



October 2010

# Grapevine

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Store Hours: Mon – Sat, 9 – 9 & Sun, 12 – 6

## For the Love of Wine: A Special 13th Anniversary Issue

Wine is not just a job, it's a passion. At least, that's how Sheila McNeil, owner of Wine & Spirits of Slingerlands, sees it. From her first foray into the wine industry 30 years ago to opening her Slingerlands store in October 1997 to today, Sheila has loved working in the industry. With an intuitive business sense, a broad knowledge of all aspects of wine and a love affair with Chardonnay and Champagne in particular, she eats, drinks, sleeps and dreams the stuff. She even makes it the center of her vacations, including a trip to Italy in 2008 and a trip — not the first — to Napa just last month.

Stops along the vineyard trail included Beringer Vineyards in Napa and Clos du Bois in Sonoma, where they enjoyed a beautiful lunch, complemented, of course, by wine. Though the entire trip was a whirlwind of beautiful and more beautiful, the three highlights would have to have been the visits to Robert Mondavi's winery in Napa, McMurray Ranch Vineyards in Sonoma and Michael & David in Lodi. And at all of the stops on this trip, including these three highlights, the importance of



A bucolic vineyard in the Middle Reach of Sonoma's Russian River Valley, MacMurray Ranch, now owned by Gallo, was originally another child of Fred MacMurray, the ideal father figure (Steve Douglas) in the 60s television show, My Three Sons. Daughter Kate MacMurray is still very much a part of the winery.

farm to table and food and wine pairing was underscored.

Over lunch at Robert Mondavi's winery, she had the opportunity to talk with Margarit Mondavi, Robert's widow, now in her 90s. According to McNeil, her presence is felt throughout the winery, as well as outside of it. Her art work hangs throughout the winery and she does a lot of fundraising work. "She is a tireless woman and was a definite influence on food and wine pairing in the industry." **Wine highlight:** Robert Mondavi Reserve Cabernet 2006 and Reserve Chardonnay 2008.

MacMurray Ranch Vineyard in Sonoma is now owned by Gallo but was originally the offspring of Fred MacMurray, the ideal father on My Three Sons. The main house is still decorated just as it was when Kate MacMurray spent her childhood summers there with her father and family. MacMurray drove Sheila and her family to the top of a mountain overlooking the entire winery and vineyards where they enjoyed wine with the view. **Wine highlight:** MacMurray Ranch Pinot Gris 2008 and Pinot Noir 2007 from the Russian River Valley, now available in the store.

Finally, there was also a delightful visit to Michael & David in Lodi. Not only is it a winery but vast gardens, including a pumpkin patch and corn maze, the bounty of which is sold at the winery's produce market. Walking into the winery, to one side is the produce market and to the other is a tasting room. The goods from each provide the tremendous offerings at the cafe where they enjoyed yet another farm to table lunch and, naturally, incredible wines. **Wine highlight:** Michael & David Sloth 2007.

California truly exemplifies the importance of farm to table and the pride everywhere in its wines, and wines from its esteemed regions raise the bar for an anniversary celebration or any occasion; but it should not stop there. Raise a glass to Monday, Wednesday, Friday or anytime. Whatever the day, California deserves being honored by a toast. ♦

