



*"Picking Tensley Estate Vineyard"*

OCTOBER 2017  
ALL ABOUT OLIVER ...



2016 HARVEST

**2016**

As many of you know 2016 was a very big year for us. It's the year that our dream of buying the Colson Canyon Vineyard finally came true! It was also a great year for growing grapes. After three years of drought, we finally saw some rain during the '16 growing season. Not a lot of rain. We barely got our average rainfall, but it came early and helped to sustain the plants through the season. Temperatures were also cooler so the grapes got more hang time to develop complexity. We actually picked about two weeks later than we did in 2015. We had

*Harvest continues on page 2...*



*"Jennifer and Oliver sort Tensley Estate Vineyard grapes?"*

Oliver has started high school! As difficult as it is for us to wrap our heads around, it's true. He is a high school freshman and he's taller than I am! His main interest remains soccer (though winemaking seems to be sneaking up as a close second). This year Joey will not only be our son's AYSO soccer coach but also the JV soccer coach at Oliver's high school!. So far the team is off to a great start. We're one game in and they scored a 5-1 victory. In addition to soccer Oliver is also enjoying acting. He'll be debuting his talents as part of an acting showcase in Los Angeles in October. He also learned to surf on a beach vacation this summer. We're so proud of all that he's doing. It seems like just yesterday he learned to take his first steps. Hard to believe he'll be off to college before we know it.



*"After the final on Oahu"*



**HAWAII DREAMS COME TRUE!!**

Thank you so much to everyone who helped Oliver and Coach Joey's All Star team get to the Rainbow Tournament in Hawaii! Our team faced some serious competition, kicked some serious butt, and ended up in second place overall in the tournament. It was an experience the kids and parents will treasure forever! Mahalo!

# ▶ WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS ◀

## 2016 OGT Syrah

Well ... sometimes the time comes for a change. A change from middle school to high school (how is it possible that Oliver has started high school!) and a time to change the tried and true blend that we have always known as the OGT. This vintage is the first vintage of OGT that includes Tensley Vineyard Syrah in the place of Tierra Alta Vineyard Syrah. 2016 is also the first vintage in which we were entirely responsible for the farming of Colson Canyon Vineyard, which we recently purchased. A blend of 50% Colson Canyon Vineyard Syrah, 25% Thompson Vineyard Syrah and 25% Tensley Vineyard Syrah, this OGT is one of the "prettiest" (Joey's words, not mine) Syrah's that we have produced to date. The 2016 vintage was another hot one with very little rain. The fruit it produced was deep and concentrated, yet lifted and bright at the same time. This OGT is one to enjoy now or one to age up to 15 years.

Price: \$90.00

Cellar Club Price: \$76.50

Cases: 250

## 2016 BMT Syrah

This year's BMT is made up of 50% Rodney's Vineyard Syrah, 25% Colson Canyon Syrah and 25% Colson Canyon Grenache. This blend has been an ever-evolving one for us in the past but we've now kept it the same since 2012. 2016 was a really exciting year for us. It was the first year that we were entirely responsible for the farming of Colson Canyon, which we recently purchased. We're so proud of what we've done in the vineyard. Our farming has been meticulous and we feel like it definitely pays off in the glass. The Syrah we sourced from Rodney's really delivers as well. It comes from old vines and lends a lot of earth and structure to this blend while the Colson Syrah brings in rich notes of smoked meats and chocolate and the Colson Grenache brings bright spice and red fruits. Enjoy this BMT now or age it over the next ten years.

Price: \$90.00

Cellar Club Price: \$76.50

Cases: 246



## Harvest Continues...

high hopes for the 2016 wines, and they have proven to be all we hoped for. We hope you enjoy them as well!

## 2017 HARVEST

**2017** The 2017 growing season not only ushered in the 20th harvest for Tensley Wines but also the end of the drought! What a way to celebrate! We got 30 inches of rain at Colson Canyon Vineyard and 20 inches of rain at our home vineyard, the Tensley Estate Vineyard. Our normal rainfall amount is about 13 inches so this was truly a banner year. The fruit had a great set that led to a great yield. While we had a heat spike here and there, temperatures were moderate overall so the grapes were able to slowly ripen and hang on the vine developing complexity, brightness and freshness. We're looking forward to a great vintage!

## ALL ABOUT BAILEY

As hard as it is for us to believe that Oliver is in high school, it might be even harder to believe that our niece, Bailey, is 23 years old. We remember well when she was just a nine-year-old girl holding a newborn Oliver for the first time. That was 2003. It was the first vintage for the OGT and the first vintage of her namesake wine, the BMT. Now she's more than old enough to drink it! Bailey is doing very well as a hair stylist in Bakersfield, California, where Joey and his brother Jeff grew up. We could not be prouder of the woman she has become!



*Bailey and her Dad*



# TENSLEY PHOTO PAGE



*"Joey, Oliver, and our faithful companion Ben"*

