

## **PROLOGUE**

*"Oh, sweet Jesus, there's a prologue!"* actual guest quote

Ever been to Disneyland? Welcome to our version of Mr Toad's Wild Wine Ride (or Splash & Swirl Mountain, if you prefer). If the big, bald and blotchy guy on the cover doesn't clue you in, we tend to have a different approach. We believe there is a sea of wine that very few know about or have the chance to try. Rare red blends from Arizona, bold bubbly from Brazil, dessert wine from Mexico, it's a great big globe full of terrific vino and it's our mission to bring it to you...over 2600 listings in all.

To accomplish such a task, we needed to rethink how wine lists are traditionally formatted. By region? This list represents 40 plus countries, over a dozen states and a municipality or two, so that's out. By grape varietal? Hovering at 250, including countless blends. What does that leave? We chose mainly to organize this list by price. The majority of our guests have a price range in mind when it comes to wine, and we valiantly attempt to provide solid values from \$6 to \$10,000 (OK, \$10,000 for a bottle may not be your idea of value, but in the context of drinking history, sometimes you have to both smell and pay through the nose). Lots of tiny producers and boutique wineries here, because we like to support the underdog, the craftsman, the guy and gal taking a risk and pushing the envelope (lord knows, we can relate).

The list has three main categories: bubbly, white and red (there is a plethora of dessert wines by the glass on another list, too, so fire up your sweet tooth). Each category is then listed by price, from low to high, with occasional spotlight groupings to signify a particular winery, or region, or vintage, or just because I feel like it. Confused yet? Now you know how the crew feels. Consequently, we have some simplifying options available, but before we discuss those, let me reiterate....

**THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL LIST.** Too often, people settle for the same old thing, be it mediocre food, repetitive music or bland beverage (none of which you'll find here). I strongly urge you to brave the big, bad wine list and try something new. Who knows, you may like it (a moment of silence in honor of the first person to eat an egg, please).

### **OPTIONS:**

- 1) check out the list on our web site prior to coming at [www.cowboyciao.com](http://www.cowboyciao.com); my ongoing battle with technology aside, it will eventually all be there and up to date
- 2) ask for the NIFTY FIFTY, a one page list of guest favorites
- 3) the following varietal lists are available: chardonnay, pinot noir, zinfandel, syrah and the big dog cabernet/merlot/cab blends, if you absolutely must be predictable
- 4) tell your server the brands and styles you like, along with price range; they will be able to recommend something you'll enjoy as much or more
- 5) let your server choose wines by the glass for each course, a mini-wine dinner
- 6) or, you can just throw the list at me and order scotch like the lady did last week

Remember, it's just like Disneyland (without the long lines).

Cowboy  
Ciao

## WINES OF THE TIMES

"This wine list is ridiculous; is the guy mad?" (actual quote from Sean Elliott, UofA, NBC, ESPN, San Antonio Spurs)

### **BUBBLY**

NV Codorniu brut, Cava, Spain, <i>quarter bottle</i> .....	6
NV Foss Marai prosecco, Valdobbiadene, Veneto, Italy, <i>quarter bottle</i> .....	8
NV Mumm Cuvee brut prestige, Napa, <i>quarter bottle</i> .....	10
NV Gruet blanc de noirs, New Mexico, <i>half bottle</i> .....	15
the expatriate Gruet family, tired of the ridiculous French tax laws, moved to the one area of the planet they felt most mirrored the soil and climate of Champagne...who would of guessed it as Truth Or Consequences, New Mexico?	
(although rumors of it being tied to an alien experiment at Area 51 are surely false, or at least stretched a bit)	
NV Laurent-Perrier brut, Tours-sur-Marne, Champagne, France, <i>quarter bottle</i> .....	15
NV Villiera brut, Tradition, Paarl, South Africa.....	16
NV Nicolas Feuillatte brut, Chouilly, Champagne, France, <i>quarter bottle</i> .....	17
NV Domaine Ste Michelle blanc de blancs, Columbia, Washington.....	19
NV Nicolas Feuillatte brut, rosé, Chouilly, Champagne, France, <i>quarter bottle</i> .....	23
NV Bodegas 1+1=3 brut, Cava, Spain.....	25
NV Col di Luna rosé, Valmonte, Veneto, Italy.....	25
another stunner from John Given Imports, this dry rosé is comprised mainly of the rare indigenous Veneto varietal raboso	
NV Varichon et Clerc blanc de blancs, brut, cuvee Privée, Savoie, France.....	25
NV Suehiro bi happosei seishyu (sparkling sake), nigori, Poochi-Poochi, Fukushima, Japan, <i>half bottle- (330ml)</i> .....	25
anything that makes our old Sea Saw partner, Nobu Fukuda, jump around like a little kid on cocoa is worth drinking	
NV Reisetbauer sparkling cider, apfel cuvee, Austria.....	26
'07 La Spinetta moscato, Biancospino, Asti, Italy.....	30
yep, Italy's premier Barbaresco superstar, Giorgio Rivetti, even makes a super sparkler	
'05 Cantine Ceci lambrusco, biodynamic, La Luna, Emilia-Romagna, Italy.....	32
***spotlight***	
NV Billecart-Salmon brut reserve, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	34
NV Billecart-Salmon demi-sec, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France.....	63
NV Billecart-Salmon brut reserve, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France.....	79
NV Billecart-Salmon brut, blanc de blancs, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France.....	125
NV Billecart-Salmon brut, rosé, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France.....	130
we are really big B-S fans here (Billecart-Salmon, just in case you had something else in mind);	
these champagnes never see wood aging, yet their complexity is amazing; the essence of elegance defined	
(another reason we continue to support these is their eclectic importer, Robert Chadderdon, an industry icon:	
Robert is old school, refusing to create a web site but personally answering phone messages with clever cantankerousness)	
NV Domaine Lucien Albrecht brut, rosé, cremant d'Alsace.....	34
NV Deutz brut, classic, Aÿ, Champagne, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	37
NV Jean Vesselle brut, reserve, Bouzy, Champagne, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	40
NV Pierre Gimmonet brut, Vertus, Champagne, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	43
NV Nicolas Feuillatte brut, rosé, Chouilly, Champagne, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	45
NV Marc Hébrart brut, cuvee de reserve, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France, <i>half bottle</i> ....	47
'05 Majella sparkling shiraz, Coonawarra, Australia.....	48
the big, bold beauty of shiraz ... but with bubbles!	
NV A Margaine demi-sec, Traditionelle, Villers-Marmery, Champagne, France, <i>half bottle</i> ....	48

## **BUBBLY (like my personality) continued**

- NV Michel Turgy brut, blanc de blancs,  
    Mesnil-sur-Oger, Champagne, France, *half bottle*.....50  
fans of Krug and Salon drink this when they're slumming — same vineyard region, pennies on the dollar  
    (or is it fractions on the franc ? iotas on the euro ? whatever, it represents a terrific value)
- '96 Laurent-Perrier brut, Tours-sur-Marne, Champagne, France, *half bottle*.....54
- '01 Bruno Giacosa extra brut, Nieve, Italy.....55
- '04 Bründlmayer brut, sekt, Langenlois, Austria.....57  
Bründlmayer, known for great grüner, is no slouch at bubbly, either; some feel these wines (blends of chard with pinots red, white & gray) are every bit the equal to many well-known Champagnes; Bründlmayer says his goal is to make sekt with elegant character but also a certain neutrality, a discretion that allows it to not distract from the food at the table
- NV Nicolas Feuillatte brut, Chouilly, Champagne, France.....60
- NV Billecart-Salmon demi-sec, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France.....63
- NV Chartogne-Taillet brut, cuvee St-Anne, Merfy, Champagne, France, *half bottle*.....65  
they say 'half chard, half pinot noir, and the rest pinot meunier', whatever that means; racy, articulate bubbles, this grower Champagne truly is Merfy, if merfy means really cool, like crossing mermaids with Superfly or something
- '98 Galah sparkling shiraz/cabernet/malbec,  
    Wendouree Vineyard, Adelaide Plains, Australia.....68  
it's a Galah day! ("and a gal a day is enough for me", Groucho Marx, Duck Soup, best movie ever made)
- '05 Bründlmayer brut, rosé, sekt, Langenlois, Austria.....70
- NV Pehu-Simonet brut, Selection, Verzenay, Champagne, France.....79
- NV Billecart-Salmon brut reserve, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France.....79
- NV Magnotta sparkling vidal, ice wine, cuvee prestige, Canada, *half bottle*.....80  
no, this is NOT a misprint (though you may find several on this list, and if you do, keep it to yourself, it's tough enough grasping for witty repartee without worrying if I'll pass the spelling bee), they're making bubbly ice wine
- NV Jacquesson brut, cuvee 732, Dizy, Champagne, France.....84  
    \*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*
- NV L Aubry brut, Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....86
- '03 L Aubry blanc de blancs, La Nombre d'Or Sablé,  
    Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....135
- '98 L Aubry, La Nombre d'Or Campanae Veteres Vites,  
    Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....140
- '98 L Aubry blanc de blancs, La Nombre d'Or Sablé,  
    Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....145
- '02 L Aubry blanc de blancs, La Nombre d'Or Sablé,  
    Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....160
- '00 L Aubry rosé, Sablé, cuvee Nicolas François Aubry,  
    Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....225  
there exists an arcane rule on the Champagne Charter that allows for the inclusion of varietals other than the big three (chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier), the 'old vines of the countryside', as it were; Aubry is one of the few producers to take advantage of this opportunity, making bubblys so unique they deserve their own category; the Veteres Vites is primarily made from petit meslier, fromenteau and arbanne, with dollops of chard and both pinots, while the Sable blanc is arbanne, petit meslier and chardonnay; these are all seriously powerful, exotic sparklers, short on feminine elegance and long on quirky personality
- NV Michel Turgy brut, blanc de blancs, Mesnil-sur-Oger, Champagne, France.....88
- NV Jean Vesselle demi-sec, rosé, Bouzy, Champagne, France.....90  
is it just me, or does Champagne from Bouzy come across as redundant?

**BUBBLY continued ("tiny bubbles, in the wine..."  
make me want to destroy every ukulele in sight)**

- '00 Richard Grant blanc de noir, organic, reserve, Napa.....92  
a wild vineyard in Wrotham, England, was discovered in the '50s to have 200 year old vines (thought to have been originally planted by the Romans) sprouting a unique varietal with some similarities to both pinot meunier & pinot noir; Dr Richard Grant Peterson brought some of the vines to Napa in the '80s and, two decades later, you taste history  
NV A Soutiran brut, Perle Noire, Ambonnay, Champagne, France.....97  
produced from 100% pinot noir from a single hillside, this truly is perle before swine (at least when I drink it)
- '05 Soter brut, rosé, Beacon Hill, Yamhill, Oregon.....99  
for daughter #1's high school graduation, we went to Hawaii for surf, sun, and superb pan-asian-plus cuisine at Alan Wong Restaurant in Honolulu, where we first tried this rosé, which may or may not be hono, but it definitely is a lulu
- '96 Perrier-Jouët brut, cuvee Fleur, Epernay, Champagne, France, *half bottle*.....111  
Champagne schools of thought differ as to the better vintage, '96 or '90; however, both rate as best since the '50s!
- \*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*
- NV Egly-Ouriet brut, Tradition, grand cru, Ambonnay, Champagne, France.....111  
NV Egly-Ouriet brut, Les Vignes de Vrigny, Ambonnay, Champagne, France.....122  
NV Egly-Ouriet extra brut, 'VP', grand cru, Ambonnay, Champagne, France.....175  
NV Egly-Ouriet brut, rosé, grand cru, Ambonnay, Champagne, France.....180  
NV Egly-Ouriet blanc de noirs, Les Crayeres, grand cru, Ambonnay, Champagne, France...188  
true story: my first experience with Egly-Ouriet was a smuggled gift bottle that accidentally was left in the freezer ("of course I'll remember it's in there, I'm a professional"); not being one to just give up (which some see as an admirable trait and others chalk up to stupidity...the whole wine-in-the-freezer thing lends credence to the latter), opened it anyway and semi-frozen clumps cascaded from the bottle like a clogged fountain, upon which cat-like reflexes enabled half of the bottle to be saved in a pitcher (it pays to be cat-like when you're not too bright); somehow, the remaining Egly, when thawed, was absolutely spectacular! (this is not to be confused with the time daughter #1 asked "why does the ice taste like wine?", also known as the exploding Champagne freezer incident)
- NV Billecart-Salmon brut, blanc de blancs, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France.....125  
NV René Geoffrey brut, cuvee Volupté, Cumières, Champagne, France.....126  
NV Billecart-Salmon brut, rosé, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France.....130  
'03 L Aubry blanc de blancs, La Nombre d'Or Sablé,  
Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....135  
'98 L Aubry, La Nombre d'Or Campanae Veteres Vites,  
Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....140  
'98 L Aubry blanc de blancs, La Nombre d'Or Sablé,  
Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....145  
'04 Bellenda prosecco di Conegliano, Valdobbiadene, Italy, *quadruple bottle*.....160  
eclectic importer John Given delivers again, this time with a prosecco that belies the simple nature of the grape by possessing a three-ring circus of smells (or, as we like to say, acrobatic aromatics) and crisp, pinpoint flavors  
'02 L Aubry blanc de blancs, La Nombre d'Or Sablé,  
Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....160  
'96 A Margaine brut, Special Club, Villers-Marmery, Champagne, France.....165  
'95 Lilbert brut, blanc de blancs, Cramant, Champagne, France.....166  
NV Egly-Ouriet extra brut, 'VP', grand cru, Ambonnay, Champagne, France.....175  
NV Egly-Ouriet brut, rosé, grand cru, Ambonnay, Champagne, France.....180  
'99 Bollinger brut, La Grand Année, Aÿ, Champagne, France.....185  
if it's good enough for James Bond, it's good enough for me (keep in mind, you don't shake OR stir this prestige cuvee)  
NV Egly-Ouriet blanc de noirs, Les Crayeres, grand cru, Ambonnay, Champagne, France...188  
NV Jean Vesselle brut, reserve, Bouzy, Champagne, France, *double bottle*.....190

## **BUBBLY the grand finale (last but not yeast...er, least)**

'00 Jacquesson brut, blanc de blancs, Avize, Champagne, France.....	199
'97 Nicolas Feuillatte brut, cuvee Palmes d'Or, Chouilly, Champagne, France.....	222
'00 L Aubry rosé, Sablé, cuvee Nicolas François Aubry, Jouy-les-Reims, Champagne, France.....	225
'90 Alain Robert brut, reserve, Le Mesnil, Mesnil-sur-Oger, Champagne, France.....	250
'96 Philipponnat brut, Clos des Goisses, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France.....	275
'96 Deutz brut, rosé, cuvee William Deutz, Aÿ, Champagne, France.....	294
'98 Pierre Gimmonet brut, Vintage Collection, Vertus, Champagne, France, <i>double bottle</i> ....	380
'97 Bollinger extra brut, RD, Aÿ, Champagne, France.....	495
the RD technically stands for recently disgorged, but they may as well have added an A and called it RAD...wow!	
'99 Philipponnat brut, rosé, Clos des Goisses, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France.....	575
'96 Salon blanc de blancs, Mesnil-sur-Oger, Champagne, France.....	650
'96 Philipponnat brut, Clos des Goisses, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Champagne, France, <i>double bottle</i> .....	675
NV Jean Laurent brut, blanc de noirs, Aube, Champagne, France, <i>one case in a bottle</i> .....	1500

## **VINO BLANCO**

'00 Franco-Españolas viura, Royal Soledad, Rioja, Spain, <i>quarter bottle</i> .....	7
'02 Banatski rizling, Vrsac, Serbia.....	11
'06 Marqués de Cáceres tempranillo/garnacha, rosado, Rioja, Spain.....	11
'05 Kouros rhoditis, Patras, Greece.....	12
'03 Palacio de Menade palomino blend, cuvee RS, Cuevas de Castilla, Rueda, Spain.....	14
'05 Tohani fetească albă, sec, Romania.....	15
'06 La Barrone grenache blanc/vermentino, Corbieres, France.....	16
NV Tedeschi pineapple wine, Maui Blanc, Hawaii.....	16
'99 Weltevrede, muscat de Hambourg, South Africa.....	16
'03 Chateau Routas rolle blend, Coteaux Varois, France.....	16
NV Dionis Club aligoté, Vulcanesti, Moldova.....	16
'04 Murfatlar muscat ottonel, Romania.....	17
'00 Odak trbljan blend, Zilavka, Mostar Vineyards, Herzegovina.....	18
relatively light-bodied white added to the list in honor of Superman's most mischievous opponent, Mr Mxyzptlk (pronounced <i>mix-yez-pit-ill-eck</i> ...don't ask me about the grape pronunciation, though, it wasn't in the comic book)	
'05 H u M Hofer grüner veltliner, Weinviertel, Austria, <i>one and one-third bottle</i> .....	18
'06 Loimer grüner veltliner, Lois, Langenlois, Austria.....	18
every bright-eyed, bushy-tailed sommelier doing a stint in Vegas or SF is all over Austrian wines, due to their higher acidity and amazing food affinity; me, I'm feeling more pink-eyed & dove-tailed these days, but as to Austrian wines, their propensity to gain complex yet perplexing aromatics as they sit in the glass is worth the inherent mispronunciation	
'07 Alexis Bailly Vineyard seyval blanc, Hastings, Minnesota.....	18
'04 Sauvion chenin blanc, Vouvray, Touraine, Loire, France.....	19
'08 Charles & Charles syrah, rosé, Milbrandt Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	19
good job, Sherlock, you caught me sneaking a rosé in the white wine section...if you're sharp, you'll catch me again, and if you're really sharp, you'll try one, because we don't waste time on blush wines unless they totally smoke (and, lets face it, any wine from wino/mavericks the likes of Charles Smith of K Vintners and Charles Bieler, thief number one of Three Thieves fame {infamy?}, smokes a spliff the size of Union Square in San Francisco {where, ironically, it's practically legal to do so - and even order it over the internet to have it delivered by bicycle}) {(and, yes, I do enjoy my multiple parentheses)}	
'05 Fairview crouchen blanc blend, 'Goats Do Roam', Paarl Valley, South Africa.....	19
Fairview owner/winemaker Charles Back is enjoying huge success by patterning his South African wines primarily after those from the Rhône Valley, although using crouchen blanc may be a bit of a stretch (pun intended)	

## **VINO BLANCO (did you hear about the bar cat? he's got 9 livers)**

'06 Cono Sur riesling, Quitralman Estate, Bio Bio Valley, Chile.....	19
'02 Nadaria inzolia, Collio, Italy.....	19
'03 Boutari assyrtiko, Santorini, Greece.....	20
'05 Guntrum scheurebe, kabinet, Nierstein Rheinhessen, Germany.....	20
scheurebe (pronounced <i>shoy - ray - bee</i> ) is an early 20th century crossing of riesling with sylvaner that can at times produce wines similar to the finest rieslings of Germany; this one is a beauty, light bodied, rather sweet, gorgeous balance, and for some reason housed in a bright red bottle that will be the envy of all your neighbors	
'03 Foraci inzolia/catarratto, Galhasi, Sicily, Italy.....	20
'05 Anselmi gargenega/chardonnay, San Vincenzo, Veneto, Italy.....	20
due to his distaste with the <b>DOCG</b> restrictions and his disgust with some of the nasty swill put out by his neighbors, Anselmi no longer calls his wines Soave; too bad his brethren don't get it, this is a drastic improvement on typical Soave	
'08 Bieler cinsault blend, rosé, Sabine, Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence, France.....	20
'04 Rapitalà catarratto/chardonnay, Casalj, Sicily, Italy.....	20
'04 Tenuta Maggiore cortese, Sentito, Pavia, Lombardy, Italy.....	21
'02 Col Longone traminer aromatico, Friuli Grave, Italy.....	21
'05 Gimenez Riili torrentés, Maipú, Argentina.....	21
'07 the House of Independent Producers chardonnay, Sage Moor Farms, Columbia Valley, Washington.....	21
'06 Castell dei Remei macabeo blend, Blanc Planell, Costers del Segre, Spain.....	21
a little sb, a splash of chard, some indigenous macabeo and, <b>PRESTO</b> , you have one sensual Spanish sipper (not sure what the Spanish term for presto is, or voila for that matter, but Veronica says it's "BAYA" in Guatemala)	
'05 Boutari moschofilero, Mantinia, Greece.....	22
the boys at Boutari are betting big that this obscure traditional Greek varietal will become the next pinot grigio	
'04 Delheim pinotage, rosé, Simonsberg, Stellenbosch, South Africa.....	22
'01 Kutjevo graševina, Slavonia, Croatia.....	22
'05 Glatzer grüner veltliner, kabinet, Carnuntum, Austria.....	22
'01 Marc Tempé sylvaner, Zellenberg, Alsace.....	23
'07 Domaine Talmard chardonnay, Macon, France.....	23
'02 Spadafora grillo/inzolia/catarratto, Don Pietro, Sicily, Italy.....	23
'06 Le Rocche Malatestiane albana, Baciarni, Emilia-Romagna, Italy.....	23
'04 Bisci verdicchio, Matelica, Marche, Italy.....	23
'03 York Creek touriga nacional rosé, Sunset Hill Block, Sonoma.....	23
American beverage icon Fritz Maytag is growing traditional Portuguese varietals and banging out superb stuff with them	
'06 Le Rote vernaccia, San Gimignano, Tuscany, Italy.....	23
'02 Palacios Remondo viura blend, Placet, Rioja, Spain.....	23
'02 Chateau Laulerie ondenc/semillon, sec, Bergerac, France.....	23
'06 Murphy's Law blaufränkisch/grenache/syrah, rosé, Columbia, Washington.....	23
that loopy leprechaun David O'Reilly (Sineann, Owen Roe, O'Reilly Cellars) is up to his tricks again, packing rosé eleven bottles to a case (because if something can go wrong, it will — Murphy's Law!), made primarily from Washington blaufränkisch (and don't act like you saw that coming) from Yakima's Red Willow Vineyard, with the remaining grenache & syrah courtesy of Elerding Vineyard in Alerdale	
'06 Cono Sur viognier, Colchagua Valley, Chile.....	23
'08 Veramonte sauvignon blanc, reserva, Casablanca Valley, Chile.....	24
'06 Guigal rhone blanc blend, Côtes du Rhône, France.....	24
'06 Adelsheim pinot gris, Willamette, Oregon.....	24
'07 Villa Creek grenache/mourvèdre/tempranillo, rosé, Pink, Paso Robles.....	24
'05 Lava Cap muscat canelli, Alviso/Granite Hill Vineyards, Amador/El Dorado.....	24
'07 Crios de Susanna Balbo torrentés, Cafayate, Argentina.....	24
'05 Martinsancho verdejo, Rueda, Spain.....	24

## VINO BLANCO continued

### (don't fire 'til you see the whites of their wines)

- '04 Villa Maria riesling, Private Bin, Marlborough, New Zealand.....24  
Villa Maria may be the most versatile, well-rounded winery in New Zealand, as this rockin' riesling will reaffirm
- '07 La Playa chardonnay, unoaked, Colchagua Valley, Chile.....24
- '04 Paul Achs chardonnay, Burgenland, Austria.....24
- '06 Tilia chardonnay, La Libetad Vineyard, Mendoza, Argentina.....24
- '05 d'Arenberg chardonnay, Olive Grove, McLaren Vale, Australia.....24  
chard from Chile, Austria, Argentina, Australia; talk about fickle grapes, Lindsey Lohan doesn't get around that much
- '07 Civello verdelho/pinot gris/gewürztraminer, California.....25
- '07 Arizona Stronghold sauvignon/chardonnay/riesling/malvasia,  
Tazi, Sulphur Springs Valley, Arizona.....25
- '05 Magnificent Wine Company chardonnay/gewürztraminer/riesling/pinot gris,  
House Wine, Walla Walla, Washington.....25  
are you in a 'Conundrum' as to what to order? the three wines above are riddles wrapped in an enigma, if that helps
- '02 Arnaldo Caprai grechetto, Grecante, Martani, Italy.....25
- '03 Margan verdelho, Hunter Vale, Australia.....25
- NV Jasper catawba/marechal foch, rosé, Front Porch, Newton, Iowa.....25
- '04 Il Circo erbaluce, La Funambola, Caluso, Piedmont, Italy.....25
- '07 Rizzardi corvinone blend, rosé, Bardolino, Veneto, Italy.....25
- '98 Tement gelber muskateller, Berghausen, Südsteiermark, Austria.....25  
a rare mutation of the *muscat blanc a petit grains* clone, prized for orange-flower and baking spice aromatics
- '00 George Buthet & Fils chasselas, Fendant, Switzerland.....25  
grechetto, verdelho, catawba, marechal foch, erbaluce, corvinone, muskateller, chasselas, what's next, a silvaner?
- '04 Merz silvaner, kabinet trocken, St Rochuskapelle Vineyard, Ockenheimer,  
Rheinhessen, Germany, *one and one-third bottle*.....26  
and a fine, earthy, crackling silvaner in a plus-size bottle, at that (riesling and grüner fans, step on up)
- '03 Schloss Gobelsburg riesling, Langenlois, Austria.....26
- '06 Spy Valley sauvignon blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand.....26
- '06 Pewsey Vale riesling, Eden Valley, Australia.....26
- '06 Cusamano insolia/chardonnay, Angimbé, Sicily, Italy.....26
- '07 Setzer grüner veltliner, Vesper, Weinviertal, Austria.....26
- \*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*
- '07 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, Berg Vogelsang, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria, *half bottle*.....27
- '05 Bründlmayer riesling, Kamptaler Terrassen, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....36
- '05 Bründlmayer gelber muskateller, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....55
- '03 Bründlmayer gelber muskateller, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....73
- '02 Bründlmayer gelber muskateller, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....74
- '06 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, Alte Reben, Kamptal, Austria.....78
- '02 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, Alte Reben, Kamptal, Austria.....88
- '07 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, Käferberg, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....120
- '07 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, Ried Lamm, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....125
- '04 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, auslese, Loiser Berg, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....133
- '00 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, trockenbeerenauslese,  
Loiser Berg, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria, *half bottle*.....144  
if you want to skip the learning curve and jump right to the finish line on Austrian wine, take these two directives:  
for the sweet stuff, proceed directly to Alois Kracher and do not pass go (or pass out from the sugar coma);  
however, for the dry versions of the sommelier fave 'gru-vee' (as in groovy...those somms are a laugh a decade),  
you are definitely in the right place, as nobody but nobody is gru-vee-er than Willi Bründlmayer

