



## Cue the Snowflakes

*It's the most wonderful time of the year... there'll be much celebrating and wine to be drinking and songs to be sung... it's the most wonderful time OF THE YEAR!*

*Not anticipating an early Christmas... but it is time for Harvest 2010!*

*Maybe. One more week? Two? Ask Marshall? (my choice too, but he's out in the vineyard!)*

*If you've never had the incredible experience of picking perfectly ripe wine grapes and then watching grape clusters fed into the crusher, you should remedy that immediately... or whenever they're able to harvest this year.*

*The heady smell of the must intoxicates your senses and your mind spins with possibilities. Never mind that you'll have to wait a year or so for that incredible Cabernet Franc to be ready for barrel tasting, just the hint of what it might become is enough to put you on cloud nine.*

*Not that 2010 hasn't already been a study in waiting. This year our climate was challenging. Spring was late, summer didn't want to show up. Then suddenly we are struck with mind numbing heat... as humans, we have the benefit of air conditioning. Not so for our friends, the noble grapes.*

*But grapes are hearty... the very best wine is said to come from vines that struggle the most. So based on that logic you could say with the 2010 we are looking at the best vintage Temecula ever produced!*

*Although high heat descended on Temecula Valley August 1<sup>st</sup>, the months prior were surprisingly temperate (even winter-like at times) and the grapes were given time to develop complexity.*

*It's those 100 degree-plus days that wreak havoc on a vineyard... the vines shut down in extreme temperatures and refuse to ripen. They don't develop the complex characteristics we admire in our best wines. But it's now September and we have fog in the morning (bet you didn't see that coming?)*

*No one can predict the weather... that's for Mother Nature to dictate. But we can always dream of wines not yet in the barrel. This year promises a unique vintage unlike any Temecula has ever seen.*

*So cue the music, raise your glass and let's celebrate Harvest 2010!*