



January/February 2011

Grapevine

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This Valentine's Day...Go All Out and Call A Cab



Cabernet Sauvignon is the dominant grape in the Bordeaux region of France and has spread to every other major growing region.

What is it about Cabernet? It is a wine of power and integrity, and the mere mention of it conjures visions of fireplaces and cigars, candlelight and Casablanca, sizzling steaks and large, crystal glasses of swirling, ruby-black magic.

Cabernet Sauvignon references both the grape and the wine it produces. Genetic testing has shown that it is the offspring of Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc, which in their near proximity to one another happened to cross-pollenate, giving birth to a brilliant vinous child in the 1600s. Since that time, this new grape began

being propagated through vine cuttings, spreading its charm from Bordeaux to California, South America to Australia, and many places in between.

The Medoc and Graves sub-regions of Bordeaux began producing the wine in the 1800s, oftentimes blending it with different proportions of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, creating the red Bordeaux that wine lovers have been appreciating ever since.

These same grapes are used to create Meritage wines (rhymes with

heritage), the American take on Bordeaux. The best quality California Cabs typically come from vineyards in Sonoma's Alexander Valley, the majority of Napa Valley and Paso Robles.

Though Cabernet grapes make esteemed wines of refinement, it is not the quiet seduction of, say, Pinot Noir. Rather, it is more of a strapping wine, strong and sturdy and comfortable with everything from billiards to the Opera, from an outdoor steak roast to a romantic Valentine's dinner. By the same token, its brawn and versatility make it highly adaptable to a variety of climates. Cabernet Sauvignon is a hearty grape.

Cabernet is at its best in moderately warm, somewhat dry regions with a long growing season. Typical Cab aromas and flavors are black currant, blackberry, bell pepper and mint; and oak aging imparts vanilla and toffee overtones. It is a full-bodied wine with immense complexity and richness.

Temperature extremes, overly rich soil, inadequate

sun and harvesting the grapes before full ripeness is achieved all affect the resulting wine, swapping out vegetal flavors for the rich, ripe fruit associated with Cabernet that has seen ideal growing conditions and vinification techniques.

Valentine's Day is approaching, providing the perfect opportunity to experiment with a new Cabernet or to revisit a favorite or two. Picture this: A roaring fireplace, steak Diane or rack of lamb for two (see page four), candles, two glasses and, of course, a bottle — or more — of Cabernet Sauvignon.

A few to consider trying: **Robert Mondavi** Napa '07, Myuge '07, **Sterling Vineyards** SVR Reserve Bordeaux Blend '07 (91 Pts WE), **Ramey** Claret Napa Valley '06 (91 Pts WS) or **Stag's Leap Wine Cellars** Artemis '07 (94 Pts WE).

However you celebrate Cupid's arrow, make sure to light a fire and open a Cab. ♦

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Every Day!!!

Value Priced Wines from the 90's Club -- Fine Wines Rated 90 Points or Above...Under \$25

New 90s:

