

April 1, 1996

We are pleased to announce the release of our 1994 Scherrer Vineyard Zinfandel. You may pick up your futures purchase at the DEHLINGER WINERY, 6300 Guerneville Road, Sebastopol, CA during normal tasting room days and hours: Friday - Monday, 10 - 5 (closed mid-week until sometime this summer, perhaps). If these days or hours do not work for you, please leave a message at (707) 823-8980 so we can arrange something more suitable for you. If you now wish to have your wine shipped, please call.

Since August 1995, this wine has developed similarly to the 1992 vintage. Yet, unlike the 1992, it seemed to call for more time in barrel. Finally, it was bottled on February 14, 1996 ♥. I have enjoyed its balance during barrel ageing. Often, I have found myself relating to this wine on an emotional level, as with Pinot noir. Maybe you will too. Lately, I have found that half a bottle left a day or two (yes, it does happen sometimes--especially when one's wife is pregnant) really "opens up" and shows off. The same thing occurred with the 1992 Zin also.

Concerning "bottle-sickness": Last year I said this, and it is worth repeating. Often, after a wine has been in bottle for about 6 to 10 weeks, the aroma just seems a bit "dull" or "dumb" and the palate a bit disjointed compared with what it was before being persuaded out of barrel. Rather than try to give a scientific explanation for what is happening (I can't), I find it much more practical to suggest that we all put the bottles in a nice, cool, dark place for at least a month after their arrival at home. If you can't stand delayed gratification, go ahead & pull a cork, while practicing the ancient Santa Cruzian ritual of "Nepenthean Decantation" (you could use a glass if you wish). My point is that the wine will be singing *forte* rather than a delicious *piano* (the adverb, not the instrument) a couple of months from now. We will enjoy the wine's *crescendo* in concert (pun intended). I have considered changing to a fall release, but the threat of a riot is unsettling.

If you should want more 1994 Zinfandel for yourself or a friend, please feel free to call the number below to see if I have any wine left. I still must ship any wine purchased by this method because of the complexity of dealing with non futures pick-ups at the winery. I expect this wine to disappear more quickly than the great 1993 vintage did last year. That wine lasted a couple of weeks.

Later this summer you will be contacted regarding the futures offering of our 1995 Zinfandel. There will probably be a barrel tasting again, in August. We will give you more specifics this summer.

We receive a tremendous amount of satisfaction in making this wine for you, accepting your trust in us, and finally delivering it to you. Enjoy your wine in good company.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Scherrer