

January 12, 2009

The Sommelier Says....

Hello and welcome to the newsletter for <http://www.wine-sommelier.com/>

Wine Bar Review

Weaver Wines- Ventura

In my continuing search for a local wine bar, I entered Weaver Wines in Ventura.

Immediately I was taken back by the amount of merchandise in the place. It was packed, and there is limited seating for the wine bar, there is also a seating area in the back room. If you are looking for wine accessories, then I highly recommend Weaver Wines.

The atmosphere is nice and friendly. When I started looking at the wine list, one thing jumped out at me, it did not list Vineyards or Vintages for the wines being served. It said basically "California or New Zealand Chardonnay- \$5-\$15 a glass". The list is broken down by varietal. Now I understand the pain the butt it is to reprint a wine list every week, but come on, in 2009 with printers less than \$200, I think it is crazy that an accurate wine list is not available for a place that calls themselves a wine lounge!

During my visit there the waitress asked if I wanted a wine flight, she said they had a premium flight for \$15 and she then brought me 6 different wines, 2 of which had their own label, which were basically house wines. None of which left me wanting more.

On a positive note, the wines that were for sale, I felt were well priced, and they had a decent selection. I just wish their wine list was cared for as much their merchandise and wines in stock.

Will I go back there? Sure to buy a bottle of wine or some wine charms.

Weaver Wines, 14 S. California Street · Ventura, California 93001 · 805.653.WINE

<http://www.weaverwines.com/index.html>

Wine Tasting in our own backyard!

Why drive to Santa Barbara when you can have some wonderful wines here in the Ventura County!

Cantara Cellars (Camarillo)

Located in an industrial park in Camarillo, Mike and Chris Brown have put together an excellent little winery, with a very loyal wine club and some nice wines. I am most looking forward to their 2007 releases, due out in March (the same weekend as our Sonoma Trip).

Cantara Cellars sources their grapes from the Lodi Appellation in Northern California. The Winery and Tasting Room are open to the public each weekend from 11 AM to 5 PM. After tasting what they have in the tasting room, ask Mike for a sample of what he has brewing in the back.... You won't be disappointed!

www.cantaracellars.com

Herzog Wine Cellars (Oxnard)

Talk about huge! We go from a winery in the area that produces a few hundred cases per year to the Kosher wine from Herzog Wine Cellars. In 1985, the Herzog family decided to expand their winemaking operations to California, where they make wine under two separate labels: Baron Herzog and Herzog Wine Cellars.

What makes a wine kosher? Because wine is used to welcome the Sabbath, kosher wine can be handled only by Sabbath-observant Jews—those individuals who strictly observe kosher dietary laws. In addition, kosher winemakers are forbidden to use any

products, such as unauthorized yeasts or animal-based fining agents that might fall outside the parameters of kosher convention and thus compromise the ritual essence of the wine.

They are open for tasting, Sunday through Friday- Say hi to Debbie and Janice in the tasting room, tell them I sent ya! You might not get a discount, but you'll get a smile.

www.herzogwinecellars.com

Old Creek Ranch Winery (Ojai)

If you want to take a little drive out towards Ojai, you can visit a cute little winery called Old Creek Ranch; you actually have to drive through an old creek on your way there! This 27-year-old winery has had its ups and downs in recent years, but they have continued to make some fine wines.

My favorite wines here are the Ace, which is a Syrah blend and their Riesling ice wine! Go figure that huh?

The winery is open daily from 11-5pm.

www.oldcreekranch.com

Rancho Ventavo Cellars (Moorpark)

George and Faye are working on opening a tasting room VERY soon, and when they do look out, it is going to be some nice place. The wines at Rancho Ventavo are all very nice. They show excellent balance, specifically their Tempranillo and the Sierra Foothills Zinfandel. Both show wonderfully, and have nice long finishes.

www.ranchoventavo.com

The Wine Trail in Ventura
<http://www.venturacountywinetrail.com/>

Sonoma Barrel Tasting Weekend

Have you made your reservations yet??

March 7/8 is right around the corner for the annual Sonoma Barrel Tasting weekend! This will be the 31st year of Barrel Tasting! Over 100 wineries in the Alexander, Dry Creek and Russian River Valleys throw open their cellar doors for you to sample wine from the barrel, purchase futures, meet winemakers and sample current release wines. Must be 21 years of age or older to attend event; kindly leave pets and underage children at home. All details available at

<http://www.wineroad.com/>

My plans are flying up to Oakland Saturday morning, driving to Sonoma and having a hotel in the area (Santa Rosa) for the weekend. We come home on Sunday night. Some of you might decide to drive up to Sonoma, but remember we are ~~drinking~~ tasting all day Sunday too.

Southwest Airlines has 2009 SPECIAL pricing on 'wanna get away' fares that I recently bought at \$354 roundtrip for a couple. The flights I booked are as follows:

Southwest #3656, Depart Burbank to Oakland @ 8:30 am March 7
Southwest #2550, Depart Oakland to Burbank @ 7:50 pm March 8
Plus the hotel in HYPERLINK "<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/stscy-courtyard-santa-rosa/>" Courtyard Santa Rosa 175 Railroad Street Santa Rosa, CA 95401 is \$150 a night.

Please let me know ASAP if you plan on going with us, I am getting transportation for the weekend too.

Looking ahead

Coming soon to Wood Ranch..... a NEW wine bar... and a great Sommelier doing all the selections! That's all I can say for now ;)

Cheers-

Tim

**If you would like to be removed from this list, please reply to me at
HYPERLINK "mailto:tim@wine-sommelier.com" tim@wine-sommelier.com
and request removal from this list.
If you know someone that wants this list, please have him or her send me an
email requesting to be included too!**