



O'BRIEN ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY

September, 2012

Greetings from Napa Valley! We hope this letter finds you in good health and in good spirits. Harvest is a special time of year in Napa Valley. It's a time when the year's work comes to a peak, and we take in what nature has offered.

As to the vines, so far this is one of the best years we have ever had in Napa Valley for growing grapes. We have had to thin our abundant crop to be sure all the grapes ripen evenly. Keeping our fingers crossed – we hope this will be the vintage of the century!

As Barb and I are writing this letter, we have just returned from a fantastic summer vacation with our daughter Emily and son Mason. Mason was in summer school in London; we joined him there and then traveled as a family to Ireland to explore our Irish roots. We spent 4 days south of Dublin, then another 6 days in the center of Galway, where they were having a horseracing festival. What fun! For those of you with Irish ancestry, plan to come to Ireland for the April 2014 celebrations of the 1,000 anniversary of the death of Brian Boru, the first high king of Ireland. We will be there as Bart is on the O'Brien Clan Board of Directors. More information at obrienclan.com.

Please call us when you are planning to visit Napa Valley again. We can offer you discounts on hotel rooms, complimentary tastings at other wineries, and great restaurant recommendations. We would love to have a glass of wine with you sitting in our backyard overlooking the vineyards...

As always, the wines you are receiving are made from winegrapes grown in the single vineyard surrounding the winery, harvested by hand, aged in French oak barrels, and bottled unfiltered (all wines) and unfiltered (red wines only). David Yorgensen, our winemaker, does not take any shortcuts in his approach to making wine in classic Burgundy/Bordeaux fashion. Our goal is to provide our wine club members with the finest wine made in Napa Valley at direct to consumer prices.

With this wine shipment, please raise a glass to family and friends and celebrate the 2012 harvest and all the previous harvests that have gone into these bottles of wine!

Barton O'Brien

Barbara O'Brien