

Berman's Wine and Spirits

Wine of the Month Club Tasting Notes

Global Exploration – October 2011

2008 Chalone Pinot Noir-Monterey County

Chalone has been making pinot noir from grapes grown in Monterey country since 1966. Pinot noir is typically very aromatic, and this one is no exception. Fragrant rose, ripe black cherry and a touch of tobacco give your nose a preview of what your palate is about to experience. The red fruit brightens across the palate, picking up raspberry and spice. Soft and silky through the middle, the wine crescendos on the finish, leaving a vibrant, juicy memory in the mouth—an excellent match to wild mushroom flatbread drizzled with a touch of truffle oil, as well as semi-soft cheeses, stronger-flavored fish, such as salmon, halibut, or blue fish, and lighter red meats, such as roast pork, ham, or lamb.

2009 Paul Cluver Riesling - Elgin - South Africa

This family-owned, family-run wine business is located in the cool-climate Elgin Valley, approximately 70km south-east of Cape Town. The property has been in ownership of the Cluver Family since 1896. Recognized as pioneers of wine in the area, their focus is on producing elegant wines that are expressive of the terroir. This bone dry Riesling shows the lime and white flower aromas that are so typical of the variety. The palate is clean, elegant, and vibrant with an amazing depth that leads to a long and satisfying finish. Serve with fish, shellfish, soft cheeses, salads and nearly any vegetable dish.

2008 Dynamite Cabernet Sauvignon - Red Hills - Lake County

The wines of Dynamite Vineyards are inspired by their rugged origins - mountainsides so rocky that only explosives could break them open for cultivation!

Enticing aromas of black fruit and toasted oak open the nose of their 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon. The smooth, full-bodied palate balances rich, dark fruit and subtle hints of barrel spices. Flavors of blackberry, cherry and cassis are hemmed by hints of cedar, chocolate and vanilla. The wine's mountain origins lend an additional ruggedness, with firm tannins and a nice, long, textured finish. Perfect for the barbecue, this wine pairs well with grilled steaks, ribs or hamburgers.

The grapes come from the Snows Lake Vineyard in the Red Hills appellation in Lake County. Featured on the label are the "moon tears" that, according to Pomo Indian legend, make up the soil here. These quartz crystals sparkle like diamonds in the rich, red volcanic soil. At 2,000 feet above the warm Napa Valley, the vineyard experiences a differential heating effect that encourages reliable afternoon breezes each day, cooling the vines and allowing the grapes to ripen slowly. The result is concentrated grapes with well-balanced flavors.