

To our Esteemed Wine Club Members and Dear Friends,

The night of September 27 became a blistering circus of flames as the Glass and Boysen fires set their sights on Spring Mountain. In an instant, the blaze engulfed the mountainside and left behind a trail of indescribable destruction. Our hearts go out to our neighbors who are suffering crushing losses of their homes, businesses and property. A surreal sadness engulfs us as we share your grief.

Here at SMV, thankfully everyone is safe, but the fire has taken a raging toll. Flames and intense heat quickly swept through the entire property and essentially vaporized most of our historic buildings that date back over a century, quickly reducing them and our stately forests to ashes. Through the bravery of our vineyard manager, Ron Rosenbrand, the dedicated firefighters who put their safety on the line for ours, and the sheer grace of God, I am grateful to report that our main winery, our caves, and the legendary Miravalle mansion were saved. Ron led the team to miraculously repel the fire, while his own home up the hill was burning to rubble. Look no further for an example of a true hero.

It is said that in order to achieve the best wines, a vineyard must live with stress and struggle. This puts their full focus on reproduction to produce the fullest grapes. This fire tortured our vines far beyond stress or struggle, likely resulting in a loss of this year's entire crop. Yet they remain alive, and under Ron's care and nurture, will be well conditioned to resume production as the source of the best wines in the Napa Valley in 2021.

I must send a deeply heartfelt thank you to the St. Helena Fire Department and their cohorts who saved our winery and beloved mansion. There are no words to express the depth of our gratitude. You will always be welcomed here with open arms. As I look ahead with optimism, I need to thank not only Ron, but the entire SMV team for their support and undaunted spirit, leaving despair behind to energetically vow to raise the vineyard to even greater heights. And to you, our devoted friends, thank you for your sweet words of support and faith. We have always held ourselves to a higher standard to earn your respect and regard for our wines, and we won't let you down, fires be damned. From the ashes we will grow once more...let's drink to that!

Cheers!