**VINO BLANCO (chenin blancs for triple digits, go figure...  
next thing you know, Eminem will win an Oscar!)**

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

NV Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, la cuvée Ancienne de Jean Baumard, Coteaux du Layon, Loire, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	27
'05 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Carte d'Or, Coteaux du Layon, Loire, France.....	46
NV Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, la cuvée Ancienne de Jean Baumard, Coteaux du Layon, Loire, France.....	59
'02 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Clos du Papillon, Savennières, Loire, France.....	62
'00 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Trie Spéciale, Savennières, Loire, France.....	72
'00 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Clos de Sainte Catherine, Coteaux du Layon, Loire, France.....	88
'97 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	89
'03 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....	90
'05 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Clos de Sainte Catherine, Coteaux du Layon, Loire, France.....	93
'02 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Clos de Sainte Catherine, Coteaux du Layon, Loire, France.....	99
'98 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....	100
'93 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....	135
'90 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....	140
'89 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....	150
'71 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....	240
Baumard's chenins are so mind-bogglingly complex that when rocket scientists are explaining conceptual theories to each other, instead of them saying "hey, it ain't rocket science", they say "hey, it ain't Baumard chenin"	
'05 Stadt Krems grüner veltliner, Sandgrube Vineyard, Kremstal, Austria.....	27
'06 Handley gewurztraminer, Anderson Valley.....	27
'03 Fattoria Laila verdicchio, Castelli dei Jesi, Marche, Italy.....	27
'05 Paso a Paso verdejo, La Mancha, Spain.....	27
'03 Baglio di Pianetto inzolia/viognier, Ficiligno, Sicily, Italy.....	27
'07 Charles Smith riesling, Kung Fu Girl, Evergreen Vineyard, Columbia, Washington.....	27
why Kung Fu Girl, Charles? "because riesling and girls kick ass!" (Charles, like most of his wines, is unfiltered)	
'07 Garretson rhone blend, rosé, the Celeidh, Paso Robles.....	27
'07 Jana riesling, Napa.....	27
'06 Stratton Lummis chardonnay, unoaked, Alta Vista Vineyard, Carneros.....	27
'05 Strade Vigne Del Sole alba rosa, rosato, Lazio, Italy.....	27
on his farm just miles outside Rome, Antonio Cugini has created a living museum composed of near-extinct indigenous varieties (70 in total, 15 of which he is currently using in wine production); perhaps the most striking and beautifully bizarre is this one, a rosé made from 100% alba rosa grapes, a particularly rare and intriguing varietal...it smells of baking spice and cinnamon, tastes like just-picked wild strawberries, and has the brownish tint of stale RC Cola	
'05 Strade Vigne Del Sole albana dei castelli romani/malvasia rossa, Kadrai, Lazio, Italy.....	28
so of course we bought more of his stuff! this 50/50 blend is all banana daiquiri meets mojito, without the straw	
'06 Milbrandt pinot gris, Traditions, Columbia Valley, Washington.....	28
'05 J Wilkes pinot blanc, Bien Nacido Vineyard, Santa Maria.....	28
'06 Wieninger chardonnay, Classic, Vienna, Austria.....	28
'07 Hirsch grüner veltliner, Heiligenstein, Kamptal, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	28
'06 Catena chardonnay, Agrelo, Mendoza, Argentina.....	28
'05 Turnbull sauvignon musque, estate, Oakville.....	28

## **VINO BLANCO (if it's true that blondes have more fun, consider this entire page vino blondo)**

- '07 H u M Hofer zweigelt, rosé, Weinviertel, Austria.....28  
and some vino blush-o for good measure
- '06 Lengs & Cooter riesling, Watervale, Clare Valley, Australia.....28
- '04 Vinum chenin blanc/roussanne/viognier, White Elephant, Clarksburg.....28  
Vinum owner/winemaker Chris Condos is so young he should be going to prom or hacking computers; instead, he cranks out small lots of food-friendly, value-driven wines focused on purity and balance; try this, you won't forget it
- '03 Isabel riesling, Marlborough, New Zealand.....29
- '07 Louis Latour chardonnay, En Paradis, Pouilly-Vinzelles, France.....29
- '06 Giovanni Puiatti pinot grigio, Collio, Italy.....29
- '07 Salomon riesling, reserve, Pfaffenberg Vineyard, Kremstal, Austria, *half bottle*.....29
- '99 Bürklin-Wolf riesling, Gaisbohl Vineyard, Ruppertsberg, Pfalz, Germany, *half bottle*.....29
- '05 Corison gewürztraminer, Corazón, Anderson Valley.....29
- '08 Lioco chardonnay, Sonoma.....29  
Matt Licklider, formerly of North Berkeley Imports, is the force behind the focused, thoughtful wines of Lioco
- '07 Lucia pinot noir, rosé, Lucy, Santa Lucia Highlands.....29  
one really racy redhead (albeit with a pinkish hue), this Lucy has very little 'splainin' to do  
\*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*
- '05 Tablas Creek rhone blanc blend, estate, Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc,  
Paso Robles, *half bottle*.....30
- '04 Tablas Creek rhone blanc blend, estate, Côtes de Tablas Blanc, Paso Robles.....32
- '05 Tablas Creek vermentino, estate, Paso Robles.....41
- '02 Tablas Creek vermentino, estate, Paso Robles.....44
- '05 Tablas Creek viognier, estate, Paso Robles.....50
- '05 Tablas Creek picpoul blanc, estate, Paso Robles.....73
- '04 Tablas Creek rhone blanc blend, estate, vin de paille, Paso Robles, *half bottle*.....120  
Tablas Creek is partly owned and operated by the Perrin family, who run the superior Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape operation Chateau Beaucastel; when they decided to try rhone varietals in California, they put all their marbles on Paso Robles (us pro players call that winning the Cats Eye) and all their own French vineyard cuttings into quarantine for 3 years; with every passing year, it seems, the newest release of Tablas Creek wines show marked improvement; every wine they produce is certified organic and grown on estate property, and with the superb showing of the vintages of this decade they are shooting true and challenging the top Central Coast producers for the title of King of the Playground
- '02 Andrew Murray roussanne/marsanne, Enchanté, Santa Ynez.....30  
"This wine list is a winemaker's wet dream!" actual quote from winemaker/winery owner Andrew Murray, whose wide range of superb Central Coast wines cause a good deal of excitement of their own (Enchanté? I'll say!)
- '04 Callaghan riesling, dry, Buena Suerte Vineyard, Sonoita, Arizona.....30
- '06 Gagliardo favorita, Fallegro, Roero, Piedmont, Italy.....30  
finally, an answer for all you people who keep asking me which wine is my favorita
- '04 Domaine Martin Schaezel pinot blanc, organic/biodynamic, Alsace.....30
- '04 Hexamer riesling, qba 'Quarzit', Rheingrafenberg Hillsides,  
Meddersheimer, Nahe, Germany.....30
- '05 Hexamer riesling, qba 'Quarzit', Rheingrafenberg Hillsides,  
Meddersheimer, Nahe, Germany.....31  
named for the mineral prominent in the vineyard soil this is harvested from, the Quarzit is Hexamer's entry level riesling that Robert Parker says sports "grapefruit rind and marzipan" aromas, while importer Michael Skurnik notes contains "talc, roasted beet, some goddamn kind of flowers, great thrust and jab of flavor and zizzling acidity (not a typo)"; just when you thought it was safe to go down to the wine cellar, the vin-lunatic level triples to me and two more crazies

## VINO BLANCO

**there once was a girl named Elle Tone  
who spilled some marsanne in her phone  
when she went to dial,  
she could only smile,  
as she said to herself "E.T., phone Rhône!"  
(hey, smart guy, you try making up a limerick  
without using the word Nantucket, see how you do)**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

- '01 Les Vin de Vienne marsanne blend, Les Bialères, Saint Peray, Rhône, France.....31  
'01 Les Vin de Vienne roussanne blend, Les Chaponères, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France..42  
'99 Les Vin de Vienne roussanne blend, Les Chaponères, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France..44  
'00 Les Vin de Vienne roussanne blend, L'Élouède, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....46  
'99 Les Vin de Vienne roussanne blend, L'Élouède, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....49  
'99 Les Vin de Vienne marsanne blend, Les Bialères, Saint Peray, Rhône, France.....50  
'00 Les Vin de Vienne viognier, botrytis, Cépées Caties, Condrieu, France, *two-thirds bottle*..212  
'99 Les Vin de Vienne viognier, botrytis, Cépées Caties, Condrieu, France, *two-thirds bottle*..242  
    who remembers Blind Faith, the dream team of Clapton, Winwood and Ginger Baker (who was, by the way,  
    the inspiration for Animal, the drummer on the Muppet Show, but I digress)...only together for one album,  
    yet they created some long-lived musical magic, with soaring vocal harmonies and deftly balanced guitars, all  
    with a restrained rhythmic underpinning ('Can't Find My Way Home' was my personal anthem through much of  
    my early twenties, but again, I digress)...VDV is a similar supergroup comprised of three of the Rhône Valley's  
    hottest young winemakers: Yves Cuilleron, Pierre Gaillard and François Villard...their goal mirrors that of Blind  
    Faith; soaring fruit intensity with deftly balanced acidity and a restrained underpinning of terroir, resulting in  
    some truly magical, long-lived wines, suitable for black lights and love-ins, so don't digress, just try some
- '04 Bonny Doon roussanne/grenache blanc, Le Cigare Blanc, Central Coast.....31  
'07 H u M Hofer grüner veltliner, Weinviertel, Austria.....31  
'03 Domaine Bourillon Dorléans chenin blanc, sec, vieilles vignes,  
    La Coulée d'Argent, Vouvray, Loire, France.....31  
'05 Torbreck semillon, Woodcutter's White, Barossa, Australia.....31  
'05 Borthwick riesling, Wairarapa, New Zealand.....31  
'00 Hirtzberger riesling, federspiel, Steinterrassen, Wachau, Austria.....32  
'05 Verdad albariño, Ibarra-Young Vineyard, Santa Ynez.....32  
'04 Tablas Creek rhone blanc blend, estate, Côtes de Tablas Blanc, Paso Robles.....32  
'07 J Lohr chardonnay, Arroyo Vista Vineyard, Arroyo Seco.....32  
'06 Westerly viognier, estate, Santa Ynez.....32  
'06 McDowell viognier/roussanne, McDowell Valley, Mendocino.....32  
NV Jasper seyval blanc, Newton, Iowa.....33  
    seyval blanc — there's something you don't see every day
- '03 Pojer e Sandri müller-thurgau, Palai, Dolomiti, Trentino, Italy.....33  
    müller-thurgau — there's something you don't see every day
- '04 Adobe Guadalupe zinfandel rosé, Uriel, Valle de Guadalupe, Baja, Mexico.....33  
    I'm sensing a trend here, how about you?
- '06 Rafael Palacios godello, Louro do Bolo, Valdeorras, Spain.....33  
    this could go on all day, every day
- '03 Rotta black monukka, 'sun-baked', Templeton, *half bottle*.....33  
    ok, now we're just showing off

# VINO BLANCO "gewürztraminer? why, I hardly knew her!"

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'04 Zind-Humbrecht gewürztraminer, Wintzenheim, Alsace, <i>half bottle</i> .....	33
'02 Zind-Humbrecht pinot gris, Clos Jepsal, Alsace, <i>half bottle</i> .....	77
'04 Zind-Humbrecht pinot gris, Clos Jepsal, Alsace, <i>half bottle</i> .....	87
'06 Zind-Humbrecht pinot gris, Clos Windsbuhl, Alsace.....	112
'04 Zind-Humbrecht riesling, Clos Windsbuhl, Alsace, <i>half bottle</i> .....	119
'06 Zind-Humbrecht gewürztraminer, Clos Windsbuhl, Alsace.....	122
'06 Zind-Humbrecht pinot gris, Clos Saint Urbain, Rangon grand cru, Alsace.....	135
'98 Zind-Humbrecht gewürztraminer, Clos Windsbuhl, Alsace.....	159
'06 Zind-Humbrecht riesling, Clos Saint Urbain, Rangon grand cru, Alsace.....	160
'99 Zind-Humbrecht gewürztraminer, Clos Saint Urbain, Rangon grand cru, Alsace.....	195

Alsace is now part of France, was once part of Germany, and might as well be part of Switzerland because they have their own odd ways of language and custom that make them stand alone; their wines, for example, can rival the finest Montrachets in terms of complexity and ageability, yet have uniquely individual flavor profiles unmatched anywhere; especially intriguing are the multiple bottlings of Z-H, which can total 30 different entities any given year;

Olivier Humbrecht is a firm practitioner of ultra-low yields, biodynamic farming, late harvesting and soft pressings, resulting in multi-layered wines of extraordinary quality, superlative balance, deep concentration and shimmering purity

'04 J Hofstätter pinot blanc, Alto Adige, Italy.....	33
'06 Stuhlmüller chardonnay, Alexander Valley.....	33
'07 Adelsheim auxerrois, Willamette, Oregon.....	33
auxerrois is a cross of pinot noir and gauris blanc that came to Oregon from Alsace in 1977, where it's a minor varietal; the only country where it's a major player is Luxembourg, so the 295 cases Adelsheim makes may be half the world supply	
'98 C H Berres riesling, spätlese, Urzifer Würzgarten, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Germany.....	33
'04 Paul Achs sauvignon blanc, Burgenland, Austria.....	33
'07 Westerly sauvignon blanc, estate, Santa Ynez.....	33
Seth Kunin, winemaker for Westerly, completely drilled this wine for a grand slam...if there's a California sb out there sporting a more perfect balance of audacious fruit, vibrating acidity and myriad food affinities, I sure haven't had it	
<i>[sidebar: as wacky as Gordon Ramsay comes across on his myriad of television programs, he's smart enough to use this wine in the Aperol Spritzer at his eponymous New York City restaurant — to the tune of 25 cases a month]</i>	
'06 Schellmann muskateller, Thermenregion, Austria.....	34
'07 Miner viognier, Simpson Vineyard, Madera.....	34
'06 Beck weissburgunder, Gols, Burgenland, Austria.....	34
'05 Talai Berri hondarrabi zuri, Oreka, Getariako Txakolina, Pais Vasco, Spain.....	34
this slightly spritzly shellfish-friendly coastal white is 'txak' full of uniquely exotic mineral-driven aromas	
'07 Ecker roter veltliner, Donauland/Carnuntrum, Austria.....	35
'04 Leeuwin riesling, Artists Series, Margaret River, Australia.....	35
'04 Colle dei Bardellini pigato, Riviera Ligure di Ponente, Liguria, Italy.....	35
yes, you may have some of this wine, just don't make a pigato yourself	
'04 Chateau La Gatte sauvignon gris/sauvignon blanc, Bordeaux, France.....	35
'05 Chehalem riesling, reserve, Coral Creek/Stoller Vineyards, Willamette, Oregon.....	35
'07 Le Clos du Caillou counoise blend, rosé, Côtes du Rhône, France.....	36
'05 Bründlmayer riesling, Kamptaler Terrassen, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....	36
'07 Venica & Venica tocai fruilano, Collio, Friuli, Italy.....	36
'02 Dry River riesling, Craighall Vineyard, Martinborough, New Zealand.....	36
'04 Domaine Serene chardonnay, Côte Sud Vineyard, Dundee Hills, Oregon, <i>half bottle</i> .....	36
'02 Bruno Giacosa arneis, Roero, Piedmont, Italy.....	36
arneis: a relatively unknown varietal that should have 'pair me with seafood' plastered on the side of each grape	

## **VINO BLANCO (continued) why so much wine?**

### **you know what they say, all work and no play makes Jack a ticking time bomb**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

- '05 Palmina malvasia, Larner Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley.....36
- '04 Palmina malvasia, Larner Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley.....37
- '05 Palmina traminer, Alisos Vineyard, Santa Barbara.....39
- '03 Palmina malvasia, Larner Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley.....40
- '05 Palmina tocai friulano, Honea Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley.....41
- '05 Palmina arneis, Honea Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley.....45
- if winemaker Steve Clifton is the brains of this operation, then his wife Chrystal is the lucky charm...her unyielding enthusiasm for all things food and wine in general, and Palmina in particular, make her as good a 'front man' as there is in the industry...put it this way, I've been a strong supporter of Palmina and it's amazing Italian varietal line, easily the best of it's type in California, since dia uno, but since meeting Chrystal and becoming infected by her non-stop positive energy and passion for life, I consider myself a Palm(ina) Reader, and I see a bottle of this in your future
- '04 Hobbs frontignac, late harvest, Barossa Ranges, Australia, *half bottle*.....36
- '04 Hobbs viognier, late harvest, Barossa Ranges, Australia, *half bottle*.....37
- the cats from Down Under know their 'stickies'; if you prefer liquid dessert, Hobbs is aimed directly at your sweet tooth
- '06 Domaine Henri Gouges pinot blanc, Bourgogne, France.....37
- '04 Nigl gelber muskateller, Priel, Kremstal, Austria.....37
- "Nigl's wines at best have an eerie clarity that's something between monastic and psychedelic" says importer Terry Thiese
- '04 Palmina malvasia, Larner Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley.....37
- '05 Casa Silva sauvignon gris blend, Quinta Generacion, Colchagua, Chile.....37
- '04 Napa Wine Co pinot blanc, Yount Mill Vineyards, Yountville.....37
- '01 Guigal marsanne/roussanne, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....37
- '01 Porto Carras malagouzia, Sithonia, Greece.....37
- '07 Jean-Max Roger sauvignon blanc, cuvee G C, Sancerre, France.....38
- personally, I'm not a big Sancerre guy, when I want the enamel cleaned from my teeth I usually go to the dentist, but Sean's a big fan of this one, it pairs well with a multitude of oysters and shellfish, and I mean that Sancerre-ly
- '05 Green & Red sauvignon musque, Catacula Vineyard, Napa.....38
- '07 Abbazia di Novacella kerner, Alto Adige, Italy.....38
- '07 Brick House chardonnay, biodynamic, Ribbon Ridge, Oregon.....39
- recipe for global chardonnay: take several parts uniquely balanced climate and soil (Ribbon Ridge, Oregon's latest AVA), farm it utilizing the ages-old method embraced as standard in Austria called biodynamic (loosely translated, the energy of Mother Earth and her friends the Sun and the Moon begets the energy of Mother Earth encapsulated in grape form) (OK, really loosely translated), fold in bits of Washington apples, California citrus, and Chablis minerality, and then sear it to caramelize the whole thing with an old fashioned crème brûlée iron (like the one they use at FnB, our new mosaic-tiled neighborhood spot between Ciao & Kaz featuring the sophisticated comfort fare of Chef Charlene Badman)
- '05 Domaine Michel Rey chardonnay, Haut des Crays, Pouilly Fuisse, France.....39
- '04 Hatton Estate chardonnay, EC2, Gimblett Road, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand.....39
- '05 Palmina traminer, Alisos Vineyard, Santa Barbara.....39
- '04 Mantlerhof roter veltliner, Reienthal Selection, Kremstel, Austria.....39
- roter veltliner is grüner veltliner's earthier, thin-skinned neighbor; if grüner is a bit too effete for you, join the roter-y club
- '03 Wess Cellars riesling, Loibenberg, Wachau, Austria.....39
- '97 Chateau Simone aragnon blend, Palette, Provence, France.....39
- '98 Chateau Musar obeideh/merwah, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon.....39
- merwah is a rare semillon clone, while obeideh is believed to be a crossing of chardonnay and chasselas; this wine is made from head-pruned vines ranging from 70 to 100 years old, totally pre-phyloxera; Na Zdrove!

# **VINO BLANCO "like, I was all, you know, like, continued, like"**

**\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\***

'07 Alban viognier, Central Coast.....	39
'06 Alban viognier, Central Coast.....	47
'07 Alban viognier, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	63
'07 Alban roussanne, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	72
'05 Alban roussanne, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	74
'05 Alban viognier, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	76
'04 Alban roussanne, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	79
'03 Alban roussanne, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	86
'02 Alban roussanne, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	99
'00 Alban viognier, TBA, Costello, Edna Valley, <i>half bottle</i> .....	125
'01 Alban viognier, TBA, Rotten Luck, Edna Valley, <i>half bottle</i> .....	140
John Alban is co-founder of Hospice du Rhone, the annual Paso Robles three-day celebration of Rhone varietals, wacky winemakers, conviviality and general wine enlightenment...appropriately, there is now a Tipping Point brewing, a moment in time where something goes from underground to cult status to popularity and then well beyond, sometimes based on quality, sometimes on momentum, sometimes on buzz, sometimes on creating a new benchmark, and this time on all that, and more; the Rhone varietal explosion in California's Central Coast appellations is a bullet train slicing through all pretension and assumption, destination: stardom, and John Alban is the conductor...all aboard!	
'04 Panther Creek melon, DePonte Vineyard, Red Hills, Oregon.....	40
'07 K Vintners viognier, Columbia Valley, Washington.....	40
the Pacific Northwest has become a formidable wine-producing region, capable of more than just Oregon pinot and Washington merlot — take the wonderful whites, ranging from lush chardonnay to crisp pinot gris, and rarities such as melon (oyster wine supreme) & viognier (always exotic, and in the hands of K wunderkind Charles Smith, exceptional)	
'05 Heidi Schröck furmint, Rust, Neusiedlersee, Austria.....	40
furmint is renowned for it's role in the production of the famous Hungarian dessert wine Tokaji, but is also used to make a dry wine some call "chardonnay with muscles"; we believe Heidi Schröck makes the furmint of the moment	
'03 Palmina malvasia, Larner Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley.....	40
'05 Truchard roussanne, Carneros.....	40
'06 Villa Creek rhone blanc blend, Paso Robles.....	40
'98 Von Othegraven riesling, Altenberg, Kanzen, Germany.....	40
'03 Wieninger white blend, Alte Reben, Nussberg, Vienna, Austria.....	40
a Viennese torte, of sorts, containing various amounts of riesling, traminer, grüner, sylvaner, weissburgunder, neuberger, zierfandeler (I wanted to call it a 'kitchen sink' blend, but my German is a little rusty) (actually, so is my kitchen sink!)	
'07 Curran grenache blanc, Camp 4 Vineyard, Santa Ynez.....	41
'05 Tablas Creek vermentino, estate, Paso Robles.....	41
'05 Palmina tocai friulano, Honea Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley.....	41
'07 Selene sauvignon musque, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....	41
'05 Heidi Schröck gelber muskateller/ottonel/sauvignon blanc, Rust, Neusiedlersee, Austria...42	
'03 Haan viognier, Barossa, Australia.....	42
'01 Les Vin de Vienne roussanne blend, Les Chaponères, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France..42	
'03 Stadt Krems riesling, Grillenparz, Kremstal, Austria.....	43
'04 Daniel Barraud chardonnay, Alliance V, Pouilly Fuisse, France.....	43
'00 Hirtzberger grüner veltliner, federspiel, Rotes Tor, Wachau, Austria.....	43
'07 Schwarzböck grüner veltliner, Kirchberg Vineyard, Weinviertal, Austria.....	44
'07 Berger grüner veltliner, Gebling reserve, Kremstal, Austria.....	44
guy goes into a wine bar, says "gimme a chardonnay", the sommelier brings him grüner veltliner, the guy says "hey, I asked for a chardonnay", the sommelier says "that's what I gave you...the chardonnay of Austria!"	
OK, not much of a punchline, but if you like the intensity and complexity of top chardonnay, you should try GV	

## **VINO BLANCO (actually, these are golden-hued, like my intentions)**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

NV Kracher chardonnay/welschriesling, trockenbeerenauslese, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>quarter bottle</i> .....	44
'05 Kracher zweigelt, rosé, #1, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	121
'02 Kracher muskat ottonel, #4, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	125
'01 Kracher muskat ottonel, #2, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	135
'97 Kracher bouvier, #2, beerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	137
'05 Kracher scheurebe, #9, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	140
'01 Kracher welschriesling, #5, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	145
'02 Kracher scheurebe, #10, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	148
'00 Kracher traminer, #1, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	150
'02 Kracher chardonnay, #9, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	155
'02 Kracher welschriesling, #11, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	165
'96 Kracher bouvier/muskat ottonel, #2, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	180
'01 Kracher chardonnay, #7, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	184
'02 Kracher scheurebe/welschriesling, #12, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	195
'01 Kracher scheurebe, #9, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	205
'98 Kracher traminer, #8, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	225

Alois Kracher likes to call himself 'a simple farmer', but most consider him the grand poobah of Austrian dessert wines (and quite possibly all dessert wines); at the '03 Vin DiVino Chicago Tasting, I had the opportunity to sit in on a spectacular seminar featuring the impish Mr Kracher and his wines, and if he's a simple farmer, then this is the world's most logical wine list; another winemaker on the seminar panel, Rolf Binder (himself a transplanted Austrian) had the misfortune of putting his tawny port up against some of these superb stickies, and when I mentioned to him it showed fairly well, he spouted an epithet unprintable here, so I'll paraphrase ...

