

OCTOBER 2018
ALL ABOUT OLIVER



Oliver Tensley

Thinking back to our first vintage of OGT and BMT, it's hard to believe Oliver is now a sophomore in high school. I clearly remember writing about Oliver's love of the song, "The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round" and his penchant for dressing like a pirate. Now he's studying for his driving permit, working at the winery and starting to look into colleges. He's also coaching a local AYSO soccer team of 8 and 9 year olds alongside Joey. (I remember him playing AYSO soccer when he was just 8 and 9 – sniff). We're so proud of him for donating his time to the kids and for everything he's accomplishing in school and out of school. While it can be hard to think of him growing up, he's doing an amazing job of it!

20th HARVEST FOR TENSLEY

2017

The 2017 growing season not only ushered in the 20th harvest for Tensley Wines but also the end of the drought! What timing! It was the first year in many years that we not only met but actually exceeded average rainfall totals for our area. We had 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 an outstanding year. The fruit had a great set that led to a great yield. We did have heat spikes here and there but overall temperatures were moderate, so the grapes were able to slowly ripen and hang on the vine developing complexity, brightness and freshness. We're extremely happy with this vintage and we think you will be too!



Joey and Jennifer



Harvest continues on page 2...

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▶ WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS ◀

2017 OGT Syrah

A blend of 25% Tensley Vineyard Syrah, 50% Colson Canyon Syrah, and 25% Thompson Syrah, this wine really tells the story of Tensley. Named for our son, Oliver Gunnar Tensley, each of these vineyards has a significant story for us. In 2011 we were able to buy Tensley Vineyard, our very first vineyard in which Oliver planted the very first vine. We started working with Colson back in 2000. From that very first vintage we dreamed of buying it. That dream came true for us in 2016. As for Thompson, we launched the Tensley brand with Thompson fruit in 1998. The grapes from these very different and very special vineyards always come together beautifully in the glass, delivering decadent and dark notes of blackberries, chocolate and pepper lifted by red fruit acidity and spices. The finish is long, earthy and lush. This wine is approachable now, but will also age well over the next 10 to 12 years.

Price: \$90.00

Cellar Club Price: \$76.50

Cases: 250

2017 BMT Syrah

This year's BMT (named for our niece, Bailey Michelle Tensley) is once again made up of 50% Rodney's Vineyard Syrah, 25% Colson Canyon Syrah and 25% Colson Canyon Grenache. 2017 was a truly exciting vintage for us, marking not only our 20th harvest but also the return of the rain after years of drought. As new owners of Colson Canyon Vineyard, this gave a big boost to our farming. We're very proud of the meticulous farming we're doing out at Colson and feel it's really paying off in the glass. The Syrah we sourced from Rodney's absolutely delivers as well. It comes from old vines and lends earth and structure to the blend while the Colson Syrah brings in rich notes of smoked meats, chocolate and blackberries. The Colson Grenache offers up exotic spice, raspberry and strawberry. Enjoy this BMT now or age it over the next ten years.

Price: \$90.00

Cellar Club Price: \$76.50

Cases: 248



Harvest Continues...

2018 HARVEST

2018

Most years we would be knee deep in grapes by now, but not in 2018. This is the coolest summer we've had since 2011. We may not even start picking our Colson Canyon Vineyard until late October, which is about 30 days later than we picked last year! This makes a winemaker's job much less stressful because we can pick at a slower pace that's not as rushed and crazy. However, I think many wineries may have a tough vintage since most farming was not adjusted for a cool year. Continuing to water the vines when they're not hot and thirsty can lead to heavy clusters and heavy yields. This vintage we have used less water than ever and controlled our yields and berry size carefully. I don't want to jinx it, but I think this may be the best vintage since the start of our brand. But ask us again in December since that might be when we finish harvest!!

ALL ABOUT BAILEY

The biggest news of this newsletter belongs to our niece, Bailey Michelle Tensley, and her partner, Tyler Raper, who just welcomed their son into the world! Weston James Raper was born on August 28th in Bakersfield, California. He is a happy, healthy baby and Mom and Dad are absolutely in love with him! We made our first vintage of BMT and OGT back in 2003 when Oliver just was born and Bailey was just nine-years-old. It's hard to believe how time flies. Guess it's time to start thinking about a new blend, WJR.



Tyler, Weston and Bailey

TENSLEY PHOTO PAGE

