

EMERALD HILLS VINEYARD



Rain has started to fall and winter is in full swing. As of the 24th of January, we already have more rain than the entire year of 2007. This is very important as the soils are flushed from high calcium buildup. This flushing of the soil has proven in the past to create better water penetration and nutrient uptake for the vines in the coming year. The vineyard has been put to bed for the winter. We have used 3' deep shanks between every other row to improve water penetration and stimulate new root growth. We will rip the other rows next fall in order to limit erosion during the winter. Our vineyard was ripped prior to planting using a D8 tractor and 5' deep dual shanks to break up the limestone deposits that are abundant in our vineyard. It is these limestone deposits that impart unique flavor components to our wines.

We will be pruning the vineyard soon. We use hand pruning which takes 2 days and 40 workers to complete the work. Hand pruning has proven to produce a better quality wine as each vine is individually assessed as to the optimum way to trim its canes. Typically we prune our vines to one bud. By pruning to one bud, we limit the amount of grapes for the year to come and therefore increase our quality.

Our 2006 Cabernet is also in barrel, will be blended this spring, and bottled by early summer of 2008. This vintage of Cabernet is unique as it has a great balance of tannins and a round smooth finish and hints of nutmeg on the nose. We harvested our 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon on October 8th, 2007. Other than a stuck fermentation and cold temperatures, the 2007 is in barrel and tasting outstanding!!! I truly feel that 2007 will be another outstanding vintage.

EHV 2005 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon will be released in Spring of 2008. It was bottled in June 2007 and has finally recovered from bottling shock. I must say that 2005 is just as good as our 2004 Cabernet which won a gold medal and 94 points at the 2007 California State Fair. Our limited production wines are really catching on and we have quite a following.

Thank you for your business!!!! We will talk to you again this spring.

Dean & Denise McDavid
Emerald Hills Vineyard, LLC