"I felt a bit like a baboon standing in a dress shop" {or how about this, me at a Mensa meeting}, his way of saying these wines rock the house; the #1, #2, etc, refers to level of concentration, as a typical vintage from Kracher will have a dozen bottlings, and the higher the number, the greater the opulence; the Nouvelle Vague designated wines have seen new oak, relatively new world, the Zwischen Den Seen virtually no oak, old school; finally, I heard Alois' name pronounced so many different ways, I think he'll answer to anything from Al to Hey You, but I simply call him Allah, as his wines are tantamount to a religious experience  
(and, while they may thickly coat it, they don't stain the glass)

*{sadly, Alois passed away in November of 2007; lucky for us, the legacy of his wines lives on...prosit, old friend}*

## **VINO BLANCO consider this list our version of Homer's Odyssey – if Homer was Homer Simpson**

'04 Topanga Vineyards grenache blanc, Celadon, Esperanza Vineyard, Clarksburg.....	44
'02 Tablas Creek vermentino, estate, Paso Robles.....	44
'00 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt riesling, spätlese, Piesporter Goldtröpfchen, Mosel, Germany..	44
'07 Serge Dagueneau sauvignon blanc, Les Pentes, Pouilly Fumé, France.....	44
'05 Les Héritiers du Comte Lafon chardonnay, Macon, France.....	44
'99 Les Vin de Vienne roussanne blend, Les Chaponères, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France..	44
'03 Callaghan riesling/viognier, Lisa's selection, Sonoita, Arizona.....	44
Kent Callaghan is a modern day wine pioneer, having made the first Arizona wine to be served at the White House (but, c'mon, what gives with everyone in the family having wines named after them? what's next, Rover's Revenge?)	
'07 Benovia chardonnay, La Pommeraie, Russian River.....	44
'06 le Clos du Caillou grenache blanc/clairrette rose/bourboulenc blend, Bouquet des Garrigues, Côtes du Rhône, France.....	44
'07 Prieler pinot blanc, Seeburg Vineyard, Burgenland, Austria.....	44
'05 Palmina arneis, Honea Vineyard, Santa Ynez Valley.....	45
'07 Kruger-Rumpf scheurebe, spätlese, Dautenpflänzer, Nahe, Germany.....	45
'06 Garretson viognier, the Saothar, Paso Robles.....	46
'06 Betts & Scholl riesling, Eden Valley, Australia.....	46
'05 Brick House chardonnay, organic, Willamette, Oregon.....	46
'07 Heidi Schröck field blend, Vogelsang Vineyard, Rust, Neusiedlersee, Austria.....	46
equal parts welschriesling, weissburgunder, furmint and gelber muskateller from the charming 'bird song' vineyard	
'05 Kooyong chardonnay, Clonale, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, Australia.....	46
'07 Jamek riesling, federspiel, Ried Klaus, Wachau, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	46
'05 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Carte d'Or, Coteaux du Layon, Loire, France.....	46
'00 Les Vin de Vienne roussanne blend, L'Élouède, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....	46
'06 Alban viognier, Central Coast.....	47
'06 Rudi Pichler grüner veltliner, federspiel, Wachau, Austria.....	47
Rudi P is the Pichler of the litter when it comes to no-compromise, exotic Austrian wines using wild natural yeasts	
'06 DeLille viognier/chardonnay, Doyenne Métier Blanc, Red Mountain, Washington.....	47
<b>***spotlight***</b>	
'04 Viñedos de Ithaca garnacha blanca, Odysseus, Poboleda, Priorat, Spain.....	47
'06 Dos Cabezas viognier, La Montaña, Cochise County, Arizona.....	48
'02 Westerly roussanne/viognier, 'W', estate, Santa Ynez.....	48
'07 La Conreria d'Scala Dei grenache blanc, Les Brugueres Vineyard, Priorat, Spain.....	55
'98 Radikon viognier/marsanne, Oslavia, Collio, Italy.....	60
'04 Torbreck marsanne/viognier/roussanne, Barossa, Australia.....	60
'05 Mas d'en Compte grenache blanc/picpoul/pansal, Priorat, Spain.....	64
'00 Clos d'Agon roussanne/marsanne/viognier, Mesa de Calonge, Costa Brava, Spain.....	69
'05 Tablas Creek picpoul blanc, estate, Paso Robles.....	73
'05 Alban viognier, Alban Estate, Edna Valley.....	76
'00 Giaconda chardonnay/roussanne, Nantua Les Deux, Victoria, Australia.....	111
'03 Turley marsanne/roussanne/viognier, The White Coat, San Luis Obispo.....	142
'02 Kongsgaard roussanne/viognier, Napa.....	168
'97 Sine Qua Non roussanne/chardonnay, Twisted & Bent, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	500
the actual moment I went from geek to über-geek remains up for speculation, but this whole fascination with white rhône varietals, particularly those grown outside of France, is a surefire sign that mega-ultra-über-geek lurks just over the horizon; these monster mouth-feel wines definitely do not put the 'tact' in tactile (although, conversely, I personally have been told that I put the 'eek' in wine geek!)	

## **VINO BLANCO (men are from marsanne, women are from viognier)**

'04 Marilyn Remark marsanne, Loma Pacific Vineyard, Monterey.....	48
'02 JC Cellars viognier, late harvest, Ripken Vineyard, Lodi, <i>half bottle</i> .....	48
'05 Garretson viognier, the Saothar, Paso Robles.....	48
'03 Mantlerhof roter veltliner, Reienthal Selection, Kremstal, Austria.....	48
'03 Darting huxelrebe, beerenauslese, Forster Schnepfenberg Vineyard, Pfalz, Germany, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	48
direct quote from renowned German/Austrian wine importer Terry Thiese: "this is all huxel-honey, but with a good spine of structure, tasty and not slutty"; while we're on the Thiese thought train, he also says that st laurent is like peyote-drenched pinot noir...German humor, who knew?	
'05 Patz & Hall chardonnay, Dutton Ranch, Russian River.....	48
'07 Berger gelber muskateller, Kremstal, Austria.....	48
'05 DeLille viognier/chardonnay, Doyenne M�tier Blanc, Red Mountain, Washington.....	48
'01 Mas Amiel maccabeu, late-picked, Plenitude, C�tes du Roussillon, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	48
what kind of word is Plenitude? short for 'plenty of attitude'? meet my daughters, women of fortitude and plenitude	
'07 Heidi Schr�ck grauburgunder, Rust, Neusiedlersee, Austria.....	49
'99 Les Vin de Vienne roussanne blend, L'�lou�de, Saint Joseph, Rh�ne, France.....	49
'05 Rusden chenin blanc, Christian, Barossa, Australia.....	49
'05 Elyse chardonnay, Wild Horse Valley, Napa.....	49
'99 Les Vin de Vienne marsanne blend, Les Bial�res, Saint Peray, Rh�ne, France.....	50
'07 Ecker gr�ner veltliner, Premium, Mordthal Vineyard, Wagram, Austria.....	50
'05 Argyle chardonnay, Nuthouse, Willamette, Oregon.....	50
'07 Paul Mathew chardonnay, Mill Station Vineyard, Dutton Ranch, Russian River.....	50
'05 Tablas Creek viognier, estate, Paso Robles.....	50
*** <i>spotlight</i> ***	
'06 Robert Foley pinot blanc, Napa.....	50
'03 Wess Cellars gr�ner veltliner, Pfaffenberg Vineyard, Kremstal, Austria.....	50
'99 Hutton Vale riesling, Eden Valley, Australia.....	50
'02 La Spinetta chardonnay, Lidia, Piedmont, Italy.....	50
'00 Guigal marsanne blend, Hermitage, Rh�ne, France.....	50
'04 Elderton semillon, botrytis, Riverina, Australia, <i>half bottle</i> .....	54
'03 Edi Sim�i� pinot grigio, Sivi Pinot, Goriška Brda, Slovenia.....	54
'00 Chateau Simone picardan blend, Palette, Provence, France.....	55
'04 Venica & Venica tocai fruilano, Ronco della Gime, Collio, Friuli, Italy.....	55
'04 Kunin viognier, Stolpman Vineyard, Santa Ynez.....	55
'01 Domaine Mas Amiel grenache gris, vin doux naturel, Maury, France.....	55
'05 Br�ndlmayer gelber muskateller, Langenlois, Kamptal, Austria.....	55
pay attention, class, there's going to be a quiz later...today's lesson is about TEXTURE, specifically the various approaches to developing wines of opulent, unctuous body; the handful of wines above stem from different varietals and regions yet all share a common denominator of glycerin-laden 'legs' due to their richness and weight, which leads us to your homework assignment, three pages on 'does a great body start with legs?', on my desk first thing tomorrow	
'07 La Conreria d'Scala Dei grenache blanc, Les Brugueres Vineyard, Priorat, Spain.....	55
'06 Failla viognier, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	55
'05 Failla viognier, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	56
'02 Les Cr�tes petite arvine, vigne Champorette, Valle d'Aosta, Italy.....	56
'04 DeSante sauvignon blanc, old vines, Napa.....	56
'06 Melville chardonnay, Melville Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	56
'04 Edi Sim�i� rebula, Goriška Brda, Slovenia.....	56
'02 Yering Station chardonnay, reserve, Yarra Valley, Australia.....	56

## **VINO BLANCO ("Sean Tevik, wine room manager, speaking..**

**the fact is, there is nowhere near enough room to store all these funky whites, so either Kasperski quits buying them (like that's gonna happen) or you get cracking on these... seriously, it may not kill you to start with a white for once, but if I have to rearrange that chilly room one more time, I'll be making postal workers look like Mother Theresa!")**

- '94 Kalin chardonnay, Wentz Estate Vineyard, Livermore Valley.....56  
Kalin Cellars web site speaks volumes on umami, the fifth taste; while not as directly descriptive as salty, sour, sweet or bitter, umami refers to a specific chemical compound that's best described as a savory sense of deliciousness, typically accompanied with a mouthfeel of weightiness that can seem at once both delicate and symphonic; the extreme unorthodox winemaking applied by Kalin owner/mad scientist Terry Leighton results in significant umami character, so much so that if you ever find yourself in a disagreement with Terry and you say "your momma", he's likely to respond with "umami"
- '06 de Ladoucette sauvignon blanc, Comte Lafond, Sancerre, France.....57
- '02 Grosset/Hill Smith riesling, mesh, Eden Valley, Australia.....57
- '06 Dettori vermentino, Sardinia, Italy.....58
- '01 Gaillard viognier, cuvee Unique, Clos de Cuminaille, Côtes du Rhône, France.....58
- '98 Knoll grüner veltliner, smaragd, Loibenberg, Wachau, Austria.....58
- '05 Linne Calodo roussanne/viognier, the Contrarian, Paso Robles.....58
- '07 Ridge chardonnay, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz Mountains.....58
- '98 Georg Breuer riesling, Montosa, Rheingau, Germany.....58
- '05 Melville chardonnay, Clone 76 - Inox, Santa Rita Hills.....58
- '07 Rochioli sauvignon blanc, Russian River.....58
- NV Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, la cuvée Ancienne de Jean Baumard,  
Coteaux du Layon, Loire, France.....59  
leave it to Baumard to implement a solera system for chenin blanc! the Ancienne sports 15 vintages, select barrels from 1966 to 1988, to make up this astounding example of what wine can become when the rules are superseded
- '02 Hutton Vale riesling, Eden Valley, Australia.....59
- '04 Edi Simčič sauvignon blanc, Goriška Brda, Slovenia.....59
- '04 Müller-Catoir muskateller, kabinet, Haarter Burggarten, Pfalz, Germany.....59  
to quote impresario Terry These, "...wine of such incandescent beauty all you want to do is weep or laugh out loud"
- '02 Alzinger grüner veltliner, smaragd, Mühlpoint Vineyard, Weingärten, Wachau, Austria..59
- '00 Alzinger grüner veltliner, smaragd, Axpoint Vineyard, Weingärten, Wachau, Austria.....60  
Alzinger is all zinger when it comes to grüner veltliner, especially these racy single vineyard superstars
- '98 Radikon viognier/marsanne, Oslavia, Collio, Italy.....60
- '06 Torbreck marsanne/viognier/roussanne, Barossa, Australia.....60
- '05 Viñedos de Ithaca pedro ximenez, Odysseus, Priorat, Spain.....60
- '01 Fiddlehead sauvignon blanc, Honeysuckle, Vogelzang Vineyard, Santa Ynez.....60
- '90 Chateau Camou sauvignon/chenin blanc, late harvest,  
El Gran Divino Dulce, Valle de Guadalupe, Mexico, *half bottle*.....60
- '05 Saint Cosme viognier, Condrieu, Rhône, France.....60
- '06 La Sirena muscat canelli, Moscato Azul, Solari Vineyard, Calistoga.....60
- '05 La Sirena muscat canelli, Moscato Azul, Solari Vineyard, Calistoga.....61  
La Sirena is Heidi Peterson Barrett's personal label; she is a winemaker consultant extraordinaire, and hubby Bo Barrett, winemaker at Montelena, is no slouch, either...traded war stories with the two of them after the '06 Taste of Oakville, where Bo informed us that the standard in Calistoga is to play 'Lunatic Bingo' with the many wackos of their street scene

**VINO BLANCO**      **you're wondering why the list is like this?**  
**well, I don't watch Reality TV ( I quit dealing with reality**  
**long, long ago), and I don't play Fantasy Football**  
**(the voices in my head are fantasy enough),**  
**so that pretty much just leaves this**

'06 Linne Calodo roussanne/viognier, the Contrarian, Paso Robles.....	61
Matt Trevisan throws a stellar white rhone belnd in the mix with his amazing lineup of red rhone/zin blends	
'04 Coudoulet de Beaucastel bourboulenc blend, Côtes du Rhône, France.....	61
'94 Kalin chardonnay, Cuvee LD, Long Hillside Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	61
'03 J Hofstätter gewürztraminer, Kolbenhof Vineyard, Alto Adige, Italy.....	61
yes, it's single vineyard gewürztraminer from Italy, and no, I don't know when to quit	
'02 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Clos du Papillon, Savennières, Loire, France.....	62
'05 Barnett chardonnay, Savoy Vineyard, Anderson Valley.....	62
'99 Guigal marsanne blend, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	62
'05 Grosset riesling, Polish Hill, Clare Valley, Australia.....	62
first off, it's from Polish Hill, how can you not love that? (and yes, Kaz, you could even drink it with your pigs knuckles and sauerkraut if you ran out of Schlitz) plus, it's made by Jeffrey Grosset, whose rieslings traditionally stand up mighty tall in the worldwide quality lineup (some would say he's number one) (and some would say me talking to my deceased father in the wine list makes me nuttier than a Jerry Springer guest, but it's a heckuva lot cheaper than therapy) (and he really did eat pigs knuckles and sauerkraut...is it any wonder I still wake up screaming?)	
'07 Alban viognier, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	63
'01 Edi Simčič chardonnay, Goriška Brda, Slovenia.....	63
'05 Mas d'en Compte grenache blanc/picpoul/pansal, Priorat, Spain.....	64
extreme old vine grenache blanc (vines ranging 50 – 100 years) grown sustainably and mixed with the rare Rhone varietal picpoul blanc and the somewhat rarer still Spanish varietal pansal (itself an obscure clone of xarel-lo), this wine is typical of the superb terroir-driven wines of Eric Solomon's European Cellars (his motto: place over process)	
'05 Varner chardonnay, organic, Bee Block, Spring Ridge Vineyard, Santa Cruz Mountains...64	
I'm perfectly content to drink Bee Block, but if I have to see one more promo for Bee Movie, it'll do more than sting	
'05 Etienne Sauzet chardonnay, Puligny Montrachet, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	64
'04 Failla viognier, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	64
'06 Failla chardonnay, estate, Russian River.....	65
the book 'Blood & Wine' is a chilling account of how the Gallo brothers Ernest and Julio essentially drove their brother Joe to bankruptcy and an early grave by suing the bejesus out of him for using the Gallo name on cheese; now Ehren Jordan's terrific new winery Failla Jordan can no longer use the Jordan name because of legal action from the Sonoma winery Jordan; hopefully, there's not a restaurant named Paella somewhere out there planning a similar lawsuit, or Ehren may have to just bottle the stuff label-free! (people, people, can't we all just get along?)	
'95 Georg Breuer riesling, auslese, Bischofsberg, Rheingau, Germany.....	65
'08 Miner marsanne, La Diligence, Stagecoach Vineyard, Napa.....	65
'08 Caduceus malvasia bianca/chardonnay, Merkin Vineyards, Jerome, Arizona.....	65
***spotlight***	
'05 L'Angevin chardonnay, Russian River.....	66
'05 L'Angevin chardonnay, Laughlin Family Vineyard, Russian River.....	80
'05 L'Angevin chardonnay, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	90
'02 L'Angevin chardonnay, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	96
two freaky talented cats from Peter Michael Winery making cool climate old vine chardonnay (I'd tell you more, but this is the express lane, fifteen words or less, no personal checks)	

**VINO BLANCO ("this wine list is better than pornography" ...  
actual guest quote that explains the sticky pages)**

'03 Garretson roussanne, vin doux naturel, the Berwyn, Paso Robles, <i>half bottle</i> .....	66
'04 Linne Calodo roussanne/viognier, the Contrarian, Paso Robles.....	66
'03 d'Arenberg roussanne, the Money Spider, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	66
if it was called 'Roussanne 66' instead of 'Route 66', maybe it would still be there	
'04 Alzinger grüner veltliner, smaragd, Mühlpoint Vineyard, Weingärten, Wachau, Austria..	66
Mühlpoint Vineyard? to quote Al Jacinski, who built Cowboy Ciao, when I showed him this, "well, I'll be a horse's ass"	
'07 Pride viognier, Sonoma.....	66
'06 Ramey chardonnay, Sonoma Coast.....	66
'04 Longoria chardonnay, cuvée Diana, Santa Rita Hills.....	66
'00 Clos d'Agon roussanne/marsanne/viognier, Mesa de Calonge, Costa Brava, Spain.....	69
you don't have to be Brava to try this, Spain does white rhone varietals as well as anyone	
'02 Dirler riesling, Spiegel grand cru, Alsace.....	69
'02 Chanson chardonnay, Les Caradeux, Pernand-Vergelesses, France.....	70
'07 Salomon grüner veltliner, Lindberg reserve, Kremstal, Austria.....	70
'05 Domaine Delarche chardonnay, En Caradeux, Pernand-Vergelesses, France.....	70
*** <i>spotlight</i> ***	
'07 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Santa Rita Hills.....	70
'05 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Mount Carmel, Santa Rita Hills.....	85
'04 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Rancho Santa Rosa, Santa Rita Hills.....	93
'04 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Mount Carmel, Santa Rita Hills.....	95
'06 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Sea Smoke Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	97
'05 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Sweeney Canyon, Santa Rita Hills.....	100
'04 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Melville Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	106
'05 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Sea Smoke Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	107
'03 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Ashley's Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	110
finally, we managed to score some Brewer Clifton chard and pinot; these cats knew before anybody, it seems, just how special the Santa Rita Hills region was going to be, and a parade of fantastic wines have followed	
'01 Müller-Catoir rieslaner, spätlese, Mussbacher Eselshaut, Pfalz, Germany.....	70
'03 D R Stephens chardonnay, Hudson Vineyard, Carneros.....	71
'07 Alban roussanne, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	72
'06 Pride viognier, Sonoma.....	72
'05 Flowers chardonnay, Andreen-Gale cuvée, Sonoma Coast.....	72
'00 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Trie Spéciale, Savennières, Loire, France.....	72
'03 Failla viognier, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	72
I need another viognier like I need a hole in my boxers, but John Alban doesn't sell much of his stupendous fruit, and Turley winemaker Ehren Jordan doesn't make much viognier, so here it is (plus, I don't wear any boxers)	
'00 Hugues Beaulieu picpoul de pinet, Coteaux de Languedoc, France.....	73
'05 Tablas Creek picpoul blanc, estate, Paso Robles.....	73
supposedly, picpoul means <i>lip stinger</i> in French, and don't ask why, it's none of your beeswax	
'03 Bründlmayer gelber muskateller, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....	73
'02 Bründlmayer gelber muskateller, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....	74
I've been called one brick shy of a load and one step left of crazy, but never one muskateller short of a candy bar	
'06 Martinelli chardonnay, Woolsey Road, Russian River.....	74
'05 Alban roussanne, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	74
'04 Tim Smith semillon, botrytis, Fromm Vineyard, Barossa, Australia, <i>half bottle</i> .....	74
'95 Monteverine malvasia/trebbiano, 'M', Tuscany, Italy.....	74
'05 Darioush chardonnay, Napa.....	74

## VINO BLANCO (hey, it's after Labor Day, it's safe to drink white)

'04 Gini garganega, Salvarenza, La Fosca Vineyard, Soave Classico, Veneto, Italy.....	74
this is definitely one of those times you want the Gini OUT of the bottle, folks	
'06 Rudi Pichler weissburgunder, smaragd, Kollmütz Vineyard, Wösendorf, Wachau, Austria.....	74
'03 Miner chardonnay, wild yeast, Napa.....	74
'04 Mi Sueño chardonnay, Pugash Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....	75
'06 Schwarz grüner veltliner blend, A Lita, Andau, Austria.....	75
'05 Alban viognier, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	76
'99 Von Strasser chardonnay, Rainin Vineyard, Diamond Mountain.....	76
Rudy Von Strasser used to make wine with John Kongsgaard back in the day, so he knows the drill; this vineyard, one of only two with chardonnay on all of Diamond Mountain, is planted with multiple clones, and the resulting wine is as layered with twists and turns as the plotlines on '24', although Rudy bears little resemblance to Kiefer Sutherland (and don't you get a kick out of teenagers using the phrase "back in the day", which for them was sometime last week?)	
'07 Lewis chardonnay, Dutton Ranch/Ritchie Vineyard, Russian River.....	76
'04 Garretson roussanne, the Gabbar, James Berry Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	76
'04 Edmunds St John chardonnay, Peay Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	76
'04 Chasseur chardonnay, Green Acre Hill, Sangiacomo Vineyard, Carneros.....	76
Green Acre Hill is apparently the place to be, as this is a wine even Zsa Zsa would love, full of New York City style, Paris personality (Paris, France — like you had to ask), sexy and sensual, a massage for your tongue with flavored oils	
'02 Zind-Humbrecht pinot gris, Clos Jébsal, Alsace, <i>half bottle</i> .....	77
'05 Rafael Palacios godello, As Sortes, Valdeorras, Spain.....	77
'06 Loimer grüner veltliner, Käferberg, Langenlois, Kamptal, Austria.....	77
'99 Classic McLaren chardonnay, La Testa Vineyard, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	77
'99 François Villard viognier, Quintessence, Condrieu, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	77
'04 Pride chardonnay, Napa.....	77
'06 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, Alte Reben, Kamptal, Austria.....	78
'01 René Rostaing viognier, La Bonnette, Condrieu, Rhône, France.....	79
'04 Alban roussanne, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	79
'05 L'Angevin chardonnay, Laughlin Family Vineyard, Russian River.....	80
'05 Guigal marsanne/roussanne, Lieu-Dit, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....	81
'04 Pride viognier, Sonoma.....	82
'06 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, Russian River.....	83
'02 Failla viognier, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	83
'01 Vittorio Puiatti bianca da pinot nero, Oltre, Venezia Giulia, Italy.....	83
the Puiattis honor their founder, the late Vittorio, with a trio of wood-free pinot nero; a regular red, a sparkling, and this, a white wine from pinot noir that is either a product of severe manipulation or one of those funky reverse mutation in the vineyard deals, I can never get a straight answer from Giovanni Piuatti (hey, the guy wears red pants, who can trust that?)	
'04 Guigal viognier, Condrieu, Rhône, France.....	83
'02 El Molino chardonnay, Rutherford.....	83
'06 Hirtzberger grauburgunder, smaragd, Pluris, Wachau, Austria.....	84
'01 Brogan chardonnay, Lone Redwood Ranch, Napa.....	85
'05 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Mount Carmel, Santa Rita Hills.....	85
'03 Alban roussanne, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	86
'06 Radio-Coteau chardonnay, Savoy Vineyard, Anderson Valley.....	86
our super-Somm Sean is a savvy Savoy Vineyard fan, and his favorite chardonnay treatment from there is this one	
'02 Joh Jos Christoffel riesling, auslese, Ürzinger Würzgarten Vineyard, Mosel, Germany.....	86
'02 Giaconda chardonnay/roussanne, Nantua Les Deux, Victoria, Australia.....	87
'04 Zind-Humbrecht pinot gris, Clos Jébsal, Alsace, <i>half bottle</i> .....	87

