



# Nevada County Wine Guild

ORGANIC WINES

SPRING 2005

Founded in 1988, the Nevada County Wine Guild home winery is located next to the highest and least productive vineyard in California. At 3500 feet, between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe, the winery is four counties north of Amador County, and has a much cooler cooler climate. Having been off grid (solar electricity) for the first 12 years, the winery has only natural cooling and thus has specialized in red wines. The winery building is made from wood cut and milled from the trees of the vineyard. The wine making is based on barrel and oak tank aging and traditionally bottles within 11 months of crush. Having said that, as the vineyards have matured recent vintages are demanding more barrel time. Sulfites have not been used on red wines since 1990 and the shelf life is not impaired. Wines from the Guild have won awards annually at the El Dorado Co. Fair in open competitions with other conventional wines.

Tony Norskog, partner and winemaker of both the Orleans Hill Winery and Nevada County Wine Guild brands, graduated from UC Davis in the mid-70's with a degree in Fermentation Sciences. He has worked a harvest in Bordeaux France, the Napa Valley, and Santa Maria and has spent the last 20 years working in the Foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Organically growing grapes in Nevada County led naturally to the pursuit of making fine wines with healthfulness on an equal footing with quality.



## 2004 Our Daily Red, Sulfite Free, Organic

The grape glut of California has spilled over into the organic sector and the Our Daily Red drinker is the winner. This year we bought some excellent Mendocino fruit which brings great balance and distinction to our already outstanding Central Valley blend.

## 2002 Syrah, Nevada County, Sulfite Free, Organic

A grape that is showing terrific promise in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, this is a big, chewy red that spent 11 months in barrel but still needs a year or two of bottle aging to show at its best.



## 2001 Zinfandel, Nevada County, Sulfite Free, Organic

Classic, big blackberry style Zinfandel is hard not to like. This one shows that soft sweetness that some pretty tannic Zinfandels present and is probably best in the next couple of years. The real overt style Zin's like this one have not aged well traditionally, but not many people age wine anyway.

## 2002 Merlot, Paso Robles, Sulfite Free, Organic

From Healthy Heart Vineyards this first bearing year wine shows a lot of promise for this area of California. A little more tannic than most of the popular Merlots these days, this wine will hold up and improve in the bottle for years to come.

