

Big Pinot Noir weekend in the beautiful Willamette Valley... FYI If you want to save money wait and order from me! My prices can't be beat! If you want to taste wines other than Pinot Noir make your plan to visit Santiam Wine Company Friday, May 25th for **Southern Rhone**

- **Time: 4-7**
- **Cost: \$19. Full pour 2 oz of each wine**
- **1/2 pour \$12 1 oz of each wine**

THE WINES: SOUTHERN RHONE

2010 Domaine J.P. Lafond Lirac Blanc \$20

50% Grenache Blanc; 30% Roussanne; 20% Viognier. 2 hectares of vines planted in rocky, sandy, and lime-clay soil. Clean, crisp wine with a nice rich fullness. Great with seafood. Handpicked grapes are all 100% de-stemmed, then macerated 4-12 hours for flavor extraction. After pressing the juice is fermented at a low temperature; the wine is bottled in January following the harvest in order to maximize fruity freshness.

2007 Domaine Du Pesquier Gigondas \$33

Quite ripe, with fleshy, full-bodied fig sauce, mulled plum and blackberry paste notes that glide along, carried by graphite, black tea and chocolate ganache. The long finish hangs together nicely. Drink now through 2013. **91 Points Wine Spectator**

2009 Domaine De Beurenard Rasteau Cotes du Rhone \$22

A plump, mouthfilling style, showing fleshy plum sauce and melted red licorice flavors, with a long, sleek finish that sports a well-embedded mineral note. Solid. Drink now through 2012. **90 Points Wine Spectator**

2009 Domaine Boisson Cotes-du Rhone Villages Cairanne \$20

From Bruno Boisson, the 2009 Cairanne is outstanding. Already bottled, it exhibits sweet roasted Provencal herb notes intermixed with notions of licorice, lavender, cherry marmalade and spice box. This broad, full-bodied wine is a wonderful example of a Cotes du Rhone-Villages. It, too, should drink well for 3-4 years. **90 Points Robert Parker**

2009 Domaine de la Charbonniere Vacqueyras \$30

The 2009 Vacqueyras, a blend of mostly Grenache with some Syrah, boasts a dense purple color along with a beautiful bouquet of black raspberries, blueberry pie, camphor and white flowers. Rich, pure, medium to full-bodied and velvety textured, this beauty can be enjoyed over the next 3-5 years. **91 Points Robert Parker.** Michel Maret's estate of 45+ acres is primarily in the eastern and northern sectors of the appellation, with large holdings in La Crau and the well-known lieu-dit of Brusquieres. His daughters, Caroline and Veronique, seem to be taking over more and more of the responsibilities and add to the remarkable number of women who seem to be in positions of influence and control in Chateauneuf du Pape. There are always four cuvees in the top vintages, but the Marets have added a fifth cuvee, dominated by Mourvedre with the balance Grenache, called L'Envol. This wine is a completely different take on Chateauneuf du Pape, one I am seeing appear more frequently in my tastings. The 2009s all performed better out of bottle than they did last year. These are classic, traditional styles of Chateauneuf du Pape. As insiders know, the finest value from the Maret family is their Vacqueyras made from the 10 acres they own in that appellation.

2007 Clos des Brusquieres Chateauneuf du Pape \$40

The outstanding 2007 Chateauneuf du Pape exhibits a darker, plum/garnet/ruby hue as well as an evolved, but complex bouquet of kirsch liqueur, lavender, new saddle leather, spice box, and garrigue. It is an unadorned, pure wine with the kirsch/black cherry liqueur character following through across the attack, mid-palate, and finish. Quasi-rustic tannins kick in at the finish, but there is more than sufficient substance to stand up to the wine's structure. Nevertheless, I recommend 1-2 years of bottle age, and consumption over the following 12-15 years. **90+**

Points Wine Advocate

See you here!

Saturday: 2010 Andrew Rich Prelude Pinot Noir \$22. Just released and going fast! Also, Sauvignon Blanc 12-4 and maybe a rose or two! FREE

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