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Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Arnulf Esterer from Konstantin & Eugenia Frank, 1970

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Dr. Konstantin Frank and Sons

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Dr. Konstantin Frank and Sons

*Experimental Nursery, Vineyards and Vinifera Wine Cellars
European Grape Varieties and European Estate Bottled Wines*

R.D. 2, Hammondsport, New York 14840

December 15, 1970

My dear Mr. & Mrs. Esterer:

Another year has passed and we are well. It is very remarkable that we both, my beloved wife and I, are able to fulfill our obligation. Our hard work is a gratitude to the people of this great country, America, for the happiness and freedom which we enjoy here. We all have to pray and thank God for that.

As you know, we are the smallest winery in the east, producing only European type wines, estate produced and unblended, natural wines. We only own 118 acres of land; only 85 acres can be planted with grapes. At the present time we have 57 acres planted. This year we planted 8 acres more of Pinot Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Gamay Beaujolais and Gewurztraminer. We started our vineyard seventeen years ago.

Our goal is strictly scientific and not commercial. We do not strive to become bigger and mercantile. Our goal is to present proofs that the people of this most prosperous and magnificent country, America, do deserve to have and to enjoy the best wine of the world, but domestic wines.

During our twenty years of enjoyment of our life here in America, we have presented the proofs that these, the best grape varieties, responsible for the highest, premium quality wines, like the famous German Johannisberg Riesling, Gewurztraminer and the most famous Pinot Gris, Pinot Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, which are responsible for the top quality French Burgundies, and the king of the French Bordeaux wines, Cabernet Sauvignon, as well as the four best Russian grape varieties, were never grown so vigorously, productively, and flourishingly, producing the highest quality wines in their native countries, as they do grow in Hammondsport, New York, and in nine other eastern states by more than fifty of my cooperators.

It is time to wake up! It is time to stop misleading the American public, wine industry and authorities, by brain washing them that the good wines are only imported wines. It is time to stop the promotion of imported wines, which are, in most cases, falsely labeled and very strongly preserved, such as wines produced and bottled by the Chateau Mysteries of Schlosses, which are in reality wines produced from French hybrids, which are not permitted to be grown, sold or imported the world over, or wines produced in Algeria and only bottled in France or Germany. Some of these falsely labeled wines will be sold here as French or German Excellencies for as much as eleven dollars per bottle.

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It is true that the best grapes and the most excellent wines, as well as the grape and wine science, were born in France and Germany, but now, from the total grape acreage grown in these countries, more than 3.5 million acres, less than 200,000 acres of these famous grape varieties are grown in these two countries. Can this 200,000 acres of these famous grape varieties satisfy the wine lovers the world over? Are these all imported wines produced by the famous Chateau Haut Brion, Chateau Lafite, Chateau Latour or Chateau Margaux really so good? This you can find out if you will read the "Washington Episode", a story written by Harry Waugh in Wine Magazine #73 November/December issue 1970, published in London, England, page 21. There Henry Waugh published twelve excuses for twelve Chateau Vintages overpaid for by Washingtonians. If these best grape varieties flourish in Chile, and have since 1520 since they were brought there by the monks, then we in northeast America are now only 450 years too late, denying them now.

The 1970 vintage was excellent. It could be one of the best vintages of my twenty years of experience in this country, America. Our previous vintages are aging well, even the oldest ones. Johannisberg Riesling, 1962, 1963, 1964, as well as the Gamay Beaujolais, 1963, are retaining remarkable freshness. Our red wines need longer aging.

Visit us, and, if you were here recently, please come again soon.

With warm greetings and best wishes for the Holiday Season,

Eugenia and Konstantin Prank

The Pranks

I am sorry I miss you in North East. Please give this to read with my best regard to your friend.

RF