

Let the New Year roll in! But, don't miss this Champagne Tasting!
Exciting news: The talented Ellen Whyte will be here from 5-8 PM
Our full menu will be available, including our Crab & Corn Chowder.
More information about Ellen at the bottom of this email.

Date: Friday, December 28th

Time: Tasting begins at 4-8 We are taking reservations.

Music starts at 5-8

Cost: \$28 for all six wines 1/2 pour \$18

The Champagne:

Michael Dervin Brut \$44

This is an exciting and unique Champagne from a little known village called Cuchery. It is made by the man that gives the wine his name, Michel Dervin, who is also the wine maker for Domaine J. Laurens in Limoux. The wine has a wonderful brioche and subtle fruit nose. The flavors are quite concentrated and complex and it has a great toastiness as well as a lightness on its refreshing and long finish. The cuvee is a blend of 2004 and 2003 vintages. It is made out of 95% estate fruit from small plots in the villages of Cuchery, Damery, Reuil, and Chapelle Monthadon in the picturesque valley of the Marne. He buys in a little chardonnay from Pierry. The grape break down is 80% Meunier and 20% Pinot Noir. If you have never had a Valley of the Marne Meunier based Champagne, this is a great place to start!

Michael Dervin Brut Rose \$46

Michel Dervin Brut Rose Champagne. Pretty copper color, with small active streamers. The nose shows fresh red fruits, and cinnamon. Juicy, pretty raspberries on a delicate palate with a dusting of cinnamon and a little orange peel on the finish.

Gosset Brut Excellent \$38

Refined and creamy, with delicate acidity that finds fine balance with the layers of poached apple and pear, lemon cake, ground ginger, smoke and almond cream flavors. Very elegant.

Drink now through 2020 **92 Points Wine Spectator**

Boizel Blanc de Noir \$48

Bright yellow. Cherry pit, blood orange, rose and smoky minerals on the fragrant nose and in the mouth. Picks up a truffley nuance with air, along with a hint of candied fig. Juicy and expansive, offering a suave blend of richness and vivacity and finishing with good power and length. I'd serve this broad-shouldered but lively Champagne with a mushroom risotto or a creamy chicken dish. **90 points**

Stephen Tanzer

L. Aubry Brut NV \$43

45% pinot meunier, 25% chardonnay, 25% pinot noir and 5% arbanne, petit meslier and fromenteau; disgorged June, 2012): Pale gold. Fresh melon, pear and candied ginger aromas are lifted by a hint of dusty minerals. Tightly wound lemon curd and pear flavors gain flesh with air, displaying deeper orchard fruit and honeydew character while maintaining vivacity. Leaves zesty mineral and lemon pith qualities behind on the taut, focused finish. **90 points Stephen Tanzer**

Ruinart Blanc de Blanc \$63

Light, bright yellow. Aromas and flavors of lemon curd, yellow apple and honey, with a floral topnote. Plump and expansive, with a powerful finish marked by smoky mineral and brioche notes. This bottling seems to have become richer in recent years but it still shows the energy that I associate with Ruinart.

90 points Steven Tanzer

Ellen Whyte has just released her fourth album, appropriately titled: Four Way Stop, a soaring

achievement from an accomplished singer songwriter. Long time Portland, Oregon KINK FM 102 Blues Show radio personality, Bob Ancheta raved that it gave him "goose bumps!"

Ellen has fronted bands continuously now for 30 years, as she has three critically acclaimed albums in addition to the latest effort. She was captivated by music since she was a child growing up in Fort Lauderdale Florida. Leaving the humidity and the taffeta dresses of her accordion marching band behind, Ellen branched out to blue grass, gospel, rock, blues and jazz. Her eclectic tastes in music include heroes such as Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, Joni Mitchell, and Bonnie Raitt.

Ellen is known for her astonishing vocals, as she gracefully moves among genres from blues to jazz to funk and ballads. Her percussive rhythm guitar work is well suited to her voice, and she plays solo, in duos and trios, up to a full nine piece band complete with a horn section. She's won numerous awards for her work, including consideration for two Grammy Award nominations in 1999.

Speaking of such, Grammy award producer Dennis Walker had this to say after working on the third CD, Standing at the Sunrise: "She not only sings like an angel, but brings her own styling and phrasing to every song that is completely individual. Thank God for Ellen Whyte who is one of the last few who can still sing blues and pop and jazz, and still stand up on a stage and sing big band standards with the best of them."

Ellen, guitarist Garry Meziere, and her husband John Mullin, have collaborated with veteran musicians - "The 'A' List Commandos," as Ellen likes to refer to them - to produce a sophisticated, yet accessible sound that synchs up well with thoughtful and emotionally infused lyrics.

In addition to the Northwest, Ellen tours in the Mid West and on the East Coast, and was a featured artist in the International Blues festival in Montreal. Look for her soon at a "Four Way Stop" in your area!

Cheers!

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