**VINO BLANCO (hey, I'm from Chicago, of course I'm long-winded)**  
***[Windy City, long-winded; the pun...er, fun never stops around here]***

'01 HdV chardonnay, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....	88
you can run, but...	
'01 Von Othegraven riesling, ungrafted vines, auslese, Kanzen, Germany.....	88
the wine salesman said "it made me laugh, it made me cry" and it made him sound like Rex Reed reviewing a movie, but he's from Chicago so we bought it anyway and, lo and behold, everybody's pretty dang happy about this riesling and its' structured, elegant flavor profile (but nobody knows what lo and behold means...must be a Windy City thing)	
***spotlight***	
'03 Littorai chardonnay, Mays Canyon, Russian River.....	88
'06 Littorai chardonnay, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	96
'00 Littorai chardonnay, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	108
'02 Littorai chardonnay, Thieriot Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	118
'01 Littorai chardonnay, Thieriot Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	128
Littorai, a favorite of the literati when they are lounging at the Louvre (or, on a less inane note, a terrific cult chard in very short supply)	
'00 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Clos de Sainte Catherine, Coteaux du Layon, Loire, France.....	88
'02 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, Alte Reben, Kamptal, Austria.....	88
'04 Kooyong chardonnay, Faultline, single vineyard selection, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, Australia.....	88
'06 Hirtzberger grüner veltliner, smaragd, Rotes Tor, Wachau, Austria.....	88
'05 DuMOL chardonnay, Russian River.....	88
'97 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	89
'99 Henschke chardonnay, 'Cranes', Eden Valley, Australia.....	89
why, yes, this is the chardonnay that Frazier and Niles prefer, how did you know?	
'95 Domaine Cauhapé petite manseng, sec, Noblesse du Temps, Jurançon, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	90
'05 L'Angevin chardonnay, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	90
'03 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....	90
'01 Josmeyer pinot auxerrois, H vieilles vignes, Alsace.....	90
MV Toro Albala pedro ximénez, viejisimo solera 1922, Electrico, dry finish old amontillado, non-fortified, Montilla-Moriles, Spain.....	90
who the hell knows where to put this on a list, it's from a white grape, so I put it here, but it sure isn't white; truly eerie stuff, made like sherry but not fortified and finished totally dry; for card-carrying wine geeks only; imagine the essence of sherry with no sugar, honed down weightwise, with an ancient madeira-like finish, or imagine falling down a rabbit hole and having a tea party for all I care; it's wild, it's jabberwocky, no refunds!	
'03 Pride viognier, Sonoma.....	92
'06 Rudi Pichler grüner veltliner, smaragd, Kollmütz Vineyard, Wösendorf, Wachau, Austria.....	92
'04 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Rancho Santa Rosa, Santa Rita Hills.....	93
'05 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Clos de Sainte Catherine, Coteaux du Layon, Loire, France.....	93
'00 El Molino chardonnay, Rutherford.....	93
'04 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Mount Carmel, Santa Rita Hills.....	95
'01 Giaconda chardonnay/roussanne, Nantua Les Deux, Victoria, Australia.....	96
don't let the swans on the label fool you, they're the only graceful thing going on with this quite rare Aussie white - it's not just huge, it's supersized! how much so? coming soon to a theatre near you, Godzilla versus Giaconda!	
'99 Schwarz zweigelt rosé, 'the Butcher', Andau, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	96

## **VINO BLANCO this list mirrors my philosophy of everything in moderation - except moderation**

- '90 Kalin chardonnay, cuvee CH, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....96
- '02 L'Angevin chardonnay, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....96
- '06 Littorai chardonnay, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....96  
don't look now, but we're only 54 short!
- '00 Josmeyer gewürztraminer, Hengst Vineyard grand cru, Alsace.....97  
maybe Josmeyer should call this Angst Vineyard for all the headaches they cause with their bizarre labelling,  
some of which is in some ancient Gaelic language even leprechauns couldn't decipher; however, the litmus test  
(or the shamrock solution, as it were) is this: what's inside the bottle is worth the effort...it's magically delicious!
- '06 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Sea Smoke Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....97
- '07 Alzinger grüner veltliner, smaragd, Steinertal Vineyard, Wachau, Austria.....99
- '02 Alban roussanne, Alban Estate Vineyard, Edna Valley.....99
- '02 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Clos de Sainte Catherine,  
Coteaux de Layon, Loire, France.....99
- '05 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Sweeney Canyon, Santa Rita Hills.....100
- '98 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....100
- '06 Chasseur chardonnay, Lorenzo Vineyard, Russian River.....100
- '00 Leeuwin Estate chardonnay, Artists Series, Margaret River, Australia.....100  
rich, robust, Leeuwin is to Kendall-Jackson as Foster's is to Bud Light; Australian for chard, mate! (but no oil can)
- '04 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, Bramare, Marchiori Vineyard, Mendoza, Argentina.....100  
Argentina chard for a c-note? never bet against the house when it belongs to Paul Hobbs! and, speaking of...
- \*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*
- '04 Walker Station chardonnay, estate, Green Valley, Russian River.....105
- '03 Walker Station chardonnay, estate, Green Valley, Russian River.....111
- '05 Walker Station chardonnay, estate, Green Valley, Russian River.....125
- '00 Walker Station chardonnay, estate, Green Valley, Russian River.....145  
another spectacular chardonnay from winemaker Paul Hobbs, who somehow convinced owner Harry Walker to send  
one case of his tiny production to Arizona annually because, in Paul's words, "it needs to be on Cowboy Ciao's list"
- '07 Henri Brunier clairette blend, Vieux Télégraphe,  
Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....105  
where most of the Pape peeps are apt to go long on the roussanne for their blancs, Brunier opts for the more unique  
blending of 40% clairette, 30% grenache blanc, 15% bourboulenc and 15% roussanne to create this nuanced gem
- '98 Marc Tempé tokay pinot gris, vendange tardive, Schoenenbourg Vineyard, Alsace.....106
- '04 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Melville Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....106
- '05 Schwarz grüner veltliner/chardonnay, Andau, Austria.....107  
who the hell is blending grüner with chard? Manfred Krankl of Sine Qua Non fame, who else?
- '05 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Sea Smoke Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....107
- '00 Littorai chardonnay, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....108
- '01 Petaluma chardonnay, Tiers, Piccadilly Valley, Australia.....108  
our pal, master sommelier Damon Ornowski, says this wine is so good it brings him to tiers
- '03 Brewer Clifton chardonnay, Ashley's Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....110  
this wine list may not give 110%, but it contains scads of great wines that do (some of which cost correspondingly)
- '03 DuMOL chardonnay, isobel, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Green Valley, Russian River.....110
- '03 DuMOL chardonnay, chloe, Ritchie Vineyard/Dutton Ranch, Russian River.....111  
in the midst of wondering why the funky spelling on this killer chard, the POS system disintegrated, the ice machine  
went down, and the mens room pipes backed up...so then the ice delivery guy comes in and asks "is this Cowboy Chaos?",  
to which I replied "DuMOL", which to me now means "damn skippy, just another glamorous day in the restaurant business"

## **VINO BLANCO "rein me in?" I thought they said "Ramey in!"**

**\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\***

- '05 Ramey chardonnay, Hudson Vineyard, Napa.....111
- '05 Ramey chardonnay, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....112
- '04 Ramey chardonnay, Hudson Vineyard, Napa.....114
- '03 Ramey chardonnay, Hudson Vineyard, Napa.....116
- '03 Ramey chardonnay, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....118
- '03 Ramey chardonnay, Ritchie Vineyard, Russian River.....120
- '02 Ramey chardonnay, Hudson Vineyard, Napa.....122
- '00 Ramey chardonnay, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....123
- '01 Ramey chardonnay, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....131
- David Ramey is a detail fanatic, continually experimenting and constantly envelope pushing, in search of the very best chardonnay California can produce; based on the consistently spectacular results he's deriving from his tremendous single vineyard sources, maybe he's already conquered California and is now closing in on everybody else in the extreme upper echelon of the global chardonnay landscape...Montrachet, here we come!
- '98 Mount Eden Vineyards chardonnay, estate, Santa Cruz Mountains.....111
- '03 Walker Station chardonnay, estate, Green Valley, Russian River.....111
- '00 Giaconda chardonnay/roussanne, Nantua Les Deux, Victoria, Australia.....111
- '01 Valentini trebbiano d'Abruzzo, Italy.....111
- Valentini is to trebbiano as Chateau Grillet is to viognier, IE either a godsend or a bizarre freak of nature, but in each case a revolutionary approach to producing wines of great depth, amazing length and entirely unique flavor profiles that often vary dramatically not only from vintage to vintage but from bottle to bottle; the '07 version of the Italian wine bible Gambero Rosso bemoans the passing of founder Edoardo Valentini, stating that his legacy is very much an important page in the history of Italian wine, yet his son Francesco has worked every harvest for the past twenty-five years and brings extremely capable grape-stained hands to the continued excellence expected for the future of this ground-breaking winery, the class of Abruzzo
- '03 Neyers chardonnay, Thieriot Vineyard, Sonoma.....111
- '77 Loiben grüner veltliner, Loibner Schütt, Wachau, Austria, *(damaged label)*.....111
- don't let the phrase 'damaged label' scare you off, we only buy from highly reliable sources; trusting the quality of this wine should be an open and Loibner Schütt case for you
- \*\*\*spotlight\*\*\***
- '07 Turley roussanne/grenache blanc/viognier, The White Coat, San Luis Obispo.....111
- '05 Turley roussanne/grenache blanc/viognier, The White Coat, San Luis Obispo.....121
- '06 Turley marsanne/roussanne/viognier, The White Coat, San Luis Obispo.....129
- '03 Turley marsanne/roussanne/viognier, The White Coat, San Luis Obispo.....142
- my very first experience with The White Coat was during an after-hours tasting at Sea Saw with Nobu and German; at one point, the three of us wine geek extremists were waxing philosophically in geek-speak, using terms like 'botrytized viognier' and 'unctuous glycerine', Nobu in his Japanese accent, German in his Argentina-tinted vocal and me in my Windy City midwest twang, and I had an out-of-body experience watching and listening to us, thinking it was so utterly surreal that an alien new to the planet would get one whiff of our action and hightail it back to Krypton (out-of-body experiences led to my other encounter with a white coat, one with lots of straps, but that's another story)
- '05 Ramey chardonnay, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....112
- '06 Zind-Humbrecht pinot gris, Clos Windsbuhl, Alsace.....112
- '04 Ramey chardonnay, Hudson Vineyard, Napa.....114
- '05 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, Ulises Valdez Vineyard, Russian River.....115
- '03 Ramey chardonnay, Hudson Vineyard, Napa.....116
- '06 Nikolaihof grüner veltliner, smaragd, Im Weingebirge, Wachau, Austria.....117
- '02 Littorai chardonnay, Thieriot Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....118

## **VINO BLANCO (question: if I'm not feeling particularly friendly, does that make this anti-social commentary?)**

'03 Ramey chardonnay, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....	118
'04 Zind-Humbrecht riesling, Clos Windsbuhl, Alsace, <i>half bottle</i> .....	119
'04 Tablas Creek rhone blanc blend, estate, vin de paille, Paso Robles, <i>half bottle</i> .....	120
'07 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, Käferberg, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....	120
'03 Ramey chardonnay, Ritchie Vineyard, Russian River.....	120
<i>more like Richie Rich Vineyard, it's got way too much of everything to be for real (Pamela Anderson Vineyard?)</i>	
'05 Kracher zweigelt, rosé, #1, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	121
'05 Turley marsanne/roussanne/viognier, The White Coat, San Luis Obispo.....	121
'02 Ramey chardonnay, Hudson Vineyard, Napa.....	122
'06 Zind-Humbrecht gewürztraminer, Clos Windsbuhl, Alsace.....	122
'00 Ramey chardonnay, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....	123
'89 Kuentz-Bas riesling, vendange tardive, cuvée Caroline reserve, Alsace, <i>half bottle</i> .....	124
'05 Walker Station chardonnay, estate, Green Valley, Russian River.....	125
'00 Alban viognier, TBA, Costello, Edna Valley, <i>half bottle</i> .....	125
<i>Lou Costello may have 'borrowed' his act from Curly Howard of the Three Stooges, but John Alban is 100% original</i>	
'00 Williams Selyem chardonnay, Ferrington/Flax Vineyards, North Coast.....	125
*** <i>spotlight</i> ***	
'06 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....	125
'05 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, cuvee Agustina, Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....	175
'04 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, cuvee Agustina, Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....	190
'03 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, cuvee Agustina, Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....	200
'02 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, cuvee Agustina, Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....	210
'98 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, cuvee Agustina, Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....	226
<i>Paul Hobbs' favorite chardonnay spot, the Dinner Vineyard used to be a sheep ranch, but the wildly overgrown local population of coyotes and wildcats convinced the owners that grapes might be the way to go; best barrel every year gets bottled with the cuvee Agustina designation, and for all you day drinkers out there (we know who we are), just cause it says Dinner Vineyard is no reason not to pop one at lunch, or brunch, or hair of the coyote — er, dog</i>	
'99 Miura chardonnay, Talley Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley.....	125
'02 Kracher muskat ottonel, #4, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	125
'07 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, Ried Lamm, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....	125
'01 M Chapoutier marsanne, Chante Alouette, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	126
'01 Littorai chardonnay, Thieriot Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	128
'06 Sine Qua Non grenache blend, rosé, Autrement Dit, Central Coast.....	129
'06 Turley marsanne/roussanne/viognier, The White Coat, San Luis Obispo.....	129
'02 Jean-Noël Gagnard chardonnay, Clos de la Maltroie, Chassagne Montrachet, France....	130
'01 Ramey chardonnay, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....	131
'06 Peter Michael chardonnay, Belle Côte, Sonoma.....	131
<i>so, if in the interest of research on terroir, if you were to buy the Chassagne Montrachet from Gagnard to taste against the chards from David Ramey &amp; Peter Michael, we promise not to object...we make no such guarantees about the sudden presence of extra glassware in the mix and various arcane 'House Sommelier Rights' coming to light</i>	
'04 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, auslese, Loiser Berg, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....	133

## **VINO BLANCO (Rumplestiltskin would have won that bet had he changed his name to Trockenbeerenauslese)**

- '01 Kracher muskat ottonel, #2, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....135
- '06 Zind-Humbrecht pinot gris, Clos Saint Urban, Rangen grand cru, Alsace.....135
- '93 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....135
- '02 de Ladoucette sauvignon blanc, Baron de L, Pouilly Fumé, Loire, France.....135  
one of our first Ciao regulars is a devout francophile who swears by this whenever he sits in the Wayne Newton booth  
(don't ask); quite dense, amazing aromatics, bursting with tangy acidity and loaded with gritty terroir and specificity
- '06 Arietta sauvignon blanc/semillon, White Keys, Sonoma Mountain/Carneros.....135
- '01 Betts & Scholl roussanne/marsanne, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....135  
Richard Betts is a helluva Sommelier, so he knows the importance of starting a wine with the best raw materials and  
working with the best team possible to take the raw materials to finished product, and, in both arenas, it doesn't  
get much grander than the vineyards and winemaking skill of Hermitage master craftsman Jean-Louis Chave
- '99 Schwarz grüner veltliner/chardonnay, Andau, Austria.....137  
from the one-good-turn-deserves-an-explanation department: I turned Doug Brockert, wine salesman extraordinaire,  
on to this supernatural one-of-a-kind Kracher/Krankl collaboration white, and he sent me a dozen really sharp knives,  
ostensibly to work on my new career with the circus (say, can you put this apple on your head and stand over there?)
- '97 Kracher bouvier, #2, beerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....137
- '00 Giaconda chardonnay, Victoria, Australia.....137
- '90 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....140
- '05 Kracher scheurebe, #9, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....140
- '01 Alban viognier, TBA, Rotten Luck, Edna Valley, *half bottle*.....140  
actually, rotten luck would be you passing this up if you're a fan of scintillating, unctuous botrytized viognier
- '04 Peter Michael chardonnay, Belle Côte, Sonoma.....141
- '03 Turley marsanne/roussanne/viognier, The White Coat, San Luis Obispo.....142  
Belle Côte, White Coat, Goldberg, Iceberg, what's the difference? (does anyone else miss Rodney Dangerfield?)
- '90 Nikolaihof riesling, biodynamic, Vinothek, Wachau, Austria.....142
- '82 Salomon riesling, Pfaffenberg, Kremstal, Austria.....144  
folks tend to forget that riesling is an original member of the 'Great Grape' club, and as such can age into a full-blown  
multi-layered, memorably dynamic visceral experience — these 'library wines' are my idea of curling up with a good book
- \*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*
- '02 Chartron et Trébuchet chardonnay, Les Morgeots, Chassagne-Montrachet, France.....144
- '00 Chartron et Trébuchet chardonnay, monopole, Clos de Chevaliers,  
Chevalier-Montrachet grand cru, France.....288
- '02 Chartron et Trébuchet chardonnay, Bâtard-Montrachet grand cru, France.....300
- '02 Chartron et Trébuchet chardonnay, monopole, Clos de Chevaliers,  
Chevalier-Montrachet grand cru, France.....360
- '00 Chartron et Trébuchet chardonnay, Montrachet grand cru, France.....500  
in the early days of Kazimierz world wine bar, the esteemed Monsieur Trébuchet joined us at one of the trade gatherings  
we frequently host in the Round Room, and we've been enthralled with his broad range of white Burgundies ever since;  
the house style leans toward subtlety, with aromatics and flavors unfolding like the dense plot of a Michael Connelly novel
- '00 Bründlmayer grüner veltliner, trockenbeerenauslese,  
Loiser Berg, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria, *half bottle*.....144
- '06 Kongsgaard viognier/roussanne, VioRous, Napa.....145
- '00 Walker Station chardonnay, estate, Green Valley, Russian River.....145

**VINO BLANCO**     **sure, the list is out of control, but in a world where young teens go from Hello Kitty to "hello, sailor" at the drop of a thong, this list is the least of your problems**

- '01 Kracher welschriesling, #5, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....145
- '01 Giaconda roussanne, Aeolia, Victoria, Australia.....146
- '02 Giaconda roussanne, Aeolia, Victoria, Australia.....147  
if you're reading this list at all, you've probably figured out that we like our underappreciated white rhone varietals and our underground producers more than most (and you've probably figured out I'm three editors short of a manuscript);  
Giaconda fits both bills, and their roussannes are Australian marvels of tremendous size and outrageous complexity
- '05 Peter Michael chardonnay, Mon Plaisir, Sonoma.....148
- '02 Kracher scheurebe, #10, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....148
- '07 Sine Qua Non syrah/grenache, rosé, Stripes & Stars, Central Coast.....149
- '03 Brick House chardonnay, organic, Cascadia, Willamette, Oregon, *double bottle*.....149  
I never met legendary Chicago Cub broadcaster Jack Brickhouse, but I did work for larger-than-life Cub Fan/Bud Man Harry Caray, and with Harry, every day was an adventure and every night was a party; one weekend, he sat at the bar on Friday and argued pro-DH, then on Saturday, he sat next to a different guy and argued against it, and who knows what he believed in, Harry just liked to stir things up; he never really learned my name, he always just called me 'Coach', but if a pretty girl walked in, he knew her name, address, measurements and life's ambition before she even sat down; even though this wine is a real 'brick house', you'll say "Holy Cow" when you drink it...cheers, Harry, let's play two
- '07 Hiedler weissburgunder, Maximum, Kamptal, Austria, *double bottle*.....150
- '03 Kongsgaard viognier/roussanne, Napa.....150
- '89 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....150
- '00 Kracher traminer, #1, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....150
- '02 Kracher chardonnay, #9, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....155
- '99 Williams Selyem chardonnay, Hawk Hill Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....155
- '00 Schwarz grüner veltliner/chardonnay, Andau, Austria.....156
- '98 Zind-Humbrecht gewürztraminer, Clos Windsbuhl, Alsace.....159  
Clos Windsbuhl is usually the raciest, most forward cru for Z-H (all it's missing is the fishnets and stiletto heels)
- '03 Peter Michael chardonnay, Mon Plaisir, Sonoma.....159
- '06 Zind-Humbrecht riesling, Clos Saint Urban, Rangen grand cru, Alsace.....160
- \*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*
- '03 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....165
- '95 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....280
- '94 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....290
- '99 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....300
- '91 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....325
- '03 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne, vielle vignes reserve,  
Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....450
- '00 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne, vielle vignes reserve,  
Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....575
- the Perrin family are masters of all things CDP, from chateauneuf-du-pape-like blends at their Paso Robles property Tablas Creek to their value-priced Perrin line from Rhône to the reds from Chateau Beaucastel, but the Beaucastel CdP blancs are where they separate the men from the mannequins...these roussannes set the standard for just about everything roussanne can possibly be; tactile textures, marvelous minerality, phenomenal fruit, amazing ageability, captivating complexity, extravagant exotica, the essence of where wine can go from beverage to breathtaking

**VINO BLANCO (for all of you under the mistaken impression that producing a wine list such as this is all fun and games, let me assure you, when it comes to drinking games, there are no moral victories)**

- '01 DuMOL chardonnay, Russian River, *double bottle*.....165
- '02 Kracher welschriesling, #11, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....165
- '01 Chateau Grillet viognier, Grillet, Rhône, France.....165  
the only winery in all of France with it's own appellation, Grillet is known for wild inconsistencies, not just from vintage to vintage but from bottle to bottle so the range goes from "geez, amazing stuff" to "hmmm, that's, um, interesting"
- '03 Clos Mimi blanc de noirs, Etiquette Rosé, late harvest, Paso Robles.....165  
AKA Freak of Nature, as an extended discussion with winemaker Tim Spear about this one-of-a-kind blush syrah proved only that he is as confused by it as I am (for his notes on it's genesis, log onto [closmimi.com](http://closmimi.com)); somehow, even though it was picked at ultra-high sugars, it fermented out dry and achieved 19% alcohol! Yowza!
- '01 Giaconda chardonnay, Victoria, Australia.....166
- '02 Kongsgaard roussanne/viognier, Napa.....168  
this massive, majestic offering signals that John Kongsgaard is ready to face Manfred Krankl of Sine Qua Non mano-a-mano for the California white rhone ranger title, heavyweight division (winner gets a grape-stained tool belt)
- \*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*
- '06 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....170
- '03 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....180
- '01 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....190
- '00 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....200
- '98 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....215
- '96 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....235
- '95 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....245  
wow, wow, a thousand times wow (or, in this case, one hundred seventy to two hundred forty-five times wow); you legions of chardonnay drinkers who don't understand all the fuss about viognier, these phenomenally complex single vineyard superstar viogniers from Guigal are an education in a bottle (isn't that a Jim Croce song?)
- '99 Williams Selyem chardonnay, Hirsch Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....175
- '05 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, cuvee Agustina,  
Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....175  
every year, Paul Hobbs takes his single finest quality barrel and bottles it individually in tribute to his daughter Agustina; always less than 100 cases, always more than amazing, proof that daughters really are special (as if proof was needed)
- '03 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....180
- \*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*
- '99 M Chapoutier marsanne, Les Granits, Saint-Joseph, Rhône, France.....180
- '97 M Chapoutier marsanne, De L'Orée, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....325
- '99 M Chapoutier marsanne, De L'Orée, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....367
- '99 M Chapoutier marsanne, Le Meal, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....600
- '99 M Chapoutier marsanne, L'Ermitage, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....625  
the finest white wines on the entire planet could very well be the astonishing single vineyard marsannes from Chapoutier; the '99s are across-the-board paragons of unctuous complexity, capable of making a grand cru white burgundy seem as thin as Lara Flynn Boyle (Jack Nicholson ex-squeeze); massive, packed with minerals, citrus fruits & a boatload of trippy aromas that change constantly, with finishes longer than a line of Jack Nicholson's former flames (and that's a long line!)

