

# Porteus Vineyards & Winery

Harvest 2000

Happy Holidays,

It is a happy time of year for us as the harvest is over and the crop was large and ripe. The 2000 growing season was nearly identical to the 1999 vintage with no let down in quality. The big news from the Washington vineyards is that there are still lots of unsold grapes on the vine at many vineyards. We haven't seen this situation in years. That being said, we have added a few acres of new varieties to our vineyard including Sangiovese, Petite Sirah and more Cabernet Franc.

The best news however, is the arrival on September 11 of Chloe, our granddaughter! Our son Brian who is now working the tasting bar weekdays and wife Mary are the happy parents. The young lads will need to be patient as she will not be allowed to date before her 30th birthday! She is awesome!

The wine news this year is really good too. At the last second, we decided to enter the Central Washington Commercial Wine Competition. This event is judged by winemakers who are very critical by nature and therefore award very few medals. The good news is that there were 3 Cabernets in Washington to win gold medals. The better news is that 2 of the 3 were ours! That's right, the regular 1997 Cabernet and the Reserve 1997 Cabernet both won Gold! In addition the **Reserve 97 Cab** won the "**Markin Award**" for the **Best Cabernet Sauvignon in Washington!** Also, the 97 Syrah won a Silver behind only one gold medal winner.

Rattlesnake Ridge Red; Our incredibly popular table wine sold out much too quickly this year. We make between 300 and 500 cases a year and it just flies out the door. The next RR Red is fermenting now and we will try to have it bottled and available by next August. It will be an interesting blend of Syrah, Cabernet and a little Chardonnay (10%). We are upping the quantity to 800+ cases.

**NEW RELEASES;** The following wines were bottled this September and are available via the enclosed order form. They will be available for tasting during the **THANKSGIVING IN THE WINE COUNTRY EVENT, NOV. 24 - 26**, where you can also purchase them.

- 1999 Zinfandel;** \$22 (\$17cq) Aggressive, very spicy, peppery with lots of fruit. A major Seattle retailer stated that this was the best Zinfandel they had tasted from anywhere in a long time.
- 1999 Cab Franc;** \$22 (\$17cq) More Bordeaux like than the 98, figs & blueberrys show at this time.
- 1999 Syrah;** \$22 (\$17cq) Our older, mature Syrah vines are now producing Syrahs that continue to improve every year with the 99 setting a mark that will be hard to beat. A mouthfull!
- 1999 Chardonnay;** \$24 (\$19cq) A Chardonnay for red wine drinkers! We are back to our classic Montrachet style. Nice toast, creamy lemon, pear and apricot flavors will make your eyes roll.
- 1998 Cabernet Sauvignon;** \$22 (\$17cq) Rich black currant and blackberry fruit flavors along with a good shot of American oak finishing with soft tannins. A perennial medal winner.
- 1998 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon;** \$34, Pre Release Sale price \$27cq, \$324 full case. Same as the regular bottling except that the reserve is aged in all new French oak barrels.
- 1999 Reserve Merlot;** \$30, Pre Release Sale price \$25cq, \$300 full case. Yes we changed our minds! Last year we said the 1998 would be our last reserve but the reserve style out sells the regular 10 to 1 so we will drop the regular! Fruity like the 1998 with a little more structure, still delicious.

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**1999 Estate Reserve; \$55, (\$45cq)** First vintage of a new wine for us. I have always favored the challenge of producing varietal wines, after all, anyone can blend wines! Due to the great response by wine consumers for the Bordeaux blends we thought this would be a good time to show our fans what the other producers are shooting for in a blend. We hate to show them up like this but, Oh Well! 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 10% Syrah. It's a mouthful, it's huge fruit, lots of French and American oak and it's not tannic or too dry. You can enjoy it now or hold it for 10 years.

cq; means case quantities, full or mixed

**FREE SHIPPING IF YOU PAY BY CHECK** (UPS ground only, where legal)

styro shipping box \$5 additional per case

please use enclosed order form