

# TOPEL



FALL 2011

## “IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES; IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES...”

Wow, what a vintage this has been! In all the years we’ve been growing grapes, we’ve never had a more challenging, frustrating, interesting or exciting time. Since bud break in the spring, we’ve had rain, wind, cold temperatures, a few heat spikes (not many!) and then more rain. Not an easy harvest!

Last week we finally brought in our Estate Cabernet and Bordeaux varieties. Amazingly, everything looks fantastic, even though many of our fellow growers have had big problems with botrytis (which is now a curse word in our vocabulary).

However, we lost all our Zinfandel, some of our Pinot Noir, about two-thirds of our Viognier and half of our Chardonnay to the Royal Rot.

Our Orange Moscato grapes were absolutely incredible this year. And though we had to pick our Gamay a little earlier than we preferred, we have a beautiful Rosé going through fermentation right now from those very grapes.

## FROM US TO YOU – BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS THEM

This fall, our Club Topel shipment includes three new wines we’re sharing with you before they are released in our Tasting Room – our 2010 Topel Chardonnay “Classique,” the 2009 Topel Pinot Noir Reserve and our 2008 Topel Cabernet Sauvignon – Battuello Vineyard.

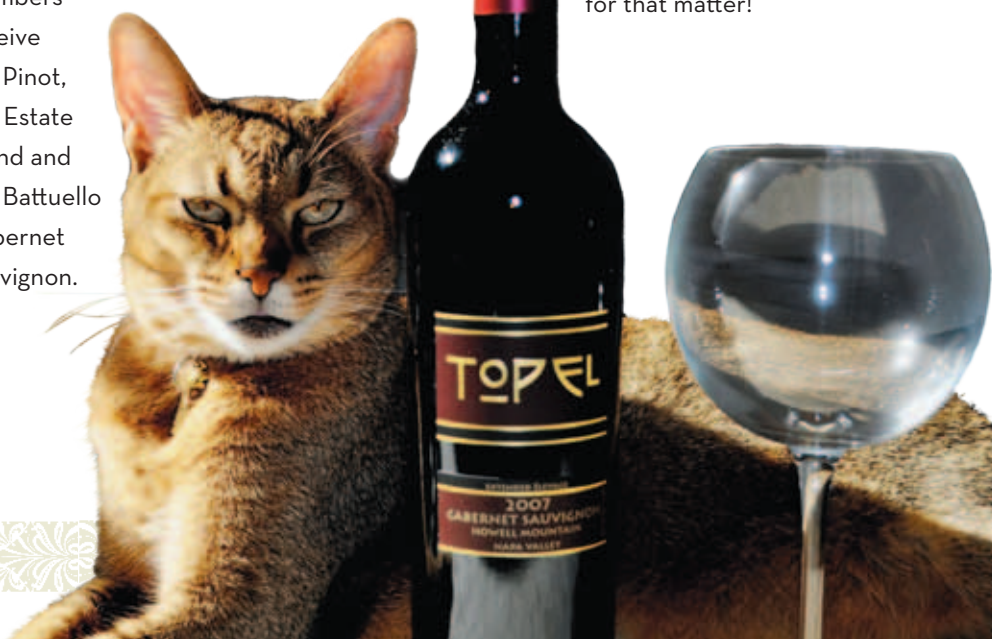
If you’re a Sextet member, you’ll enjoy all three of these wines, plus our 2006 Topel Cabernet Sauvignon Estate Reserve, our 2007 Topel Estate Blend and our 2007 Topel Syrah Noir. Trio members receive the Pinot, our Estate Blend and the Battuello Cabernet Sauvignon.

## CHECK OUT THE TASTING NOTES WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

Prefer to pick up your club shipment? Then come to our party!

We’re hosting a pick-up party the weekend of November 12 and 13 for those of you who want to save on shipping fees! We promise good food (as always), door prizes, cool music, tattoos (don’t worry – just temporary ones) and wine (of course). Drop by our Tasting Room at 125 Matheson Street in

Healdsburg, just across the street from Oakville Grocery. We’ll be there from 11 to 7 both days...and every day, for that matter!





## MAMA METTIE, THAT'S A MEATBALL!

Donnis entered her grandmother's veal meatball recipe into the Wine Road Wine & Food Affair Cookbook this year, and will be serving the recipe all weekend during the event (November 5 & 6). Club members are invited to stop by (even if you don't have an event ticket) and taste the delicious meatballs, parmesan polenta sticks – and our wines! The recipe is being sent with this newsletter and is perfect when paired with our 2006 Topel Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon.

## HEAVY MEDAL(S)

We're proud to report that several of our wines were awarded medals in major wine competitions this year. Our 2006 Topel Meritage "Le Mariage" won Double Gold at the Los Angeles International Wine Competition and Gold at the Mendocino County Wine Competition. The San Francisco North of the Gate Wine Competition awarded a Gold Medal to our 2007 Topel Cabernet Sauvignon – Battuello Vineyard. Finally, the Mendocino County Wine Competition honored us with a Double Gold Medal for our 2007 Topel Estate Blend and Gold Medals for both our 2006 Topel Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon and our 2009 White Wine Blend – "Birdsong."

### WINERY:

P.O. Box 510, Hopland, CA 95449  
707-744-1787

FAX: 707-744-1276

### TASTING ROOM:

125 Matheson Street,  
Healdsburg, CA 95448  
707-433-4116

FAX: 707-433-4118

[WWW.TOPELWINES.COM](http://WWW.TOPELWINES.COM)

## MEET THE FAMILY

We have two new winery puppies! Earlier this year we welcomed Maximilien Maxwell Edison and Lulu LillyLana into our lives. They are darling Blue Picardy Spaniels who LOVE to eat the grapes...and the tomatoes...and the squashes...and the carrots. And they are especially adept at digging up potatoes!

We also have a new Tasting Room associate, David Sampietro. He's helping us hold down the fort, along with our regular crew – Nick Stanford, Kevin Roach and David Milner. Stop by and say "hi" to the guys anytime!



## HERE COME THE HOLIDAYS

Before it gets too crazy, come by and see us! We will have holiday wine specials, gift sets, gift certificates and our 2012 Topel Wine Tails Calendar – something for everyone on your list! The calendar was released last week at our annual Dogtoberfest and is a perfect way for you to make a donation to the Healdsburg Animal Shelter and fulfill someone's holiday wish at the same time. The calendars are \$20 and every cent of your purchase goes to the shelter.

*That about wraps it up for us. We look forward to seeing you in the Tasting Room the next time you're in Healdsburg. In the meantime, we will continue to bring you outstanding, delicious, one-of-a-kind wines for a very reasonable price.*

*Best regards,*

*Donnis & Marcus Topel*