## **VINO BLANCO (can a vegetarian truly have a beef with you?)**

- '96 Kracher bouvier/muskat ottonel, #2, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....180  
of all the magnificent dessert wines from Alois Kracher, the muskat ottonel is the winner of most aromatic, nose down;  
the menagerie of scents leap from the glass like a poltergeist on a roller coaster, sort of a thrill ride for the sinuses
- '93 Jean-Noël Gagnard chardonnay, Morgeot, Chassagne Montrachet, France.....184
- '97 Domaine des Comtes Lafon chardonnay, Meursault-Charmes, France.....184  
white wines from as far back as '97 and '93 might seem scary, but when we're talking about distinguished producers  
the likes of Gagnard and Comtes Lafon, the only thing to fear is fear itself, these wines have aged magnificently  
(OK, maybe fear the whole belly shirt thing, too; if your belly hangs over your belt, it's really not a good look for you)
- '01 Kracher chardonnay, #7, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....184
- '00 F X Pichler grüner veltliner, smaragd, 'M', Wachau, Austria.....190
- '01 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....190
- '04 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, cuvee Agustina,  
Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....190
- '99 Zind-Humbrecht gewürztraminer, Clos Saint Urbain, Rangen grand cru, Alsace.....195
- '04 Raveneau chardonnay, Valmur grand cru, Chablis, France.....195
- '02 Kracher scheurebe/welschriesling, #12, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen,  
Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, *half bottle*.....195
- \*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*
- '05 Kongsgaard chardonnay, Napa.....195
- '04 Kongsgaard chardonnay, Napa.....196
- '02 Kongsgaard chardonnay, Napa.....197
- '01 Kongsgaard chardonnay, Napa.....198
- '03 Kongsgaard chardonnay, Napa.....199
- '00 Kongsgaard chardonnay, Napa.....225
- '99 Kongsgaard chardonnay, Napa.....250
- '05 Kongsgaard chardonnay, the Judge, Kongsgaard Family Vineyard, Napa.....335
- '04 Kongsgaard chardonnay, the Judge, Kongsgaard Family Vineyard, Napa.....350
- '03 Kongsgaard chardonnay, the Judge, Kongsgaard Family Vineyard, Napa.....450  
Kongsgaard practices a genuinely unique and controversial winemaking technique he calls 'death and resurrection',  
and the specifics of exactly how and why it works are way beyond my limited mental capacity to actually grasp  
(when it comes to death and resurrection, most of my brain cells are closer to the former than the latter);  
suffice to say, when it comes to choosing 'the best' of the myriad of grandiose chardonnays on this list,  
it is much like comparing apples and oranges (and mangos and smoke and tamarind and slate, etc, etc);  
if you chose a Kongsgaard chardonnay as numero uno, you could very well be correctamundo
- '97 Mount Eden Vineyards chardonnay, 25th Anniversary, estate, Santa Cruz Mountains....200
- '97 Sonoma-Cutrer chardonnay, Founder's reserve, Sonoma, *double bottle*.....200  
can California chardonnay age? lowering the risk factor is a fantastic vintage (1997), as well as reserve bottlings culled  
from best barrel selections, the first from a winery revered for age-worthy chards, the second in slower-aging magnum
- '00 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....200
- '03 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, cuvee Agustina,  
Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....200
- '03 Wittman albalonga, trockenbeerenauslese, Rheinhessen, Germany, *half bottle*.....203  
albalonga, a masterful crossing of rieslaner and silvaner, is so rare there are less than 75 acres plated worldwide;  
importer Terry Thiese recognizes Günter Wittman as the first and last name in albalonga (apologies to Oscar Meyer)  
and states in his 2004 catalog that "Wittman stickies over the years have been celestial, and this 2003 takes its  
place among the very best" (German and Austrian wines are never more fun than in Thiese's esoteric catalog rants)

**VINO BLANCO (when does enough become too much ?  
about ten pages back – and you aren't  
even done with the white wines yet!)**

'01 Kracher scheurebe, #9, trockenbeerenauslese, Zwischen Den Seen, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	205
'02 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, cuvee Agustina, Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....	210
'90 Chateau Suduirat semillon blend, Sauternes, France.....	211
'00 Les Vin de Vienne viognier, botrytis, Cépées Caties, Condrieu, France, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> ..	212
'02 François Mikulski chardonnay, Les Genevrières, Meursault, France.....	214
is it just me, or does François Mikulski sound like the name of a killer global punk band? tell you what, whether it's typical of the producer or the power of the '02 vintage in Burgundy, this chard really fits the punk rock bill with its in-your-face intensity, multiple piercings steeliness, heavy ink on the body, and general all-around bad boy rowdiness (by the way, the standard answer around the Stetson compound is "yes, it's just you, you quack, leave us alone!")	
'98 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....	215
'91 Nikolaihof grüner veltliner, biodynamic, Vinothek, Wachau, Austria.....	219
'00 Maculan vespaiola blend, Acinoboli, Veneto, Italy, <i>half bottle</i> .....	220
this blend of vespaiola, tocai and garganega was affected by 'noble rot' and harvested by the individual grape, yielding a powerful, concentrated, opulent wine that's like creme brulee in a glass; exquisite dessert wine	
'04 Rochioli chardonnay, South River Vineyard, Russian River.....	220
'03 Guigal viognier, late harvest, Luminescence, Condrieu, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	222
'97 Domaine Delarche chardonnay, reserve, Corton Charlemagne grand cru, France.....	225
'98 Kracher traminer, #8, trockenbeerenauslese, Nouvelle Vague, Lake Neusiedl, Weinlaubenhof, Burgenland, Austria, <i>half bottle</i> .....	225
'00 Kongsgaard chardonnay, Napa.....	225
'98 Paul Hobbs chardonnay, cuvee Agustina, Richard Dinner Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....	226
'94 Bürklin-Wolf riesling, trockenbeerenauslese, Wachenheim, Germany, <i>half bottle</i> .....	233
charm will get you far, but stupendously sexy stickies will get you farther (my way of saying I liked the wine so much, I bought it even though the winery owner was oilier than a visit to the neighborhood massage parlor) (or so I've heard)	
'96 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....	235
'99 Les Vin de Vienne viognier, botrytis, Cépées Caties, Condrieu, France, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	242
'71 Domaine des Baumard chenin blanc, Quarts de Chaume, Loire, France.....	240
'95 Guigal viognier, La Doriane Vineyard, Condrieu, France.....	245
'05 La Pousse d'Or chardonnay, Le Cailleret, Puligny-Montrachet, France.....	250
'99 Kongsgaard chardonnay, Napa.....	250
'01 Gravner white blend, Bianco Breg, Friuli, Italy.....	255
'01 Gravner ribolla gialla, Friuli, Italy.....	262
Josko Gravner is marching to the tune of his own lunatic, making biodynamic wines utilizing the ancient Roman technique of burying wine in giant clay amphorae in the earth, imbueing said wine with an absolute minerality and alkalinity, as if the wine had a direct electrical current from the ground itself still attached (Gravner says "you find your identity in the soil and what it says about you"); these wines are the color of fino sherry, rife with acidity, concentrated and profound, lacking in fruitiness but not freshness, showing differing chameleon layers from taste to taste that saunter up to food (apparently, any food) and show whatever colors necessary to enhance the experience (speaking of colors, some may balk at the caramel hue, but, as Gravner says, "the color of a wine is like the color of a man; what matters is underneath")	
'01 Mr K gewürztraminer, ice wine, Babcock Vineyard, Santa Ynez, <i>half bottle</i> .....	264
'02 Mr K viognier, trockenbeerenauslese, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley, <i>half bottle</i> .....	269

**VINO BLANCO (pirate ship, my gold doubloons –  
welcome to the real treasure hunt)**

'00 Mr K viognier, trockenbeerenauslese, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley, <i>half bottle</i> .....	275
'95 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	280
'97 Dal Forno garganega/turbiana, passito, Nettare, Vigneto di Monte Lodoletto, Veneto, Italy, <i>half bottle</i> .....	280
<p>Romano Dal Forno is known wine-world-wide for his majestic Valpolicellas and massive Amarone bottlings, but on the rare occasions he deigns to channel his energies into sweet whites with indigenous Veneto varietals, the resultant recioto/vin santo hybrid he dubs 'Nettare' is a nectar that'll shock honeybees and oenophiles alike</p>	
'00 Mr K semillon, vin de paille, Brander Vineyard, Santa Ynez, <i>half bottle</i> .....	284
'00 Chartron et Trébuchet chardonnay, monopole, Clos de Chevaliers, Chevalier-Montrachet grand cru, France.....	288
'94 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	290
'98 Mr K semillon, Brander Vineyard, vin de paille, Santa Ynez, <i>half bottle</i> .....	294
'02 Maison Jean Marc Boillot chardonnay, Bâtard-Montrachet grand cru, France.....	295
'98 Mr K viognier, trockenbeerenauslese, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley, <i>half bottle</i> .....	295
'98 M Chapoutier marsanne, vin de paille, Ermitage, Rhône, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	295
'02 Mr K semillon, vin de paille, Brander Vineyard, Santa Ynez, <i>half bottle</i> .....	299
'99 Mr K semillon, vin de paille, Brander Vineyard, Santa Ynez, <i>half bottle</i> .....	300
'02 Chartron et Trébuchet chardonnay, Bâtard-Montrachet grand cru, France.....	300
'99 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	300
'99 Mr K viognier, trockenbeerenauslese, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley, <i>half bottle</i> .....	301
'02 Sine Qua Non roussanne/viognier/chardonnay, Whisperin' E, Alban Vineyard /Stolpman Vineyard, Central Coast.....	310
<p>Manfred Krankl has been lauded and praised beyond us mere mortals for his mind-bending Sine Qua Non wines, yet I've never met anyone who's actually seen him; hey, come to think of it, you never really see Bob Dylan and Tom Petty in the same room, yet they sound suspiciously similar (and, for that matter, so does Bullwinkle Moose); tell me, is it all a conspiracy or am I just a wee bit too anxious for the new X-Files film to be released?</p>	
'97 M Chapoutier marsanne, De L'Orée, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	325
'91 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	325
'04 Pax viognier, Aphrodite, Las Escaleras Hillside, Spring Mountain.....	333
'05 Kongsgaard chardonnay, the Judge, Kongsgaard Family Vineyard, Napa.....	335
'04 Kongsgaard chardonnay, the Judge, Kongsgaard Family Vineyard, Napa.....	350
'03 Sine Qua Non chardonnay/roussanne/viognier, Sublime Isolation, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	350
<p>oh, if only – I'd settle for lime isolation at this point</p>	
'02 Chartron et Trébuchet chardonnay, monopole, Clos de Chevaliers, Chevalier-Montrachet grand cru, France.....	360
'99 M Chapoutier marsanne, De L'Orée, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	367
'97 Verget chardonnay, Les Charmes premier cru, Meursault, France.....	399
'03 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne, vielle vignes reserve, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	450
'03 Kongsgaard chardonnay, the Judge, Kongsgaard Family Vineyard, Napa.....	450
'04 Sine Qua Non roussanne/viognier/chardonnay, the Rejuvenators, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	475
'03 Guigal marsanne/roussanne, Ex Voto, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	475
'05 Guigal marsanne/roussanne, Ex Voto, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	500
'00 Chartron et Trébuchet chardonnay, Montrachet grand cru, France.....	500

# **VINO BLANCO gift of gab? no, more like foot-in-mouth disease**

**\*\*\*spotlight \*\*\***

'94 Chateau d'Yquem semillon blend, Sauternes, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	500
'95 Chateau d'Yquem semillon blend, Sauternes, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	600
'89 Chateau d'Yquem semillon blend, Sauternes, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	675
'01 Chateau d'Yquem semillon blend, Sauternes, France.....	1950
'75 Chateau d'Yquem semillon blend, Sauternes, France.....	2600

for a town that supposedly doesn't care for sweet wine, you people are sure flying through the d'Yquem  
(then again, if this is the West's most Western town, you can saddle me up a pinto and call me Walter Brennan)  
(although I am starting to walk like him) (no brag, just fact)

'97 Sine Qua Non roussanne/chardonnay, Twisted & Bent, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	500
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**MULTIPLE CHOICE:** Twisted and Bent is

- A) my life story
- B) my basketball/softball/volleyball & wine room-gnarled fingers
- C) this wine list
- D) all of the above

'00 Chateau de Beaucastel roussanne, vieille vignes reserve, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	575
'01 Guigal marsanne/roussanne, Ex Voto, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	575
'99 M Chapoutier marsanne, Le Meal, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	600
actually, this is much larger than a meal, it's more like an all-day gorge fest	
'95 Chateau d'Yquem semillon blend, Sauternes, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	600
'99 M Chapoutier marsanne, L'Ermitage, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	625
'89 Chateau d'Yquem semillon blend, Sauternes, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	675

**\*\*\*spotlight \*\*\***

'97 Marcassin chardonnay, E Block, Hudson Vineyard, Carneros.....	675
'97 Marcassin chardonnay, Lorenzo Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	700
'99 Marcassin chardonnay, Upper Barn Vineyard, Alexander Mountain, Alexander Valley..	800
'00 Marcassin chardonnay, Marcassin Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	875
'01 Marcassin chardonnay, Marcassin Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	950

Helen Turley is America's 'Goddess of Wine', having performed countless miracles as a consultant at a laundry list of California's most respected properties, including Turley Cellars (owned by brother Larry), Colgin, Pahlmeyer, Bryant Family and Martinelli, to name a few; Marcassin is her own tiny boutique where the focus is entirely on chardonnay and pinot noir, and she never fails to entice roller-coaster thrills, producing age-worthy white nectars comparable to the finest Montrachet and insanely complex reds that always hit 'La Tache'

'02 Camille Giroud chardonnay, Montrachet grand cru, France.....	745
'04 Pax roussanne, Venus, Bennett Valley.....	785
I see London, I see France, I see Venus when I drink Pax	

'99 Marcassin chardonnay, Upper Barn Vineyard, Alexander Mountain, Alexander Valley..	800
'00 Marcassin chardonnay, Marcassin Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	875
'03 Ramonet chardonnay, Bâtard-Montrachet grand cru, France.....	900
'01 Marcassin chardonnay, Marcassin Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	950
'79 Joseph Drouhin chardonnay, Marquis de Laguiche, Montrachet grand cru, France.....	1400
on the rare occasions he wasn't knocking back Nikolaskas, this was Sasha Veraschagin's favorite adult beverage (Sasha was one of my first mentors: he was adamant about quality and creativity, and a big reason for this big list)	
'01 Chateau d'Yquem semillon blend, Sauternes, France.....	1950
'75 Chateau d'Yquem semillon blend, Sauternes, France.....	2600



**is a proud multiple recipient (1997 - 2000) of the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence and Best of Award of Excellence (2001 - 2009); we were the first in AZ to win during the inaugural year, as well as the first in AZ to win every year, and is one of a mere handful of places across the entire globe to be so honored; perhaps more importantly, the National Restaurant Association Award for Most Innovative Wine List in America just hit our desk (and it's shiny!) now, as cool as that is, what's really exciting is that a guy just came in with a copy of our wine list that he received as a holiday present... my guess is, either someone else has a quirky sense of humor like us (and I'm being really polite with the use of the term quirky) or they just ran out of coal and big stockings**

**VINO BLANCO/ROJO/MAS (just play along, it's only a wine list)**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

'99 Mr K viognier, trockenbeerenauslese, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley, *half bottle*.....301  
 '99 Mr K semillon, vin de paille, Brander Vineyard, Santa Ynez, *half bottle*.....300  
 '02 Mr K semillon, vin de paille, Brander Vineyard, Santa Ynez, *half bottle*.....299  
 '98 Mr K viognier, trockenbeerenauslese, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley, *half bottle*.....295  
 '98 Mr K semillon, vin de paille, Brander Vineyard, Santa Ynez, *half bottle*.....294  
 '00 Mr K semillon, vin de paille, Brander Vineyard, Santa Ynez, *half bottle*.....284  
 '00 Mr K viognier, trockenbeerenauslese, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley, *half bottle*.....275  
 '02 Mr K viognier, trockenbeerenauslese, Alban Vineyard, Edna Valley, *half bottle*.....269  
 '01 Mr K gewürztraminer, ice wine, Babcock Vineyard, Santa Ynez, *half bottle*.....264  
 '00 Schwarz zweigelt, unfiltered, Andau, Austria.....202  
 '99 Schwarz zweigelt, unfiltered, Andau, Austria.....172  
 '00 Schwarz grüner veltliner/chardonnay, Andau, Austria.....156  
 '99 Schwarz grüner veltliner/chardonnay, Andau, Austria.....137  
 '05 Schwarz grüner veltliner/chardonnay, Andau, Austria.....107  
 '99 Schwarz zweigelt rosé, 'the Butcher', Andau, Austria, *half bottle*.....96  
 '06 Schwarz zweigelt blend, A Lita, Andau, Austria.....90  
 '06 Schwarz grüner veltliner blend, A Lita, Andau, Austria.....75

long ago and far away, I asked the original Mr K (Kazimierz, the inspiration behind the Kazbar) why he started his own business and he replied "because I got really tired of having some dumb ass tell me what to do all day long; I figured if I was gonna mess up, it may as well be for myself, at least I could do things my own way; get me a beer" (hallelujah, brother, or in this instance, father)... in my case, it has allowed me the same freedoms, particularly with this wine list, which is why I've taken our already inventive format of arranging by color and price, with occasional spotlights, and turned it upside down (and included red and rose) for this grouping, and not just because I can, but because it's warranted due to the extremely special nature of these wines...the joint project winemakers here are the legendary Alois Kracher (the king of dessert wines) and eccentric Manfred Krankl (the prodigy behind Sine Qua Non); first, they teamed up in the Sine Qua Non 'winery' (Manfred's garage) to create some truly mind-boggling sweetsies, then they converged to make wines from a special lot of superb grapes grown by Hans Schwarz, Alois' butcher (Kaz would have said "to hell with the grapes, just get me some pigs feet from that guy, and where's my beer?")

**VINO ROJO**

'04 Penfolds shiraz/cabernet, Koonunga Hill, Australia, <i>half bottle</i> .....	9
'02 Ramos Pinto touriga francesca blend, Duas Quintas, Portugal.....	13
'03 Chateau Karnobat cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Bulgaria.....	13
'03 Cline red blend, old vines, Oakley.....	14
in this instance, red blend refers to every red rhone varietal known to man with the addition of alicante bouschet; useless trivia fact #11) alicante bouschet is 1 of the 3 grapes that squeeze out red juice (get me to a game show, already!)	
'07 Carro monastrell blend, Yecla, Spain.....	15
'06 J Lohr valdiguié, Wildflower, Monterey.....	15
valdiguié used to sell like wildflower...er, wildfire when it was incorrectly identified as 'napa gamay'	
'00 Chateau Slayantsi merlot, Bulgaria.....	15
'04 Long Neck shiraz, Southwestern Cape, South Africa.....	16
'04 Cave Kouroum cinsault/grenache, Kefraya Village, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon.....	16
the first of a veritable roomful of grenache and grenache-based blends found on this ever-growing eclectic list (actually, it's more like half a room...Sean says if I keep this up and add a cab franc room, he's having me committed; nice to have crew that believes in the vision); not only is grenache becoming a much more interesting varietal, capable of providing a wide range of styles from soft and fruity to large and gutsy, it typically retains a food-friendly profile, making it the smart pick to accent many of our dishes (plus, it rhymes with panache, how can you go wrong?)	
'05 Aberdeen Wine Co cabernet sauvignon, Angus the Bull, Southeastern Australia, <i>half bottle</i> .....	16
'05 Fairview mourvèdre blend, 'Goats Do Roam', Paarl Valley, South Africa.....	17
Angus the Bull? Goats Do Roam? it's a jungle in here!	
'08 Budini malbec, Mendoza, Argentina.....	17
'03 Heron merlot, St Chinian, Languedoc-Roussillon, France.....	17
petite winemaker Laely Heron lives in San Francisco ("drop in...we'll go clubbing!") but will go anywhere to find sources of quality grapes to make soft, balanced, food-friendly wines that everyone can afford	
'05 Colonia bonarda, Las Liebres, Mendoza, Argentina.....	17
'04 Dingac plavic, Pelješac Peninsula, Croatia.....	17
no, you won't find a lot of lists featuring bonarda and plavic, or great wine for 17 clams, but by rights, you should	
'04 China Silk ju feng noir blend, Marco Polo, Xinjiang, China.....	17
'07 Covey Run cabernet/merlot, Woodinville, Washington.....	17
*** <i>spotlight</i> ***	
'06 M Chapoutier grenache blend, Belleruche, Côtes du Rhône, France.....	18
'06 Terlato & Chapoutier shiraz/viognier, Victoria, Australia.....	34
'06 Terlato & Chapoutier shiraz, Malakoff Vineyard, Pyrenees Mountains, Australia.....	58
'99 M Chapoutier grenache blend, Croix de Bois, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	126
'98 M Chapoutier cabernet/syrah/grenache, Domaine des Béates, Terra d'Or, Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence, France.....	151
'98 M Chapoutier syrah, La Sizeranne, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	155
'00 M Chapoutier syrah, Le Pavillon, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	378
'99 M Chapoutier syrah, Le Méal, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	424
'99 M Chapoutier syrah, Le Pavillon, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	448
'01 M Chapoutier syrah, La Mordorée, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	500
white rhone varietals, red rhone varietals, Australia, Provence, whatever, wherever, Chapoutier's got it all knocked; as if their currant dominance wasn't enough, now they're teaming with American wine magnate/importer supreme Tony Terlato to visit new vistas, hail new horizons, essentially setting newer, higher standards for the wine world (plus, if you're one of those who on occasion imbibe until blind, and we all know who we are, most labels are in Braille)	

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'06 Guigal grenache blend, Côtes du Rhône, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	18
'05 Guigal grenache blend, Côtes du Rhône, France.....	24
'03 Guigal grenache blend, Gigondas, Rhône, France.....	67
'02 Guigal syrah, Chateau d'Ampuis, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	110
'04 Guigal syrah, vignes de l'Hospice, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....	145
'01 Guigal syrah, vignes de l'Hospice, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....	152
'03 Guigal syrah, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	179
'03 Guigal syrah, vignes de l'Hospice, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....	185
'00 Guigal syrah, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	211
'01 Guigal syrah, Chateau d'Ampuis, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	256
'00 Guigal syrah, Chateau d'Ampuis, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	266
'99 Guigal syrah, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	279
'98 Guigal syrah, Chateau d'Ampuis, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	326
'01 Guigal syrah, Ex Voto, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	650
'97 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	825
'03 Guigal syrah, Ex Voto, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	850
'97 Guigal syrah blend, La Turquie, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	875
'92 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	900
'03 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	950
'03 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	965
'03 Guigal syrah blend, La Turquie, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	975
'96 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1000
'96 Guigal syrah blend, La Turquie, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1100
'01 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1150
'01 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1165
'01 Guigal syrah blend, La Turquie, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1175
'00 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1195
'00 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1200
'00 Guigal syrah blend, La Turquie, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1250
'99 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1275
'99 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1300
'99 Guigal syrah blend, La Turquie, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1325
'98 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1350
'98 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1365
'91 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1475
'86 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1600
'89 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1800
'80 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	2250
'79 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	2450

Guigal is to Rhône as Dennis Miller was to Monday Night Football, IE a reason to watch it again...Guigal was almost singlehandedly behind the rebirth in interest in Rhône and it's varietals; we carry a plethora of his whites (including some spectacular viogniers) as well as these stupendous reds, which range from lower-end village wines to extremely rare (and expensive) single vineyard bottlings, and they all help explain why he's the man (though, in retrospect, the top former Saturday Night Live newsmen for the gig was probably Norm MacDonald) (and yet, it could have been worse - Jimmy Fallon, anyone?)

