



March 2010

Grapevine

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California Gold: Discovering the Beauty of Wines from Sonoma

Winemaking in Sonoma goes back to 1812 when Russian settlers planted grapes on the Sonoma Coast. Between the phylloxera blight in the 1870s that destroyed wine grapes and Prohibition from 1920 to 1933, commercial winemaking suffered a severe setback in those early years. Since then, winemaking in Sonoma (and in all of California) has rebounded, becoming a thriving industry that produces wines of utmost quality and integrity, and garnering much respect.

Influenced by its proximity to the Pacific Ocean and the Russian River, Sonoma benefits from the fog that helps to maintain the area's moderate temperatures, enabling grapes to more than thrive. The region's typical climate is comprised of rainy winters and sometimes hot but mostly comfortably warm summer days and cool nights — all a boon to grape growing.

Today, Sonoma County has more than 50 wine grape varieties. Popular whites include Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc (also referred to as Fume Blanc),

Vioigner, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris.

Notable Chardonnay appellations, chiefly the Russian River Valley, Sonoma Coast and Sonoma-Carneros, offer oak- and vanilla-laced wines with lush, tropical flavors. Sauvignon Blanc, floral and grassy with citrus notes, does extremely well in Dry Creek Valley and Russian River Valley.

Landmark red varieties include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Petite Syrah and Zinfandel. Modern fingerprinting analyses support the theory that Cabernet is a hybrid of Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Franc, varieties of Bordeaux origin. Excellent Cabs come from Alexander Valley and Sonoma Valley.

Bennet Valley's volcanic and clay soils, and moderately cool temperatures are ideal growing conditions for Merlot, resulting in highly concentrated fruit flavors with balanced acidity.

Pinot Noir grapes grown in Carneros and the Russian River Valley are deliciously fruity and silky-textured wines, emphasizing quite



Surrounded by the Russian River, Pacific Ocean and Mountains, Sonoma's diverse climate produces vastly different wines.

different characteristics than their earthier and less fruity Burgundian cousins.

Said to be a clone of Italy's Primitivo and identical to the Croatian grape Crljenak Kastelanski, as a result of DNA testing, the first Zinfandel vines are thought to have been brought to Sonoma from Austria. With jammy fruit flavors and high alcohol percentages thanks to the high sugar content, many Sonoma Zins come from the Dry Creek Valley.

While residing in the shadow of Napa's powerful wines

and notable reputation, Sonoma, too, is a force to be reckoned with and offers an entirely different wine tasting experience — smaller wineries spread out, instead of dotted along Napa's Highway 29 — and would be an ideal vacation destination and wine-tasting education. Refined, yet lush, they are, indeed, California gold. Enjoy! ♦

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15% off all Wine —
Every Bottle,
Every Day!!!

Incredible Savings with Sale Prices! 15% off all wine: Every Bottle, Every Day!

Value Priced Wines from the 90's Club — Fine Wines Rated 90 or Above...Under \$20.00

| | | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|---------|---------------|
| Lan Rioja Reserva 2004 | 90 pts. WS | Spain | \$15.99 | (reg \$18.99) |
| Klinker Brick Farrah Syrah 2007 | 91 pts. WS | Lodi | \$16.49 | (reg \$18.99) |
| Layer Cake Malbec 2008 | 90 pts. RP | ARG | \$13.99 | (reg \$15.99) |
| Monte Antico Sangiovese/Merlot/Cabernet 2006 | 90 pts. WS | Tuscany | \$ 9.99 | (reg \$11.99) |
| Bogle Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | 90 pts. WE | CA | \$10.29 | (reg \$11.99) |
| Marquis Philips Shiraz 2008 | 91 pts. RP | Australia | \$12.99 | (reg \$14.99) |
| Louis M. Martini Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 | 90 pts. RP | Napa | \$19.99 | (reg \$23.99) |
| Solanera Monastrell/Cabernet/Tinotera 2005 | 91 pts. RP | Spain | \$11.49 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Bodegas Bilbainas Vina Zaco Tempranillo 2006 Top 100 (WS) | 90 pts. WS | Spain | \$11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Thorn Clarke Shottfire Shiraz 2008 | 90 pts. RP | AUST | \$18.99 | (reg \$22.49) |
| Kaesler Stonehorse Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvedre 2007 | 90 pts. RP | Australia | \$14.99 | (reg \$17.99) |
| Chateau Malmaison Merlot/Cabernet 2006 Top 100 (WS) | 90 pts. WS | Bordeaux | \$16.99 | (reg \$19.99) |
| Santa Ema Merlot Reserve 2007 | 90 pts. RP | Chile | \$ 9.99 | (reg \$11.99) |
| DaVinci Chianti 2007 | 90 pts. WE | Tuscany | \$10.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Michael & David '7 Deadly Zins' Zinfandel 2007 | 90 pts. RP | Lodi | \$13.59 | (reg \$15.99) |
| Louis M. Martini Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | 90 pts. RP | Sonoma | \$10.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Las Rocas Garnacha 2007 | 90 pts. RP | Spain | \$10.29 | (reg \$12.99) |
| Alamos Malbec 2008 | 90 pts. WS | Argentina | \$ 8.59 | (reg \$10.49) |
| The Winner's Tank Shiraz 2008 | 90 pts. RP | Australia | \$11.89 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Marquis Philips Sarah's Blend 2008 | 91 pts. RP | Australia | \$12.99 | (reg \$14.99) |
| Woop Woop Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | 90 pts. ST | Australia | \$ 9.49 | (reg \$10.99) |
| Selection Laurence Feraud Seguret Cotes Du Rhone Villages 2007 | 90 pts. RP | France | \$14.49 | (reg \$16.99) |
| Armador Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | 90 pts. WE | Chile | \$ 8.49 | (reg \$ 9.99) |
| Trapiche Broquel Malbec 2007 | 91 pts. WE | Argentina | \$11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Casajus Vendimia Tempranillo 2005 | 92 pts. RP | Spain | \$16.99 | (reg \$19.99) |
| Artesa Carneros Chardonnay | 90 pts. WS | Carneros | \$15.49 | (reg \$18.29) |
| Trimbach Riesling 2007 Top 100 WS | 91 pts. WS | Alsace | \$15.99 | (reg \$18.99) |
| King Estate Pinot Gris 2008 (Top 100 WS) | 90 pts. RP | France | \$13.59 | (reg \$15.99) |
| Chateau Ste. Michelle Chardonnay 2008 | 90 pts. RP | Washington | \$ 9.99 | (reg \$11.99) |
| Snoqualmie Naked Riesling 2008 | 90 pts. WE | Washington | \$ 8.33 | (reg \$ 9.99) |
| Tikal Patriota 2007 | 92 pts. RP | ARG | \$16.99 | (reg \$19.99) |
| Beaulieu Vineyard Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 | 90 pts. WS | Napa Valley | \$15.99 | (reg \$18.99) |
| Gascon Malbec 2008 | 90 pts. WE | Argentina | \$10.49 | (reg \$12.99) |

Don't miss our terrific Kosher wine tasting
Sunday, March 21st from 1 to 5 pm. Taste over
15 new world & old world Kosher wines for your
Passover seder. You won't be disappointed!!!

Kosher Wines for Passover -- These are just a few. We have many, many more.

