

## NEW RELEASES

Although the industry practice is to proclaim that the recent vintage is always the best ever, this year we think it really is! The following wines and their descriptions represent wines from the 2004 vintage that were bottled this summer and are available for the first time. The attached order form includes all available wines but we will limit the wine descriptions to new releases.

**2004 Rattlesnake Red;** this year's blend is Cabernet Sauvignon 68%, Syrah 17% and Sangiovese 15%. Hope that adds up to 100%! This is an Italian style wine whatever that means. Try on earthy and dryer than past versions? This is one of the best wines on the market at this price point and will age beautifully. Still great with pasta or spam!

**2004 Cabernet Franc;** Produced under our 2<sup>nd</sup> label, Rattlesnake Ridge, this very ripe style Franc has been well received at our tasting room. This estate bottled Franc shows delicious candy like red fruit flavors with rich chocolate éclair and birthday cake notes.

**2004 Merlot;** Ripe style of Merlot with 15% alcohol. One of my favorite renditions in a long time. Bright, rich, baked strawberry jam dominates this compact mouthful of a wine. I can guarantee that Miles from "Sideways" never tasted Washington Merlot!

**2004 Malbec;** Originally grown in Bordeaux this variety is now found mostly in Argentina and in the United States. It's kind of like a spicy Merlot and has some similar aromas to Zinfandel. Very unique blueberry pie flavors with hints of black spice.

**2002 Cabernet Sauvignon;** Old block Cabernet aged for two years in mostly new American Oak barrels. This is the style we made in the mid 80's that made us famous. Well, that ship sailed! It's clean and spicy up front with black currant and blackberry fruit flavors and soft tannins. This is a huge favorite at the winery and sales are second only to the Zinfandel.

**2004 Zinfandel;** Another blockbuster Zin from some of Washington's oldest Zinfandel vines. Yes we planted Zinfandel in 1984 when everyone said it couldn't be done. FYI the 2003 won Gold this February at the Capitol Wine Festival. The 04 has a bit less alcohol, weighing in at a paltry 16%! Dubbed "pepper pow" at the So. Oregon Zin festival this summer. This wine is top dog at the winery outselling any other wine in our inventory!

**2004 Petite Sirah;** Our third vintage, and some of the only Petite grapes grown in Washington. Rapidly becoming my favorite wine, I am hooked! When you get used to it you may never be satisfied with any other wine. Yes, it is big chewy and tannic but the rich, jazzy black cherry fruit pulls it all together and lingers on the pallet forever. At least try one!

## **ORDER FORM**

You may notice some changes this year. We are extending the case discount to any amount of 6 bottles or more. We can pack up to 15 bottles in one box. Please try to order in 6, 12 or 15 bottles increments. **Shipping is still free in the continental United States.** We are charging \$5 per box to cover “adult signature required” fees, insurance and fuel surcharges that we pay to Fed E. If possible, please have your wine shipped to your business. If not, please be sure that an adult will be home to sign for the wine. The best way to order is through our website; Portteus.com. Click on the “**shopping**” button.

## **WINE CLUB**

This is it for now! Our annual newsletter is sent by mail to over 2200 Portteus customers who have purchased wine in case quantities over the past 3 years and given us their addresses for this purpose. Thank you for keeping this dream alive! We may start a traditional wine club in the future if you demand it and we can figure out how it works! Whether or not you like getting this newsletter we receive a tremendous response and spend the next 2 months packaging and shipping wine all over the USA. If you would like to get the annual newsletter via email along with infrequent updates on tasting events, winemaker dinners or unadvertised sales at the winery please send your email address to [Portteus@direcway.com](mailto:Portteus@direcway.com). No “T” in direcway! Please indicate if you prefer email only or email and snail mail. If your newsletter was forwarded please email your new address to us as well.