**VINO ROJO (wine rule #2: see wine rule #1)**

'04 Finca El Portillo merlot, Mendoza, Argentina.....	18
'01 Mets Syunik areni, Patmakan, Ararat, Armenia.....	18
this ain't your Old Man's Mets (unless your Old Man is actually originally from Ararat, Armenia, in which case this may not only be your Old Man's Mets, his Knickerbockers could be completely different, as well)	
'04 Castello di Monastero sangiovese, Tuscany, Italy.....	18
NV Stone's ginger currant wine, London, UK.....	18
'04 Boutari agiorgitico, Nemea, Greece.....	18
full bodied and assertive, just consider agiorgitico to be your big, fat Greek grape	
'04 Selby zinfandel, Monkey Business, Sonoma.....	19
Sue Selby, prettiest winemaker in California, thanks to this new terrific zin, you are officially the gor-illa my dreams	
'03 Hahn Estates syrah, Central Coast.....	19
given the significant improvements instituted at Hahn since the addition of quasi-lunatic winemaker Adam Lazarre, the wines have seen leaps and bounds of quality jumps without price increases...basically, we're giving this away	
'07 Row Eleven pinot noir, Vinas 3, California, <i>half bottle</i> .....	19
***spotlight***	
'05 d'Arenberg grenache/shiraz/mourvèdre, Stump Jump, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	19
'03 d'Arenberg tempranillo/grenache/souzao, the Sticks & Stones, McLaren Vale, Australia..	75
'01 d'Arenberg grenache blend, Ironstone Pressings, Fleurieu Peninsula, Australia.....	92
'02 d'Arenberg grenache blend, Ironstone Pressings, Fleurieu Peninsula, Australia.....	103
'05 d'Arenberg shiraz, the Dead Arm, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	113
Aussie wines are akin to John Wayne: they're big, bold, manly, and walk with a swagger (and after 2 or 3 bottles, so do I...or is that a stagger?); d'Arenberg is a producer that doesn't get the press it deserves, but their wines have been up there with Penfolds and Henschke for years, while standing tall against the sea of new micro-boutiques springing from every corner of Oz (that extremely thunderous noise you just heard is winemaker Chester Osborne's terribly loud shirt)	
'06 Castaño monastrell, organic, Yecla, Spain.....	19
monastrell (AKA mourvèdre) is a prominent varietal in some of Spain's lesser known growing regions	
'06 Chateau Coupe Roses grenache/carignan, La Bastide, Minervois, France.....	20
'05 Vampire merlot, Transylvania.....	20
'07 Delas Freres syrah blend, Saint-Esprit, Côtes-du-Rhône, France.....	20
NV Verget du Sud syrah blend, Au Fil du Temps, Southern France.....	20
'07 San Alejandro garnacha, Las Rocas, Calatayud, Spain.....	20
'07 Baroncini sangiovese, Chianti Colli Senesi, Tuscany, Italy.....	21
'03 Echo Canyon primitivo, estate, Yavapai County, Arizona, <i>half bottle</i> .....	21
'05 Kavaklidere öküzgözü/boğazkere, selection Kirmizi, Turkey.....	22
in a continued effort to bring you exotic wines worldwide (and prove our prowess with the insert symbol key), Kavaklidere!	
'05 Flying Goat pinot noir, Rio Vista Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills, <i>half bottle</i> .....	22
'05 Felsina sangiovese blend, Berendenga, Chianti Classico, Tuscany, <i>half bottle</i> .....	22
'04 Paul Achs zweigelt blend, Gols, Burgenland, Austria.....	22
'07 Bodega Uno malbec, Mendoza, Argentina.....	22
'05 Falesco tuscan blend, Vitiano, Umbria, Italy.....	22
the house label of winemaker extraordinaire Riccardo Cotarella; the Vitiano is equal parts sangiovese, merlot and cabernet sauvignon, never filtered or fined; medium bodied, lush, delicious, quality/price ratio heavy on quality	
'05 Castell del Remei tempranillo/cabernet/merlot, Gotim Bru, Costers del Segre, Spain.....	22
'05 Plantaže vranac, Lake Skadar Valley, Montenegro.....	22
'04 Pedroncelli zinfandel, Mother Clone, Dry Creek Valley.....	23
'04 Louis Latour pinot noir, Domaine de Valmoissine, Coteaux du Verdon, France.....	23

**VINO ROJO (hey, it could be worse...there could be pictures)**

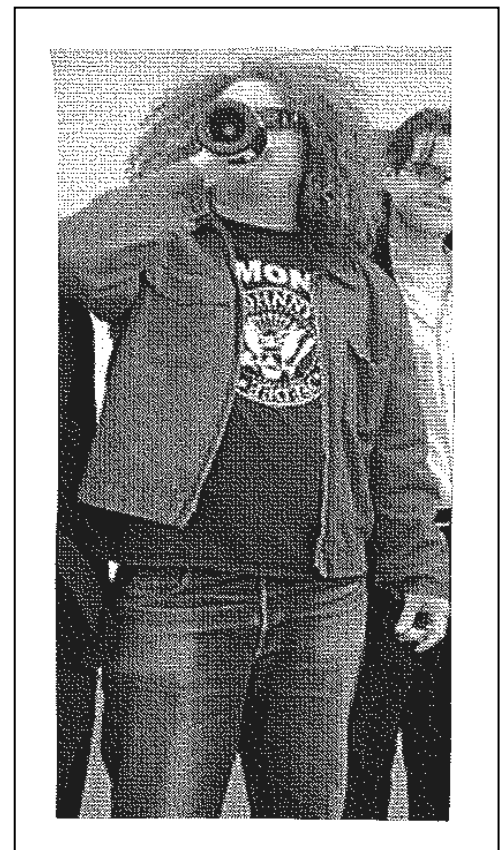
'05 Hahn bordeaux blend, Santa Lucia Highlands.....	24
Adam Lazarre is a Wildman, climbing on stacks of barrels in grape-stained sneakers with no regard for life or limb, blasting Led Zep in the background, blending on a whim, and racheting Hahn's quality up higher than ever before	
***spotlight***	
'05 Enzo Boglietti dolcetto d'Alba, Piedmont, Italy.....	24
'05 Enzo Boglietti dolcetto, Tiglieneri, Alba, Piedmont, Italy.....	37
'01 Enzo Boglietti nebbiolo, Fossati Vineyard, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	111
'01 Enzo Boglietti nebbiolo, Brunate Vineyard, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	112
'01 Enzo Boglietti nebbiolo, Case Nere, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	113
Boglietti is one of Italy's newer hot shot producers who burst on the scene in the early 90s and challenged the staid establishment with fresh techniques, including the liberal usage of new small toasted barrels and an insistence on cultivation that results in very low environmental impact...impressive, elegant, aromatic, finesse-laden wines	
'05 Guigal grenache blend, Côtes du Rhône, France.....	24
'07 Tormaresca negroamaro/primitivo/cabernet, Neprica, Puglia, Italy.....	24
'03 Flor de Guadalupe zinfandel, Baja California, Mexico.....	24
finally, quality beverages from Mexico that don't require you to lick salt off your hand (unless you really want to)	
'04 Domaine Jordan Valley cabernet sauvignon, King Ruby, Jordan.....	24
'06 Peterson carignane blend, Zero Manipulation, Mendocino/Sonoma.....	24
look, a wine inspired by the ballot boxes in Florida	
'03 Alazanis Valley indigenous blend, semi-sweet, Kakheti, Republic of Georgia.....	24
just in case you lie awake nights thinking about how a blend of saperavi, alexandreuli, mujuretuli and ojaleshi would taste	
'04 Chateau de Caladroy rhone blend, cuvee les Schistes, Côte du Roussillon Villages, France.....	24
'03 Argiolas monica, Perdera, Isola dei Nuraghi, Italy.....	24
monica: varietal indigenous to Sardinia and the name of my first girlfriend; both are soft, friendly & likable	
'05 Cline mourvèdre, Ancient Vines, Contra Costa.....	24
'05 Cline carignane, Ancient Vines, Contra Costa.....	25
I commend Cline for their Ancient Vine program (many over 100 years old) spotlighting the rarer rhone varietals, especially the bargain basement prices... in fact, I'm in-Clined to b-line to Cline for Ancient Vines all the time	
'00 Marcarini dolcetto, Fontanazza, Alba, Piedmont, Italy.....	25
'06 Zantho blaufränkisch, Burgenland, Austria.....	25
'07 Domaine les Grands Bois grenache blend, cuvee les Trois Sœurs, Côtes du Rhône, France.....	25
'03 Chateau de Lancyre syrah/grenache, Pic Saint-Loup, Coteaux du Languedoc, France.....	25
we don't normally go all Lady Gaga over wines from Southwest France, but this one threw us for a Pic Saint-Loup!	
'07 Fattoria Campoperi tuscan blend, Selva del Moro, Tuscany, Italy.....	26
'04 Domaine du Joncier rhone blend, Lirac, France.....	26
'08 R Winery grenache, Bitch, South Australia.....	26
more juicy juice from Dan Philips and his band of merry mad men, this wine shows that a Bitch can be a thing of beauty	
'04 Pellegrini carignane, Redwood Valley.....	26
'05 Skouras st george, Nemea, Peleponnese, Greece.....	26
'05 Tomaso Bussola corvina blend, BG, Valpolicella Classico, Veneto, Italy.....	26
NV Commanderia Alasta mavro/xynisteri, passito, Cyprus.....	26
'04 Glatzer blaufränkisch, Carnuntum, Austria.....	26
carignane, st george, corvina, mavro, xynisteri, blaufränkisch, next thing you know, we'll be selling you teroldego!	
'05 Cantina Rotaliana di Mezzolombardo teroldego, Trentino, Italy.....	26

## **VINO ROJO (wine list rule #1: no pictures)**

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'07 Charles Smith merlot, Velvet Devil, Columbia, Washington.....	26
'06 Charles Smith syrah, Boom Boom, Washington.....	28
'06 Charles Smith cabernet sauvignon, Chateau Smith, Columbia, Washington.....	34
'06 K Vintners syrah, Morrison Lane, Walla Walla, Washington.....	69
'05 K Vintners syrah, Cougar Hills, Walla Walla, Washington.....	86
'06 K Vintners grenache/syrah, the Boy, Walla Walla, Washington.....	97
'06 K Vintners tempranillo/cabernet, El Hefe, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	100
'06 K Vintners cabernet/syrah, Ovide, En Cerise Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	104
'05 K Vintners rhone blend, the Boy, Walla Walla, Washington.....	107
'03 K Vintners cabernet/syrah, Roma, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	109
'04 K Vintners rhone blend, the Boy, Walla Walla, Washington.....	112
'03 K Vintners cabernet/syrah, Ovide, En Cerise Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	120
'02 K Vintners grenache/tempranillo/syrah, the Boy, Walla Walla, Washington.....	140
'05 Charles Smith syrah, Heart, Royal Slope, Columbia, Washington.....	225
'05 Charles Smith syrah, Skull, Royal Slope, Columbia, Washington.....	250
'05 Charles Smith syrah, Old Bones, Royal Slope, Columbia, Washington.....	300

*eccentric is far too gentle of a word to describe K Vintners owner/winemaker Charles Smith (pictured at the right); lunatic is a bit closer to the truth! Charles used to be the road manager for a punk band, and he still hasn't given up the rock 'n roll lifestyle, what with a hairdo-n't that makes Howard Stern's look like a crewcut, a wardrobe consisting entirely of vintage tour t-shirts, and a penchant for turning up the volume on every single conversation multiple decibels ("I mean, an overripe wine is like a beautiful girl with a penis, who needs it?"...actual Charles Smith quote, and one of the milder ones, at that); yet, somehow, all that travel honed Charles' palate to the point where his massive appreciation for fine food indulgence spilled into his winemaking, and his creations are ingenious compositions of fruit, acid and earth in balance and contrast, an entrancing old world/new world kaleidoscope; no one else in Washington State (or maybe anywhere else) is making wines quite like this...shine on, you K-razy diamond {Charles also says "the caption under that picture should read 'and never come back to Chicago' cuz I was kicked out directly"}*



'07 Erath pinot noir, Dundee Hills, Oregon.....	26
NV Saint Cosme grenache, Basket Press, Little James, Rhône, France.....	28
Louis Barruol, known primarily for fashioning spectacular wines at his home estate in Gigondas, is no slouch at other regions in Rhône, either, as evidenced by his entire lineup, which includes exceptional value-priced grenache and even more exceptional (extraceptional?) single vineyard syrah from Côte Rôtie	
(I know a restaurateur who used to pray to Saint Cosme-Over due to his incredibly bad rug, but that's another story)	

**VINO ROJO continued**  
**(why is it continued, you ask?)**

**because you can't teach an old peg  
to sit in a square doghouse – or something –  
damn that writer's strike!**

- '04 Falesco merlot, Umbria, Italy.....28
- '04 Chateau de Mattes-Sabran rhone blend, Le Viala, Corbières, France.....28
- '06 Charles Smith syrah, Boom Boom, Washington.....28  
for those of you who remember the madcap servers at Ed Debevic's, Boom Boom was one of our all time favorites  
(with all due respect to Miss Applebee, Horace, McFly, Spunky, Goldie, Peaches, and Vivian the Widowmaker)
- '07 O'Reilly's pinot noir, Willamette, Oregon.....29
- NV DeRose Hollywood Red, California Coast.....29  
funky blend with rare varietals that sound like names from bad cop shows like rosa frerre and cabernet pfeffer
- '06 Klinker Brick zinfandel, old vines, Lodi.....29
- '04 Paul Achs blaufränkisch, Edelgrund, Burgenland, Austria.....29  
the Austrian subtitles to Gone with the Wind read "blaufränkisch, Scarlet, I don't give a Edelgrund"
- '04 Foppiano petite sirah, Russian River.....29  
Foppiano is a 110 year old winery being run by it's fifth generation of family members (apparently all named Lou)  
(which makes you wonder why it's not called LouLou) (or maybe just makes me wonder, I'm easily amused that way)  
and in their entire history they have focused the bulk of their combined efforts on petite sirah, so much so they recently  
held a symposium to establish petite sirah as America's true heritage grape varietal; they produce consistently wonderful,  
brash, brawny and brassy petite sirah that represents superb value (typically with little to no media fanfare, despite their  
varietal saber-rattling), and I for one say get in line and grab a glass (preferably one that's not so petite)
- '05 Garretson rhone blend, rosé, the Celeidh, Paso Robles.....29  
when does a rosé go in the red wine section? when Mat Garretson makes one so dark and lush that it's more  
beaujolais than rosé, so I unofficially reclassified it from rosé to garnet...has a ring to it, don't you think?
- '05 Stratton Lummis cabernet sauvignon, Napa..... 29  
some marketing geniuses bought 'secret vineyard' fruit (Screaming Eagle?) to make Napa cab for under thirty bones
- '06 Wines of Substance merlot, Me, Columbia, Washington.....29  
speaking of marketing genius, our pals Greg Harrington & Jamie Brown are labeling wine based on the Periodic Table
- '06 Three Rings shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....29  
and then there's the genesis of marketing genius, Dan Philips, who understands all about the smoke & mirrors involved  
but continues to start at the start, with astounding product from gifted producers; Chris Ringland is part of the team  
for the R Winery selections, including this shiraz, their first foray into California; all Dan needs now is Einstein's hairdo
- \*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*
- '04 Tomaso Bussola corvina blend, BG, Valpolicella Classico, Veneto, Italy.....29
- '06 Palama negroamaro blend, Metiusco, Salento, Italy.....29
- '07 Damilano barbera, Alba, Piedmont, Italy.....29
- '04 Pierpaolo refosco, Venezia Giulia, Italy.....29
- '05 Produttori del Barbaresco nebbiolo, Langhe, Piedmont, Italy.....29
- '02 Torre Quarto nero di troia, Bottaccia, Apulia, Italy.....29
- '04 Kettmeir schiava, Lago di Caldaro Classico, Alto Adige, Italy.....30  
corvina, negroamaro, barbera, refosco, nebbiolo, nero di troia, schiava...  
it's like Will Rogers said, I've yet to meet an indigenous Italian varietal I didn't like (or maybe it was Will Farrell?);  
now, if you all would be so kind as to excuse me, I have to go kiss some hands and shake some babies
- '04 Raymond cabernet sauvignon, R collection, Napa.....30  
the larger-than-life brothers Raymond have produced equally prodigious (and fairly priced) Napa cabernets for decades
- VINO ROJO** "roses are red, violets are blue,  
if you don't like this wine list, oh well"

## **(I guess it's true, there is no rhyme or reason to this thing)**

'08 Siduri pinot noir, Sonoma.....	32
'02 Les Crêtes red blend, Torrette, Valle d'Aoste, Italy, <i>half bottle</i> .....	32
this version of Torrette, a Valle d'Aoste specialty, contains an amalgam of varietals, ranging from the expected (dolcetto) to the recognizable-yet-go-figure (pinot noir) to the say what? (neyret, vien de nus) to the sounds-like-cosmetics (fumin, petit rouge), all of which add up to a light, intriguing quaffer destined for pairing with octopus (or the Lancomme lab {and, before you even ask, you may NOT order this and curse wildly while yelping "I have Torrettes!" ...at least not here})	
'03 Mazzi corvina blend, Valpolicella, Veneto, Italy.....	32
'06 Lehrner blaufränkisch, Gfanger Vineyard, Mittelburgenland, Austria.....	32
'07 Brooks pinot noir, Willamette, Oregon.....	32
'06 Joan d'Anguera manzuelo blend, Planella, Montsant, Spain.....	32
'06 Novy nebbiolo, Stolpman Vineyard, Santa Ynez.....	32
'01 Domaine d'Aupilhac rhone blend, Montpeyroux, Coteaux du Languedoc, France.....	32
'05 Heinrich zweigelt, Burgenland, Austria.....	32
'03 Heinrich zweigelt, Burgenland, Austria.....	33
'01 Penfolds shiraz, St Henri, Auldana Cellars, South Australia, <i>half bottle</i> .....	33
'05 Familia Mayol malbec, Kaleido, Mendoza, Argentina.....	33
consulting winemaker Steve Clifton helps give scope to this malbec (Kaleido, scope, I'm here all week)	
'06 Smith & Hook cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Santa Lucia Highlands.....	33
'01 Chateau Pesquié grenache blend, Quintessence, Côtes du Ventoux, Rhône, France.....	33
'07 Ridge zinfandel/kitchen sink blend, Three Valleys, Sonoma.....	33
point one: Paul Draper and Ridge have enjoyed more consistent success for a longer time with California zin than anyone	
point two: Ridge Prez Donn Reisen was a marketing genius, and he never sued me for using 'kitchen sink' as a descriptor	
point three: very hinky blend of mataro, petite sirah, carignane, and phenomenal forementioned zin from	
point four: equally hinky blend of Sonoma's trio of wine-producing valleys; Alexander, Dry Creek and Russian River	
point is: at some point you should stop reading this drivel and start drinking, already	
'02 Baglio di Pianetto nero d'avola/merlot, Ramione, Sicily, Italy.....	33
***spotlight***	
'04 Callaghan bordeaux blend, Junior, Cochise County, Arizona.....	34
'04 Callaghan mourvèdre/syrah/petite sirah, Clairs, Sonoita, Arizona.....	48
'04 Callaghan tempranillo/cabernet sauvignon/merlot, Padres, Sonoita, Arizona.....	50
'97 Callaghan merlot/cabernet sauvignon, Buena Suerte cuvee, Cochise County, Arizona, <i>double bottle</i> .....	166
'98 Callaghan bordeaux blend, Buena Suerte cuvee, Cochise County, Arizona, <i>double bottle</i> .....	175
check your watches...it's just a matter of time before Kent Callaghan is recognized for the wine genius that he is, taking fruit from areas where Wyatt Earp once prevailed (between Tombstone and the Mexico border) and consistently churning out unique, flavorful wines that display complex fruit in a powerful structure built to age	
'03 Umathum zweigelt, Neusiedlersee, Austria.....	34
we liken this zweigelt to Uma Thurman, as, like her, it is an enticing exotic beauty, sort of pinot noir meets film noire (and, for the record, my Best Actress Oscar pick for 2003, Uma Thurman, 'Kill Bill Volume One', unreal)	
'99 Les Vin de Vienne grenache blend, Côtes du Rhône, France.....	34
'07 Lioco carignane/petite sirah, old vines, Indica, Redwood Valley.....	34
'07 Palmina dolcetto, Santa Rita Hills.....	34
'06 Charles Smith cabernet sauvignon, Chateau Smith, Columbia, Washington.....	34

## **VINO ROJO (who throws a shoe? better yet, who sells a ruche?)**

'01 Cantine Sant' Agata ruche, 'Na Vota, Castagnole Monferrato, Italy.....	34
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<i>ruche (roo-kay)</i> is an obscure Italian grape that makes heady, fragrant wine with notes of bitter almond & roses	
'06 York Creek 'mixed blacks', MXB, Spring Mountain.....	34
zinfandel, petite sirah, carignane and alicante bouschet are the blacks in the mix; speaking of politically incorrect, my buddy Robert just dyed his afro bright blonde, and when I asked him why, he replied "so I can be incog-negro"	
'04 Sottimano brachetto, Maté, Neive, Piedmont, Italy.....	34
'06 Hedges cabernet sauvignon/merlot, Three Vineyards, Walla Walla, Washington.....	34
'01 Terre del Grico negroamaro/malvasia nera, Salice Salentino, Apulia, Italy.....	34
'06 Delheim pinotage, Stellenbosch, South Africa.....	35
'05 Marquis-Philips merlot, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	35
'06 Turnbull red blend, Old Bull Red, Napa.....	35
mostly merlot, but with liberal splashes of petite sirah, tempranillo and barbera that make this one toro with some more-o	
'04 Twisted Oak tempranillo, Calaveras County.....	35
'07 Kunin rhone blend, Pape Star, Larner Vineyard, Santa Ynez.....	35
speaking of twisted, we bring you Seth Kunin...his single vineyard homage to Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape rocks (pun intended), and the T-Shirts aren't bad, either ('I'm with the Brand' is tops; I'm pushing for 'why, yes, I was a Mouseketeer' next)	
'05 Peterson zinfandel field blend, Tradizionale, Dry Creek Valley.....	35
Fred Peterson went the old Italian farmer route with this, actually blending this 1920s-planted vineyard in the field rather than the tank; while the zinfandel dominates the blend, small amounts of red varietals petite sirah, carignane, alicante bouschet, as well as even smaller amounts of white varietals semillon, sauvignon vert and burger, figure in; finally, some marketing wizard has created a wine to drink with your burger that already has some burger in it!	
'06 Selby merlot, Sonoma.....	35
*** <i>spotlight</i> ***	
'07 Torbreck shiraz, Woodcutter's, Barossa, Australia.....	36
'07 Torbreck grenache blend, unoaked, Juveniles, Barossa, Australia.....	44
'06 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Descendant, Barossa, Australia.....	160
'05 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Descendant, Barossa, Australia.....	166
'04 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Descendant, Barossa, Australia.....	177
'00 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Descendant, Barossa, Australia.....	196
'05 Torbreck mataro, the Pict, Barossa, Australia.....	244
'05 Torbreck grenache, Les Amis, Barossa, Australia.....	254
'03 Torbreck grenache, Les Amis, Barossa, Australia.....	274
'05 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Run Rig, Barossa, Australia.....	312
'02 Torbreck grenache, Les Amis, Barossa, Australia.....	324
'04 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Run Rig, Barossa, Australia.....	325
'03 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Run Rig, Barossa, Australia.....	341
'99 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Run Rig, Barossa, Australia.....	371
'02 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Run Rig, Barossa, Australia, <i>double bottle</i> .....	760
Torbreck owner Dave Powell is an astonishingly talented winemaker...from the chateauf-neuf-du-pape-like chameleon complexity of the Steading to the massive power and jackhammer intensity of the Run Rig, these wines are nothing short of phenomenal; the big surprise here is the newest bottling, named Juveniles after a Paris bar, which is a dead ringer for a beaujolais nouveau, except that there is a good deal more 'there' there (check out his whites, too, if you like obscure varietals with a textural structure) (or if you just like big, thick bottles) <i>{storytime: at Hospice du Rhone 2008, our intrepid wine cellarmaster Sean Tevik was leaving a message for his gal when Dave rips the phone from his hands and proceeds to leave a rambling diatribe saying how great she must be because Sean says so many nice things about her, so, then, perhaps she would like Dave better because he's quite a bit bigger than Sean; later, I'm talking with a writer from Gourmet and Dave says "so, then, you know Peter? Bit of a snake oil salesman, he is" and when the writer looked confused, he continued "well, I didn't say he was a bad snake oil salesman, now, did I?"}</i>	

