

GROWER - WINERY
QUALITY COLLABORATION

For Premium Sierra Foothill (*Red*) Zinfandel



Kristopher Mapes
Grower Relations Representative
TRINCHERO FAMILY ESTATES
Foothill Grape Day
June 6, 2013



Grower-Winery Quality Collaboration

Sierra Foothill (*Red*) Zinfandel

Ø QUALITY & ECONOMICS – Two principal components which are essential for the *Winery* and *Grower* to remain successful long term.

Ø COMMUNICATION – Maintain a regular dialogue with grower and/or vineyard manager and winery representative throughout the growing season, to insure all quality objectives are addressed. Exchange of information is invaluable.

Ø VINEYARD QUALITY OBJECTIVES – Employing fundamental viticulture practices throughout the season, which are conducive for premium wine grape quality. Key emphasis placed on pruning and canopy management practices.

Grower-Winery Quality Collaboration

Sierra Foothill (*Red*) Zinfandel



PRUNING

- Ø Head Trained – Recommended format for established vines is a maximum of six (6) to eight (8) two-bud spurs per vine.
- Ø Spur Numbers – This will depend primarily on vine age, vine spacing, vineyard site, clone, rootstock, vine health, and production history.
- Ø ALWAYS PRUNE TO THE STRENGTH OF THE VINE.





Grower-Winery Quality Collaboration

Sierra Foothill (*Red*) Zinfandel



SHOOT REMOVAL

- Ø Shoot thinning and crown suckering are expected of all our Foothill (*Amador*) Zinfandel growers. Every Foothill (*Amador*) Zinfandel grower recognizes the intrinsic benefits from these cultural practices.
- Ø General format for established head trained vines is to retain a maximum of two (2) to three (3) shoots per spur. The actual number of shoots retained is based on shoot fertility, with a recommended average between 24 and 28 clusters per vine.
- Ø All vegetation below the spur position is removed, except where a replacement shoot may be retained to fill a void.
- Ø Labor shortages loom on the horizon as a major impediment.



Deaver Vineyard
Old Vines Block Defendol
Pre-rows uncovered
4-02-23



Deaver Vineyard
Old Vines Defendol
Full-row uncovering
Two to three months ago
4-02-23

Donskire Vinyard
Donskire block
Entrance
Evidence of Wood Rotting
8/18/00



Grower-Winery Quality Collaboration

Sierra Foothill (*Red*) Zinfandel



CROP ESTIMATION

- Ø Post-shoot thinning – flower clusters are counted in each vineyard to obtain preliminary crop estimates. Current cluster numbers are compared to historical averages.
- Ø Cluster weights – historical weights are used since no proven methodology presently exists to accurately determine cluster weights pre-harvest (*within <5%*).
- Ø Exchange crop estimation data with growers.