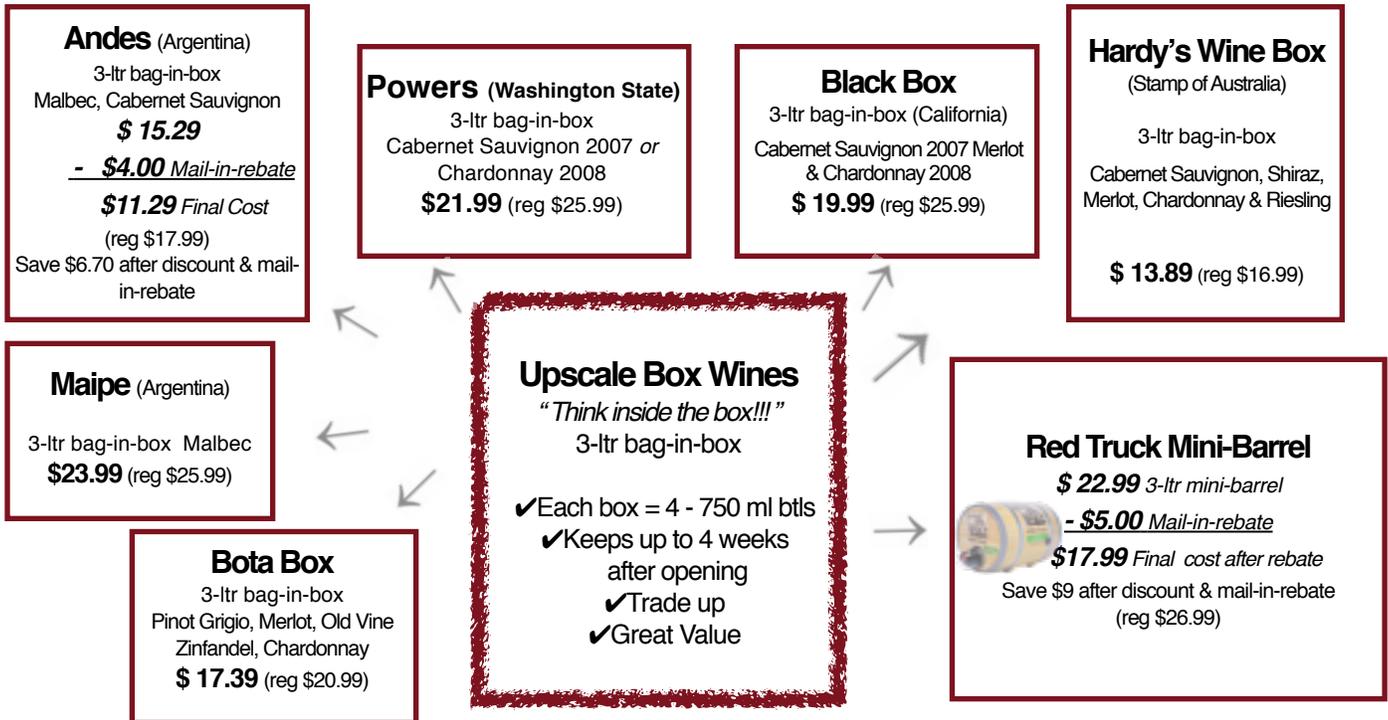
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|---|--------|----------|---------------|
| Barkan Classic Pinot Noir 2009 | Israel | \$ 9.39 | (reg \$10.99) |
| Bartenura Moscato 2009 | Italy | \$11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Goose Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2008 | NZ | \$15.39 | (reg \$17.99) |
| Segalis Fusion Red 2007 (Merlot-Cab Franc-Cab Sauv Blend) | Israel | \$11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Fusion White 2007 (Chardonnay-Colombard Blend) | Israel | \$ 11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Gabriele Moscato 2009 | Italy | \$ 11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Montepulciano D'Abruzzo | Italy | \$10.99 | (reg \$12.99) |
| Gedeon Petite Sirah 2006 | Israel | \$ 9.99 | (reg \$11.99) |
| Chateau Jaumard Bordeaux 2008 | FR | \$11.99 | (reg \$13.99) |
| Don Guillermo Malbec 2009 | ARG | \$ 8.49 | (reg \$ 9.99) |
| Baron Herzog Chardonnay 2007 | CA | \$11.39 | (reg \$13.39) |
| Old Vine Zinfandel 2007 | CA | \$11.39 | (reg \$13.39) |
| Merlot 2006 | CA | \$11.39 | (reg \$13.39) |
| Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | CA | \$11.39 | (reg \$13.39) |
| Terroso Malbec 2008 | ARG | \$ 8.59 | (reg \$10.29) |

More Great Sale Prices + Mail-in Rebates = Fabulous Savings

Sonoma County Wine Values

| | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Rodney Strong Chalk Hill Chardonnay 200X..... | \$13.99..... | (reg \$18.99) |
| Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 | \$13.69..... | (reg \$16.99) |
| St. Francis Chardonnay 2007..... | \$11.99..... | (reg \$15.99) |
| Claret 2005..... | \$12.99..... | (reg \$16.99) |
| Sonoma Red 200X..... | \$ 7.99..... | (reg \$11.99) |
| Simi*** Chardonnay 2008..... | \$12.99..... | (reg \$15.99) |
| Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2006..... | \$17.99..... | (reg \$23.99) |

***\$40 mail-in rebate on 12 btl purchase of Simi wines



March Staff Wine Picks

Sheila: Talbott Logan Chardonnay 2007 (Santa Lucia Highlands) **\$16.99** (reg \$19.99) Aromas of kiwi, vanilla and toast; a palate of tropical and citrus fruits with brioche on the finish. Fruit-forward and complex.

Damian: Clayhouse Adobe Red 2007 (CA) **\$11.49** (reg \$13.49) This blend of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Syrah, Malbec, Grenache and Mourvedre is rustic but refined with sensuous, dark fruit flavors and a smooth finish.

Denise: Rodney Strong Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 (Sonoma) **\$13.69** (reg \$15.99) Vibrant aromas of cherry and black olive segue to a palate of rich fruit and lingering, spicy oak. A definite steak wine.

Ian: Tikal Patriota 2007 (ARG) **\$16.99** (reg \$25.99) Rated 92 Pts. (RP) A blend of Bonarda and Malbec, this is a big wine with chocolate, leather and black fruit, and finishes with big but smooth tannins.

Graham: Marquis Philips Sarah's Blend 2008 (AUST) **\$12.99** (reg \$14.99) 91 Pts (RP) This full bodied Shiraz, blended with Cab Franc, Cab Sauvignon and Merlot, is loaded with espresso, damp earth and spice.

