Stephan Vineyards

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L'Aventure Newsletter

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Special Points of Interest:

- Wine Enthusiast rates L'Aventure **Optimus 2003** wine #51 for 2005.
- Stop by the Tasting Room and enjoy our new

Media Center

Wine Club Express

All of us at L'Aventure want to thank you for your wine club membership. Whether you are a new member, or a member of long standing, getting Stephan's artisan wines to you in a timely fashion, and in good condition , is our "*raison d'être*". In an effort to do so, we have recently refined our delivery schedule, as you are aware. We think that we have hit upon a better plan, in having divided the years allocations into two (10 bottles in April, 8 bottles in November), instead of three shipments Here is why.

The first benefit is exclusively about quality. Stephan refuses to see two years work spent hand crafting his wines, destroyed in two days, as a result of less than perfect shipping conditions and execution. By shipping in April, we can obviate the first problem, at least! While there is no better place to enjoy a glass of Optimus than in our cellar here at the winery, we like to think that our wines will be nearest their best as they arrive at your table.

This strategy requires that we condense the shipping calendar. Therefore, the decision to ship a second time in the fall, when the weather is suitable, and, when you will require a second *cache* for the holidays.

There is another reason for this evolution. As our club membership and salon visitor count grow, we are increasingly approaching a "sold – out" status of our estate wines at spring release. Therefore, we are endeavoring to provide a solid representation of the estate releases to our members and collectors as the wines are offered, and available, at the 20% off club price. This is the fundamental reason for a reduced price offering at spring release. It assures that each L'Aventure devotee has a chance to buy – in a healthy "*tranche*" of their favorite estate wines, before they sell out. In the long run, as we anticipate selling out of our estate releases 100% at offering, why not enjoy the offering price, via club membership, as well?

The November shipment will not be uninteresting in it's own right. Current and past vintages of Optimus, Syrah, and Zinfandel will be offered, as well as special "members only" bottlings, such as last years "Rimrock Syrah". This fall, a single vineyard Syrah from Blair Zajac's "Ma Vigne au Soleil" vineyard will be offered. And don't forget about "Cuvée Coincidence". You will be hearing more about this remarkable wine in the Fall Newsletter, and lead –up postcard. Currently, there will be 1 bottle available per member of this unique, co –fermented blend.

So, the rationale is simple. Stephan wants to get his best wines to our members in the best condition, at the best prices.

Thank you for growing with us through these changes.

TAMPA SWEETHEARTS

Arturo Fuente Opus X is among the most sought after cigars in the world.

Inside the unassuming four story brick building at 1310 North 22nd Street in Tampa's famed Ybor City, history was made, and continues to be made. This is the US home of legendary cigar makers Arturo Fuente. Established in 1912, the Arturo Fuente Cigar Co. produced the first hand – rolled cigars in the United States. It was here that Stephan recently spent a lazy afternoon with Arturo, and Arturo Jr., discussing– and enjoying– their fine cigars.

The Arturo Fuente Cigar Co. has prospered over the decades, in the face of adversity. When a fire destroyed their warehouse in 1924, Arturo moved the operation to his home, until the 1940's, when he was again able to establish himself, first, in a two story warehouse in which Arturo O. Fuente and his brother Carlos were born, moving later into the North 22nd Street address which is now "world headquarters". Ybor City (named for founder Don Vicente Ybor), a stylish 60 square –block "barrio" of Cuban, Dominican, and Italian Immigrants, was the logical place to set –up shop. As more cigar companies flocked to Ybor, it became, during the 30's and 40's a fashionable quarter known for great cigars, food and music. Arturo Fuente led the way.

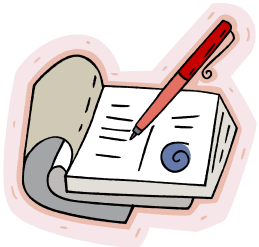
The impeccable quality of Arturo Fuente cigars is due to their world class tobacco, grown in the Dominican Republic's "vega fina de tabaco". This superior tobacco "terroir", where soil, seed, and sun consistently produce exquisite, silken leaves, is home to Château de la Fuente, the estate where their great cigars are born. It is here that over 2,500 employees now produce and hand roll Arturo Fuente cigars, under the watchful eye of Carlos Fuente, father and son.

Among the Fuentes family of Cigars, the Arturo Fuente Don Carlos line is preferred, and their Arturo Fuente Opus X is among the most sought after cigars in the world. For more information on Arturo Fuente cigars, go to their website at www.tampasweetheart.com, or call Darlene "the cigar lady" at their offices at 877-SMOKE-US! If you drop by the retail store, don't be surprised if Arturo or Arturo Jr. step out front to help you themselves. This family business thrives because of it's passion!

Stephan and Arturo Jr. exchanged cigars for a magnum of Estate Cuvée. Now, let's put them together, and dream of a lazy, Ybor City afternoon.

Stephan with Arturo and Arturo Jr:

SPECIAL EVENTS



Catch *L'Aventure* "on the road" at these upcoming events.

*April 20: L'Aventure dinner at Bradley Ogden Restaurant, Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas

*April 25; PRWCA Grand Tour , New York. www.pasowine.com for details.

*April 27-29; Boise Beaux Arts Festival, Boise, Idaho.

*April 27-29; Sarasota Food & Wine Festival, Sarasota,FL.

*May 2; Wine Spectator Grand Tour Tasting, Marriott Grand Marquis Hotel, NY

*May 2; PRWCA Grand Tour , San Francisco, Ca. See www.pasowine.com for details.

*May 6; Wine Spectator Grand Tour Tasting, Venetian Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada.

*May 5-7; Baltimore Int'l Food & Wine Weekend, Miami, FL

*May 11– 13; Hospice du Rhône weekend, Paso Robles, California

*May 19; L'Aventure wine dinner at the Black Cat Bistro in Cambria, Ca. Call the winery for reservations at 805-227-1588.

*May 19- 21; Paso Robles Wine Festival, in the park, Paso Robles, Ca.

*June 22-24; Telluride Wine Festival, Telluride, Colorado.

*July 20-22; Sun Valley Wine Festival, Sun Valley, Idaho.

Wine Club Fête!

Here are some memories

Bradley Ogden Restaurant
Caesar's Palace
Las Vegas

With Chef Brian Ogden

"...We want to thank Stephan and the entire staff for hosting such a terrific event..." Aaron Sherer

"...What a terrific job you and the crew did...The food was fab and what a cast of characters we met. Please extend my thank yous all around..." Karin Argano

"...It was a wonderful event. The food was delicious, and the wines, of course, superb! Each of us at the table had our favorite where we wished we could "dive into the glass". Clearly you all worked very hard to pull off a very enjoyable afternoon..." Anna & Carlos Nogueiro

"...Thank you so much for a lovely day last Saturday. The wine was wonderful, as expected. The food, however, was outstanding- such a treat!!!..." Bev Michels

"...We are so grateful for the wonderful event you provided...Stephan...your wines are truly extraordinaire! Wow! Your genius shows through with every drop....Thank you for your hospitality and the hard work that went in throwing an event of that magnitude. How fortunate that Brad an I are Club Members..." Brad and Patti Massaker

"Thanks for the wonderful wine tasting reception...We very much appreciated your generous spirit and enthusiasm. It was an incredible experience." Emily & Lance Peterson