

## **Our Wines**

#### **Pinot Noir**

Bandwagon Pinot Noir is everything a wine lover would expect from a Monterey Pinot. Winemaker Tony Leonardini has always been interested in making wines with grapes from the Monterey area, a dream realized in 2009 with grapes sourced from the Arroyo Seco area. For Leonardini, the Bandwagon Pinot offers the winemaker the chance for the wine to tell its own story with the first sip.

### Chardonnay

The 2010 Butternut is a wine that lives up to its name. It has round, creamy notes, hints of hazelnut and a finish that doesn't want to quit. Grapes from the regions of Carneros and Coombsville in Napa and Santa Lucia and Arroyo Seco in Monterey broaden the flavor profile of Butternut.

## **Cabernet Sauvignon**

Winemaker Tony Leonardini is also a volunteer fire fighter in the Napa Valley. Ask and he will share stories about traveling the state to put out fires. The "Volunteer" wine salutes that spirit. As Tony says, "It's easy to donate a dollar, but it's a lot harder to volunteer an hour."



## **Winery History**

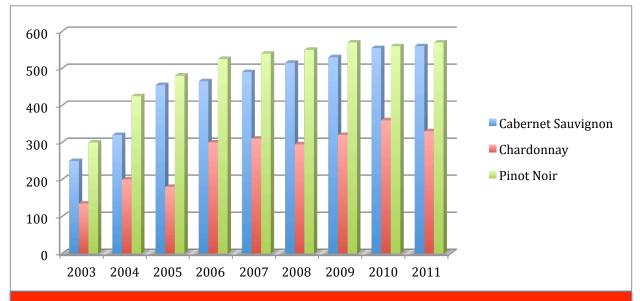
Little Lion Wine Company was created and founded by Tony Leonardini in 2005. The name Little Lion comes from his last name, Leonardini, which means "little lion" when translated from Italian. One of the symbols on the Genoa crest where the Leonardini family came from is also a lion. The goal of Little Lion Wine Company has been to allow people to enjoy wine that over delivers for its price. By keeping LLWC lean and mean, staying in touch with old friends in the business, and always looking out for a good deal Tony is able to achieve this.

In 2005 I made my first commercial wine, one barrel of Cabernet with grapes sourced from my backyard. In 2006 I made my first large production debut, with the Volunteer Cabernet. It wasn't difficult coming up with the name Volunteer since I have been a Volunteer fire fighter in St. Helena since 2003. Volunteer represents the best of my secret Cabernet sources in the Napa Valley.



# Welcome to Little Lion Wine Company





# 2013 Harvest & Sales Projections

The 2013 harvest could prove to be the one Napa Valley wine growers have been looking for the past two years. Those last two were very good to excellent in quality but disappointing in terms of yield. This meant that many wineries simply did not end up with as much wine as they had hoped, which was challenging from a financial standpoint. Forecasts predict that the region will experience consistently warm days from Spring through Fall. If this happens, the 2013 harvest is on track to be great both in quality and quantity.

Last year, the problem was a cool season that averaged temperatures in the low 80s that made it difficult for the fruit to ripen. Then late in the growing season extreme heat took a toll on most vineyards shortly before harvest. So far in 2013 temperatures have been warmer earlier which has allowed for vines to mature faster now and will result in fruit to be harvested earlier at the end of the

growing season.

The real concern is the lack of rain this year. So far, the region has received only forty percent of normal rainfall. Lack of rain could stress the vines. The good news is that the reservoirs and water tables are very healthy as a result of an abundant rainfall in the previous two years. This coupled with moderate temperatures should provide minimal water concerns.

The Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir sales are projected to increase as the economy continues to rebound (see graph). Chardonnay sales are a concern though. Chardonnay sales had begun to stagnate prior to the recession and now as the other varietals rebound, Chardonnay sales remain flat. It is believed that many Chardonnay drinkers are switching to other varietals, which

## **2012 Sales Summary**

## **Cabernet Sauvignon**

At Little Lion Wine Company, we make very little wine, so most of the limited production sells out to our Wine Club customers upon release. Of the 1200 cases of Cabernet sold in 2012, the vast majority was sold in the second quarter when it was released to the Wine Club. Only four cases remained to be sold in the fourth quarter.

#### **Pinot Noir**

We release our Pinot Noir late in the Fall each year and our Wine Club buys 100% of the available production. For this reason, the 1800 cases of Pinot Noir sold in 2012 were all sold in the fourth quarter.

## Chardonnay

Our Estate Chardonnay is released in the spring and is always over-allocated to our Wine Club members. As a result, there was no wine left by the fourth quarter. All 92 cases produced in 2012 were sold immediately in the second quarter.