**VINO ROJO continued (direct quote from the Scottsdale Tribune:**

**"someone with a sense of humor has added witty descriptors"  
to the wine list...so much for journalistic integrity)**

'06 Bodega Noemia de Patagonia malbec, A Lisa, Rio Negro Valley, Argentina.....	36
'99 Bürklin-Wolf st laurent blend, estate, Pfalz, Germany.....	36
'06 Beck blaufränkisch, Burgenland, Austria.....	36
Jeff Beck may put the Frank in frankly great guitar, and Beck (Hansen) surely puts the Kitsch in creative sound sampling, but leave it to Judith Beck to firmly establish the Blau (as in 'Blow Me Away great stuff!) with this terrific blaufränkisch	
'04 Vistalba malbec/cabernet sauvignon/bonarda, Corte B, Mendoza, Argentina.....	36
'06 Ca' Viola dolcetto, Vilot, Alba, Piedmont, Italy.....	36
'05 J Hofstätter lagrein, Alto Adige, Italy.....	36
'05 Michael Magnien pinot noir, Bourgogne, France.....	36
'07 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Felino, Mendoza, Argentina.....	36
'07 Paul Hobbs malbec, Felino, Mendoza, Argentina.....	37
yep, it's <i>that</i> Paul Hobbs, making several super wines for all price points from both hemispheres...is anyone else dizzy?	
'06 Catena malbec, Mendoza, Argentina.....	37
'06 Berger zweigelt, Haid Vineyard, Kremstal, Austria.....	37
'03 Terrabianca cabernet sauvignon/sangiovese, Campaccio, Tuscany, Italy, <i>half bottle</i> .....	38
'06 Argiano sangiovese grosso, rosso di Montalcino, Tuscany, Italy.....	38
'07 Marquis-Philips shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	38
'02 Rockledge primitivo, St Helena.....	38
'02 Vergelegen bordeaux blend, Mill Race, Rocklands, South Africa.....	38
'04 Palma sangiovese/merlot, Alisos Vineyard, Santa Barbara.....	38
'07 Setzer zweigelt, Weinviertal, Austria.....	38
'05 Selby cabernet sauvignon, Sonoma.....	39
'06 Bergstrom pinot noir, Cumberland reserve, organic, Willamette, Oregon, <i>half bottle</i> .....	39
'06 Umathum zweigelt, Burgenland, Austria.....	39
'05 Dos Cabezas rhone/petite sirah blend, El Norte, Sonoita, Arizona.....	39
'06 Paul Achs blaufränkisch, Gols, Burgenland, Austria.....	39
'99 A Christmann späburgunder, Idig Königsbach, Pfalz, Germany.....	39
'03 Bradford Mountain syrah, Grist Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	40
'06 Westerly merlot, estate, Santa Ynez.....	40
'03 Domaine du Gour de Chaulé grenache blend, cuvee Tradition, Gigondas, Rhône, France.....	40
'07 Te Kairanga pinot noir, Martinborough, New Zealand.....	40
'04 Jasper chancellor, Cherry Creek Vineyard, Newton, Iowa.....	40
'05 Pirramimma shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	40
'02 Bründlmayer st laurent, Ried Ladner, Langenlois, Austria.....	40
'03 Bründlmayer st laurent, Ried Ladner, Langenlois, Austria.....	41
Ried Ladner? didn't he write some books or movies or something? the legend of Saint Laurent, maybe	
'06 Milbrandt Vineyards cabernet sauvignon, Wahluke Slope, Washington.....	41
'06 Tikal bonarda/malbec, Patriota, Mendoza, Argentina.....	41
'05 Umathum blaufränkisch, Burgenland, Austria.....	41
'07 Adelsheim pinot noir, Newberg, Oregon.....	41
they say you always remember your first, and they are right; my first experience with Oregon pinot was the exotic, aromatic, forest-floor-leaning Adelsheim, back when Oregon was barely considered a state, much less a wine haven (and, just like my first, it is slightly fuzzy, very undisciplined and pretty wild...my first basketball game, that is)	
'98 Elian Daros abouriou/bordeaux blend, Clos Baquey, Côtes du Marmandais, France.....	42

**VINO ROJO continued (if you can't stand the heat,  
go hang out in the wine room)**

'01 Pojer e Sandri field blend, Besler, Besleri Vineyard, Trentino, Italy.....	42
we have been enthralled with the exploits of this winery/distillery for years, and they just keep raising the bar; this is an intriguingly odd yet thoughtful mix of pinot nero, zweigelt, franconia, groppello and negrara trentino	
'03 Echo Canyon red blend, Sedonage, Sedona, Arizona.....	42
the folks at Echo Canyon don't stand heavily on convention, so this could be red grapes & red rock dust, who knows? (I tend to drink heavily and not stand at conventions, or interventions, or any day that ends in Y)	
'03 Domaine Montirius grenache blend, Gigondas, Rhône, France.....	43
'05 Northstar merlot/cabernet, Stella Maris, Columbia Valley, Washington.....	43
'05 Domaine Calot gamay, cuvee Unique vieilles vignes, Morgon, Beaujolais, France.....	43
'98 Santadi carignano, Shardana, Valli di Porto Pino, Sardinia, Italy.....	43
'03 Elio Perrone barbera, Mongovone Vineyard, Asti, Piedmont, Italy.....	43
'04 Bella zinfandel, late harvest, Big River Ranch, Alexander Valley, <i>half bottle</i> .....	43
if zinfandel is America's grape, then late harvest zinfandel is America's grape in a Victoria's Secret commercial, with revved up guitar riffs and wind blowing through it's sexy purple negligee...does anyone else need a cold shower?	
'05 Domaine le Sang des Cailloux grenache blend, cuvee Doucinello, Vacqueyras, Rhône, France.....	44
'06 Villa Creek rhone blend, Avenger, Booker/Denner Vineyards, Paso Robles.....	44
'02 Strade Vigne Del Sole tor' de passerei, Morato, Lazio, Italy.....	44
'04 Shadow Canyon syrah/viognier, De La Vigne, Central Coast.....	44
'07 Torbreck grenache blend, unoaked, Juveniles, Barossa, Australia.....	44
'04 Unti syrah, Dry Creek.....	44
'05 Ridge syrah, Lytton West Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	44
'04 Palmina barbera, Santa Barbara.....	44
'07 Domaine La Millière grenache blend, organic, cuvée Unique, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	45
'01 Pecchenino dolcetto, Siri D'Jermu, Dogliani, Piedmont, Italy.....	45
'06 Roessler pinot noir, Red Label, Sonoma County.....	45
as I'm not much of a Scotch aficionado (hop, tape, or otherwise), this is my kind of Red Label	
'00 York Creek petit verdot, Spring Mountain.....	45
'04 Novy pinot meunier, Van der Kamp Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain.....	46
petit verdot is mostly used as a minor blending grape in Bordeaux, while pinot meunier is rarely found outside of Champagne; it's a banner day to find both being bottled as stand alone varietals, and it requires the vision of a pair of mavericks, owner Fritz Maytag (yes, that Fritz Maytag; Maytag washers & dryers, Maytag blue cheese, Anchor Steam beer, James Beard award winner Fritz Maytag) of York Creek and winemaker Adam Lee of Novy	
'03 Kunin syrah, Santa Barbara.....	46
'02 Bründlmayer blauburgunder/merlot, Dechant Mountain, Langenlois, Austria.....	46
'04 Paul Lehrner st laurent, Mittenburgenland, Austria.....	46
'02 Domaine Hatzimichalis cabernet sauvignon, Atalanti Valley, Greece.....	46
'06 Tir na N'og grenache, old vines, McLaren Vale/South Australia.....	46
fabulous textural Aussie grenache from our terrific friend John Larchet (that's using the old Tir na N'oggin, John)	
'05 Owen Roe kitchen sink red blend, Abbot's Table, Pacific Northwest.....	46
'03 Paul Lehrner st laurent, Mittenburgenland, Austria.....	47
'05 Molettieri aglianico, Irpinia, Campania, Italy.....	47
'98 Moroder montepulciano blend, Dorico, Rosso Conero, Marche, Italy.....	47
'03 Alpha Estate xinomavro, Amyndeon, Macedonia, Greece.....	47
xinomavro is the king of Greek grapes, with superb aging potential and a bevy of Mediterranean flavors ranging from kalamata olive to gooseberry, and this bottle is the 'Alpha Male' of the xinomavros we've tried	

## **VINO ROJO (you know us...we like to go against the lagrein)**

'99 J Hofstätter lagrein, Steinraffler Vineyard, Alto Adige, Italy.....	47
'00 Whitcraft lagrein, French Camp Vineyard, San Luis Obispo.....	47

except in this case we're going with the lagrein, a rare Italian varietal capable of great depth and complexity

'07 Berger zweigelt, Leithen Vineyard, Kremstal, Austria.....	47
'03 Acrata grenache/carignan, Portada, Ensenada, Baja, Mexico.....	47
'04 Waters syrah, Columbia, Washington.....	47
'03 Pirramimma petit verdot, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	47

petit verdot, one of the five classic red Bordeaux varietals, is only used for blending and never bottled solo in France, and rarely anywhere else, either...leave it to the Aussies to be brave enough to do it and talented enough to get it right

'06 Tardieu-Laurent grenache/syrah, vieilles vignes, Vacqueras, Rhône, France.....	48
'04 Callaghan mourvèdre/syrah/petite sirah, Clairs, Sonoita, Arizona.....	48
'05 Novy syrah, Napa.....	48
NV Apis mead, Jadwiga, 25 year royal reserve, Poland.....	48

for those of you finding the list a bit too mundane and predictable, we offer a very rare 25 year old Polish mead (and if you predicted that was coming, I'm taking away your silverware before you start bending spoons, there, Kreskin)

'03 Patianna syrah, organic/biodynamic, Fairbairn Ranch, Mendocino.....	48
'00 Capcanes garnacha/cariñena, 100 year old vines, late harvest,	

Pansal del Calas, Montsant, Spain, *two-thirds bottle*.....48

say you wanted to (hypothetically) mix a few of your very favorite beverages together, starting with a nice vintage port, adding some Amarone, topped with a dollop of blueberry purée and a splash of Dr Pepper — sounds like a flavor profile quite similar to this extremely rare late harvest of old vine rhone varietals from the obscure region of Montsant, Spain; however, if it's just the quick fix sugar high you're after, you could save some time and just inject this (hypodermically)

**\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\***

'05 Garretson grenache, the Spáinneach, Paso Robles.....	48
'05 Garretson syrah/viognier, the Craic, Paso Robles.....	60
'04 Garretson syrah, the Aisling, Paso Robles.....	70
'03 Garretson rhone blend, the Reliquary, Central Coast.....	88
'02 Garretson syrah, Rozet Vineyard, Rocking Horse Ranch, the Luascáin, Paso Robles.....	90
'04 Garretson syrah, Bassetti Vineyard, Mon Amie, San Luis Obispo.....	95
'03 Garretson syrah, Bassetti Vineyard, Mon Amie, San Luis Obispo.....	105
'04 Garretson syrah, Hoage Vineyard, the Bulladoir, Paso Robles.....	111
'03 Garretson syrah, Hoage Vineyard, the Bulladoir, Paso Robles.....	121
'02 Garretson rhone blend, the Reliquary, Central Coast.....	132
'01 Garretson rhone blend, the Reliquary, Central Coast.....	133

*{EDITORS NOTE: the following rant was originally penned way back when Shaq & Kobe were the dynamic duo, and time has since yielded significant changes — first, the Lakers may be even better now (sorry, Suns fans, it was never Kobe or MJ who stood in the way of a Phoenix ring, it was the Zenmaster, Phil Jackson), and Mat Garretson has left the winemaking biz, meaning these are collectors items, drink 'em soon or miss one helluva championship run}*

nothing about Mat Garretson is for the timid, not his personality, not his penchant for Gaelic subtitles, and most certainly not his wines, particularly this spectacular array of syrahs, which range from the Craic (pronounced 'crack', Mat's take on the California fruit-forward wood-bussed style as produced by a suicide bomber) to the ambitious Reliquary reserve, syrah with liberal amounts of grenache, mourvèdre and viognier in a powerhouse style that makes the Lakers look like a JV team (not to be confused with the NBA's Eastern Conference, IE the JV League) (oh, and don't bother telling Mat that you've "had his crack" or "that's some crack you're selling" or any variation thereof, he's heard it more times than Bill Walton has yelled "throw it down, big man, throw it down!" when Shaq gives a facial to any poor excuse for a center in the JV League)

*{EDITORS NOTE: seriously, do you really think there's an Editor for this rambling dissertation? or for Bill Walton?}*

**VINO ROJO it's a good thing red wine is healthy for you,  
since I'd be hard-pressed to get a match on a transfusion  
(not a lot of zinfandel-negative on hand at the blood bank)**

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'05 Crauford zinfandel, Kiltlifter, Brown Vineyard, Napa.....	48
'06 Green & Red zinfandel, Chiles Mill Vineyard, Napa.....	48
'07 Stuhlmuller zinfandel, Alexander Valley.....	48
'04 Calistoga Cellars zinfandel, Napa.....	48
'04 Neyers zinfandel, Pato Vineyard, Contra Costa.....	48

*zinfandel: a haiku*

*zin as zen...surprise!*

*extract/distract, berry bomb*

*liquid viagra*

'06 Querciabella sangiovese blend, Chianti Classico, Tuscany, Italy.....	49
'05 Waters bordeaux blend, Interlude, Walla Walla, Washington.....	49
'05 Pesquera tempranillo, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	49
'05 Michel Sarrazin pinot noir, Sous La Roche, Givry, France.....	49
'05 Venteux petite sirah, Paso Robles.....	49
'04 Ridge bordeaux blend, Santa Cruz Mountains.....	49
'00 Fubbiano sangiovese/teroldego, I Pampani, Tuscany, Italy.....	49
'07 Owen Roe rhone blend, the Sinister Hand, Pacific Northwest.....	50

*I don't know about sinister, but I've been told I have a heavy hand when pouring cocktails, does that count?*

'07 Emeritus pinot noir, Russian River.....	50
the modern era of California chardonnay owes a debt of gratitude to Sonoma Cutrer, the winery that kick-started the chardonnay sales trend through miraculous attention to detail and a refined sense of palate potential; Cutrer founder Brice Jones sold the winery a few years back and is shifting his laser beam focus to pinot noir under the Emeritus label	
'03 Laurona cariñena blend, Montsant, Spain.....	50
'04 Callaghan tempranillo/cabernet sauvignon/merlot, Padres, Sonoita, Arizona.....	50
'07 Martinelli pinot noir, Bella Vigna, Russian River.....	51
'00 Pisano/Boisset tannat/cabernet/merlot, Vina Progreso gran reserva, Uruguay.....	52

*Latin draft of French varietals: Argentina took malbec, Chile picked carmenere, and Uruguay won tannat in a coin toss*

'03 Palliser pinot noir, Martinborough, New Zealand.....	52
'06 Ridge zinfandel field blend, Geyserville, Alexander Valley.....	52
anyone who questions whether zinfandel can reach world-class heights has never tasted Geyserville! {cheers, Senator}	
'06 Paul Achs zweigelt, Gols, Burgenland, Austria.....	53
'01 Mt Billy shiraz/mataro/grenache, Barossa, Australia.....	54
'03 Viader petit verdot blend, V, Napa, <i>half bottle</i> .....	54
'02 Palmina nebbiolo, Stolpman Vineyard, Santa Ynez.....	54
'05 Luca pinot noir, Mendoza, Argentina.....	54
'04 Novy grenache, Judge Family Vineyard, Bennett Valley.....	54
'03 Elyse grenache blend, Le Corbeau, Hudson Vineyard, Los Carneros.....	54
'04 Mathis grenache, Mathis Vineyard, Sonoma.....	55
'04 Outpost grenache, Howell Mountain.....	55

*who says California can't do grenache!?! Adam Lee shows that Novy is no novice, taking his pinot lessons from Siduri and applying them to single vineyard grenache from a super-rhone varietal-friendly micro-climate; meanwhile, Elyse's Ray Coursen does his best impression of Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape here (although it's called 'the Raven, so maybe more Chateauf-neuf-du-Poe), while Peter Mathis (of Ravenswood fame, ironically) is more pro-Priorat-ish, with estate field blend of 9% carignane and splashes of petite sirah and alicante bouschet in the Mathis estate vineyard mix; finally, Outpost opts to utilize the big, bad fruit from Howell Mountain to fashion a grenache that's all about the Golden State*

**VINO ROJO continued (time flies when you're having fun;  
fruit flies like a nice shiraz)**

'04 St Hallet shiraz, Blackwell, Barossa, Australia.....	55
--	----

my St Louis uncle is named Blackwell; he's a man's man, and this is a man's wine, macho, brash, full of petrol	
'05 Bacio Divino tuscan blend, Pazzo, Napa.....	55
'04 Cascinacastle't barbera d'Alba, Passum, Piedmont, Italy.....	55
intense and powerful thanks to a semi-passito drying of the grapes, this is one barbera that's not playing passum	
'07 Owen Roe syrah, Ex Umbris, Lewis/Elerding/Slide Mountain Vineyards, Washington.....	55
'05 Condado de Haza tempranillo, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	55
'03 Old Plains cabernet sauvignon/shiraz, Adelaide Plains, Australia.....	55
'06 Stuhlmuller cabernet sauvignon, estate, Alexander Valley.....	55
if you ever experienced Silver Oak in the heyday early 70s, it was a lot like this, just more expensive	
'04 Tablas Creek tannat, estate, Paso Robles.....	55
'00 Les Vin de Vienne syrah, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....	55
'05 Northstar merlot, Columbia Valley, Washington.....	55
crowd-pleasing merlot from the odd collaboration of Jed Steele and Ste Michelle which, at the start, didn't really work; some previous early vintages were watery and simple at a big dog price, whereas, from 2000 on, it lifts a heavy leg	
'00 Dominio de Tares mencia, Cepas Vieja, Bierzo, Spain.....	55
'06 Darioush cabernet sauvignon, Caravan, Napa.....	56
'03 La Spinetta sangiovese/colorino, Il Nero di Casanova, Tuscany, Italy.....	56
'06 DeLille cabernet/syrah, Doyenne AIX, Sagemoor Bacchus/Ciel du Cheval Vineyards, Columbia, Washington.....	56
Francophile Jay Soloff continues his fascinating tour de France via Washington with this homage to the red wines of Provence, but for my money, the French should start emulating DeLille, this beats anything red Provence has going	
'07 Orin Swift zinfandel blend, the Prisoner, Napa.....	56
as a child, I was frequently hypnotized by the television, sitting transfixed in front of the screen for hours at a time, watching in a daze whatever was on, especially the shows broadcast on PBS from the BBC like Monty Python and the psychological drama The Prisoner, which, in essence, I was...Orin Swift's Prisoner, on the other hand, will set you free! (fortunately, I've outgrown that affliction; nowadays, I'm more apt to be hypnotized by any neon light that says 'Tavern') <i>for one that reads 'High Dive', an aptly named Chicago watering hole designed by talented bar buddy Meeghan Camarigg}</i>	
'06 Gérard Raphet pinot noir, cuvee Unique, Les Grand Champs, Burgundy, France.....	56
'04 DeRose negrette, Miller Family Vineyard, Cienega Valley.....	57
AKA pinot st george, the negrette grape produces soft/spicy wine, kinda like morphing pinot noir and sangiovese	
'06 Flowers pinot/pinot/plus blend, Perennial, Sonoma.....	58
when we first opened Cowboy Ciao we did sporadic business (hence my facial tics), and some of the guests would say "we love this restaurant so much, we don't want to tell anyone about it or our secret place will get too busy!"... I sort of feel the same way about Flowers wines, especially this one, the only super-blend outside of Champagne spotlighting pinot meunier; ultimately, though, word-of-mouth won out, as enough of you told friends so that Cowboy Ciao eventually became popular, and my eye twitches have slowed considerably, so go right ahead, enjoy this spectacular wine with my blessing (and start chatting up F n B already)	
'06 Terlato & Chapoutier shiraz, Malakoff Vineyard, Pyrenees Mountains, Australia.....	58
'05 Red Nectar Estate shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....	58
'06 Patz & Hall pinot noir, Hyde Vineyard, Napa, <i>half bottle</i> .....	59
'04 Colonial cabernet sauvignon, Etranger, Barossa, Australia.....	59
'04 CL pinot noir, Armagh Vineyard, Chilleno Valley, Sonoma Coast.....	59
'03 Rolf Binder shiraz, Heysen, Barossa, Australia.....	60
'04 Chateau de Saint Cosme grenache blend, Gigondas, Rhône, France.....	60
'05 Stratton Lummis cabernet sauvignon, Napa, <i>double bottle</i> .....	60

**VINO ROJO (give a man a fish, you feed him for a day;  
teach a man to fish, you're cutting into our check average)**

'05 Biale zinfandel/petite sirah, Napa Ranches, Napa.....	60
'05 Garretson syrah/viognier, the Craic, Paso Robles.....	60

\*\*\*spotlight \*\*\*

'05 Dukes Family pinot noir, Alyssa, Amity Hills, Oregon.....	60
'01 Hutton Vale grenache/mataro, Eden Valley, Australia.....	60
'04 Glatzer st laurent, Altenberg, Carnuntum, Austria.....	60
'02 Regusci merlot, Napa.....	61
'97 La Quadratura del Cerchio primitivo/sangiovese, Terzo Viaggio, Manduria, Apulia, Italy.....	61

definition of *sleeper* :

- A) wrestling hold designed to lull the opponent into an unconscious state
  - B) the last decent Woody Allen flick
  - C) for various reasons, all the above wines, which universally provide big bang for the buck yet are relatively unknown
- |   |    |
|---|----|
| '01 Boekenhoutskloof syrah, Coastal Region, South Africa.....   | 61 |
| wasn't the Boekenhoutskloof a popular line dance in the '70s?   |    |
| '02 Jaffurs syrah, Melville Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....   | 62 |
| '04 Charles Cimicky shiraz, Autograph, Barossa, Australia.....  | 62 |
| '03 Riecine tuscan blend, La Gioia, Tuscany, Italy.....   | 62 |
| '04 Tritono malbec, Mayol Estate, Mendoza, Argentina.....   | 62 |
| new 'supergroup' project from the talented trio of wine world luminaries Matias Mayol, Steve Clifton and Joe Bastianich   |    |
| '05 Samuel's Gorge grenache, McLaren Vale, Australia.....   | 62 |
| '03 Seavey merlot, Napa.....  | 62 |
| '06 Brown Estate zinfandel, Chiles Valley.....  | 63 |
| '03 Alpha Estate xinomavro/syrah/merlot, Amyndeon, Macedonia, Greece.....   | 63 |
| '03 Calix Cellars syrah, Masked Man Vineyard, Napa.....   | 64 |
| hi-yo, syrah, away!   |    |
| '04 Hewitson mourvèdre, Old Garden Vineyard, Barossa, Australia.....  | 64 |
| Old Garden is the oldest known mourvèdre vineyard in the world, planted 1854 (not a lot of grapes at that reunion); we served this wine with Beef Cheek Enchilada for the 2007 NYC James Beard House dinner we co-mingled with importer John Larchet, and it paired so third-plane-holy-cow-wow that owner/winemaker Dean Hewitson almost burst into tears (this from a guy who spends his spare time watching Aussie Rules Football; and Larchet calls me a lunatic) |    |
| '06 Villa Creek garnacha, Denner Vineyard, Paso Robles.....   | 65 |
| wickedly good/great/grandiose grenache from Cris Cherry that proves the absolute validity of this varietal in America   |    |
| '03 Palmina nebbiolo, Sisquoc Vineyard, Santa Maria Valley.....   | 65 |
| nebbiolo from California may seem like a stretch, but with Palmina owner/winemaker Steve Clifton, it's more like a stretch limo, the guy has got mad skills (whereas I only have Mad Magazine)  |    |
| '04 DeLille syrah/viognier, Doyenne, Red Mountain, Washington.....  | 65 |
| here's a first - the self-professed francophiles in charge of DeLille added viognier to this blend, not for the exotic aromatics or flavor profile, but because the (white) viognier pigmentation added a depth of (red) color to the wine!   |    |
| '06 Venteux syrah, estate, Paso Robles.....   | 65 |

space...the final frontier, especially when I have to make a last minute edit and it eliminates a whole paragraph

**VINO ROJO** (I'm writing a new book called 'The Red Wine Diet';  
results may vary, but if followed correctly,  
you basically won't care what you weigh)

