

**Time to get geared up for the Aussie wine tasting on Friday, March 26th from 4-7PM
Only \$20 for all six wines. Great deal! Only at Santiam Wine Company! Bring your friends!**

If you have a minute...Go to Statesman's Journal and vote for favorite place to buy wine in the 2010 Best of the mid valley... Thanks!

Here are the wines:

2007 Mitolo Jester Shiraz McLaren Vale \$19

Bright ruby. Dark berry and cherry compote on the nose, with black pepper and clove adding nuance. Palate-numbing, peppery red and dark berry flavors are nicely focused, showing no rough edges and light tannic grip. Combines the peppery tang of an Old World syrah with the sweetness of South Australian shiraz-a tasty marriage in my book. Finishes with very good cut and length. This is delicious.
91 points Stephen Tanzer

2008 Marquis Philips Shiraz \$15.

The 2008 Shiraz offers up aromas of cigar box, damp earth, smoked meat, bacon, and blueberry. Packed with flavor on the palate, it is full-bodied, round, and altogether pleasure-bent. Drink it over the next 4-5 years. **91 Points Robert Parker**

2007 Tait Ball Buster Shiraz Blend \$18

The Ball Buster blend has been an annual Best Buy and, even at the current asking price, the 2007 The Ball Buster is an awesome value (at least for hedonists). It is composed of 72% Shiraz, 17% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 11% Merlot aged for 12 months in seasoned French and American oak. Opaque purple-colored, it has a nose of cedar, leather, spice box, and blueberry that leaps from the glass. This is followed by a plush, full-bodied wine with gobs of flavor and superior length. This easy-to-understand effort defines the meaning of over-delivering and will do so for another four years. **92 Points Robert Parker**

2007 Two Hand Brave Faces \$30.

The purple-colored 2007 Shiraz (64%)-Grenache (18%)-Mataro (18%) Brave Faces was aged in seasoned oak. It reveals earth notes, game, black cherry, and blueberry leading to a smooth-textured, forward, succulent wine with good grip and length. Drink it over the next five years. **90 Points Robert Parker**

2004 Clarendon Hills Brookman Cabernet Sauvignon \$35.

The inky/ruby/purple-hued 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Brookman Vineyard exhibits classic aromas of cassis and graphite along with a well-balanced, rich, full-bodied, intense personality. One of the estate's more forward, elegant offerings, it is best drunk during its first 12-15 years of life. **92 Points Robert Parker**

Shingleback Black Bubbles Sparkling Shiraz \$20. Something different!

Inky dark purple, pours up with a frothy pink mousse; bubbles are lasting, with the persistent, pinpoint quality I would expect of a fine, classically made sparkling wine. Good black-fruit aromas blend plums and berries. Mouth-filling and fresh, bubbles add a creamy texture on the palate. Fresh and appropriately tart; although its residual sugar maps to moderate sweetness, carbonation and acid balance present a "dry" flavor impression. As quality sparkling Shiraz should, it shows the flavor profile of a fine McLaren Vale red with bubbles added; and that's fun. **FOOD MATCH:** Usually drunk as a refreshing aperitif or for casual party sipping, this fine Shiraz will pair with red meat, is recommended with chocolate desserts, and shows surprisingly well with spicy Asian fare. It was remarkably good with the offbeat, aromatic West Chinese cumin lamb featured in yesterday's *Wine Advisor FoodLetter*.

Saturday: Viognier from Cowhorn Cellars-Applegate region of Southern Oregon! 12-4 FREE

Hope to see you here!

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