

Wine tasting time!

When: Friday, November 12, 2010

Time: 4:00-7 PM

Place: Santiam Wine Company

Price: \$25 Full Pour

1/2 Pour \$15

The Wines:

2009 Berthet-Rayne Chateauneuf du Pape Blanc \$30

The lovely 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape blanc, an intriguing blend of 40% Bourboulenc, 40% Clairette and the rest equal parts Roussanne and Grenache, was aged in stainless steel four months prior to bottling. A fresh, lively, perfumed white, it exhibits a heady bouquet of flowers and tropical fruits, and a nicely textured, medium-bodied, crisp style.

2007 Domaine Joncier Lirac \$22. Kermit Lynch Import

Dark, impenetrable robe. Black fruits and plenty of spiciness. Those big round stones like at Vieux Télégraphe make their presence felt, too. Most of all, your glass better be solidly built to contain all the goodies in Joncier's chewy 2007. A big, flavorful red Rhône!

2007 Chateau Pesquie Cotes du Ventoux Quintessence \$24.

The late-released 2007 Quintessence (Pesquie's top cuvee) is a blend of 80% Syrah and 20% Grenache aged 12 months in oak (40% new), and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. Its dense opaque ruby/purple color is followed by sweet aromas of blackberries, blueberries, charcoal, and acacia flowers. Dense, thick, unctuously textured, exuberant, and ostentatious, this terrific wine can be enjoyed over the next 3-5 years. **93 Points Robert Parker**

2007 Le Clos du Caillou Vieilles Vignes Cote du Rhone \$27. Kermit Lynch Import

2006 Andre Perret Saint-Joseph \$29

The 2006 St.-Joseph could easily pass for a top-notch red Burgundy. Notes of forest floor as well as sweet red currants and cherries jump from the glass of this velvety-textured, astonishingly fresh and charming wine. While it flows daintily over the palate, it packs plenty of intensity and fruit. The vintage's zesty acidity has provided an endearing precision and charm. It should be drunk over the next 7-8 years. **91 Points Robert Parker**

2008 Le Vieux Donjon Chateauneuf du Pape \$61.

Deep red. Fresh red berries, flowers and spicecake on the nose, with a hint of white pepper adding energy. Juicy, finely etched strawberry and raspberry flavors show a pinot-like character and are framed by silky tannins. The lively finish features a lingering note of candied flowers. This graceful, understated wine should be delicious on release. **90-92 points Stephen Tanzer**

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