

Fontana

Fall 2003
Newsletter
Cellars & Inn



Fontana Cellars Hosts "Crush"

— A Wine Festival to Benefit the
Red Cross.



An hour before the doors opened to "Crush," the premier wine tasting fundraiser in the Napa Valley, the crowds were already gathering for the ground breaking tasting. The event benefits the Napa Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. Over 50 wineries from the Napa Valley provided wine loving consumers the opportunity to taste their favorite wines, make new discoveries and meet many of the winemakers.

The event was held on the sprawling Fontana Estate, East of Rutherford. Over one thousand participants paid \$100 each for the tasting, followed by a beautiful dinner prepared by chef Paul Di', of Taylor's Bistro of St Helena.

The three hour event showcased many of the region's more notable wineries. They included Pine Ridge Winery, Beringer Vineyards, Duckhorn Vineyards and Caymus, just to name a few.

The dinner included fried salt cod, gnocchetti, mortadella-stuffed pork loin, kale and leek flan, millefoglie and biscotti. It was a master feast as envisioned by an artist.

Gerard Fontana (owner Fontana Vineyards) was very pleased with the turnout. "It is nice to meet our customers," stated Gerard, " and even nicer to give back to the community." Gerard Fontana estimated the event should raise over \$100,000 for the local Red Cross .

2003 The Harvest Begins

This year, the harvest shattered all previous records, with an increase of 30 percent over last year. The good news is that there will be plenty of reds and whites.

A cool wet spring resulted in small berries, but the mild, dry conditions throughout the growing season allowed all the varieties to develop superb flavor concentration.

Since the grapes come from our own vineyard properties, we enjoy a greater amount of control over the amount and quality of crop produced. It is Gerard's goal to increase estate holdings to 90% of total fruit sourced by the winery.



Special Inn Rates for Fontana Wine Club Members

As a gesture of appreciation, the Fontana Family is offering special weekend rates to its Wine Club members. During the months of January and February, members can reserve one of twenty-one private bungalows on the Fontana Estate at 25% below the advertised rate. Wine Club members will also be given a complimentary bottle of Girard Fontana's 1997 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon.

To book your reservation, call (707) 366-TANA.