**Incredible Savings!**  
**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**

Two Hands Gnarly Dudes 2007.....	90 pts. WS	Barossa	\$19.99	(reg \$24.99)
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)
King Estate Pinot Gris 2008.....	90 pts. WS	Oregon	\$13.59	(reg \$15.99)
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)
Bernardus Chardonnay 2008.....	92 pts. WS	California	\$17.99	(reg \$20.99)
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)
Petalos 2008.....	90 pts. RP	Spain	\$18.99	(reg \$21.99)
Montgras Quatro Cabernet/Malbec/Carmenere/Syrah 2008.....	90 pts. WS	Chile	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Rodney Strong Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2007.....	90 pts. WE	Sonoma	\$17.29	(reg \$20.49)
Lapostolle Casa Carmenere 2008.....	90 pts. WE	Chile	\$ 9.99	(reg \$11.99)
Villa Antinori Savgiovese/Cabernet/Merlot/Syrah.....	90 pts. WS	Tuscany	\$16.99	(reg \$23.49)
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)
Monte Antico Sangiovese, Merlot, Cabernet 2006.....	90 pts. WS	Tuscany	\$ 9.99	(reg \$11.99)
Louis M. Martini Napa Cabernet Sauvignon 2006.....	90 pts. RP	Napa Valley	\$19.99	(reg \$24.99)
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)
Louis M. Martini Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon 2007.....	90 pts. RP	Sonoma	\$10.99	(reg \$13.99)
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)
Concannon Chardonnay 2008.....	90 pts. WE	California	\$ 9.99	(reg \$11.99)
Artesa Carneros Chardonnay 2008.....	90 pts. WE	Carneros	\$15.49	(reg \$18.29)
Trimbach Riesling 2007 Top 100 WS.....	91 pts. WS	Alsace	\$15.99	(reg \$18.99)
La Posta Cocina Blend Malbec 2008.....	90 pts. RP	Mendoza	\$14.49	(reg \$16.99)
Marquis Phillips Shiraz 2008.....	91 pts. RP	Australia	\$11.99	(reg \$14.99)
Kunde (Sustainably Farmed) Zinfandel 2006.....	90 pts. IWC	Sonoma	\$10.49	(reg \$12.49)
Lagone Aia Vecchia 2007.....	90 pts. WS	Tuscany	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Marques de Casa Concha Cabernet Sauvignon 2007.....	91 pts. WS	Chile	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Montebuena Rioja 2009.....	90 pts. RP	Spain	\$10.19	(reg \$11.99)
Kendall Jackson Grand Reserve Chardonnay 2007.....	90 pts. RP	California	\$16.49	(reg \$19.99)
Penelope Sanchez Tinto Joven Garnacha Syrah 2009.....	90 pts. RP	Spain	\$10.99	(reg \$12.99)
Perrin Cotes du Rhone Villages 2007.....	90 pts. WS	Rhone	\$11.99	(reg \$13.99)
Mas Donis Barrica Old Vines 2007.....	90 pts. RP	Spain	\$10.99	(reg \$12.99)
Thorn-Clarke Terra Barossa Estate Grown Shiraz 2008.....	90 pts. RP	Australia	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)

Check out Our Expansive Rhone Selection!!!

**Incredible Wines from the Rhone Valley**

Pelaquie Cote-du-Rhone Villages Laudon Rouge 2007.....	90 pts. WS		\$11.99	(reg \$13.99)
Domaine La Soumade Rasteau 2007.....	93 pts. RP		\$22.99	(reg \$27.49)
Arnoux & Fils Vieilles Vignes Gigondas 2007.....	91 pts. RP		\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Domaine Saint Prefert Chateauneuf du Pape 2008.....	90 pts. RP		\$38.99	(reg \$45.99)
Perrin & Fils Vinsobres Les Cornuds 2007.....	91 pts. WS		\$17.99	(reg \$21.99)
Domaine du Grand Tinel Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2007.....	91 pts. WS		\$32.99	(reg \$38.99)
Clos du Mont-Olivet Chateauneuf-du-Pape 1994.....	91 pts. RP		\$37.99	(reg \$45.99)
Clos des Brusquieres Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2007.....	91-94 pts. IWC		\$33.99	(reg \$40.99)
Chateau de Beaucastel Coudoulet de Beaucastel 2007.....	92 pts. RP		\$28.99	(reg \$33.99)
Chateau de Beaucastel Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2007.....	96 pts. WS		\$101.99	(reg \$119.99)
Chateau de Beaucastel Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2005.....	96 pts. WS		\$108.99	(reg \$127.99)
Domaine de Saint Paul Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2006.....	91 pts. WE		\$31.99	(reg \$37.99)
Domaine Lucien Barrot & Fils Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2007.....	91 pts. WS		\$38.99	(reg \$45.99)
E. Guigal Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2003.....	90 pts. RP		\$38.99	(reg \$44.99)
Clos du Calvaire Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2007.....	90 pts. RP		\$28.99	(reg \$33.99)
Pere Anselme La Fiole du Pape Chateauneuf-du-Pape.....	89 pts. RP		\$27.49	(reg \$32.99)
Paul Jaboulet Aine Vacqueyras 2003.....	89 pts. RP		\$19.99	(reg \$24.99)