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Schramsberg Mirabelle Brut Rose | 93 pts. WS | California | \$22.99 | (reg \$26.99) |
| Domaine Carneros Brut by Taittinger 2006 | 91 pts. WS | California | \$20.99 | (reg \$24.99) |
| Roederer Estate Anderson Valley Brut | 92 pts. W&S | California | \$19.99 | (reg \$24.99) |
| Santa Margherita Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore | 91 pts. W&S | Italy | \$16.99 | (reg \$19.99) |
| Lamoreaux Landing Dry Riesling 2009 | 92 pts. W&S | Finger Lakes | \$ 8.99 | (reg \$10.49) |
| Mollydooker 'The Boxer' Shiraz 2009 | 91 pts. WS | Australia | \$21.99 | (reg \$27.99) |
| Sterling Vineyards SVR Reserve Red Wine 2007 | 91 pts. WE | Napa Valley | \$25.49 | (reg \$29.99) |
| Dona Paula Estate Malbec 2009 | 90 pts. WS | Argentina | \$11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Starmont Chardonnay 2008 | 90 pts. WS | Napa Valley | \$13.99 | (reg \$16.49) |
| Elk Cove Vineyards Pinot Gris 2009 Top 100 (WS) | 90 pts. WS | Willamette Valley | \$13.99 | (reg \$15.99) |
| Ritual Pinot Noir 2008 Top 100 (WS) | 90 pts. WS | Chile | \$16.99 | (reg \$18.99) |
| Lancatay Malbec 2009 | 90 pts. RP | Argentina | \$ 8.49 | (reg \$ 9.99) |
| Georges Duboeuf Morgon 2009 | 90 pts. WE | France | \$14.99 | (reg \$17.99) |
| Alamos Seleccion Malbec 2008 | 90 pts. WE | Argentina | \$16.99 | (reg \$14.99) |
| Casajus 2006 | 91 pts. RP | Spain | \$16.99 | (reg \$ 19.99) |
| Sabor Real Toro 2006 | 90 pts. RP | Spain | \$ 8.99 | (reg \$10.69) |
| E. Guigal Cotes du Rhone 2007 | 90 pts. RP | Rhone Valley | \$11.49 | (reg \$13.49) |
| Castello d'Albola Chianti Classico 2007 Top 100 (WS) | 90 pts. WS | Chianti | \$12.99 | (reg \$14.99) |
| Domaine de Nizas Syrah/Mourvedre/Grenache 2006 | 90 pts. WS | Languedoc | \$13.99 | (reg \$16.99) |
| Lan Crianza 2006 1.5 Ltr (Top 100/WS) | 90 pts. WS | Rioja | \$19.99 | (reg \$22.99) |
| Paul Dolan Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 92 Pts (WE) | 90 pts. WS | Mendocino | \$18.99 | (reg \$22.99) |
| Kunde Chardonnay 2008 | 90 pts. W&S | Sonoma | 3/\$24.99 | (reg \$12.99) |

Look for A Tour of French Wine in the
February/March 2011 Issue of Grapevine!

More Terrific 90s:

