



"Sommeliers Personal Picks"

This newsletter features five personal favorite wines that I feel deliver exceptional character, depth, complexity and value. The "Golden Age" of wine is upon us and finding stellar bottles can be had from our own Washington State to the land down under. I continually get blown away by the fantastic wine emerging from the Pacific Northwest. Areas in Columbia Valley like Walla Walla, Horse Heaven Hills and the Wahluke Slope produce grapes that are truly world class. Just one taste of the Novelty Hill Cabernet Sauvignon and your consciousness will be awoken to a new level. Great wines can leave impressionable memories that last a lifetime and create associations to places and people. This is one of the unique things about wine that can enhance your life forever. One of my new favorite places to tour is Washington State. The wineries are laid back and the people are very courteous and happy to see you. As an emerging "world class" wine region this state has a lot to offer the wine lover and the scenery is beautiful. Next time you're planning a wine vacation keep this state in mind. Some of the other wine gems that will awaken your senses in this letter are from Portugal, Australia and our own fabulous California. These wines are definitely outstanding to say the least, and should surely leave a lasting impression on your palate. I truly hope you give at least one of these wines a try.

1) Chamisal Vineyards Unoaked Chardonnay 2010, California - The Chamisal vineyard was the first vineyard planted in Edna Valley in

1973. The close proximity to the Pacific Ocean and the calcareous and volcanic soils make this an exceptional place for growing grapes. This region also has one of the longest growing seasons in California. The wine is bursting with aromas and flavors of limes, peaches and pineapples. Tons of mouthwatering fruit balanced by crisp acidity ends the finish. A super wine at an unbelievable price! Pair with seared scallops, broiled Walleye or Sushi.

2) Kung Fu Girl Riesling 2010, Washington State - This wine is coming from a single rocky vineyard in Washington State and made by the energetic big haired Charles Smith. After managing bands in Northern Europe he emerged on the winemaking scene in Walla Walla, Washington State. Some of his wines are the most sought after wines in the country and this Riesling is a real gem for under 20 bucks. Aromas and flavors of Asian pears, apricots and nectarines explode into the air and on the palate. Incredible minerality with a nice touch of sweetness. Superb balance and refreshing! Pair with spicy Thai food, pork sausage or just as a sipper.

3) Caves Bonifacio Alicante Bouschet-Aragonez 2007, Portugal - Here is a real gem coming from Portugal. The wine is a blend of Alicante Bouschet and Aragonez. Alicante is a French Hybrid and Aragonez is the Tempranillo. Together these two grapes make a wonderfully complex wine that is a steal for the price. The wine has a deep dark ruby/purple color. Aromas and flavors of blackberry, licorice, spice and dark cherries fill the palate. Nice balance and good structure. Pair with Manchego, venison stew or chili.

4) Novelty Hill Cabernet Sauvignon 2008, Columbia Valley - Mike Januik was the head winemaker for over a decade at Chateau Ste. Michelle in Washington State. He now makes wine for Novelty Hill and his own label. This cab is probably one of the finest values coming from the state for the price. The wine has a brilliant dark red hue. Incredible aromatics of cherry, raspberry, spice and sage fill the air. Succulent flavors of blackberry, vanilla and more raspberry fill the palate with a super long finish and impeccable balance. This wine drinks like one double it's price. Pair with filet mignon, braised lamb shank or some Pecorino cheese.

5) Mollydooker The Boxer Shiraz 2010, Australia - This wine is made by the husband and wife team of Sarah and Sparky Marquis.

The couple has been awarded the Australian Boutique Winemakers of the Year and the Australian White Winemakers of the Year. They started the winery with \$1000 bucks and now make some of the greatest wines on the planet. The Boxer is considered one of the greatest Shiraz in the world and it can be had for 30 dollars. After one sip you'll believe this to be true. The wine is a dark brooding purplish color. Heady aromatics of blueberry, spice cake, cumin and bacon explode into my nose. Super concentrated and rich flavors of blackberries and blueberries coat my mouth like velvet. A hint of menthol and spice complete the finish with superb length. Wow! A must try for all serious lovers of this grape. Pair with BBQ ribs, grilled Rib eye or just sip on with friends.

Hope you enjoy the selection
Sommelier
Jeff Anderson