

November 11, 2008

The Sommelier Says....

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

Get-away weekend!! Paso Robles trip November 22/23

We are heading up to Paso Robles the weekend of November 22/23, join us and stock up on your holiday wines with a trip up north! Staying at the Holiday Inn Express, Paso Robles. Leaving Simi Valley at 7am, Saturday Morning, having breakfast in Buellton, and first stop for tasting in Paso at 11-ish. We will be home Sunday at around 5. Let me know if you want to join us!

Thanksgiving wines....

So you spend all week preparing for that Thanksgiving family party, Thanksgiving turkey, your stuffing, your cranberry sauce, and all the delicious side dishes that will grace your holiday table, now have you given any thought to that one wine and one wine only would match up? Selecting the proper wine for any meal can make or break it. Unless you pick that one wine you face the specter of horrible embarrassment.

Sound ridiculous? Well, of course it is. Yet more people than I care to think about feel exactly this way when selecting Thanksgiving wines.

Choosing the wine for any occasion is well known as an exercise in agony. Thanksgiving, for some reason, fills people with an extra dimension of dread. Perhaps it's the idea of performing for one's loving family, always so ready to heap scorn for your benefit.

If the prospect of shame and disgrace is a welcome part of your holiday ritual, by all means enjoy the feeling. But I would be remiss not to point out that it's all so unnecessary!

My number one suggestion for a Thanksgiving Dinner wines, is to stay away from hi-alcohol wines, anything over 14%. Unless you want all Uncle Bob and the rest of the clan to fall asleep with an alcohol and Tryptophan overdose! Turkey goes great with light white wines; try an Italian Pinot Grigio or a Dry German Riesling this year. In the past the standard wine for Turkey has been Gewurztraminer, which pairs well, and I have had in the past. But last Thanksgiving I had a nice Riesling from Alsace France that just brought it all home, AND I was able to stay awake for BOTH football games!

Most of all, have a winederful Thanksgiving holiday with your loved ones!

Chateau Montelena Sale Falls Through

(From Wine Spectator Magazine)

Aftershocks from the worldwide financial crisis have indeed hit Main Street in Napa Valley. The sale of Calistoga winery Chateau Montelena to Frenchman Michel Reybier, owner of Bordeaux estate Château Cos-d'Estournel, has collapsed, not quite four months after it was initially announced.

Dissolution of the sale, which was reported to be for between \$120 million and \$150 million, was announced in a press release from Montelena this morning, which stated, "Reybier Investments has been unable to meet its obligations under its contract with the Barrett family, who will retain ownership and not offer the winery for sale." Neither Jim Barrett, founder and a principal owner of Chateau Montelena, nor representatives of Reybier responded to requests for comment.

Rumors that the sale was in trouble began to circulate in Napa last week. "I heard that there were significant problems raising the financing, not that the buyer doesn't have the cash, but that there were financing issues at the real-estate end of the deal," said an industry executive who would not speak for attribution.

"Wine Quotes"

"Can't we just get rid of wine lists? Do we really have to be reminded every time we go out to a nice restaurant that we have no idea what we are doing? Why don't they just give us a trigonometry quiz with the menu?"

~~ Jerry Seinfeld

"I have never been drunk. On occasion, I may have been over-served."

~~ Unknown

"Every time I learn something new it pushes some old stuff out of my brain. Like that time I took that home wine making course and forgot how to drive."

~~ Homer Simpson

"There's too much blood in my alcohol system."

~~ Anonymous

"If you want to become a rich, pretentious snob – and who doesn't? – you should learn about wine."

~~ Dave Barry

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.