## Lucky 13! Wines for \$13 & Two for \$13 in honor of our 13th Anniversary

**Sale prices + Mail-in-rebates = Incredible Savings!!!**

### 1.5 Ltr Sale

- **Monkey Bay** Sauvignon Blanc \$14.49 (reg \$16.99)
- **Mouton Cadet** Red & White \$12.99 (reg \$15.99)
- **Black Stone** Merlot \$19.99 (reg \$24.99)
- **Clos du Bois** Chardonnay \$19.99 (reg \$24.99)
- **Robert Mondavi Private Selection** Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon \$16.99 (reg \$20.99)
- **Ruffino** Chianti \$12.99 (reg \$15.99)  
\$3 mail-in-rebate on 1-bottle purchase

**\*Additional \$20 off:** Buy a case of (6) 1.5 Ltr bottles & receive **\$20 mail-in-rebate**. Mix 'n Match

### **Save up to \$40**

- **Simi** Chardonnay \$12.99 (reg \$15.99)
- **Simi** Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon \$16.99 (reg \$24.99)
- **Robert Mondavi** Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon \$19.99 (reg \$24.99)
- **Wild Horse** Pinot Noir \$16.99 (reg \$19.99)

**\*Additional \$40 off:** Buy a case of (12) bottles & receive **\$40 mail-in-rebate**. Mix 'n Match

### Michael & David

#### **7 Deadly Zins 2007 90 Pts (RP)**

\$156.00 per 12 btl case / \$13 per btl (750 ml btl)  
- 36.00 mail-in-rebate

**\$120.00 final case cost**

Regular Case Price \$191.88 -- Save \$71.88

Final bottle cost \$10 (reg \$15.99) after discount & rebate (reg \$24.99 -- Save \$10.00)

## **Save Gas, Save Money, Stay Local**

### Yellow Tail Reserve

**Merlot, Chardonnay, Shiraz**

\$78.00 per 12 btl case / \$6.50 per btl  
- 24.00 mail-in-rebate

**\$54.00 final cost**

Regular case price: \$119.99

**\$4.50** per btl after discount & mail-in-rebate (reg \$9.99 per btl)

Save \$65.99 after case discount and mail-in-rebate

### **Wines from Around the World**

- **Colores del Sol** Malbec \$7.69 (reg \$9.99)
- **Cellar No. 8** Merlot, Pinot Noir, Zinfandel, Chardonnay 3/\$24.99 (reg \$9.99ea)
- **Penfolds Koonunga Hill** Shiraz/Cab, Shiraz, Chardonnay \$8.49 (reg \$9.99 ea)

**\*Additional \$12 off:** Buy (6) 750 ml bottles & receive **\$12 mail-in-rebate**. Mix 'n Match

Look for *Wines for Thanksgiving* in the November 2010 issue of *Grapevine!*

## **October Staff Wine Picks**

**Sheila's pick:** **MacMurray Ranch Pinot Gris '08 (Sonoma) \$13.99 (reg \$15.99)** Flavors of peach, spicy pear and citrus, this wine has a lush mouthfeel that is balanced beautifully by a crisp, clean finish. Says Sheila: "Sitting on the porch of MacMurray Ranch, I took a sip of this wine and all I could think was 'delightful.'"

**Damian:** **Chateau de L'Abbaye de Saint-Ferme Bordeaux '05 (Bordeaux) \$6.99 (reg \$7.99)** 87 Pts (WS) Very open, balanced & drinkable with plummy red fruits & a hint of tobacco/cigar box, supple tannins & easy mouthfeel. This well-balanced Cab would make a perfect partner to a sizzling steak with mushrooms.

**Denise:** **Rodney Strong Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon '07 (Alexander Valley) \$17.29 (reg \$19.99)** 90 Pts (RP) Dry, rich and complex with blackberry, cherry, currant and herbs with firm, dusty tannins. A Cab-lover's Cab.

**Ian:** **Pelaquie Cote-du-Rhone Villages Laudun Rouge '07 (Rhône Valley) \$11.99 (reg \$13.99)** 90 Pts (WS) A blend of Grenache, Syrah & Cinsault, it has a powerful nose with a palate of fruit and spices. Floral and elegant.

