

unCorked

Appellation Facts:

~ An **appellation** is a geographical indication used to identify where the grapes for a wine were grown. Restrictions other than geographical boundaries, such as what grapes may be grown, maximum grape yields, alcohol level, and other quality factors, may also apply before an appellation name may legally appear on a wine bottle label.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appellation>



~ The **American Viticultural Area** ("AVA") is for the United States. The only requirement to use the AVA name on the wine label is that 85% of the wine must have come from grapes grown within the geographical AVA boundaries. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appellation>

Russian River Valley Facts:

~ The redwood-clad Russian River Valley [utilizes] the cool-climate and low-lying valley [for] its 10,000 acres of vineyards...Russian River Valley, granted official appellation standing in 1983, is now one of the most recognized AVA names in America. The appellation is internationally renowned for challenging varieties like Pinot Noir, which excels in this cool-climate, yielding highly expressive wines. A lean and restrained style of Chardonnay is also a signature cepage for the region. 1/6th of Sonoma County's total vineyard acreage falls within the Russian River AVA boundaries, with all vineyards sharing to varying degrees the defining characteristic of cooling fog that is drawn inland from the Pacific each day.

<http://wine.appellationamerica.com/wine-region/Russian-River-Valley.html>

~ Wines grown in the RRV: • Pinot Noir • Petite Sirah • Chardonnay • Viognier • Zinfandel • Merlot • Syrah / Shiraz • Gewurztraminer • Sauvignon Blanc • Cabernet Sauvignon

~ The geography of the Russian River Valley was shaped millions of years ago by collisions between the North American and Pacific tectonic plates and eruptions by volcanic vents that deposited volcanic ash over layers of eroded bedrock. This created sandstone of loam known as "Goldridge soil". Some of the area's most respected Pinot noir and Chardonnay vineyards are planted along deposits of Goldridge soil.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_River_Valley_AVA

Other Notes:

~ Our next event is planned for **April at AZIA!** Watch your inbox for more information.

~ **City Pages Wine Tasting, International Market Square** ~ Come try great wines, sample apps from D'Amico, and listen to live music while raising money for Southern Theatre. Friday April 3 - Find out more at www.citypages.com/microsites/wine-tasting

~ A special thank you to **Thomasina's Cashew Brittle** for their donated brittle: www.thomasinascashewbrittle.com

J, Pinot Gris ~ The 2007 J Pinot Gris leads with fruit aromas of honeysuckle, orange blossom, peach and star jasmine. On the palate, flavors echo the nose, exploding with white peach, ripe Asian pear, warm cinnamon, with a bright, lively, crisp acidity.

Sonoma Cutrer RR Ranches Chardonnay ~ Pretty aromas of jasmine and rose petal give way to tropical fruits like pineapple and mango. Roasted hazelnut joins nougat and almond butter, finishing with a touch of lime and lychee. Medium-weight and clean with a wonderful acid backbone, the wine expands in the glass, offering up grapefruit, lemon, pear and kumquat with subtle vanilla bean and herbal mushroom. The lingering finish displays hints of minerality, along with apple, lime and a surprising kiss of strawberry.

2006 Frie Brothers - Reserve Chardonnay ~ Our Chardonnay grapes are whole cluster pressed to eliminate bitterness and maximize fresh fruit characters. Flavors of orange zest and green apple, which are complemented by buttery and toasty notes.

Ramey, RRV Series, Chardonnay ~ Mr. Ramey's Russian River designate marches right in step with his other delightful releases, and, in this case, focuses on sweet, Fuji apple succulence that is nicely fit to a layer of spicy oak. It is quite full and attractively open on the palate and takes on an oily, glyceriny texture from front to back and furthers the notion that this is a wine to enjoy without further delay.

DeLoach, RRV Series, Chardonnay ~ Ripe fruit flavors of pear, apple and Meyer lemon balances the French oak components of cinnamon and hazelnut. The creamy mid-palate with well-balanced acids and tannins create a delightful complexity and a clean, bright finish.

2007 Angeline - Pinot Noir ~ Angeline Pinot Noir is aged in French oak barrels for 12 months and has a brilliant ruby color with aromas & flavors of strawberry, raspberry and overtones of smoked tea and spice.

La Crema RR Pinot Noir ~ The 2007 Pinot Noir offers aromas of dark plum and black cherry, with hints of rose petal and orange peel. Hedonistic in flavors...brooding black cherry, cocoa and spice...plush texture, with broad tannins and a lingering, juicy fruit finish.

DeLoach, RRV Series, Pinot Noir ~ Ripe raspberries lift from the glass and mingle with tempting aromas of strawberry-rhubarb tart and cola. Delicate notes of anise, cardamom and gingerbread spice lace the fruit to unfold a rich palate of black cherries supported by medium-fine-grained tannins. The finish lingers with attractive, subtle, toasty undertones, fine acid and excellent balance.

DeLoach, RRV Series, Merlot ~ DeLoach Vineyards' 2005 Russian River Valley Merlot has a true varietal voice with aromas of blackberry fruit leather, dusky black cherry and cedar box. Immediate flavors of sarsaparilla and cassis are framed by a kiss of oak developing into sophisticated layers of baker's chocolate and black truffles.

DeLoach, RRV Series, Zinfandel ~ Vivid aromas burst with ripe jammy courage, while violet perfume mingles with notes of black plum and berry. Dark spices lacing the old-world style red cherry components broaden the bouquet of this wine. Brambly and raspberry notes linger on the palate as cranberry layers mingle with soft hints of barrel spice and walnut.

Cheers!

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

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