

Shoppers were out today!! That was fun, but we are exhausted...time to rest for the big Rhone tasting tomorrow night! I hope you can all join us for this exquisite Southern Rhone tasting on Friday!

- Where: "Santiam Wine & Bistro" ....Do you like this name? We are testing the waters...
- Date: Friday, December 7th
- Time: 4-8 PM
- Cost \$22. Full Pour 1/2 Pour \$13 all six!

THE WINES:

**2010 Chateau De Saint Cosme "Les Deux Albion" \$22**

Syrah co-fermented with grenache, carignan, mourvedre and clairette and raised in older casks and concrete vats): Deep ruby. Pungent, assertively perfumed aromas of cherry, cassis, potpourri and white pepper. Juicy, penetrating and refreshingly bitter, offering an array of dark fruit and spice qualities and an exotic floral pastille nuance. Finishes long and spicy, with impressive clarity and cut. **91 Points Stephen Tanzer**

**2010 Vignobles Diffonty Vatican Cote du Rhone \$18**

Solid, with a nice gutsy feel to the dark currant and fig fruit, liberally laced with roasted espresso notes. Hefty, but still racy enough for balance. Drink now through 2013. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. **89 Points Wine Spectator**

**2011 Roucas Toumba Vacqueyras "La Grand Terre" \$27**

Eric Bouletin's father died when he was 15, and one year later he left school to help his mother at the domaine. He sold the grapes from the domaine, which has owned the parcel of "Les Restanques de Cabassole" since 1723, to the co-op until 2000 when he began to make his own wine. Eric produces around 1,100 cases of wine annually from 3ha of old vine (some planted in 1915) Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre with yields of about 30hl/ha. The Wine Advocate rated the 2004, 92pts and the 2005, 91-93pts declaring it "a candidate for Vacqueyras of the vintage." Since 2007 he has been making Cotes du Rhone (declassified into VDP) as well. In 2012, he released an entry level Vacqueyras, "La Grande Terre" more approachable in its youth than the Restanques. Very elegant wines, almost more Burgundian than Rhodanien. "La Grand Terre" with this wine, Eric Bouletin offers to us Vacqueyras. Composed of Grenache (60 years, 60%), Syrah (20%) and Mourvèdre (20%), this wine has an intense garnet-red dress. The nose is of good intensity on cherry notes, then the wine opens on the red fruits and spices. The mouth is full and rich, with beautiful tannins.

**2010 Bertrand Stehelin Gigondas \$33.50 I can guarantee this wine will be in stock until sold out. I have muchas botellas!**

Powerfully rendered, with thickly layered black currant confiture, boysenberry and linzer torte flavors intertwined with bittersweet cocoa-covered coffee bean and licorice root notes. The finish is chiseled graphite, with good tension that should unwind in the cellar. Best from 2014 through 2022. **93 Points Wine Spectator Rank 34 out of 100 Top 100 Wine Spectator**

**2010 Cotes de L'Ange Chateauneuf du Papes \$43**

The 2010 Chateauneuf du Pape is a blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Mourvedre and 10% Syrah aged in a combination of cement and old wood foudres. The wine has a dense ruby/purple color and a classic nose of blueberries, blackberries, licorice, new saddle leather, roasted meats as well as pepper and spice. It is full-bodied, moderately tannic and impressive. Let it age for another 2-3 years and drink it over the following 15 or more. **93 Points Wine Spectator**

**2010 Pierre Usseglio Chateauneuf du Papes \$55**

This branch of the Usseglio family left their home in Italy following the Great Depression in 1929 to make a new start producing wine in southern France. This estate has been on "fire" qualitatively since

1998. The cellars of brothers Jean-Pierre and Thierry Usseglio, who own approximately 60 acres of vines, are located adjacent to the ruins of a pope's palace on the northeastern side of the village. In top vintages, such as 2010, 2009 and 2007, three Chateauneuf du Pape cuvees are produced. These include a traditional cuvee, the old vine, tank- and foudre-aged Mon Aieul and the more modern-styled Reserve des Deux Freres. Lirac is on the acquisition list of many Chateauneuf du Pape proprietors for a number of reasons: (1) they live close by; (2) the terroir is not dissimilar from that of Chateauneuf du Pape; and (3) the land is relatively cheap. The 2010 Chateauneuf du Papes are superb. **93 Points**  
**Robert Parker**

See you here!

P.S. We are stocked to the hilt with wine...don't be shy!

Saturday Tasting, Cheap & Cheerful Six-Pack 12-4 FREE!

Thank you

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