

March 9, 2009

The Sommelier Says....

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

Malibu Family Wines

Looking for a nice place for a Sunday afternoon picnic? Try Malibu Family wines.

Located just off Mulholland Highway, near Kanan Dume Road, The out door tasting area and picnic area is inviting and a wonderful place to spend an afternoon. You can even bring the kids to enjoy the swings and fun atmosphere.

Malibu Family Wines vineyards consist of approximately 60,000 vines on 65 acres, with expansion plans to reach 100,000 vines. With the high altitude and separation from the coast, along with an ideal blend of weather conditions and rich, rocky soil, it's the perfect environment for growing premium wine grapes.

As a joint family endeavor between the Semler Family and the DeJoria Family, they take great pride in the gentle-handling, traditional techniques that give their wines their special character.

The afternoon I was there, I enjoyed the Semler Merlot (yes I am on a Merlot thing right now) that goes for \$24 a bottle and also the '03 Semler Cabernet. Bev enjoyed the Saddlerock Rose' and the Petit Sirah.

You should stop by sometime, the wines are nice and you can take a nap under one of their beautiful trees in their park.

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

J Keverson goes Clubin!

Remember that great Zinfandel that we had at the wine shop in Simi? Well there're back.....

And now they have a wine club that has an amazing offer for those that signup before April 30- you get 40% off your wine purchases! I have to tell you that is an amazing offer, as a Sommelier I don't even get that big of a discount- so this offer is out of this world! Yes I am sure the Kev gals, Tiffany and Lori, are just all over them selves with this news too! (*I think they are even printing up t-shirts!*)

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

Dan Gehrs Delirio

There is no secret here, that I love Dan Gehrs wines. The fact is two months ago I was at his tasting room in Los Olivios and talking to Dan he told me that he was about to release his version of a Super Tuscan. Well I could hardly contain myself! I love his Sangiovese and the thought that he was going to put it together as one of my favorite blends, well.... I heard angels sing.

The wine is named Delirio, it is a blend of the Italian variety Sangiovese together with the red Bordeaux stars Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Merlot. I received my club shipment a few weeks ago and decided to open a bottle one night with some friends Rob and Barbara. Upon opening it, I poured it so gracefully into my Riedel Sommelier glass it looked beautiful. Giving the glass a nice big swirl, I dipped my nose into the glass and my first reaction was.... Interesting nose. Slight fruit, dark berries, not an old world nose like I was expecting. Then I had my first taste, as I swirled it in my mouth, feeling it open up, I was struck by the lack of 'freshness' that I felt in my mouth. In fact the wine had a hint of a vinegar taint to it. It wasn't a bad bottle of wine, it just did not taste right.

Looking at my friends, I could see the look in their eyes too- not wanting to say anything bad about this wine that I was looking so forward to opening. I asked what they thought, and the word 'interesting' came out of their mouths. I said yeah.... A few minutes later we opened up another bottle of wine, and enjoyed that much more. I did however leave that bottle open and wanted to try it again in the morning to see if it indeed open up and calm down a bit. Unfortunately it did not.

I sent Dan Gehrs an email the next day telling him of my experiences with the wine, I got back a nice response from Terri Thieslt the tasting room manager. In her response she said, 'We found the Delirio does open up and is quite good after it has been decanted...we found that when first opening the wine it did appear young and after a day of being opened it was quite good".

I still believe that Dan Gehrs is a wine God in our area; but I think this one misses the mark. I do however, have another bottle and will be holding on to that for a while, when I do open it in a year or two, I will let you know if, like all of us, it has improved with age.

Looking ahead

**- Coming soon to Wood Ranch..... a NEW wine bar, we are planning a grand opening wine event and you are all invited! Stay tuned!*

**-April 4 1st Annual Camarillo Crush Wine Tasting*

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per person

Please send check or money order payable to

Steve Folkes, 1461 La Culebra Cir., Camarillo, CA 93012
No later than March 9, 2009

- *- **May 16 Wine Spectator Grand Tasting in Las Vegas**
<http://www.winespectator.com/GrandTour/WSgrandtour.html>
- *- **June 14 Ojai Wine Festival**
www.ojaiwinefestival.com
- *- **July 17-18 California Wine Festival-Santa Barbara**
<http://www.californiawinefestival.com/>

Cheers-

Tim

If you would like to be removed from this list, please reply to me at 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!