

Fun Facts:

~ In 1945, Chateau Mouton-Rothschild began a series of artists' labels, hiring a different artist each year to design a unique label for that vintage. The artists have included such notables as Chagall, Picasso, Miro and Warhol. The 1993 label was sufficiently controversial in this country (the stylized juvenile nude on the label offended the Political Correctness Police) that the Chateau withdrew the label and substituted a blank label instead.

<http://www.beekmanwine.com/factsquotes.htm>



~ Wine to me is a passion. It's family and friends. It's warmth of heart and generosity of spirit. **WINE IS ART.** It's culture. It's the essence of civilization and the **ART** of living – Robert Mondavi

Tonight's Unusual Grapes:

- **Nero D' Avola** - Also called Calabrese which is native to Sicily.
- **Aleatico** - A red grape believed to be a mutation of the Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains vine.
- **Grenache** - Native to Spain, apparently without any Greek or Roman ancestors.
- **Cinsault** - Appears to be an ancient variety that may have originated in the Hérault, but could equally have been brought by traders from the eastern Mediterranean.
- **Carignan** - Carignan is believed to have originated in Spain in the Aragon region.
- **Falanghina** - Found in the Campania region of Italy. Wine made from the ancestor of this grape was known to the Roma. Wine from this grape was considered the finest available by the upper class of the Roman Empire in its peak. Almost lost to replanting in the mid 1900's, Leonardo Mustilli and a few others in Campania saved the grape from extinction.
- **Torrontes** - Recent DNA research has shown that the Spanish Torrontés is related to the Malvasia group of grapes which originated in the Eastern Mediterranean. It may have been brought by Spanish colonists/missionaries. The relationship to the Argentine varieties is still uncertain. Some claim the Argentine version is an accidental crossing between two grapes: the humble Criolla Chica and the aromatic Muscat of Alexandria and still others say a cross between Gros Manseng and Sauvignon blanc.
- **Viura** - The synonym used in the Spanish DO of Rioja for Macabeo, which is the most popular grape of northern Spain. Together with the varieties Parellada and Xarel-lo it is used to produce the Spanish wine Cava. Besides Cava the best examples of Macabeo come from Rioja, where it is known as Viura.

Up Next:

~ Our next event is our **Red, White and Bluegrass** picnic on **July 23rd!** Watch your inbox for more information.

Tonight's Wines:

~ **Tiamo Prosecco (Italy)** ~ Produced in the Charmat method (secondary fermentation in steel tanks), using organically grown grapes, this Prosecco is fresh and fruit driven. The yellow apple, pear, apricot and white peach flavors carry a light minerality and citric acidity to keep it all well balanced. Drink young.

~ **2006 Cantina Del Taburno Falanghina (Italy)** ~ Generous aromas of mixed citrus, almond blossom with a mineral note. The pear, pineapple, nectarine and tangerine zest fill your mouth with just a hint of rosemary and cold stone. Lively, fresh and fruity with snappy acidity.

~ **2005 Ripa Delle Vigne Falanghina (Italy)** ~ Aromas of white flowers, almonds and tropical fruits. The tropical fruit flavors are framed by a nutty, viscous note adds weight to the wine. Low acid/very clean finish.

~ **2008 Vida Organica Torrontes by Zuccardi (Argentina)** ~ Explosive floral aromatics plus white peach, nectarine, orange zest, pear and chamomile. The multi layered palate shows a nice balance of ripe pear, nectarine, ripe grapefruit and peach. The finish has excellent finesse for all the ripe fruit. Well balanced.

~ **2007 Montes Classic Series Sauvignon Blanc (Chile)** ~ 100% fermented in stainless steel. No oak ageing. Pale yellow in color, transparent. Deeply fruity, intense notes of tropical fruits, peach, pineapple and hints of gooseberry. A fresh, crispy, well balanced wine with refreshing acidity - Long finish.

~ **Volteo Viura / Viognier / Sauvignon Blanc (Spain)** ~ Blend of 50% Viura, 35% Sauvignon Blanc, and 15% Viognier. Scents of apple and cream. Flavors of spice and lemon, with a tangy cream finish.

~ **Montes Cherub Rose' (Chile)** ~ A blend of 100% Syrah from the Archangel Estate in Marchique. An elegant, dry wine. It has a bright intense pink color. Both on the nose and palate it has a distinct Syrah character, with some spiciness and hints of strawberries and lively floral flavors, mainly Roses and orange peel - long finish.

~ **2007 Falesco Vitiano Rose' (Italy)** ~ 30% Sangiovese, 30% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Aleatico. Aromas of roses, gardenias, strawberry, plum and cranberry. The juicy fruit flavors are well balanced with almost unperceived acidity (but it's there). "remarkable harmony, with notable richness" according to Robert Parker's Wine Advocate (Organic grapes)

~ **2008 Chateau Beauchene Le Pavillion Cotes Du Rhone Rose' (France)** ~ Grenache, Syrah, Cinsalut, Carignan. Much depends on when you open this and how much air it gets. A complex Rose with aromas of strawberry, bubble gum, raspberry, red apple and pear with an underlying note of citrus - plus some crushed rose and watermelon. The finish hold all this together with the citrus, and bubble gum holding on.

~ **2007 Poppy Monterey Pinot Noir (Monterey County, CA)** ~ Up front aromatics of bing cherry, cola spice and strawberry. These follow seamlessly to the palate with some cola spice and a well balanced, fruit driven finish.

~ **Montes Limited Selection Pinot Noir (Chile)** ~ Dark deep ruby in color. Five months in French new and used oak. Intense and elegant nose with predominance of strawberries, and flowery violet hints In the palate it is well balanced, soft tannins, good level of acidity, making it fresh but not light.

~ **2007 Zuccardi Serie A Malbec (Argentina)** ~ Dark briar notes of currant, plum and blackberry/black cherry and a floral violet element. Full bodied with the plum and a chocolate note plus a hint of raisin carried by silky tannins and a light leather/tobacco note.

~ **2006 Volteo Tempranillo/Shiraz Blend (Spain)** ~ Intense and bright dark cherry color. Deep aromas of black fruit with pleasant and subtle spicy notes. Richly fruited on the palate with nuances of oak and a nice freshness that develops in the mouth showing an excellent balance and persistent finish.

~ **Ramon Bibao Crianza (Spain)** ~ 100% Tempranillo. Bright, deep, cherry-red in color. Intense aromas of ripe blackberries accompanied by fresh aromatic notes are reminiscent of coconut and licorice. It is fresh and pleasant in the mouth with noticeable tannins. The smoky fruit nuances provide a long, lingering finish.

~ **2007 Cusumano - Nero D'avola (Sicily)** ~ It takes wanting to make a pure massive style to cold soak Nero with over five months of lees contact and that's what they've done here. A combination of black cherry, strawberry preserves and juniper berries on the nose. Fruit driven with light spice and creaminess on the finish.

Cheers!

~ Pam, Toni, Tracie, Rachel, Tom, Lana, Kelly, Mark and Jonathan ~

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