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------|---------|---------------|
| Paul Dolan Organic Chardonnay 2008 | 90 pts. WE | Mendocino | \$12.99 | (reg \$14.99) |
| Bodega Norton Reserva Malbec 2007 Top 100 (WS) | 90 pts. WS | Mendoza | \$14.99 | (reg \$14.99) |
| Lan Crianza 2006 (Top 100/WS) | 90 pts. WS | Rioja | \$10.99 | (reg \$11.99) |
| Elements by Artesa Red Cabernet/Grenache/Tempranillo 2006 | 90 pts. WE | California | \$14.49 | (reg \$16.99) |
| A to Z Pinot Noir 2008 (Top 100/WS) | 90 pts. WS | Oregon | \$16.99 | (reg \$19.99) |
| Felino Vina Cobo Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 | 91 pts. RP | Mendoza | \$15.49 | (reg \$17.99) |
| Ruffino Ducale Chianto Classico Riserva 2006 | 90 pts. WS | Chianti | \$21.39 | (reg \$26.99) |
| La Carraia Sangiovese 2009 | 90 pts. RP | Umbria | \$ 9.49 | (reg \$10.99) |
| Ruffino Modus 2006 | 90 pts. WS | Toscana | \$19.99 | (reg \$24.99) |
| Gloria Ferrer Sonoma Brut Sparkling Wine Top 100/WS | 90 pts. WS | Sonoma | \$13.59 | (reg \$15.99) |
| Mumm Napa Brut Prestige Sparkling Wine (Top 100/WS) | 90 pts. WS | Napa | \$16.19 | (reg \$19.99) |
| Primus Cabernet/Syrah/Merlot/Carmenere 2006 | 90 pts. WE | Mendoza | \$16.49 | (reg \$18.99) |
| Flechas de los Andes Gran Malbec 2007 | 92 pts. RP | Argentina | \$14.99 | (reg \$17.99) |
| Standing Stone Riesling Ice 2008 | 91 pts. WS | Finger Lakes | \$18.69 | (reg \$21.99) |
| Santa Alicia Reserva Camenere 2008 | 90 pts. WS | Chile | \$ 6.99 | (reg \$ 8.99) |
| Standing Stone Gewurztraminer Ice 2008 | 91 pts. WS | Finger Lakes | \$18.69 | (reg \$21.99) |
| Arnoux & Fils Vieilles Vignes Gigondas 2007 | 91 pts. RP | Rhone Valley | \$16.99 | (reg \$19.99) |
| Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | 90 pts. RP | Napa | \$19.99 | (reg \$24.99) |
| J Pinot Gris 2009 | 90 pts. WE | California | \$12.99 | (reg \$14.99) |
| Pacific Rim Riesling (Organic) 2008 | 92 pts. WE | Columbia Valley | \$11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Perrin & Fils Vinsobres Les Cornuds 2007 | 91 pts. WS | Rhone Valley | \$17.99 | (reg \$21.29) |
| Ruffino Il Ducale 2007 | 90 pts. WS | Tuscany | \$12.99 | (reg \$14.99) |
| Tikal Patriota Bonarda/Malbec 2008 | 92 pts. RP | Argentina | \$17.99 | (reg \$20.99) |
| St. Urbans-Hof Bockstein Riesling 2009 | 92 pts. WS | Mosel | \$14.59 | (reg \$16.99) |
| Chateau Malmaison Merlot/Cabernet 2006 Top 100 (WS) | 90 pts. WS | Bordeaux | \$16.99 | (reg \$19.99) |
| Michael & David '7 Deadly Zins' Zinfandel 2007 | 90 pts. RP | Lodi | \$13.59 | (reg \$15.99) |
| Kaesler Stonehorse Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvedre 2007 | 90 pts. RP | Australia | \$14.99 | (reg \$17.99) |
| Chalk Hill Sauvignon Blanc 2007 | 92 pts. WE | Russian River Val. | \$19.99 | (reg \$27.99) |
| Artesa Carneros Chardonnay 2009 | 90 pts. WE | Carneros | \$15.49 | (reg \$18.29) |
| Trimbach Riesling 2007 Top 100 WS | 91 pts. WS | Alsace | \$15.99 | (reg \$18.99) |
| Kunde (Sustainably Farmed) Zinfandel 2006 | 90 pts. IWC | Sonoma | \$10.49 | (reg \$12.49) |
| Montebuena Rioja 2009 | 90 pts. RP | Spain | \$10.19 | (reg \$11.99) |
| Mas Donis Barrica Old Vines 2007 | 90 pts. RP | Spain | \$10.99 | (reg \$12.99) |

New York State Spirits & a Whole Lotta Cabs

Core

Distilled and bottled at Golden Harvest Farms, Valatie, NY

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Core Vodka (Small Batches Distilled from Hudson Valley Apples) | 375 ml \$21.99 | 750 ml \$31.99 |
| Core Applejack | 375 ml \$27.99 | 750 ml \$35.99 |
| Core Apple Brandy | 375 ml \$25.99 | |
| Core Pear Brandy | 375 ml \$25.99 | |

Berkshire Mountain

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Ragged Mountain Rum | 750 ml \$27.59 |
| Ethereal Gin | 750 ml \$31.99 |



Hudson Real American Whiskeys

The first whiskey distillery in New York State Since Prohibition

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Baby Bourbon <i>mild, friendly, warming</i> | 375 ml \$36.99 |
| Four-Grain Bourbon <i>a complex blend of rich, peppery, smooth, sweet</i> | 375 ml \$36.99 |
| NY Corn Whiskey <i>clear and softly aromatic</i> | 375 ml \$29.99 750 ml \$38.99 |
| Manhattan Rye Whiskey <i>fruity, floral, smooth</i> | 375 ml \$36.99 |