**Graham:** **Rocking Z Zinfandel '05 (Sonoma) \$13.00 (reg \$19.99)** Aromas and flavors of dark fruit, berries and spice, it is nicely balanced with good structure and pleasant tannins. The longer it's opened, the spicier it gets. This Zin would be spectacular with all kinds of barbeque fare.

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

**Sat 10/9, 10/16: New Arrivals:** A sampling of our latest finds and new favorites; **10/23: 90s Rated Wines.**

**Fri 10/8: Wines from the 90s Club:** We'll taste wines from Robert Mondavi and Beringer.

**Fri 10/15: Wines from Sonoma:** Taste Sonoma with wines from Mac Murray Ranch and Clos du Bois.

**Fri 10/22: Wines from Lodi:** Experience some of the incredible wines from Michael & David.

**10/29 & 30: Anniversary Celebration:** A weekend of wine to celebrate our 13th anniversary.

**Fri 11/5: Wines from the heart of Napa Valley:** Wines from Robert Mondavi Winery.

## Food & Wine Pairing Menu

### Brick Oven Roasted Ratatouille (from Savor Magazine)

- 1 T canola oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 medium onion, medium dice
- 1 medium butternut squash, peeled, 3/4" dice, blanched
- 2 medium yellow zucchini, 3/4" dice
- 2 medium green zucchini, 3/4" dice
- 1 medium eggplant, 3/4" dice
- 1 cup tomato puree (fresh tomatoes or canned San Marzano tomatoes)
- 1 tsp fresh rosemary, chopped
- 1 T parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated



Brick Oven Roasted Ratatouille

Preheat pizza oven (or conventional oven to 500 degrees).

Heat canola oil in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add the garlic and onion and cook, stirring often, until softened. Add the diced butternut squash, zucchini and eggplant to the pan in 2-3 batches and cook each batch for 10 minutes, stirring often (add additional oil to the pan if necessary to lightly coat the vegetables). Add the tomato puree, rosemary and parsley to the pan to heat through, season with salt and pepper to taste.

Transfer mixture to a large ovenproof casserole and mix thoroughly. Top with grated Parmesan. Place casserole in pizza oven or 500 degree oven and bake until golden brown, approximately 5 to 8 minutes.

## Wine News, Events or Musings

### Ian's Corner: Wines on his mind...

#### Mulling over Malbec

**Malbec** is grown to its finest effect in Cahors, France and Argentina. Though it originated in Bordeaux, it is no longer grown there because of the marginal climate. When it gets too cold too soon, the Malbec grape doesn't ripen properly. Cahors, south of Bordeaux, has a warmer climate, warm enough to ripen the grape enough to make a delicious wine, with more earth and barnyard than its Argentinian cousin. It is called the 'black wine of Cahors' because of the blackness and intensity of the grape and was very popular in the 19th Century; though still grown there today, not much is exported.

Argentina's warm climate is ideal for Malbec, and the South American country makes and exports a great deal of its vinous treasure. Ian particularly likes **Flechas de los Andes Gran Malbec** from Mendoza, Argentina. Rated **92 Pts** by Robert Parker, it has a wonderful palate of cedar, espresso, violets and black cherry. **\$14.99** (reg \$16.99)

### A Celebration of 13 Successful Years

Don't miss our special weekend-long celebration of our 13th anniversary on Friday and Saturday, October 29 and 30th. On Friday, we'll have multiple food and wine pairing stations with sushi, barbecue and specialty cheeses from Gustav's to complement our October Staff Picks station; and on Saturday, wines -- including a sparkler or two -- with our birthday cake from Perfect Blend Cafe in Delmar!

### Cocktail of the Month: *Avenida*

- 6 whole raspberries, plus garnish
  - 3 chunks diced pineapple, plus garnish
  - 1 1/2 oz Rum
  - 3/4 oz Peach Schnapps
  - 1 oz Sweet and Sour
- Muddle fruit, add liquors, sweet and sour and ice. Shake and pour into a highball glass. Garnish with fruit.



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.*