



The Cantiga Crier



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HOME AT LAST! by Christine Rorden



Left: Cantiga Winery-functional, but still in the works; Right: Barrels resting in their new home

Bud Rorden once told us, in his wisdom and experience, that in any new venture, one moves increasingly from order to chaos until at some point a pinnacle of chaos is reached, and at that point entropy reverses and things start falling into place.

With Cantiga, we believe we have reached the pinnacle this year. (At least, we hope so.)

As you may know, we have been furiously busy building a winery this year. After years of planning and working out every detail, we broke ground last December. The building of a new home for Cantiga is what we have lived and breathed for a year now.

At the end of August, we moved out of our leased facility at the Vino Piazza, in Lockeford. This experience was like a comedy, in a sense, because we were behind schedule on construction and were scrambling to get doors, windows and cooling installed. In addition, for the first time in Cantiga's history, we were picking grapes already in late August. So, without all of our equipment and plumbing, we began our first crush in our new winery. (At least we had a roof.)

In September, we entered a phase that many would blame on planetary alignment-Mercury was in retrograde-and we were plagued by a series of unlikely equipment malfunctions and failures. First it was the air compressor, then the wine press, then our juice pump, then our well pump. By the time our forklift died in the middle of a busy day of racking, all Rich and I could do was turn to each other and start laughing.

But things leveled out after that, and we are near completion of a stellar harvest. We crushed Semillon, Syrah, Shiraz, Grenache Noir and Petite Sirah from our own vineyard. We also purchased Cabernet grapes from Pratt Vineyard and Zinfandel from Herbert Vineyard. Many of you will be thrilled to hear that, after a long hiatus, our beloved "Petite Suite" is back in the 2007 vintage--this time from our Estate grapes.

Construction is finally nearing completion, as well. The finishing touches will likely occupy us through the winter, as will the decorating of our new tasting room, the landscaping, and the creation of an event patio.

Continued on page 2

HOME AT LAST!

(Continued from page 1)



Above: Tim Madams & Rich Perly lending a hand during crush

If any of you were wondering why we seemed to drop off the face of the earth for a while, you now know why. We apologize for the lack of Weekend Wine-Downs and other events, Merry Monks Wine Club shindigs, and so forth. But...we're back! And we look to 2008 with anticipation as we plan some exciting happenings at our new facility, including:

- Wine Club bottling party: 2002 Petite Sirah Port!
- Grand Opening extravaganza
- Food and wine pairing luncheons
- Private tours

We will soon have much reason to celebrate, and we hope you will join us at these momentous occasions. Together we will drink to the future!

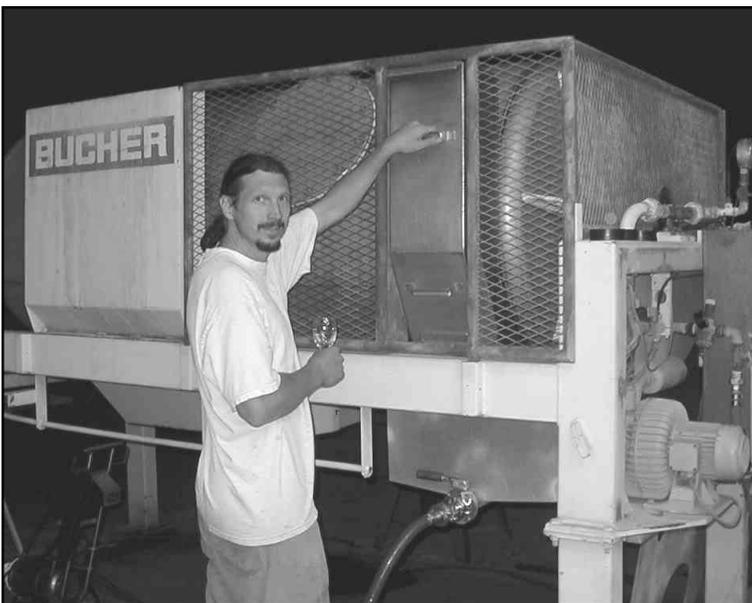
A NOTE TO OUR MERRY MONKS CLUB MEMBERS

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to some people who are very important to Cantiga: our Wine Club Members. You have shown such incredible support and interest through all of our efforts to bring our company to where it is today. Whether it be volunteering at events, popping in to catch up on the news or share a recipe, becoming "ambassadors" of our unique wine style and goals, agreeing with our crazy notion that wine should go with food and be able to age for more than a couple of years, and supporting us with your wine purchases--your contributions have not gone unnoticed. Some have gone so far as to become involved in a hands-on way (Don McLees and Tim Madams, for example, lent invaluable crush assistance this year). Some have touched us in other, equally meaningful ways (Eric & Janine Sheidegger watched our kids during our move from Lockeford, then sent us home at the end of a grueling day with an awesome home-cooked meal). Many of you have become friends for life. Even those of you who live far away and rarely make it up to see us, it is great to know that you are out there enjoying the fruits of our labor and sharing your love of our wine with others.

We have the best Wine Club members ever!

AND THANKS TO A CAST OF THOUSANDS

Many thanks to all who helped with the design and construction of our winery--you know who you are, and we couldn't have done it without you! We are also grateful to our family and friends, who put up with our insanity for the duration of the project, and to Tamra Godey and Francesca Loftis for covering so many shifts at the tasting room.



Left: Rich pressing late into the night; Right: Anneke & Benjamin supervising punch downs from a Macrobin