

*Hyde Park Wine Experiences  
And  
Culinary Adventures  
Issues 23*

Have you noticed corks are changing in many of the wines you have been using lately?

**In This Issue:**

Three hot wines for fewer than ten bucks.

White wine of the month.

Red wine of the month.

When is Rombauer Chardonnay going to be in stores?

Cakebread Chardonnay is allocated in some markets.

and More!

**THREE QUALITY WINES FOR FEWER THAN TEN BUCKS:**

Sometimes it can be very hard to find a good wine for fewer than ten bucks, one that you are not going too embarrassed to serve at home for a party. I have three recommendations for you might find enticing:

*The Wishing Tree, Chardonnay Western Australia Uncoaked  
2006*

This wine thrusts the cool-climate fruit of Western Australia onto the center stage. This Chardonnay offers plenty of ripe apple, pear, and lime tastes along with some tropical fruity flavors. Only 9000 cases were made, so you may want to try to find this wine now before it disappears off the shelves. **\$7.99 a bottle.**

*Smoking Loon, Sauvignon Blanc California 2005*

Don Sebastiani & Sons churn out copious amounts of value with this fruity and easy to drink Sauvignon Blanc. The wine shows zesty grapefruit, green apple, lime, and lemon flavors with a satisfying crisp finish. With 27,000 cases available, you should be able to find this wine at your local retailer. Excellent with sautéed fish, soft-shelled crabs and salads. **\$7.99 a bottle.**

*Viña Montes, Malbec Colchagua Valley Classic Series 2005*

Offering dark berry fruit flavors and licorice on the nose, the fleshy crushed berry sensation continues on the palate with secondary flavors of spice and vanilla. Full-bodied and long on the finish. Great with grilled meats and spicy food. Availability is exceptional. **\$9.99 a bottle**

## **WHERE IS THE ROMBAUER? CAKEBREAD?**

One big question that continues to be asked at wine stores nationally is, "Where is the Rombauer Chardonnay?" The simple answer is the winery is out of product - demand outweighs supply and the winery just cannot keep up. The new vintage is slated to be released in late October, which is good news to wine consumers who love the wine. The bad news is everyone is going to be buying as many cases as they can, since the new vintage 2005 is going to be another stellar wine. Long term, Rombauer Chardonnay will be hard to find after May of 2008. The same goes for Rombauer Cabernet Sauvignon, which has an ever smaller production.

Cakebread Chardonnay is in the same boat. It can be hard to find it anywhere. Here at the Club we were out of Cakebread for about a month, but I was able to find a new supply. We should have enough until the next vintage is released in October.

## **THE FOCUS IS ON THE CORK:**

Corks are once again in the news, but in a good way this time. As noted in a previous article I wrote, many wineries are looking at synthetic corks, as real cork is getting expensive because of supply and demand. Some wineries have gone to the Stelvin cap (screw cap) while others have gone to a harder plastic or synthetic cork.

In recent years, the new synthetic corks have really improved and many domestic wineries are moving in this direction. Stelvin corks are also a good choice - however, to go with this options, wineries need to upgrade their bottling facilities, which can cost a lot of money. Therefore, it is more cost effective to look at the new synthetic corks. You will be noticing more and more domestic wineries replacing real cork with this option in the next few years. Synthetic corks are more durable, seal the wine much better, and the chances of having a bad bottle of wine from a loose cork is highly unlikely.

## **WHITE WINE OF THE MONTH:**

New Zealand continues to dominate the Sauvignon Blanc category and a new wine named Kim Crawford is exploding here in the states. I tasted a Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc a few months ago and was very impressed. While a little more expensive than others Sauvignon Blancs, Kim Crawford is a more sophisticated wine and very elegant in style. The wine's nose has a hint of fresh cut grass and a light scent of lemon. The wine's body has nice tropical fruit, gooseberry, ripe grapefruit, and melon flavor. The finish is clean with long length. Highly recommend and price at around **\$19.99 retail**.

## RED WINE OF THE MONTH:

This month I'm recommending the Penfolds Cabernet Shiraz Bin 389 2004 from South Australia. This Cabernet is big and robust with 53 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 47 percent Shiraz. The wine is multi-textured with aromas and flavors of blackberry, blueberries, black pepper, and herbal notes. Bold tannins are layered with a succulent coating that lingers long after the finish. This is an excellent bottle of wine that will cellar for many years. Recommended food suggestions with this bottle are grilled beef or lamb, steaks, veal, and game birds. *This bottle retails at \$19.99*

## SELECTED WINES OF THE MONTH:

Find a pen and paper and jot down these recommend bottles of wine to try at home.

