



# CULLER

Every time I see someone taking a photo of a red-leafed grapevine in the fall, it makes me laugh...because most of those vines are not very healthy plants. But since I carry my camera with me all the time, and I can't resist a pretty vineyard shot, I am including one this year...with a twist. The first two people who can identify a possible problem with this vine will win a bottle of the Culler 2007 Syrah Napa Valley. Send in your email answers to me ([cullerwines@aol.com](mailto:cullerwines@aol.com)) right away.

So many people emailed and called this year looking for my Fall newsletter announcing a new release of wine. Thank you for your interest and sorry that I am so late in sending this out. I have two excuses....that pesky harvest, which turned into a 3 month production this year, and I didn't feel the wines were ready to release at the normal time in September. Now harvest is over, so I don't have that excuse, and the wines are "close to being ready to drink", so it is time to release. ([click here to download an order form](#))

Now for the bad news/good news....The bad news is that I made very little 2007 Culler Syrah (only 76 cases of the Syrah Napa Valley, 43 cases of the Syrah Sawi Vineyard and none of the Syrah Griffin's Lair). I guess that is only bad news if you order too late! The good news is that because I made so little, I am going to offer it only to my mailing list. This allows me to offer the wine at a lower price than if I also sold it to the trade...an attractive price for a time when everyone is looking to spend less.

The 2007 vintage was an excellent year. It was very similar to 2004, with an early start to the vintage, a warm growing season and an early warm harvest for a below normal crop size. All of these combined to give us intense wines with abundant body and tannins...also very similar to the 2004 wines.

## **2007 Culler Syrah, Napa Valley.**

This Syrah is from a single vineyard in 2007, the Cortese vineyard in Coombsville. This area is very cool and the Cortese vineyard is planted on rocky, sloping soils. It tends to be the vineyard that in the past has provided all the oomph to the Culler Syrah from Napa Valley. One of my favorite wine friends described this wine as "thickly spread wild blueberry jam on a lightly toasted baguette...you know, the very small wild blueberries with tons of flavor!"

## **2007 Culler Syrah, Sawi Vineyard, Sonoma Valley.**

One of my favorite descriptors of the Sawi Syrah is "a lot of spice on the backside". You can take that any way you would like, but to me that is a great description of the Sawi Syrah....a very cool and rocky and windy vineyard site producing a northern Rhone-like Syrah, with lots of acid and unctuous tannins.

**2006 Culler Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain and 2006 Culler La Palette.** I still have a bit of 2006 Culler Cabernet Howell Mountain and 2006 Culler La Palette for all of you who missed this wine in the spring, or have already finished the wine you received a few months ago!