HARVEST 1998:
Glorious wines, though not much of them. The combination of vines recovering from a large 1997 crop and damp, cool weather at bloom, doomed this vintage to short crops. The harvest resulted, however, with a normal ripening season and no early rains, deeply extracted and highly structured wines. Crop loads were even smaller than 1994; the wines are big but require time in the bottle to regain their lushness and finesse. Possibly one of the best vintages to date.