*Michele Chiarlo, Barbera d' Asti Italy 2003*

This is a 100% Barbera with fruit ripeness on the nose; peppery round and medium bodied with soft tannins. Could be served with grilled steaks or lamb shank. *Retails for around \$21.99*

*Paraduxx, Red Blend Napa Valley 2004*

A nice blend of Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this red wine captures vivid blackberry, black cherry, and red fruit pie filling. Nice oak and layers of milk chocolate are evident on the long and velvety finish. *Retails for \$32.99 a bottle*

*Brampton, Sauvignon Blanc Western Cap South Africa 2006*

Aromas of green apple, pear, and ripe peach flavors with mineral notes on the clean finish. *Retails for \$7.99 a bottle*

*Kanu, Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch 2005*

Medium-bodied with ripe tropical nectarine and pink grapefruit. Delicious! *Retails for \$8.99 a bottle*

*Domenico, Pinot Grigio Lodi California 2005*

Here is a quick mover on wine shelves. Clean and fresh with good balance showing lemon, peach, and sweet/tart tropical flavors. *Retails for \$14.99 a bottle*

*Covy Run, Washington State Columbia Valley "Quail Series" 2004*

Medium to full bodied with seasoned aromas of cassis and vanilla on the nose. The body is complex with blackberry, and black cherry flavors. Great with beef stew on any dish flavored with cinnamon. *Retails around \$6.99 a bottle*

## QUESTION FROM A MEMBER:

## **LES, I WANTED TO KNOW DOES EVERY BOTTLE OF WINE HAVE THE ALCOHOL CONTENT ON THE BOTTLE?**

Yes. Every wine producer needs to list the alcohol percentage by law. The percentage may be hard to find on the bottle. Most produces place their alcohol content on the backside of the bottle in small print. Other produces show the alcohol percentage on the front of the label. As you know, some wines have more alcohol than others depending on the varietal.

## **QUESTION FROM A NON-MEMBER:**

**LES, GREAT NEWSLETTER. VERY INFORMATIVE. I WAS WONDERING DO ALL WINES CONTAIN SULFITES, INCLUDING ORGANIC WINES.**

Yes all wines, even organic wines contain sulfites. Sulfites are part of the grapes natural growing process. Sulfites are in the soil. Some produces add more sulfites to their wines as a preservative. Other wines like Pinot Grigio may have less sulfite.

## **QUESTION FROM A MEMBER:**

**LES WHAT EXACTLY IS PINOTAGE AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM?**

Pinotage is South Africa's flagship grape and was discovered around 1925 as a winemaker crossed Pinot Noir with Cinsault. The wine comes from the Breede River Valley near the Drakestein Mountains in South Africa. Pinotage has a inky hue color that shows black licorice, plum, and black cherry fruit with hints of spices, oak, and rounded tannins.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **AN EVENING WITH BILL SAMUELS AND MAKERS MARK:**

If you have not made your reservations for this event you, best get on the horn, as you will want to attend this very special event. Bill Samuels was here at the club five years ago for a Markers Mark Bourbon Tasting and the place was packed. Mr. Samuels rarely makes repeat visits to country clubs but with the volume of business we do with his Bourbon, Mr. Samuels wanted to come back for a special engagement. Here is the program for the evening

- The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Old Main Bar with an OPEN BAR with any cocktail made with Markers Mark Bourbon from 6:30 until 7:15 p.m.
- Every person who attends this special event will receive a FREE BOTTLE OF MAKERS MARK SIGNED BY BILL SAMUELS
- Heavy hot and cold appetizers

- **Bill Samuels will make a thirty-minute presentation with a question and answer period.**
- **Plus added surprises**

**Guests are welcome, dress is casual, and the price is only 28.99 per person. Make your reservations today!**

## **BEER TASTING**

**We are in the early stages of planning a beer tasting in January or February. The brand is still in the air. The event will include several different beers with heavy appetizers. More details will be available in the club's monthly newsletter.**

## **CELLAR WINE TASTING:**

**We will clean out the basement at the end of December just in time to have a cellar wine tasting. The event will be tentatively held the second Friday in January. *The price is only \$24.99 per person* and will feature some very nice wines from our cellar. More details on this popular event will be available in the monthly club newsletter.**

**Until December, take care and drink a nice glass of wine with your dinner tonight.**

**Les Hemingway  
Bar Manager**

**Some of the information in this newsletter came from the following publications.**

**Cheers Magazine  
Top Shelf Magazine  
The Wine Spectator  
The Wine Enthusiast  
The Wine Advocate  
Market Watch Magazine  
The Wall Street Journal  
Santé  
The Ohio Beverage Journal  
Beverage Digest**