

# trout street wines

Fall 2009



## “Gratitude is the Best Attitude”

*Author Unknown*

My first vintage is complete. It was a vintage, and a year, of learning, excitement, trepidation, and laughter. The wine has a lovely “finish”, and the same could be said of this journey’s first step. It has been a success, not only in the number of bottles sold, but also in the enrichment of ties to family, old and new friends, and for me, in many ways, it has been a rebirth.

Gratitude flows from my heart to so many as I continue this journey. I could not do this without the strength and love of my wife, Joan. Each day I am lifted up by the inspiration my wonderful children, Nicholas and Harriette, instill in me.

And then there is the process of wine. I am truly blessed to work with Chris Nelson, a talented young winemaker whose touch with the grape will be noticed more and more as his career grows. The art of Bob Kane

has always brought Joan and I so much happiness. We are so lucky to have Bob and Eva as our friends, and his work on my label has done much to establish **trout street** wines. My family, and Joan’s, have been so supportive in their enthusiasm..... and thirst. One way to get a jump on market share is to have a big family! Hugs and Kisses to each one of you. The surprise was how many of you took a chance on my first vintage. Many were friends, and their friends, and fortunately their friends. So much thanks to all of you... I’m hoping you stay with me. I really can’t grow without the restaurants and clubs who have let me be a part of their wine lists. You don’t know how much an honor you have given me, and please know how much I appreciate you.

Finally, if you know the history of my wine’s name, you know there is one more person to thank. “Grandad, I wish you and I could have shared a bottle.”

*Marc Fletcher*

## Artist Bob Kane



So many people ask about the art on our bottle. Bob Kane is an American master, and more important to Joan and I, a wonderful friend. It is an honor, and joy to have Bob’s art grace our bottle, and I wanted all of you to know more about him. I asked William Meek, proprietor of the Harmon-Meek Gallery, to write a short bio of Bob, our friend, and truly one of America’s great painters.

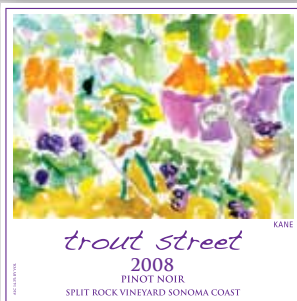
Born in Shaker Heights, Ohio in 1937, Bob studied under the great master Will Barnet (b.1911-) at the Art Students League of New York. His career as a fine artist commenced with shows in the mid 1960s at the noted Bertha Schafer Galleries in NYC and later at the Ankrum Gallery in Los Angeles, CA. Early noted collectors of his work were Joseph H. Hirshhorn and Edward Broida. In 1987 Barnet advised Kane to seek representation in Naples, Florida, with the Harmon-Meek Gallery. He has had annual shows there ever since. Three years ago he returned to New York with representation at the Hollis-Taggart Galleries. His paintings are in about 30 permanent museum collections including the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Butler Institute Of American Art in Ohio. A major book about his career was written by Richard Boyle, famed museum director, and published by the international publisher, Rizzoli, a few years ago. His oil paintings depict the Mediterranean region centering on the people who make this area of the world so interesting. Bright colors and a heavy impasto are trademarks easily recognizable.

## What’s Next?

The first vintage has worked out quite well. Now, the question comes to me often, “What’s next?”

Well, for the 2008 vintage, I have doubled production from the Split Rock Vineyard. The quality of fruit coming from this Sonoma Coast vineyard continues to impress, and I plan to keep it in the **trout street** portfolio. As I look toward 2009, I’m excited **trout street** will release a Chardonnay from Durell Vineyard. This award winning vineyard has always been one of my favorites for Chardonnay, and I feel blessed to add it to my list. Also, 2009 will also bring an additional Pinot Noir from the La Encantada vineyard, located in California’s Central Coast. This Sta. Rita hills vineyard is owned, and farmed by Richard Sanford. Richard is one of the pioneers of Pinot Noir in California, and now with La Encantada Vineyard, is on the leading edge of organic farming.

Please be assured, dedication to the creation of premium, quality wines will always be our goal. And I promise you all will be the first to know of the future wines of **trout street**.



## Family

This past summer, two days before his 94th birthday, my Dad passed away. Vergil Fletcher lived a life very few people could ever experience. Dad did so much for so many, and his legacy will live on through the countless he touched. My Dad worked so hard to give his six children all they needed and more. And the love he showed his wife of 71 years defined a true soulmate. I miss him.

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