

# TOUCAN WINES

## 2009 Estate Toucanet

Mutage d'esprit

Sweet Dessert Wine

Produced from 90% Estate Zinfandel and 10 Estate Petite Sirah, this sweet dessert wine is made in the style of age-worthy Porto wines. Our Estate Toucanet is a wine produced from the desire to make an entirely estate based Porto styled dessert wine.

Select estate Zinfandel and Petite Sirah, harvested from our small vineyard, once crushed, was cold soaked pre-fermentation for several days. A slow fermentation with special yeast ended with the fortification of fine brandy - Mutage d' esprit. Once placed in barrel, this wine spent about 22 months resting in fine oak barrel before hand-bottling.

### 2009 in the vineyard...

Winter began with a lack of rain, by February both the rains and the frost had become more normal. Mid-February we had completed pruning and by late March first leafing exposed early bloomers to April frosts. The 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April brought frost to our Petite Sirah vines at the very top of the vineyard. A relatively typical spring season provided heavier growth and made for a labor intensive thinning of the vines. The growing season work included individually thinning each head-trained vine, tying loose shoots and hand hoeing the vineyard to keep weeds at bay. By July, the vineyard seemed very dry with growth slightly greater than usual, very warm days and cool refreshing nights further developed what looked to be a very good looking crop. After netting the vineyard, late August brought the beginnings of a damaging heat-wave that lasted into early September with temperatures exceeding 112 degrees during the day and unusually hot nights. The result dried some of the fruit clusters and ultimately reduced our overall yields. What we didn't know at the time was the next two years would also bring us very unusual weather.

### The finished wine...

Bottled: August 13, 2011  
Acid: .65 / 3.38pH  
Alcohol: 19%  
RS: 8.5%  
Release: 146 six pack cases (500ml)  
96 cases (375ml)

Aging in fine oak barrels for 22 months produced an incredible and lovely sweet dessert styled wine that tastes of bright sweet fruits, deep raspberry liquor, wild cherry-vanilla, with rich hints of mocha.

