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Subject: Walla Walla Red Tasting at Santiam Wine and Bistro
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It's Walla Walla Time! We want to be busy, bring all your friends! Tami and I have been twiddling our thumbs all week with this weather!

We are all geared up for this grand wine tasting. We also have new menu items like, Crab & Shrimp Cocktail, Rios style... and Tami's special Fresh Pesto Pasta Salad, simply delicious!

FYI HOT ARRIVALS ARE HERE!!!! 2013 Provenza Chiaretto Rose from Italy and 2011 Bodegas Alto Moncayo Grenache Veraton 92 Points and the Alto Alto Moncayo 95 Points Robert Parker. Get yours while the getting is good

Where: Santiam Wine & Bistro

When: Friday, May 16th

Time: 4-8 P.M.

Cost: \$26 Full pour 2 oz of each Half Pour: \$15 1 oz of each of the following wines

The Wines:

2008 Cougar Crest Anniversary Walla Walla Cuvee \$36

Focused and generous, offering balanced notes of ripe cherry, subtle tobacco and cedar, persisting easily against refined tannins on the finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Drink now through 2016 91 Points Wine Spectator

2011 Tamarack Cabernet Sauvignon \$32

Tasted from multiple barrels and a step up in terms of concentration and structure, the inky colored 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon has knockout aromas of black currant, graphite, violet and charcoal to go with a medium to full-bodied, layered and beautifully textured mouthfeel. Possessing juicy acidity and ripe tannin, it will be approachable on release and have 8-10 years of ultimate longevity. Drink 2014-2021. 90-93 Points Robert Parker

Located in Walla Walla and founded in 1998 by Ron and Jamie Colman, with the wines now made by Danny Gordon, this first-rate estate fashions classic, age-worthy wines that over deliver for the price. While I tasted the majority of the bottled wines in Colorado, all of the reserve efforts were tasted from barrel during my visit to the winery. This is an estate to watch and I came away more than a little impressed.

2011 Spring Valley Uriah Red Blend \$47

Blend: 46% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Franc, 8% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Malbec Aging: 18 months in 60% New French Oak

The Merlot fruit is rich and soft while the Cabernet Franc expresses complexity and floral components. Because of this, the blend is both complex and balanced. The palate is extremely rich and soft with notes of cassis, cherry, blueberry and hints of exotic fruits. The Winery. This wine consistently receives scores in the mid to high 90's

2011 Seven Hills Walla Walla Cabernet Sauvignon \$40

Crafted from the oldest vines in one of the oldest vineyards in the Walla Walla Valley, this displays lovely aromatics of leaf, herb, earth and wild berry. Tight and contained, it opens into a focused, lively wine with great acidity. It has the potential to age well for a decade or more. 92 Points Wine Enthusiast 2010 Vintage

2011 Woodward Canyon Artist Series \$52

The 2011 vintage was substantially smaller due to winter injury in several key vineyards. Still we achieved beautifully mature fruit through shoot thinning, leaf stripping and improved viticulture practices. The fact that the crop was smaller helped make this possible. • Composed of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc, 7% Syrah, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Merlot, this shows a deep ruby color and a rich nose of blackberry, cherry, cassis, and black olive, with scents of crushed roses, cigar box, juniper berries and sage. On the palate, the flavors are deliciously supple, yet deep cored, underlain with licorice, bittersweet chocolate, French roast and mineral earth. The back reveals squeezed berries, roasted nuts, mocha, kirsch liqueur

French toast and mineral earth. The back reveals squeezed berries, roasted nuts, mocha, kirsch liqueur and crème de cassis, followed by a fine balance of fruit acids, deft oak, and subtle spices on the lingering finish.

- Double Gold San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

2011 L'Ecole No 41 Ferguson Walla Walla \$60

Ferguson Vineyard located at the very top of the Seven Hills region, in the southwest part of the Walla Walla Valley, at an elevation of 1,450 feet. A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that spent 20 months in 50% new French oak, it possesses a deeply fruited, mineral-driven profile with notions of black fruits, iron, crushed stone and smoked earth all showing in the glass. This medium to full-bodied effort builds on the palate with layers of fruit, tannin and acidity, and has a burly, structured finish. 91-93 Points Robert Parker

One of the oldest producers in the Walla Walla Valley, with over three decades of history, L'Ecole 41 has been run by Megan and Marty Clubb since 1989. A relatively large producer, they have distribution throughout the US and produce a solid lineup of both value priced wines and top tier efforts.

Cheers!

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