Spring 1982

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Markko Vineyard

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Children hold spring so tightly
in their brown fists,
Just as grownups, who are less sure of it,
hold it in their hearts.

-E. B. White

SPRING AT MARKKO . . . . . .
a time of rebirth. The prunners
move quietly up each row and down the next looking
for life-signs in a weatherworn vineyard. One can sense the
change - the gradual greening, the damp earth-smells and the
woods surrounding the Vineyard - bare, transparent . . . bursting
with life. Another year, another vintage! The signs of a
harsh winter are everywhere. Record cold temperatures
and a severe wind-chill factor combined to cause primary bud
kill in the Riesling of 40 - 60% (depending on location). The
Chardonnay suffered the most with an 80 - 90% kill, the
Cabernet Sauvignon 55 - 60%. Damage to canes and trunks is
still undetermined. These conditions may of course affect
the yield in October, but we're optimistic that the vines will
ultimately recover their vigor and again bear sweet and abundant
fruit.

"On the farm, the weather was the great fact, and men's
affairs went on underneath it, as the streams creep under
the ice."

— Cather

HARVEST 1981 . . . . briefly noted

Looking over our notes on vintage '81 and the harvest,
we recorded a yield of approximately 2500 gallons, down
50% from the record year before. Despite the low yield, the
sugars were beautiful with the Riesling measuring 22.5° to
23° and the Chardonnay about the same. A vintage to
watch!

AWARDS
WINERIES UNLIMITED (Lancaster, PA)
  Silver 1979 Chardonnay Reserve - Lot 921 (Best of
category)
  Silver 1979 Chardonnay Reserve - Lot 923
GRAPE WINE SHORT COURSE (Columbus, OH)
  Bronze 1979 Cabernet Sauvignon - Lot 91
  Bronze 1980 Riesling - Lot 012
  (Ed. comments: Reviewing the judge’s comments, we
noticed that their evaluation did not seem applicable to a
Riesling but rather a Chardonnay. Apparently there was some
confusion during the judging and the two wines were switched.
Based on the description of the ‘winning wine’, we believe
that the medal was intended for the '79 Chardonnay - Lot
921 rather than the Riesling - Lot 012.)

NEW BOTTLINGS . . . NEW PRICES

  We have two new Riesling bottlings - Lot 012 and Lot 014.
The '80 Rieslings are dry, kabinett style with a fresh crisp-
ness and delightful Riesling nose. Lot 014 has some residual
sugar giving it added elegance.

  We have had to raise the price on our award-winning wines
due to an increase in demand. Both Lots 921 and 923 Ries-
lings are $11.00 per bottle, $119.80 per case.

  As our sales are exceeding our production, it is possible
that shortages in certain lots will develop. If you’re unable to
visit the Winery, to pick up wine, UPS Service is available
and convenient. Feel free to call in your orders.
FROM THE HILL - COLUMBUS

Two important pieces of legislation have been adopted recently which should prove beneficial to the Ohio wine industry - its growers and consumers. Firstly, a successful effort to block the proposed 100% increase in the Ohio wine tax was realized after a persuasive argument from industry members on the principle that “wine is food” and should be taxed accordingly.

Secondly, the adoption of a $.03 increase in the present wine tax for the purpose of establishing a special fund for grape and wine research, product marketing and development. As wine growers, we realize research is needed if we’re to determine the best grape varieties for each region of Ohio and to ultimately concentrate our production on these higher quality wine and table-juice grapes. Incidentally, the small instate producer is now exempted from paying the old wine tax of $.24, but will be taxed on the new $.03 increase. Working together with our friends on the Hill was a cooperative effort and fortunately, a fruitful one.

SUMMER CALENDAR

June 5 — Blessing of the Vines — noon at the Vineyard
June 13 - 20 — Ohio Wine Week
Tastings, a jug day, and a special event will highlight this salute to Ohio wines.
June 19 — 7-10 p.m. An evening of Chamber Music, Light Supper with wine. Reservations in advance.
August 28 — Odds ’N End Sale and Auction

CONGRATULATIONS TO TIM AND CISSY HUBBARD
ON THE BIRTH OF MARY SEYMOUR (POLLY) HUBBARD
BORN SUNDAY, MARCH 14th - 7 lbs. 6 ozs.
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

May 1, 1982 — Lake Erie Alliance — 2 - 5 p.m.
Markko will host a benefit for the Lake Erie Alliance on Saturday, May 1st. Brent English, attorney for the LEA, will be here to explain the Environmental Impact Statement as drawn up by the Army Corps of Engineers. A number of questions are presently under appeal in the courts concerning the legality of this statement. This is perhaps your last opportunity to challenge the permits and their effect on your environment. Support and input into this critical issue is needed for time is running out. Call for reservations. $25.00 per person.