

Fun Facts:

~ **Newest American Viticultural Areas (AVA)** is the Calistoga viticultural area in Napa County CA designated on 12/8/09.

~ **Newest Winery in the Calistoga AVA:** Augusta Briggs Winery opened in 2002 and know for single-vineyard and appellation-designated wine
<http://www.augustbriggswines.com/>

~ **Newest Wine Varietals introduced by the U of MN:** Marquette in 2006!

~ **New MN Shipping Laws:** The laws governing direct-to-consumer shipments are different in every state. Wineries may ship, for personal use and not for resale, not more than two cases of wine, containing a maximum of nine liters per case, in any calendar year to any resident of Minnesota age 21 or over. Minnesota began allowing direct shipping by all licensed wineries in June 2005. Updated state law can be found here:

<http://admin.shipcompliant.com/Documents/North%20America/US/Reciprocal/MinnesotaMN%20Statute.pdf>

~ **New Trends in Wine:** <http://discover.winecountry.com/wine/2009/01/out-with-the-old-in-with-the-n.html>

- OUT: Heavy, Oversized Bottle → IN: Inexpensive, Aromatic Whites
- OUT: Overly Alcoholic Wines → IN: Sustainable/Organic Winemaking
- OUT: Cellaring for Sport → IN: Cutting Carbon Emissions
- OUT: Critter Labels → IN: Buying Local/Regional
- OUT: Overly "Manufactured" Reds → IN: Wine Country Travel

Tonights Wines:

1) Winehaven Semi-Sweet Honeywine: Boasts a spectacular perfume of honey which is accompanied by an intriguing array of floral scents. Just won first place at the 2010 Mazer Cup International Wine Competition. This is the largest commercial mead competition in America.

2) Bite of Sin: an tantalizing crisp apple wine. The initial smell is that of apples, crisp fall apples. The first sip is like biting into your first apple in the fall. A solid ripe apple melted away with the smooth relaxing flavor of honey. Able to be enjoyed cold or warm; great by the fire mixed with brandy.

3) Mionetto Prosecco Brut: This wine has an intense fruity bouquet with a hint of golden apple. Brut, fresh and light in body, Mionetto Prosecco Brut is well-balanced and easy to drink. This wine is perfect alone as an aperitif or as a delightful compliment to appetizers such as prosciutto or mild cheese.

4) Sexy & Sweet: a smooth rhubarb wine. First whiff is clean, of freshly washed fruit. Next is the taste; one that brings out the hint of strawberries. Finishing to make you want to start it all over again. Perfect on a hot summer day with sliced fruit, as a starting wine with appetizers, or dinner wine of light fish covered in a fruit glaze.

5) Down & Dirty: a bold delicious plum wine with slight flavors of vanilla, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, cloves and black and white pepper. This is not a dessert wine. Great with any Asian food brings out the best of your favorite curry or stir-fry.



6) Hill of Content Benjamin's Blend: A blend of Chardonnay (50%), Sauvignon Blanc (39%) and Semillon (11%), provides instant pleasure, and is immensely versatile with food. Beautiful Chardonnay notes of peaches, pears and a hint of melon, marry with brighter more vibrant flavors from the Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. This is 100% pure fruit as the wine sees no oak.

7) Ecker Gruner Veltliner: pale yellow color, aromas of green apple with a hint of spice, very bright and clean, a little zingy in the mouth, the acidity is really well balanced, an extremely long finish.

8) Patch Block Pinot Noir: Deep ruby hue. Pure, floral, grapey red cherry and vanilla nose. A soft entry leads a rounded, medium-bodied palate. Tannins carry a firm green note through the finish. Drink now. World Wine Championships Award: Bronze Medal

9) Caspian Night: a provocative blackberry wine. An amazing aroma of dark fruit, blackberries. Attracts you to move to the first sip; indulges the senses and sets you off on the experience of harmonious flavors blended together to provide a wonderful satisfaction. Best with red meats and chocolate.

10) Twisted Sisters: A mysterious blend of cranberry and raspberry. Starts with an amazing scent of candied raspberries. First taste is sweet; you taste the raspberries with a hint of spice. Entices the palate to help remind of the holiday spices and sweets, ends with a slight tease of cranberry piquancy. This wine pairs great with desserts such as cheesecake or southern style cobblers.

11) Washington Hills Merlot: Wonderful aromas of eucalyptus and coco powder welcome you to this Merlot. Flavorful notes of strawberry and ripe stone fruits fill this smooth, well structured wine. The finish brings hints of licorice and orange rind with rounded tannins. 86 points by Wine Spectator.

12) Winehaven Chisago: A highly approachable, low-tannin wine that tastes of cherry, plum, and vanilla

13) Winehaven Marquette: Known for its attractive deep red color, this Marquette wine contains desirable aromas of cherry, black pepper, spice and berry.

14) Tarquino Malbec: Intense aromas of black stone fruit mingled with chocolate and sweet spice from gentle oak aging. Blackberry and blackcurrant flavours lead to a long finish complemented by soft tannins.

15) Matchbook Tempranillo : 77% Tempranillo exhibits red berry fruits. 14% Petite Syrah contributes juicy blueberry flavours and richness. 9% Graciano adds deep colour and a touch of spice

16) Winehaven Riesling: This medium-dry wine contains abundant peach, pear and floral notes that remain distinct through the soft finish. The perfect complement to fresh fish and poultry.

17) Slippery Slope® Red Ice Wine: A delicious luxury borne of patience and snow-covered hillsides. This wine is made from frozen grapes harvested by hand during the pre-dawn hours on our vineyard's Slippery Slope.

Save the Date: May 19th at the Hotel Ivy's Porter & Frye ~ In the heart of an historic downtown Minneapolis landmark lies a culinary jewel, Porter & Frye. Join us as we savor the flavors of wonderful wines and samples of appetizers from the talented kitchen team.

Cheers!

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