



Dear Friends,

Our **2011 True Believer** shipment is packed up & ready to ship. You will receive a shipping notice when it departs. Remember, if you are picking your box up, we'll hold it here in the winery as long as you wish. For our local **True Believers**, you know where to find us if we don't find you first!

Thank you to all that asked for extra wine above the standard 2011 allocation. Your confidence in the HWA is heartwarming, & we'll not forget it - you can't imagine how much that means to us.

Several of you have inquired about drinking windows, serving recommendations, etc. I say that if you wish to dive right in, it tastes pretty good right now, but I would **decant the wine** a few hours before and **serve it at about 58°-62° F** – colder, and it can be muted aromatically and less voluptuous. The warmer the wine (let's say over 68°) the “hotter” or more alcoholic the wine can come across. Laying it down for a year or 5 wouldn't hurt. Additionally, you can check out **Jeb's notes from the Wine Advocate** (<http://www.erobertparker.com>) - he's someone I trust on the Rhône front:

The 2011 True Believer, which was still in tank at the time of this tasting, it's a blend of 50% Grenache and the balance a co-fermented split of Syrah and Mourvedre, with the Grenache aged in neutral oak and the Syrah and Mourvedre in new, once-used and neutral barrels. While it comes from a difficult, cool vintage, you wouldn't know it by tasting it, as it has full-bodied richness, gorgeous fruit and sweet tannin. Offering up ample black cherry, roasted herbs, earth and licorice-like aromas and flavors, this will be a smoking bottle of wine that will have 10-12 years of overall longevity.

We're coming off a great fourth vintage here at **hWa** and have some exciting things in store for you in 2015, including a tiny spring release of 2012 Petite Sirah (still in barrel) and 2014 rosé (in barrel & finishing fermentation now). More on this later, **but here are Jeb's notes on the Petite** to get you geeked-up for now – if everything goes according to plan, there should be enough to get everyone currently on the list 1 bottle of the Petite and 2 of the rosé:

The 2012 Petite Sirah is another awesome, hedonistically-styled beauty that doesn't pull any punches. Loaded with plum, cassis, roasted coffee bean, dried flowers and big minerality, this puppy hits the palate with full-bodied richness, awesome purity of fruit and sweet, yet certainly present, tannin that emerges on the finish. Given its wealth of fruit and texture, it should shine on release, but it should have 15 years or more total longevity.

For those of you that are patiently waiting for an allocation, it is our intention to accommodate the majority of those currently on the waiting list for the **2012 True Believer** release to be offered next spring and shipped in the fall.

Note: We are still waiting for a handful of **True Believers** to process their order (not mentioning names, J.O.). Please take care of this as soon as possible to ensure prompt delivery. Also, we're personalizing the packaging somewhat, so we need to finalize the confirmation process before we can complete the final step. Feel free to reach out to Dayna via email dayna@hammellwinealliance.com.

After shipping the 2011s & putting the 2014 barrels to bed in my cold room at the winery (where they'll remain for the next 2 years), I'll be heading over to the **Vallée du Rhône** in December to hang out with some heroes and friends as part of my never-ending quest to up my skills in order to bring you the best wines that I possibly can. I'll be documenting my trip, so follow my Twitter feed at the homepage of www.hammellwinealliance.com to keep up!

À bientôt!

Chris Hammell

www.hammellwinealliance.com