

Big Bang Club Newsletter

May 2006

This weekend is Memorial Day Weekend – the indication that summer is finally here (though the weather seems to be the real indication). We've been out on the deck most evenings this month, enjoying a nice outdoor fire and grilled meat or fish on the barbeque for dinner. Our wine taste buds have changed with the weather too – we tend to gravitate more towards crisp, refreshing whites and fruitier, medium-bodied reds this time of year. Our selection this month is sure to please any Memorial Day crowd – open and share – and celebrate the new season! Enjoy! Emily & Mark Pelletier

If you are receiving 2 reds each month and would like to try our whites this summer, please call 549-2675 to switch over to 1 red, 1 white for the summer months.

REMINDER: Friday, June 30th is the next delivery/pick-up date.

Night Owl Merlot

\$10

San Bernabe Vineyard
Monterey County, California



A Tribute: Night Owl wines are named as a tribute to the owls that inhabit the San Bernabe Vineyards in Monterey, California – and the winery respects the integral role the owls play in the health of their local ecosystem. In response, the vineyard staff have built and hung more than 100 owl boxes at San Bernabe Vineyard, of which three different types of owls reside – Barn owls, Burrowing owls, and Great Horned owls. In addition, in an effort to promote the preservation of owls and their natural habitats, San Bernabe Vineyard practices sustainable farming practices and participates in the *Code for Sustainable Winegrowing Practices*, a joint program of the by the Wine Institute and the California Association of Winegrape Growers. If that wasn't enough, San Bernabe Vineyards also supports the efforts of the National Audubon Society to protect birds and their natural habitats.

The Wine: A heartwarming story that everyone can appreciate, yes, but is the wine any good? Of course! The Merlot is a single vineyard wine, bold and expressive. Decant the wine, or let sit open for a couple hours (even overnight!), and you'll really get a taste of the complexity shown throughout this California vineyard.

Varietal Composition: 81% Merlot, 9% Petite Sirah, 8% Petite Verdot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasting Notes: A deep garnet colored wine with black fruit character, including notes of blackberry and blueberry, balanced with soft tannins for a silky palate. Hints of sweet vanilla, mint and spice from 7 months aging in small oak barrels provide a smooth, intriguing finish.

Serving Suggestions: Great with hamburgers, roasted vegetables and pizza.

Darriaud Viognier ~ \$10

Southern Rhone Valley, France

Les Coteaux Schisteux is a very small region in the Southern Rhone Valley, and is where Georges Darriaud makes this Viognier, in addition to a few other varietals. This particular Viognier is a single vineyard wine, and is made through natural fermentation, a riskier approach to wine making, as no yeast is added to induce fermentation. The combination of those two facts, along with the difficulty of the Viognier grape in general (see box to right) make this truly an exceptional value. Enjoy!

Tasting Notes: A particularly good quality Viognier from Darriaud. This wine is clean and fresh, with a delightfully floral nose, and packed with fruit flavors of peach and apricot.

Serving Suggestions: Try this Viognier with goat cheese appetizer (like bruchetta with goat cheese), grilled chicken with rosemary, and/or roasted vegetables.

Viognier Facts

Viognier is a really tough grape to grow – possibly even more difficult than Pinot Noir! Not only that, it's a tough wine to make. But, if it's done well, it's an absolute treat. Many are surprised by the taste; the color and nose hinting at something sweet but the actual taste being dry.

Tasting Notes

Night Owl Merlot 2004
Monterey County, California

Nose:

Taste:

When/Where Served:

Food with wine:

Comments:

Darriaud Viognier 2004
Southern Rhone Valley, France

Nose:

Taste:

When/Where Served:

Food with wine:

Comments:

Previous Wine Club Selections

MARCH 2006

Mano a Mano
Tempernillo & Amador
Foothill Sauvignon Blanc

\$10/bottle
6 or more: \$9/bottle
12 or more: \$8/bottle

APRIL 2006

Los Cardos Malbec
\$9/bottle
6 or more: \$8.10/bottle
12 or more: \$7/bottle

Heron Chardonnay
\$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 (mixed okay)

10% OVER COST

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