

From: Debbie Rios debbie@santiamwine.com
Subject: Napa Valley and beyond Cabernet Sauvignon Tasting
Date: September 17, 2015 at 8:24 PM
To: tasting santiam tasting@santiamwine.com

DR

Great Wine night! Tomorrow here at Santiam Wine & Bistro. Check-out our line-up, it's spectacular!

Special menu: Gourmet Meat Loaf...it will be scrumptious! garlic mashed potatoes, salad and French Bread \$12

This tasting will satisfy the most discerning palates.

When: Friday, September 18th

Where: Santiam Wine & Bistro

Cost: \$40 Full Pour (2 oz of each wine) Half Pour-\$22 (1 oz pour of each)

Why are we tasting such expensive wines? Because we can, where else, if not here? Life is too short not to. I could go on....

The Wines:

2012 Caymus Anniversary Cabernet Sauvignon 1 Liter \$83

They appear to be immune to some of winedom's less than intelligent trends and fads that we see from time to time, and the result is a spectacular 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon 40th Anniversary offering. Its dense purple/black color is followed by copious quantities of crème de cassis and blackberry fruit, silky tannins, a voluptuous texture and stunning purity as well as length. This full-bodied effort is a fabulous example of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon as well as a tribute to this amazing family. It is so good now, why wait? However, I'm sure that like most vintages of Caymus, it will last for 20-25 years. Amazing! **96 Points Robert Parker**

I am old enough to remember Chuck Wagner and his father, who I first met at Caymus in the late seventies. This is clearly one of Napa Valley's iconic wineries, as well as one that, amazingly, never went through a bad patch. Obviously, no matter which generation is in the driver's seat (or should I say tractor's seat), Caymus Vineyard knows how to deliver flavor and deliciousness.

2012 Orin Swift Papillon Napa Valley \$70

The 2012 Proprietary Red Papillon is composed of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc. Another big-time winner, it was sourced from multiple AVAs, including Oakville, St. Helena, Howell Mountain and Rutherford. Gorgeous aromas of white chocolate, blackberries, blackcurrants, blue fruits and toasty oak are followed by a full-bodied, layered wine that builds incrementally. The tannins are sweet and well-integrated, and the acidity is sufficient for definition. It is a savory, hedonistic as well as intellectually pleasing wine to enjoy over the next decade or more. **93 Points Robert Parker**

2012 Ridge Santa Cruz Mountains Monte Bello Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon \$54.50

76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot. 1.8 tons/acre. Vines planted as far back as 1949.

Sustainably farmed. Aged 19 months in (47% new) American oak.

"Purple/saturated ruby. Pungent cassis and blackberry fruits, fennel, cola, toasted oak, clove and cardamom spice. Full bodied, with structured tannins and lively acid; blackberry fruit, fennel, sweet toasty oak, crushed-rock mineral; a long, intense finish." —WM notes

2012 Santa Cruz Mountains Monte Bello Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon \$50

2012 Snowden The Ranch Napa Valley \$50

The two bigger red wines are the 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon The Ranch and, as Scott Snowden said, there wasn't enough difference between this cuvée to justify a Reserve. Elegant red and black currant fruit with dusty loamy soils notes, a hint of coffee beans and subtle background oak are all present in this deep, medium to full-bodied, stylish wine that seems to want to behave like a French Bordeaux, but clearly has the ripeness and flesh of Napa. **90 Points Robert Parker**

Proprietor Scott Snowden's well-known daughter, Diana Snowden Seysses, while spending most of her time at Domaine Dujac in Burgundy, also looks after these wines that are soon to emerge from their replanted vineyard high on the Vaca Mountains hillsides behind the famous resort of Auberge du Soleil.

2012 Darioush "Caravan" Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley \$52.50

Caravan is made with the same meticulous skill and quality Napa fruit as the Darioush "Signature" wines, but it displays a somewhat more fruit-driven palate and forward profile. A blending of 14% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Malbec add finesse to the Cabernet and complexity to the finish. Fruit was hand-harvested into small baskets before being sorted twice before pressing. The wine spent 22 months in 70% new French and other European oak before bottling. From the winery: "A fabulous vintage produced a stylish and substantial 2012 Caravan with a firm, structured palate and sleek, polished tannins. Offering saturated flavors of dark cherry and blueberry as well as notes of chocolate and white truffle; this is a round, supple and thoroughly approachable wine ready to be open and enjoyed."

2012 Stag's Leap Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon \$61

Already bottled, the 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Artemis is similar to its siblings. It offers delicious blackcurrant fruit, not as much complexity as the Fay or S.L.V., but an attractive meaty, rich blackcurrant fruitiness, well-integrated wood, and hints of spice and oak. Fleshy and medium-bodied but also made in the elegant style sought by this winery, it should drink well for 10-15 years. **90 Points Robert Parker**

Debbie Rios
Owner
Santiam Wine Company
1555, 12th SE Suite 130
Salem, Oregon 97302
503-589-0775
www.santiamwine.com
debbie@santiamwine.com