Call a Cab...Cabernet, that is: King of the Reds

| | | | |
|---|------------------|---------|---------------|
| Robert Mondavi Napa Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | Napa Valley | \$19.99 | (reg \$24.99) |
| Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Artemis Cabernet Sauv '07 94 Pts (WE) | Napa Valley | \$39.99 | (reg \$59.99) |
| Earthquake Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 by Michael & David | Lodi | \$19.99 | (reg \$24.99) |
| Louis M. Martini Sonoma Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 | Sonoma | \$10.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Francis Coppola Diamond Collection Black Label Claret 2008 | California | \$13.99 | (reg \$17.99) |
| Rodney Strong Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | Sonoma | \$13.69 | (reg \$16.99) |
| Sterling Vineyards SVR Reserve Bordeaux Blend 2007 (91 Pts (WE)) | California | \$25.49 | (reg \$39.99) |
| Charles Krug Napa Valley Generations Family Reserve 2007 | Napa Valley | \$33.99 | (reg \$44.99) |
| <i>(Signed bottle of Charles Krug available by Peter Mondavi)</i> | | | |
| Ramey Claret Napa Valley 2006 91 Pts (WS) | Napa Valley | \$26.99 | (reg \$39.99) |
| Beaulieu Vineyard Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | Napa Valley | \$16.49 | (reg \$19.99) |
| Sebastiani Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | Alexander Valley | \$24.69 | (reg \$29.99) |
| Myuge Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | Napa Valley | \$25.49 | (reg \$30.99) |
| Ferrari Carano Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | Alexander Valley | \$20.99 | (reg \$24.99) |
| Sterling Vineyards Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | Napa Valley | \$16.99 | (reg \$23.99) |
| Josh Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | California | \$11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| <i>(Josh Cellars blended and bottled by Joseph Carr)</i> | | | |
| Sebastiani Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | Sonoma | \$12.99 | (reg \$14.99) |
| Sterling Vintners Collection Meritage 2008 | California | \$ 7.99 | (reg \$11.99) |
| Ray's Station Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | California | \$11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Souverain Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | Alexander Valley | \$11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |

January/February Staff Wine Picks

Sheila: Broadside Chardonnay '08 (California) \$16.99 (reg \$19.99) This beautiful Chard has mineral notes as well as apple blossom, honey and a touch of citrus. Sublime with crab cakes or butter-bedecked lobster.

Damian: Myuge Cabernet Sauvignon '07 (Napa) \$25.49 (reg \$29.99) Ripe fruit palate of plum, blackberries and cassis with notes of tobacco and cedar. Perfect with a steak drizzled with a rich wine sauce.

Denise: Chateau Malmaison Baronne Nadine de Rothschild Bordeaux '06 (Bordeaux) \$16.99 (reg \$19.99) 90 Pts (WS) A Merlot-driven Bordeaux, this wine is deep, dark and intense with notes of blackberry and currant.

Graham: Clayhouse Adobe Red '08 (California) \$11.49 (reg \$13.99) A delicious blend of Zinfandel, Syrah, Petite Sirah, Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Tempranillo and Merlot, it is fruit forward, full-bodied and dry with good tannins on the finish. A good alternative to Zin for those Superbowl wings and noshes.

Chris: The Pinot Project '09 (California) \$10.99 (reg \$12.99) Pure Pinot aromas and palate of black cherries kissed by oak and a touch of Asian spice. Perfect for pan-seared salmon or even a Valentine's filet mignon.

Bob: Kunde Zinfandel '06 (Sonoma) \$10.49 (reg \$12.99) Zesty boysenberry, black pepper, anise and cloves, this is a great wine for a variety of fare and is a perfect Superbowl wine.

Wine Tastings Fri, 4-8 & Sat, 2-6

Sat 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/19: New Arrivals: Check out our latest finds. **Sat 1/22: Valentine's Day Cupcake Wines!**

Fri 1/21: Italian Wine Lovers Rejoice: A line-up of Reds and Whites from the beautiful boot.

