

Big Bang Club Newsletter

June 2007

An introduction to “terroir”

Terroir (a French term pronounced tear-whar), is translated as “soil” or loosely translated as “a sense of place”. Terroir is the term used to suggest that the entire vineyard environment is affected by climate, soil, region, slope of the vineyard, historical winemaking practices, even the cultural influences. and thus contributes to the personality and uniqueness of the wine. As a result, some experts can use terroir to explain how one wine can taste strikingly different from

another with grapes grown literally down the street. This concept, however, has been under debate within the wine world for ages; does terroir really exist? Is terroir quantifiable? Clearly, as with any debate, all sides can take the issue to a point of disbelief, however if you have ever tasted a fine wine from France, you can't deny that something more than just wine exists, particularly if you compare it next to a “wine of mass vinification”. A fabulous and entertaining blog titled, The War on Terroir and Wines of Mass Vinification, by Richard Olsen-Harbach, is one I recommend reading (http://lennthompson.typepad.com/lenndevours/2005/11/the_war_on_terr.html). As for our wine club selections, we always consider, as least in part, the terroir of the wines we choose – as even reasonably priced wine can still have a “sense of place” and a taste of its own. As always, enjoy your selection this month. Cheers, Emily and Mark Pelletier



DELIVERY/PICK UP DATE FOR NEXT MONTH!

Friday, July 27th

2005 Trumpeter Malbec - \$10 Mendoza, Argentina

The history of the Rutini Wines: The Rutini Family began making wine in Le Marche, Italy in the early 19th Century. When family members emigrated to Argentina 1885, they planted their first vines, and began construction of the La Rural winery. For over 100 years, the Rutini Family produced varietals such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, and Malbec, with the the mission of “winemaking tradition with the desire for constant evolution and innovation”. International distribution of these wines began in 1994 when the Runiti family sold to a set of investors; taking the winery into the 21st Century.

Tasting Notes: Aromas of cinnamon and berries lead into flavors of cherry, black cherry and plum, intermingled with hints of cardamon and pepper. A rich, creamy wine with intense tannins, a touch of vanilla toast, and a long, smooth finish.

Serving Suggestions: Definitely a red meat wine that is versatile enough to stand up to Mexican, Cajun, Indian or Italian fare (especially with tomato-based sauces). You can also try this with summer bbq; pork chops, pork roast, or bbq pork ribs.



2005 Kloster Pinot Grigio - \$10

Rheinhessen, Germany

Not many of us would consider a German Pinot Grigio, but this one has character beyond the Italian borders! A cold climate grape, the Pinot Grigio (yes, it's the same as the Pinot Gris you find here in Oregon) does well in the Rheinhessen region of Germany. This wine clearly won out in our club selection this month, it couldn't have gotten any better sitting on the patio on a Friday late afternoon enjoying a glass with a great friend. It held on it's own, and had a pleasant crispness and smooth finish for a wine at this price.

Tasting Notes: Full bodied wine with fruity aromas of pear and apples, with hints of almonds and citrus. Long and crisp, with the smallest hint of an off-dry finish.

Serving Suggestions: Goes well with seafood, pasta, spicy artichoke dip or a plate of meat and cheeses. Serve well chilled.

Looking for a particular wine? Call and order from Cork Cellars and have it delivered with your wine club selections! Great prices, great service – always fun!

Tasting Notes

Trumpeter Malbec 2005
Mendoza, Argentina

Nose:

Taste:

When/Where Served:

Food with wine:

Comments:

Kloster Pinot Grigio 2005
Rheinhessen, Germany

Nose:

Taste:

When/Where Served:

Food with wine:

Comments:

Previous Wine Club Selections

APRIL 2007

Sawtooth Skyline Red

\$10/bottle

6 or more: \$9/bottle

12 or more: \$8/bottle

Giraudon Aligote

\$10/bottle

6 or more: \$9/bottle

12 or more: \$8/bottle

MAY 2007

Marchesi Di Barolo

\$10/bottle

6 or more: \$9/bottle

12 or more: \$8/bottle

Trapiche Torrontes

\$10/bottle

6 or more: \$9/bottle

12 or more: \$8/bottle

CORK CELLARS DISCOUNT POLICY

10% TUESDAYS

Receive 10% OFF 3 or more bottles of wine every Tuesday (in store only)

10% OFF

Always receive 10% OFF 6 bottles or more bottles of wine (mixed okay)

10% OVER COST

Receive 10% over cost on full case orders (no mixed)