

TOUCAN WINES

2006 Estate Petite Sirah

2006 in the vineyard...

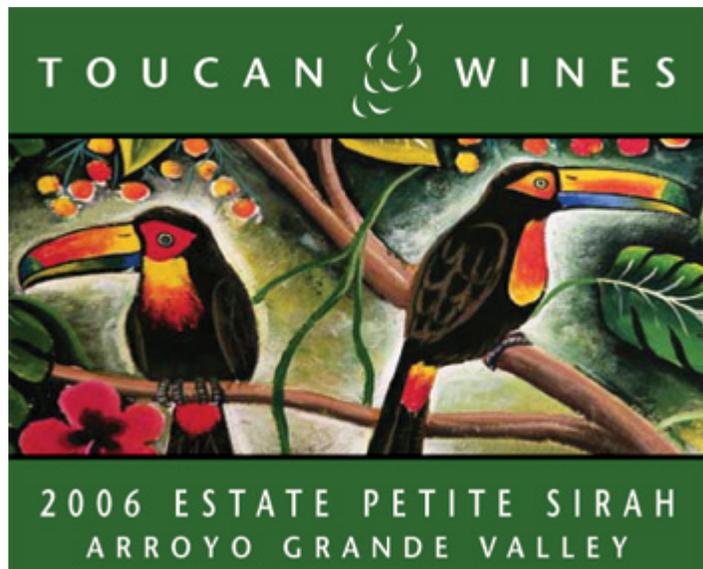
Warm winter days and mild nights offered every indication that rainfall would be below average. In February, we chanced pruning later than usual to delay growth and to avoid seasonal frost and the fierce winds that break shoots in May. But in typical fashion, unpredictable weather surprised the Central Coast with a rare snow flurry in February and a late rainy season including freezing nights and very cold days in March and April. Coupled with the cool weather and later pruning, by May our vine growth and bud-break was a month behind normal. With nature's help, the summer heat-waves narrowed our delayed development to three weeks by August. Vine vigor was abundant; the result of heavy rains two years in a row. The extra growth required more effort to thin the canopy and open-up the fruit zone to airflow and sunlight. Fruit set was more consistent throughout the vineyard when compared to 2005; prior to veraison, the expected yield looked to be similar to 2005. Approaching harvest we appeared two weeks behind 2005's schedule when a weather cycle of very cold and damp days further pushed off harvest. Mid-September offered one day in the high 90's; the balance of September and early October came to us as cool and rainy weather.

Our estate Petite Sirah was harvested on October 10th and allowed only two days of cold soaking prior to fermenting in small open bins; free run from the completed fermentation was placed in new French, Hungarian, and American oak barrels and the pressed wine placed in new French oak. Once racked, the pressed wine was added to our 2006 Toucan Cuvee, and a portion of the free run was blended to our estate Zinfandel. The remaining two barrels of free run wine further aged in new French and Hungarian barrels and was bottled on September 14th, 2007. This our second estate Petite Sirah release from the Toucan Vineyard. Enjoy!

The finished wine...

A beautiful deep purple; forward and rich blueberry, ripe-dark fruits, sweet oak and raspberry-toast nose. A young wine showing great character.

Harvest:	October 10 th 2006
Bottled:	September 14 th 2007
Acid:	TA .67 pH 3.52
Alcohol:	13.1%
Release:	48 cases



T O U C A N W I N E S

Hand Crafted, Estate Grown, Limited Production Wines

Toucan Wines is a California micro-winery and 3 ½ acre vineyard producing hand-crafted estate grown Zinfandel and Petite Sirah wines with a limited total production of about 300-400 cases.

Toucan Wines is located on the beautiful central coast of California, in the Arroyo Grande Valley AVA, in the foothills near the Huasna Valley on a ranch known as Tar Springs. Our small 3½ - acre hillside vineyard is planted to "old clone" head-trained Zinfandel and Petite Sirah vines known for low-yields, looser clusters and balanced fruit. Grafted from the 1923 planting of the highly regarded Benito Dusi vineyard in Paso Robles, these vines thrive by producing intense Zinfandel fruit in our microclimate of warm-to-hot days and cool nights.

Our micro-climate produces an elegant and forward Zinfandel and Petite Sirah with finesse found in the finest wines made in California. Our cool nights and warm days help deliver rich varietal favors and balanced acidity making our wines the perfect selection for fine food.

We truly are a family run farm and winery, we planted the vines, we perform the vineyard work, and we produce the wines on-site. As a friend said recently "every grape cluster has our name on it". We marry this fabulous fruit with both traditional and modern winemaking on a scale that makes us one of the smallest wineries and estate vineyards in California.

Small by any standard, micro-wineries like ours are focused on quality – it's our focus, attention to detail, and limited production that helps set our wines apart. The winery, located in the estate vineyard and next to the family home, produces a full-bodied and richly flavored Zinfandel and Petite Sirah taking full advantage of what the old style vines and microclimate have to offer.

Doug Timewell and Terrie Leivers

www.ToucanWines.com