



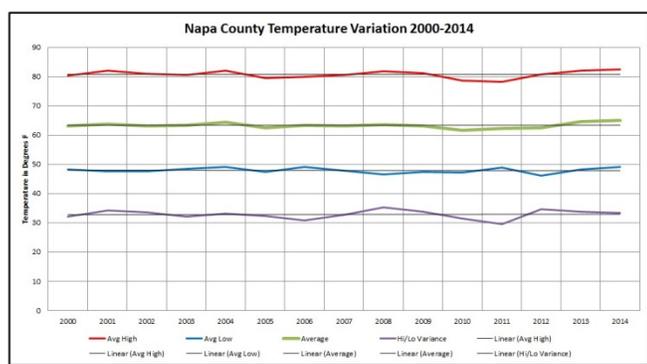
*full potential in producing world class wines; always seeking balance and refinement that is complimented with power, and both varietal and site expression to their fullest. We are fortunate at the Kitchak Cellars Estate to have exceptional terroir on the Silverado Bench and a Vineyard Manager and team that can give us, year in and year out, exceptional grapes to make our wines. We expect our wines to stand shoulder to shoulder with not just the best wines of the Napa Valley, but also with the best wines in the world.”* Kian lives in Napa with his wife Erika, Daughters Kayla (12), Kira (9) and son Niko (6). 2015 will be his 24th Harvest.

### 2011 VINTAGE NOTES

March 2015 marks the release of the **2011 Concerto** – ToKalon Vineyard Cabernet and the **2011 Piacéré** Lake Cynthia Estate Cabernet. Both **Piacéré** and **Concerto** are “diamonds” from what was for many growers and winemakers a very difficult year. Temperatures were the second coolest on record in the Napa Valley and many (perhaps even most) wineries produced vegetal, rough wines. Our yields, particularly from the ToKalon vineyard, were only one half of normal and thus we don’t have as much of either wine as we would have liked. Nevertheless, our rigorous sorting and careful winemaking techniques helped us produce two of the stars of the vintage. And the most fascinating thing is that the wines are far more “Bordeaux like” than wines typically made in the Napa Valley. While we are not exactly sure whether that is a big positive or not, perhaps it would be more politically correct to say that both wines are much more like the Napa Wines of the 1970’s and 1980’s.

### CLIMATE CHANGE IN NAPA VALLEY?

We recently analyzed the changes in temperature during the growing season to see just how much it varied, if at all, over the last 15 years. Since the turn of the century, 2014 was the warmest ever. In analyzing the temperatures, we calculated the average daily high during the typical growing season, April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15. We also calculated the average low and the daily average. The average daily high for the 15 year period was 80.7 and the average daily low was 47.9, resulting in an average daily temperature variation of 32.8 degrees. 2014 had the highest average high at 82.4 degrees and the average low was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest for the period. Only 2006 had a higher average low, and only by one tenth of a degree. The average median daily temperature of 65.0 degrees was also the highest



ever. Incidentally, the year before, 2013, was the tied for the third warmest during the 15 year period with 2004 being only one-tenth of a degree warmer and 2001 having the same average high as '13.

### FIRST CRESCENDO BOTTLED

In March 2015 we bottled the first vintage of **Crescendo - Lake Cynthia Vineyard** Cabernet. Made exclusively from grapes grown in Block A of our Lake Cynthia Vineyard, it is a robust Cabernet that easily rivals, perhaps even surpasses, our **Concerto - ToKalon Vineyard Cabernet**. The wine will be first released in March of 2016 and will be part of our regular wine club shipments starting in 2016.



### RECOMMEND US TO YOUR FRIENDS

Don’t forget to recommend us to your friends. As we have grown, more and more of our tastings are being scheduled on referrals from wine club members and past visitors. When people call, we do not take appointments from just anyone, we just could not keep up and we would not have times available for club members. So if you do refer us to a friend, please ask them to use your name when requesting an appointment. Then, we will accept the request and we also get a chance to personally thank you. You might also suggest that they not wait until they are in the Napa Valley to try to schedule an appointment. We already are booking appointments for the Fall and we expect to be fully booked weeks in advance. Reservations are best made via email.

## BALLOONING OVER THE VALLEY

This past November we decided to try a balloon ride over the Valley with our good friends Lynne and David Gleason. I must say the experience significantly exceeded our expectations. Our trip with *Napa Valley Balloons* started with coffee at Domaine Chandon and following the balloon ride we returned there for a Champagne breakfast. The Napa Valley is an amazing place for ballooning because the early morning winds almost always blow straight down the valley. We traveled almost 8 miles in our hour-plus ride and the scenery was spectacular. Put it on your bucket list.



Ready to Fly: Our pilot, Lynne, David, Patricia and Peter



Balloon over the Napa Valley

## WINE CLUB UPDATE

Thanks again to you, our amazing members, our wine club continues to grow. We are now over 800 members and heading toward 1000. **Our most sincere Thank You to all of you.** We promise to continue our zealous effort to make some of Napa's very best wines... for you.

## COMING TO THE NAPA VALLEY?

If you are coming to the Napa Valley, a few reminders:

- It is easier and quicker to fly to Sacramento.
- We have 4 bicycles for wine club members to use without charge for a half or whole day.
- Plan your stay early. Hotels book up early.
- Make Dinner Reservations in advance.
- Come and see us again.

## BUYING OUR WINES

**Ordering.** We do not sell our wines in retail stores or in restaurants. You can order them direct from the winery by calling 707-225-2276 or by completing an order form and sending us a pdf via email or by faxing it to us at (707) 224-2490. The order form is available on our website [www.kitchakcellars.com](http://www.kitchakcellars.com) or you may call us and we will either email or fax you a form.

**Join one of our Wine Clubs.** You may join one of Kitchak Cellars' wine clubs by visiting [www.kitchakcellars.com](http://www.kitchakcellars.com). When you join a wine club you receive discounts of 15-20% on wine club shipments and all other wine purchases. Other benefits include a priority allocation of wines, complimentary private tours and tastings at the winery, barrel tastings while at the winery, an invitation to wine release events, an invitation to our annual Harvest Party, free self-guided bicycle tours in the Napa Valley and other benefits.

## TOURS AND TASTINGS

We are open by appointment only, 7 days per week except when we are traveling. All tours and tastings are private. Our maximum group size is 6. Tours are at 10:30am, 1pm or 3:30pm. **Come Visit.** You can make a reservation at [tours@kitchakcellars.com](mailto:tours@kitchakcellars.com) or call 707-225-2276.

## HARVEST PARTY - HOLD THE DATE

**Wine Club Members:** Hold the Date. Our 2015 Harvest Party for wine club members is scheduled for Saturday September 26. Make your hotel reservations early. It is often hard to find a room in the hotel of your choice if you wait too long.

*Cheers,*

*The Kitchaks  
Patricia & Peter*



# SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER



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*Bottled Music from the Napa Valley*