

From: Debbie Rios debbie@santiamwine.com
Subject: Washington Cabernet Tasting and Braised Short Ribs
Date: November 5, 2015 at 11:54 PM
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DR

I almost forgot to tell you our dinner feature: Braised Short Ribs, garlic mashed potatoes, green salad and French baguette \$14

Here we are another big exciting Washington Cabernet and Blends Wine tasting! I don't think I have ever but Quilceda Creek in a wine tasting before... They are hard to get! We are the lucky ones! Join us for a taste of these amazing wines. Think about the holidays to come... Enjoy the chance to taste incredible wines all in one sitting.

(I was having phone issues this week. If you have called my shop and the line was busy, my apologies. It is fixed now.

Where: Santiam Wine & Bistro
When: Wednesday, November 6th
Time: 4-8 pm
Cost: Full pour \$30 Half pour \$18

The Wines:

2012 Quilceda Creek Red Blend Washington \$75

A smoking effort that shows the beauty of the 2012 vintage, Golitzin's 2012 CVR Colombia Valley Red Wine is made from a declassified blend of most Cabernet Sauvignon, with smaller parts Merlot and Malbec. It's offers a brilliant, almost Bordeaux-like, bouquet of sweet cassis, lead pencil shavings, graphite and hints of toast that flows to a full-bodied, layered, seamless Cabernet that has integrated acidity, sweet tannin and a great finish that doesn't lack for richness or persistence. Already hard to resist, it will nevertheless continue to drink nicely for another decade or more. **93 Points Robert Parker**

This is another serious lineup by Paul and Alex Golitzin and I was able to taste their 2012s multiple times, once at my office in Colorado where I was able to follow the wines for multiple days, and then during a visit at the estate just north of Snohomish. In both cases they showed beautifully, with the ripe, exuberant style that's common in the vintage. When speaking about the '12s, Paul told me that it was an "easy growing season and that you had to be selective." In addition, they had more production from Champoux (which was hit hard by frost in 2011) due to their increased ownership in the vineyard after the retirement of Paul Champoux. Looking at their 2013s, these are more restrained and classic in style, yet have terrific concentration, and I actually preferred their slightly more focused, pure style. We'll see how these round out once in bottle

2012 Woodward Canyon Artist Series \$52

A beautiful Bordeaux blend, the 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Artist Series checks in as a blend of 100% Cabernet, from a number of vineyards (mostly Woodward Canyon, Champoux and Spring Creek), that spent 21 months in 50% new French oak. It's a classy, full-bodied, seamless and sexy 2012 that exhibits lots of black cherry, black raspberry, toasted spices, licorice and dried herbs. The most approachable and forward of the Bordeaux blends, it will still have two decades of longevity. **93 Points Robert Parker**

2013 Mark Ryan "Long Haul" Washington \$50

The 2013 Long Haul Ciel du Cheval Vineyard is based largely on Merlot, yet incorporates 40% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon. Seeing 62% new French oak, it exhibits perfumed and complex notes of violets, cassis, black plums, licorice and wet rock-like minerality on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, incredibly polished and refined, with, again, sensational purity of fruit, it builds nicely in the glass, has good tannic grip, and should age gracefully. I think it's the finest vintage of this cuvee to date. **93-95 Points Robert Parker**

Lead by the young, incredibly talented Mike Macmorran, the team at Mark Ryan Winery is making some of the most exciting wines coming out of Washington State. They make a lot of cuvees (too many, really), but quantities are tiny for the top releases (most are less than 200 cases) and the quality is superb across the board. Truthfully, Mike may be one of the most talented winemakers in the state and readers need to try some of these wines!

2013 Mark Ryan Board Track Racer "The Chief" Washington \$30

The 2013 delivers another outstanding value, drinking well above its price. Packed with ripe black and blue fruits, with a velvety texture picking up a delightful chewiness through the finish. 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. 2012 Vintage received 91 Points

2012 Dunham "Trutina" Red \$29

The 2012 Trutina is a medium to full-bodied, elegant and pretty blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 10% Malbec and the rest Syrah and Petit Verdot. Aged 16 months in barrel, it gives up lots of black raspberry, vanilla bean, crushed flowers and mint, offers a seamless, rich, yet weightless texture and should drink well for a decade. **91 Points Robert Parker**

2013 Sparkman " Kindred" Red Blend \$20

Loaded with silky Rubenesque Malbec and chewy Cabernet Sauvignon, Kindred is sourced from younger blocks in our premier vineyards. Kindred opens with ripe round blueberries, cherries, anise and herbs on the nose and explodes with a spicy silky velvet texture across the palate, building to a

long, chocolate covered blackberry love bomb. Good and good for you.

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