 million Americans by 2050. But a new study suggests that moderate alcohol consumption, including wine, can reduce the odds of developing diabetes, particularly in women. Scientists found that moderate drinking lowered the risk by 19 percent among men and 37 percent among women aged 50 to 71. [Get more info.](#)

Info provided by *Wine Spectator Magazine*, <http://www.winespectator.com/webfeature/show/id/45714>

According to *The Devil's Dictionary*, written by Ambrose Bierce in 1906, brandy is a "cordial composed of one part thunder-and-lightning, one part remorse, two parts bloody murder, one part death-hell-and-the-grave and four parts clarified Satan."

Hi Tom,

I visit the Splurges store in the old Factory in Kernersville all the time. I have told EVERYONE in TOWN about Thistle Meadow Winery coming to Kernersville and ALL my clients new and past in an email about you guys. I give your wine for all my closing gifts in baskets and to my WELCOME to NC relocation people. We are heading up to Valle Crucis to stay in a log cabin this weekend. My Thistle Meadow wine was packed in the cooler FIRST!!

Kim Murray
Wilkinson & Assoc.
Realtor/Broker
Kernersville, NC

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Your Turn!

Have some input as to what you'd like to see in a future issue of *The Stomper*?

We'd love to hear your idea! Just call us at 800-233-1505 or complete and [submit our contact form](#) to let us know.