

January 2024



Hello Everyone,

I hope you are well, and the New Year has welcomed you with health, happiness and ample high quality hydration. On the heels of one of the later vintages we've navigated in recent memory, we have enjoyed some brief down time with the family and are right back at it looking toward an exciting 2024. We are nearing completion of Phase 2 here at the winery which will give us a bit more room to stretch out on the production side of things. For those of you with history here at Torrin, you are well aware of our philosophy when it comes to producing ageworthy wines. For those of you a bit newer to Torrin we look forward to the opportunity to explain this a little more in depth in the new Torrin Library Room. This space will allow us to showcase wines from older vintages and share the stories that went into making each one of these special wines unique. On the vineyard front, with Mother Nature's cooperation, we are looking at pulling small amounts of fruit off of the new plantings here on our estate. The journey continues and it's looking like It is going to be another adventurous year!

We have all kinds of interesting conversations with our guests here at the winery. One topic that continues to be brought up with increasing frequency addresses climate change and the environment. This got me thinking. So way back in high school in one of my English classes, we were given the assignment of writing an essay for the Earth Day Essay Contest sponsored by our local newspaper. As with most things in my life at that point, and pretty much prior to and since that point, I put it off until the last minute. There I sat, much like I am sitting now, I just started writing down whatever decided to come out. A little while later as I wrote down my closing statement, I patted myself on the back for yet another last minute project in the books. A couple weeks later as our teacher

was getting us to settle into class, he said he had an announcement to make. “The winner of the Earth Day Essay contest is one of our own,” he began. I looked around the room singling out the handful of likely candidates as he announced, “Congratulations Scott Hawley!” What?! I’d just won \$100 in an essay contest! I was making something like \$3 an hour hoeing weeds on a citrus ranch on Saturdays for extra cash, so this was a pretty big deal. They printed the top three essays in the newspaper. The other kids obviously did a bit more research than I did and wrote data driven essays with lots of referenced statistics. Mine on the other hand was just an editorial written in the first person by a kid clueless and overwhelmed by the impending burden of saving the world falling on his still-developing shoulders. Turns out an honest and candid viewpoint from a teenager was just what they were looking for! The gist of the essay was pretty simple, start at home with yourself. Don’t underestimate the cumulative impact of small changes. If we all made it a priority in our own lives to learn how to make a difference, then together we may very well end up actually making a difference!



Who knew how relevant that little essay would be prove to be throughout the life I ended up leading. The message still rings true. We still take the approach that it all starts at home, only now, even though we are a tiny brand, each one of those little decisions has considerably more impact. For example: Changing to a bottle that weighs 200 grams less cut our glass usage by 16,000 pounds per year. The design and process flow of our winery reduces our energy consumption. No-till farming controls erosion and run off, improves soil health and biodiversity and sequesters tons of carbon. Careful monitoring of plants, paired with dry farmed or strategic deficit irrigation models reduces water usage by hundreds of thousands of gallons. Strictly prohibiting the use of any synthetic herbicides or pesticides, providing beneficial insect habitats, cover crops, and creating wildlife corridors all help promote the environmental well-being not only for the space within our property lines, but well beyond. The list goes on and on, but these are just a handful of the things we take into consideration when we make decisions on

how to conduct our business and ourselves. The interesting thing is that none of this is radical pioneering work. These are all things that we have learned over the years from others by asking questions and paying attention. We are simply choosing to make it a priority to ask ourselves if we can be doing things better. More often than not, the answer is yes so we continue to learn and continue to improve, one small step at a time.

Climate change and our environment as a whole is woven so deeply into the fabric of the entire winegrowing process that it will be an ever-present resident on our list of concerns. When we first bought our property on Anderson road almost 20 years ago, I remember all of the mornings I would watch the sun coming up over the vineyard. I couldn't believe that it was ours, that we owned land in such an incredible area. Since then I've come to realization that it's more stewardship than ownership. This place was here well before we were and will be here long after we are gone, so we'll take care of it on our watch and hand it over full of life, ready for its next chapter when the time comes. We are well aware that every step forward is going to leave a footprint, but we choose where we tread and to tread lightly.



Thank you all again for your continued support and for so diligently carrying the Torrin and Paso Robles torch. We hope to see you all soon.

*Keep an eye out for information on the upcoming spring release of the 2021 vintage wines! We are so excited to share this vintage with you.*

Cheers,

The Hawley Family and Team Torrin