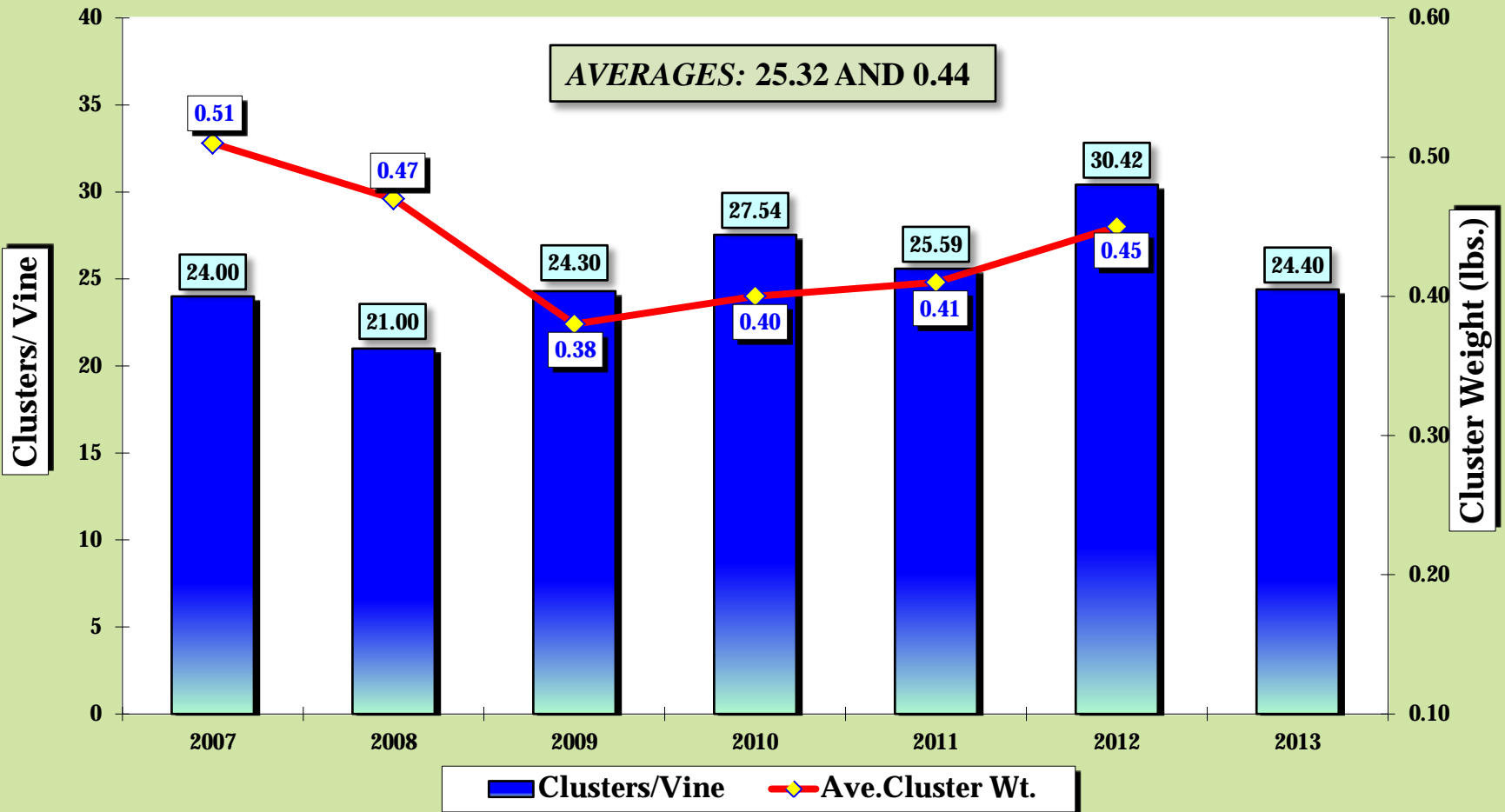
Grower-Winery Quality Collaboration

Sierra Foothill (*Red*) Zinfandel



**Lauzere Vineyards
Total Clusters & Cluster Weights**

AVERAGES: 25.32 AND 0.44



Grower-Winery Quality Collaboration

Sierra Foothill (*Red*) Zinfandel



SEASONAL VINEYARD INSPECTION

- Ø Periodic visits are made throughout the growing season to inspect vineyards for any issues.
- Ø Keep growers apprised of any developments which pose a potential threat to wine grape quality, i.e., *insect and mite pests, diseases, weed pressure, nutritional issues, irrigation, etc.*
- Ø Suggest that growers also make a concerted effort to keep grower relations personnel apprised of any significant vineyard issues which may develop.
- Ø Second crop - removal is determined on a vineyard-by-vineyard basis.

Grower-Winery Quality Collaboration

Sierra Foothill (*Red*) Zinfandel



HARVEST

- Ø Communication - paramount in alleviating potential issues prior to and during harvest.
- Ø Grape Maturity sampling – begin several weeks prior to harvest - *Brix, pH, and acid* - to determine projected harvest date.
- Ø Try to remain optimistic that weather, labor, trucking, and winery, will all cooperate.

Grower-Winery Quality Collaboration

Sierra Foothill (*Red*) Zinfandel



Thank You!

And Thank You to all my Growers!