Fri 1/28: Staff Picks: See what we love to drink.

Fri 2/4: Zins for Superbowl: Perfect party and wings wine.

Fri 2/11: Bubbles & Pinots & Cabs, Oh My! Three heart-stopping wines for you and your Valentine.

Fri 2/18: East Meets West: A New York State Spirits Tasting (see page 3) and wines from the California coast.

Date: Something Spectacular: Extra tastings space, Sheila.

Food & Wine Pairing Menu

Sheila's Kahlua Chili

A Superbowl Spectacular!

2 Pounds Ground Beef
1 Large Onion
1 - 15oz can Black Beans
1 - 15oz can Kidney Beans
1 - 25 oz Jar Dominick's Tomato Sauce (P Chop or McCarroll's)
2 Packets Chili Seasoning Mix
½ Cup Kahlua Liqueur
(or more if desired!!!!!!)



Sauté ground beef and onions in olive oil in a large sauce pot until golden brown. Stir in drained beans, tomato sauce, chili seasoning and Kahlua. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low and simmer for 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Open a Red Zin or your favorite Red blend, and watch the game with your wildest friends.

Rack of Lamb With Arugula for Two

A Happy Valentine

1 rack of baby lamb, trimmed and frenched
4 1/2 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
1 bunch arugula, rinsed and dried
2 1/2 Tbsp sherry vinegar
1/2 tsp Dijon mustard
1/2 tsp fresh rosemary
Salt and freshly ground black pepper



Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Brush the lamb with one-half Tbsp olive oil and place in a baking pan in the oven. Roast for 20 minutes (for medium rare), then remove from the oven and set aside for at least 15 minutes longer. Remove any heavy stems from the arugula and place in a bowl. Heat the vinegar in a small stainless steel or enamel saucepan. Remove from heat, beat in the mustard and the remaining olive oil. Season with rosemary, salt and pepper. Toss the arugula with all but two Tbsp dressing. Arrange the arugula on two plates. Slice the rack of lamb into individual chops and arrange them on top of the arugula. Drizzle with the remaining dressing and serve.

For Valentine's Day...A Cupcake, of course!

Cupcake Vineyards produces a variety of delicious wines, sourcing the grapes for each varietal from the locations notorious for making that particular wine with style and finesse. Chard from California, Sauv Blanc from New Zealand, Sparkling wine from France... The wines are friendly, accessible, modestly priced and just plain good. Now, that's a sweet deal.

On Saturday, February 12, we'll have a special Valentine's Day tasting with Cupcake Vineyard wines and **Red Velvet Cupcakes** provided by Make Me A Cake Next Door/Perfect Blend Café in Delmar. Don't miss this oh-so-sweet opportunity to taste some wines that might be just perfect for your sultry celebration.

Cupcake wines...

Chardonnay '09 (California) \$8.59 (reg \$10.49)
Sauvignon Blanc '10 (New Zealand) \$8.59 (reg \$10.49)
Prosecco (Italy) 3/\$24.99 (reg \$9.99 ea)
Red Velvet (California) 3/\$24.99 (reg \$9.99 ea)
Sparkling Brut Rose (France) \$10.99 (reg \$12.99)

Happy Valentine's Day, and we hope you can stop by.

Cupid's Potion for Two

4 ounces Stolli Ohranj Vodka
1 oz. Cointreau liqueur
1 oz. fresh lime juice
2 oz. fresh blood orange juice
2 blood orange slices for garnish



Pour vodka, liqueur, lime juice and blood orange juice in a shaker. Shake and strain into two martini glasses. Garnish with slices of blood orange and let Cupid and the potion fulfill their mission.

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Wine & Spirits offers year-round custom made gift baskets and a variety of wine bar gifts and accessories: Riedel glasses, foil cutters, corkscrews, decanters, wine stoppers and wine bags.