James: Corvo Nero d'Avola 2007 (Sicily) **3/\$24.99** (reg \$9.99 ea) Blackberry, black cherry and spice are underscored with hints of licorice and clove. It is medium bodied with balanced tannins.

Michele: Nugan Estate Vision Riverina Shiraz 2008 (AUST) **3/\$24.99** (reg \$9.99 ea) Appealing aromas of blackberry layered with chocolate, earth and spice. Full bodied with berry and mocha flavors and a touch of oak.

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

Fridays: 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26: New Arrivals:
Taste our newest finds and discover your new favorites!

Sat 3/6: 90s Rated Wines: Come in and taste a few new 90s+ rated wines from our incredible selection.

Fri 3/12: Menage a Trois, Argentinian Wines & Bailey's-tini Tastings: Two wine tasting stations and a Bailey's-tini tasting to help you kick off your weekend.

Sat 3/13: Sonoma Wines: Sample a variety of terrific Sonoma wines and see what all the fuss is about.

Fri 3/19: Van Gogh Vodka martini tasting!

Sat 3/20: Spring is here! Usher in Spring with crisp whites and lighter, fruitier reds.

Sun 3/21: Kosher Wine Tasting: We have more than 15 great Kosher wines for your Passover Dinner.

Fri 3/26: Artesa Wines: A wonderful opportunity to taste the deliciously fruity Chardonnay & Pinot Noir.

Sat 3/27: Staff Picks: Come by and taste a few of our favorites with this wonderful staff picks tasting.

Food & Wine

Sip-Me-I'm-Irish-Tini — Signature Bailey's Martini

2 oz Bailey's Original Irish Cream
1/4 oz Smirnoff Vodka
1/4 oz Godiva Chocolate Liqueur
Mint sprig for garnish



Shake or stir first three ingredients, pour over ice, garnish with a sprig of mint and thank your tini-leprechaun for the luck 'o the Irish while you shamrock-the-night-away.

Carrot Almond Cake for Passover

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cooking oil | 2 Tbsp matzoh meal |
| 6 eggs, separated | 2/3 cup plus 1 Tbsp sugar |
| 1/3 cup honey | 1 Tbsp lemon juice |
| 2 cups finely grated carrots | 1 1/2 c finely ground almonds |
| 1/2 c Passover cake meal | Pinch of salt |
| 1 teaspoon cinnamon | |

1. Preheat oven to 350. Heavily oil an eight-cup tube pan or bundt pan. Dust with matzoh meal.
2. Beat egg yolks until thick. Add two-thirds cup sugar and beat until pale yellow and creamy. Beat in honey. Stir in the lemon juice.
3. Fold in the carrots and almonds.
4. Mix cake meal with salt and cinnamon and mix into batter until just combined.
5. Beat egg whites until they hold peaks but are not dry. Gently fold beaten egg whites into batter. Transfer batter to baking pan; bake 1 hour and 15 minutes, until browned and springy to the touch.
6. Place on a rack and allow to cool completely in pan. Run a knife or a thin spatula around edges to loosen cake, then invert onto a serving plate. Dust with a tablespoon of sugar before serving.

Wine News, Events or Musings

Lobby Day 2010: A Successful Day in Albany

Liquor store owners, wholesalers, distributors and wineries from around the state rallied at the Capitol on February 24th to urge the Legislature to reject Governor Paterson's plan to legalize the sale of wine in grocery stores, convenience markets and gas stations throughout the state. It was an overwhelming turnout, with an impressive number showing up to voice their opposition. The group assembled to reinforce that we oppose this job-killing proposal and that Legislators should once again reject this disastrous plan that would force 1,000 liquor stores to close and make it easier for minors to purchase alcohol. Legislators were more than receptive and feedback was positive, overall.

It is said the Governor's proposal will generate a total of \$300 million in franchise fees over the next two years, but we argue that the numbers are skewed and do not represent the actual anticipated revenue, nor do they address the economic impacts of store closures and the loss of jobs and tax revenue that will undoubtedly result. We will continue to work to keep this out of the budget.

Please visit The Last Store on Main Street website at www.lastmainstreetstore.com and sign your name to letters to the Governor and the Legislature to help local wine stores to survive as well as controlling accessibility of alcohol to minors. With your support, we can be successful in our endeavor to keep local wine stores in business and help your community to thrive.

Look for *The Many Faces of Chardonnay*
in the April 2010 issue of *Grapevine*.

Fabulous Savings! 15% off All Wine --
Every Bottle, Every Day

Check out Our Ongoing Store Specials

Mix & Match — Three for \$24.99 on select bottles
The 90s Club — Wines rated 90+ Pts for under \$20
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.