\*\*\*spotlight \*\*\*

'06 Gaja Ca' Marcanda merlot blend, Promis, Tuscany, Italy.....	65
'99 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Conteisa Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	400
'00 Gaja cabernet sauvignon, Darmagi Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	435
'00 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Costa Russi Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	445
'00 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sperss Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	470
'00 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Conteisa Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	475
'98 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sperss Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	485
'97 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Conteisa Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	495
'97 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sperss Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	525
'00 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sori San Lorenzo Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	575
'00 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sori Tilden Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	700
'97 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sori Tilden Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	950
<p>according to Angelo's daughter, Gaia Gaja (which proves he has a sense of humor), the astounding success and international acclaim they have achieved is anchored to a philosophy of wines that speak of the region and the vintage; they eschew any sort of manipulation and focus instead on making wines with individual personality, so much so that they usually forego the designations of Barolo and Barbaresco, instead blending dollops of barbera with their ultra-ripe nebbiolos to a result of density and complexity that transcends tradition to become a new benchmark</p>	
'05 LaZarre pinot noir, Bien Nacido Vineyard, Santa Maria.....	65
'05 Lioco pinot noir, Michaud Vineyard, Chalone.....	65
'07 Roar pinot noir, Santa Lucia Highlands.....	65
'05 Neely pinot noir, Holly's cuvee, Santa Cruz Mountains.....	66
'06 Walter Hansel pinot noir, Cahill Lane, Russian River.....	66
<p>a fab four of pinot producers all in a row, all kicking out stylish, focused wines that may nod to Burgundy in passing but spend a lot more effort saluting the region from which they derive, and they all do so in highly memorable fashion</p>	
'98 Chateau Gombaude Guillet bordeaux blend, Pomerol, France, <i>half bottle</i> .....	66
'05 Howell Mountain Winery zinfandel, Beatty Ranch, Napa.....	66
'05 Ojai grenache, Santa Barbara.....	66
'05 Samuel's Gorge tempranillo, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	66
'04 Outpost zinfandel, Howell Mountain.....	66
'03 Massena shiraz, the Eleventh Hour, Barossa, Australia.....	66
'99 Correggia nebbiolo, Roche d'Ampsej, Roero, Piedmont, Italy.....	66
'05 Clos Figueras garnacha blend, Font de la Figuera, Priorat, Spain.....	66
'03 Spring Valley Vineyards merlot, Mule Skinner, Walla Walla, Washington.....	66
'04 Shadow Canyon syrah/grenache/viognier, Amila, Central Coast.....	66
'05 Tablas Creek counoise, estate, Paso Robles.....	66
<p>counoise (rhymes with boo-yaz) is a zippy, spicy, medium-bodied varietal sometimes used in Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape</p>	
'05 Ramey bordeaux blend, Claret, Napa.....	66
'06 Booker syrah/cabernet, Alchemist, Paso Robles.....	67
'03 Tofanelli zinfandel, Napa.....	67
'02 Hutton Vale grenache/mataro, Eden Valley, Australia.....	67
'02 Rolf Binder shiraz/mataro, Hubris, Western Ridge Vineyard, Barossa, Australia.....	67
'06 Dierberg pinot noir, Dierberg Estate Vineyard, Santa Maria.....	67
<p>the Napa Family Winemaker Tasting in San Francisco now encompasses all of the Golden State, so it's spread over two days to cover a lot of ground (over 400 wineries); last year, this wine stood out, way out, a work of genius</p>	

**VINO ROJO we don't know the meaning of the word quit  
(or the word edit, from the looks of these ongoing remarks)**

'05 Failla syrah, Phoenix Ranch, Napa.....	67
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'03 Guigal grenache blend, Gigondas, Rhône, France.....	67
'05 Ehlers Estate merlot, Napa.....	68
'04 Salvalai corvina blend, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	68
'02 Jermann blafränkisch/blauburgunder, Mjzzu Blau & Blau, Venezia Giulia, Italy.....	68
correct me if I'm wrong (actually, you probably need to take a number, there's several folks ahead of you on that one), but isn't this sort of a rip-off of a black & tan? (lawyers for Guinness are frothing at the bit as we speak...er, type) (wait, they're Guinness lawyers, shouldn't they be foaming at the mouth?) (I'm just begging for a stout lawsuit here)	
'01 Copain syrah, Cailloux & Coccinelle Vineyards, Walla Walla/Pacific Rim.....	68
'01 Librandi magliocco, Magno Megonio, Calabria, Italy.....	68
'03 Marilyn Remark grenache, Wild Horse Road Vineyard, Monterey.....	68
despite the odd moniker, Marilyn Remark is making a name for itself with some knockout rhone-inspired bottlings, such as California's top marsanne and this, a big league grenache (and, let's face it, the name beats 'Marilyn Merlot')	
***spotlight***	
'03 Dutschke merlot/shiraz/cabernet, Willow Bend, Barossa, Australia.....	68
'02 Dutschke shiraz, St Jakobi, Barossa, Australia.....	77
NV Dutschke muscat, fortified, Barossa, Australia, <i>half bottle</i> .....	85
NV Dutschke muscadelle, Tokay, Barossa, Australia, <i>half bottle</i> .....	89
'02 Dutschke shiraz, Oscar Semmler, Barossa, Australia.....	91
'02 Dutschke shiraz, Single Barrel, Barossa, Australia.....	750
say what you want about me and my wine list, at least I've got all my Dutschke's in a row	
'00 Capcanes grenache/cabernet sauvignon/carignan, kosher, Peraj Ha'abib Flor de Primavera, Montsant, Spain.....	69
'05 Ladera cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	69
'02 Carlisle syrah, Dry Creek/Knights Valley.....	69
'97 Conti Sertoli Salis nebbiolo, Corte Della Meridiana, Lombardy, Italy.....	69
'06 K Vintners syrah, Morrison Lane, Walla Walla, Washington.....	69
'04 Mr Riggs shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	70
'04 Garretson syrah, the Aisling, Paso Robles.....	70
'03 Burge Family garnacha, dry grown, Barossa, Australia.....	70
'04 Shadow Canyon syrah, estate, York Mountain.....	70
'02 Dunham syrah, Columbia, Washington.....	70
'99 Pierre Bourée pinot noir, Epenottes, Beaune, France.....	70
'05 Varner pinot noir, Hidden Block, Spring Ridge Vineyard, Santa Cruz Mountains.....	70
***spotlight***	
'05 Henschke shiraz/grenache/mourvèdre/viognier, Henry's Seven, Barossa, Australia.....	70
'04 Henschke bordeaux/rhone blend, Euphorium, Keyneton Estate, Barossa, Australia.....	80
'04 Henschke shiraz, Mount Edelstone, Eden Valley, Australia.....	147
'97 Henschke shiraz/cabernet/merlot, Abbott's Prayer, Lenswood, Australia.....	156
'99 Henschke shiraz, Mount Edelstone, Eden Valley, Australia.....	157
'98 Henschke shiraz, Hill of Grace, Eden Valley, Australia.....	750
'02 Henschke shiraz, Hill of Grace, Eden Valley, Australia.....	1015
'90 Henschke shiraz, Hill of Grace, Eden Valley, Australia.....	1125
we behave ourselves every year (don't believe the rumors!) to receive minute quantities of Henschke	

## **VINO ROJO continued (if Steely Dan can go on, so can I)**

'07 Patz & Hall pinot noir, Sonoma Coast.....	70
'03 Tomaso Bussola bordeaux blend, l'errante, TB, Veneto, Italy.....	70
Bussola isn't famous enough for his knock-down, drag-out Amarones, now he's taking merlot with bits of both cabs, drying some of it for a month, doing some Ripasso-style, and boom!; it may not be Amarone but it sure is c'mon in	

'04 Badge pinot noir, Santa Rita Hills.....	70
'02 Rolf Binder shiraz, Heysen, Barossa, Australia.....	70
'01 Rolf Binder shiraz, Heysen, Barossa, Australia.....	71
'04 TOR syrah, ROCK, Mt Veeder.....	71
um, what's with all the capitals? somebody overcompensating? do you work the vineyard in a sports plow, too?	
'02 Biale barbera, Pioneer Series, Gaudi Carli Vineyard, Napa.....	71
'94 Dr Cosimo Taurino negroamaro blend, estate vineyard, Patriglione, Salento, Italy.....	71
'04 Stephen Pannell shiraz/grenache, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	71
'04 Tyrus Evan bordeaux blend, Claret, del Rio Vineyard, Rogue Valley, Oregon.....	71
'04 Tyrus Evan bordeaux blend, Claret, Ciel du Cheval Vineyard, Red Mountain, Washington.....	72
more fun stuff from Ken Wright's second project, Tyrus Evan: this time, he gives you his approach to creating bordeaux-style single vineyard wines from both Washington and Oregon (cool wines of great claret-y)	
'98 La Quadratura del Cerchio carmenere/teroldego/montepulciano, Quarto Viaggio, Marche, Italy.....	72
drank the Quarto Viaggio with old pal Andy Selvaggio and found the experience quite pistachio (IE both nutty and delicious)	
'06 Howell Mountain zinfandel, Black Sears Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	72
'04 Burge Family shiraz/grenache, D & Oh, Barossa, Australia.....	72
not to be confused with the defensive philosophy of the Golden State Warriors, which is 'D? hellz, no!'	
'99 Mas de Mortières syrah, Que Sera Sera, Pic Saint-Loup, Languedoc, France.....	72
'01 Mi Sueno syrah, Reichow/Que Syrah Vineyards, Napa.....	73
not to be confused with the other five million wines calling themselves some version of Que syrah	
'00 Dei prugnolo blend, Sancta Catherina, Tuscany, Italy.....	74
back in high school I had a massive crush on Karen Day which was doomed from the start as her Pop was the football coach and I'm about as useful on the gridiron as the FCC is at fairly regulating free speech (free Howard Stern!); however, this Dei sports it's own pigskin, or at least a little bacon fat from the 30% syrah, a splash of barnyard from the 10% petit verdot, and a whole lotta leather from the remaining split of cabernet sauvignon and prugnolo; so, while this wine gets busy putting the super in super-Tuscan, I get dizzy just remembering that far back	
'07 Kosta Browne pinot noir, Russian River, <i>half bottle</i> .....	74
'02 Glaymond shiraz/mataro, Landrace, Barossa, Australia.....	74
'05 Villa Creek syrah/mourvèdre, Bête Noire, Paso Robles.....	74
'06 Miner syrah, La Diligence, Stagecoach Vineyard, Napa.....	74
the La Diligence (French for stagecoach) is a direct result of the random goings on at Hospices du Rhone, the annual wine festival held in Paso Robles, where winemakers hook up like so many would-be starlets in West Hollywood clubs, looking to find a kindred connection or a juicy part (as it were); in this case, Dave Miner and Francois Villard became fast friends and teamed up to make an annual few barrels of collaborated syrah from the fabulous Napa fruit grown at Stagecoach Vineyard (and, just added, La Diligence marsanne, as well!)(of course we have it, too - we're groupies!)	
'02 Yabby Lake pinot noir, Mornington Peninsula, Australia.....	74
'01 Brundlmayer cabernet franc/zweigelt, Vincent, Heiligenstein Mountain, Langenlois Kamptal, Austria.....	74
so you like the higher acidity levels in old world wine from, say, France and Italy, but you're not so fond of the inherent, incessant earth tones (quite frankly, neither is my closet), these two wines hit the high notes without visiting the farm	

**VINO ROJO    two wrongs may not make a right,  
but seventeen Wrights sure eat up some space**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, McCrone Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon, <i>half bottle</i> .....	74
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Canary Hill Vineyard, Eola Hills, Oregon, <i>half bottle</i> .....	80

'07 Ken Wright pinot noir, Abbott Claim Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	105
'07 Ken Wright pinot noir, McCrone Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	110
'07 Ken Wright pinot noir, Freedom Hill Vineyard, Coast Range, Oregon.....	115
'07 Ken Wright pinot noir, Carter Vineyard, Eola Hills, Oregon.....	120
'07 Ken Wright pinot noir, Shea Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	122
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Abbott Claim Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	124
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Nysa Vineyard, Dundee Hills, Oregon.....	125
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, McCrone Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	127
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Freedom Hill Vineyard, Coast Range, Oregon.....	133
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Meredith-Mitchell Vineyard, McMinnville Foothills, Oregon.....	135
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Guadalupe Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	137
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Elton Vineyard, Eola Hills, Oregon.....	140
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Canary Hill Vineyard, Eola Hills, Oregon.....	144
'01 Ken Wright pinot noir, Shea Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	255
'00 Ken Wright pinot noir, Canary Hill Vineyard, Eola Hills, Oregon.....	290

the rundown on Ken Wright pinot is as follows: Wright is the former winemaker of Panther Creek and had a lot to do with driving the whole 'wake up and smell the Oregon' movement with his stunning pinots of the early '90s.... now that he is representing his own eponymous label, he is continually making greater strides toward discovering how far Oregon pinot can go, as evidenced by the results of the last few vintages; these wines can match most grand cru Burgundy toe-to-toe for stately elegance and exquisite balance, yet possess a plethora of flavors and aromas so exotic, they should come with subtitles; typical for Wright, these wines are intensely tight, bordering on uncomfortable, for the first few years of their lives, and will benefit tremendously from extended aeration; it's possible you may see these wines for less elsewhere, but not probable, as Wright's production is minuscule, our allocation is laughable, and prices are consequently climbing like a Phoenix thermometer; still, for all of you searching for Mr Right, this Wright seems to do no wrong (with the exception of designing his own labels since vintage 2000, which are as scary as this guy's winemaking talent...I looked up 'gothic hell' in the dictionary yesterday and I swear one of these labels was pictured! - but, then again, so was my childhood, so if you were still trying to decipher the 'why' behind the list, there's a clue)

'01 Longoria syrah, Rex, Alisos Vineyard, Santa Barbara.....	74
'03 La Spinetta barbera, Superiore, Asti, Piedmont, Italy.....	74
'00 Deen durif, Vat 1, Southeastern Australia.....	74
once thought of as a clone of petite sirah, both due to it's appearance and robust/rustic flavor profile, recent DNA fingerprinting at UC-Davis has discovered durif to be a direct relative of an equally rare grape, peloursin, which leads to 2 questions, A) where did petite sirah originate from, and B) can DNA find my missing socks?	
'96 Pierre Bourée pinot noir, Epenottes, Beaune, France.....	74
'03 Peay Vineyard syrah, Sonoma Coast.....	74
'04 Palazzo bordeaux blend, Napa.....	74
'03 Andrew Will merlot, cuvee Lucia, Red Mountain/Yakima, Washington.....	74
'04 Hazy Blur cabernet sauvignon, Kangaroo Island, Australia.....	74

I picked this up because I think it's a great name for a wine (or a saloon, or the description of most of my life), but then it turned out to be the new rising star for Dan Philips and his Grateful Palate import group, which is akin to being knighted by royalty, as Dan doesn't mess with anything unless the goods are in the bottle (which all our palates can be grateful for)

## **VINO ROJO yikes! I think we have more Turley than Larry Turley!**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

'07 Turley zinfandel, Juvenile, California.....	74
'07 Turley zinfandel, old vines, California.....	75
'06 Turley zinfandel, Juvenile, California.....	76
'06 Turley zinfandel, old vines, California.....	79

'06 Turley zinfandel, Cedarman Vineayrd, Howell Mountain.....	90
'06 Turley zinfandel, Pesenti Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	95
'06 Turley zinfandel, Dogtown Vineyard, Lodi.....	100
'06 Turley zinfandel, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	109
'06 Turley zinfandel, Ueberroth Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	115
'06 Turley zinfandel, Duarte Vineyard, Contra Costa.....	116
'06 Turley zinfandel, Mead Ranch, Atlas Peak.....	118
'04 Turley zinfandel, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	119
'06 Turley zinfandel, Dusi Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	122
'05 Turley zinfandel, Pesenti Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	125
'06 Turley zinfandel, Moore-Earthquake Vineyard, Napa.....	126
'06 Turley charbono, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	128
'05 Turley zinfandel, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	129
'05 Turley zinfandel, Dusi Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	130
'06 Turley zinfandel, Rattlesnake Acres Vineyard, Napa.....	131
'05 Turley zinfandel, Mead Ranch, Atlas Peak.....	132
'06 Turley zinfandel, Dragon Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	134
'05 Turley zinfandel, Dogtown Vineyard, Lodi.....	135
'05 Turley zinfandel, Moore-Earthquake Vineyard, Napa.....	138
'04 Turley charbono, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	140
'05 Turley petite sirah, Library Vineyard, Napa.....	141
'02 Turley zinfandel, Pesenti Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	142
'03 Turley zinfandel, Dusi Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	144
'02 Turley zinfandel, Dusi Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	146
'04 Turley zinfandel, Dogtown Vineyard, Lodi.....	147
'06 Turley zinfandel, Salvador Vineyard, Contra Costa.....	151
'04 Turley zinfandel, Pesenti Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	152
'05 Turley zinfandel, Rattlesnake Acres Vineyard, Napa.....	154
'06 Turley zinfandel, Grist Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	157
'02 Turley zinfandel, Dogtown Vineyard, Lodi.....	160
'05 Turley zinfandel, Ueberroth Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	161
'06 Turley zinfandel, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	163
'06 Turley petite sirah, Turley Estate Vineyard, Napa.....	164
'05 Turley zinfandel, Dragon Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	165
'03 Turley charbono, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	170
'02 Turley charbono, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	171
'05 Turley petite sirah, Turley Estate Vineyard, Napa.....	174
'04 Turley zinfandel, Ueberroth Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	175
'05 Turley zinfandel, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	179
'02 Turley petite sirah, Library Vineyard, Napa.....	180
'04 Turley zinfandel, Moore-Earthquake Vineyard, Napa.....	185
'06 Turley petite sirah, Rattlesnake Ridge, Howell Mountain.....	187
'06 Turley zinfandel, Vineyard 101, Dry Creek.....	188
'03 Turley zinfandel, Grist Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	190

*{yep, there's more — it's like we've got Turley Torrettes!}*

**VINO ROJO see, I wasn't kidding!**  
**some folks tilt at windmills,**  
**we're more tilt-a-Turley**

'03 Turley zinfandel, Ueberroth Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	195
'02 Turley zinfandel, Ueberroth Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	205
'05 Turley zinfandel, Vineyard 101, Dry Creek.....	209

'03 Turley zinfandel, Rattlesnake Acres Vineyard, Napa.....	210
'03 Turley zinfandel, Keig Vineyard, Napa.....	211
'04 Turley zinfandel, Rancho Escondido Vineyard, Baja, Mexico.....	215
'04 Turley zinfandel, Dragon Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	222
'02 Turley zinfandel, Rattlesnake Acres Vineyard, Napa.....	225
'04 Turley zinfandel, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	230
'05 Turley petite sirah, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	234
'03 Turley zinfandel, Moore-Earthquake Vineyard, Napa.....	235
'03 Turley petite sirah, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	236
'04 Turley petite sirah, Library Vineyard, Napa.....	239
'03 Turley zinfandel, Dragon Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	240
'02 Turley zinfandel, Moore-Earthquake Vineyard, Napa.....	244
'03 Turley petite sirah, Library Vineyard, Napa.....	250
'03 Turley zinfandel, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	255
'02 Turley petite sirah, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	260
'99 Turley charbono, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	265
'04 Turley petite sirah, Turley Estate Vineyard, Napa.....	275
'01 Turley petite sirah, Library Vineyard, Napa.....	280
'02 Turley zinfandel, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	285
'04 Turley petite sirah, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	288
'03 Turley petite sirah, Turley Estate Vineyard, Napa.....	290
'04 Turley petite sirah, Rattlesnake Ridge, Howell Mountain.....	295
'03 Turley petite sirah, Rattlesnake Ridge, Howell Mountain.....	312
'01 Turley petite sirah, Rattlesnake Acres Vineyard, Napa.....	325
'95 Turley zinfandel, Black Sears Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	450
'01 Turley zinfandel, late harvest, Delinquent, Paso Robles, <i>half bottle</i> .....	500
our experience with Turley wines is a) mostly, these wines are babies, and even though the Turley youngsters are enjoyable in their precociousness, as they age, they get much more interesting (not typical for most zinfandels);	
b) sister Helen Turley helped get this winery off the ground, but even though her consulting expertise has been out of the picture for years, the quality level continues to impress, in no small part due to Ehren Jordan's golden touch;	
c) yes, they're pricey...top quality + consistent performance + limited availability = a lighter wallet, as they say in economics 101 (economics 202 is something about creative accounting, or the Enron class, as it's better known)	
d) it's worth dipping into the exceptional charbonos & petite sirahs, as well...Turley stands for Top of the Line	
'04 Burge Family garnacha, Barossa, Australia.....	75
'06 Venteux syrah/petite sirah, estate cuvee, Paso Robles.....	75
'00 Bründlmayer st laurent/zweigelt, cuvee Anselm, Langenlois, Austria.....	75
'06 Kosta Browne pinot noir, Russian River, <i>half bottle</i> .....	75
'99 Felsina cabernet sauvignon, Maestro Raro, Tuscany, Italy.....	75
'03 d'Arenberg tempranillo/grenache/souzao, the Sticks & Stones, McLaren Vale, Australia..	75
I've been known to tip a tequila or twelve, but when d'Arenberg's Chester Osborne is involved, that's my kind of souzao!	
'02 Quintarelli corvina blend, Primo Fiore, Veneto, Italy.....	75

## **VINO ROJO the reason we don't spend more time in Seattle is the metaphysical weather (it's always raining cats and dogma)**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

'06 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Côte Belley, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....	75
'06 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Asiaticus, Seyssuel, Rhône, France.....	85
'06 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Les Combe, Cornas, Rhône, France.....	95

'05 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Côte Rôzier, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	150
'03 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Côte Rôzier, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	160
'03 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Les Vialleres, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	166
'00 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Le Crêt, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	185
'00 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Côte Rôzier, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	190
'00 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Les Vialleres, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	196
Pierre Gaillard has an almost California approach to flavor extraction and explosive fruit, yet maintains a strong sense of Rhône terroir: here's a cross-section highlighted by a trio of Côte Rôtie from a superb run of vintages as evidence (cuvee Unique is a code from importer North Berkeley, meaning they hand-selected the best barrels for US distribution)	
'04 Bonaccorsi syrah, Larner Vineyard, Santa Ynez.....	76
'06 Marquis-Philips cabernet sauvignon, S <sup>2</sup> , McLaren Vale, Australia.....	76
I was pretty thrilled to get this wine, particularly after the Wine Advocate scored it in the upper 90s, labeling it a steal, but I was even more excited to be able to work the squared sign on the computer for the S <sup>2</sup> ...maybe I need a day off	
'02 Haan shiraz/viognier, Prestige, Hanenhof Vineyard, Barossa, Australia.....	76
'03 Haan shiraz/viognier, Prestige, Hanenhof Vineyard, Barossa, Australia.....	77
'03 Torzi Matthews shiraz, the Frost Dodger, Eden Valley, Australia.....	77
'02 Dutschke shiraz, St Jakobi, Barossa, Australia.....	77
'06 Martinelli zinfandel, Giuseppe & Luisa, Russian River, <i>half bottle</i> .....	77
'06 Booker syrah, Fracture, Paso Robles.....	77
'05 Clos de Chacras malbec, Gran Estirpe, Mendoza, Argentina.....	77
our pick for best malbec ever made (non-Paul Hobbs category)	
'03 Heathcote shiraz, Hanging Rock, Victoria, Australia.....	77
'02 Burge Family shiraz/grenache, D & Oh, Barossa, Australia.....	77
'02 Glaymond shiraz, the Distance, Barossa, Australia.....	77
'03 Bonaccorsi syrah, Bien Nacido Vineyard, Santa Maria.....	77
'03 Betz syrah, La Côte Rousse, Red Mountain, Washington.....	77
'04 La Sirena syrah, Santa Ynez.....	79
'06 Whetstone pinot noir, Pleasant Hill Vineyard, Russian River.....	79
'06 Miner cabernet franc, Napa.....	79
'99 Santa Rita cabernet/cabernet franc/carmenere, Triple C, Maipo Valley, Chile.....	79
'02 Magpie Estate grenache, Gomersal Vineyard, Barossa, Australia.....	79
call it Hekyll & Jekyll grenache from Gomer Pyle Vineyard if you want, it's still right there with the planets top grenache	
'04 Destino cabernet sauvignon, Stagecoach/Maher Vineyards, Napa.....	79
'07 Kosta Browne pinot noir, Sonoma Coast, <i>half bottle</i> .....	79
'04 Kooyong pinot noir, Ferrous, single vineyard selection, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, Australia.....	79
'00 Roberto Voerzio nebbiolo/barbera, Vignaserra, Langhe, Piedmonte, Italy.....	79
'02 Warrenmang shiraz, estate, Pyrenees, Victoria, Australia.....	79
'05 Radio-Coteau syrah, Timberline, Russian River.....	80
'06 Biale zinfandel, Proprietor's Series, Black Chicken, Napa.....	80
'01 Heinrich zweigelt/blaufränkisch/st laurent/merlot, Gabarinza, Burgenland, Austria.....	80
think I just suffered a Gabarinza typing in all these indigenous Austrian varietals - anybody got an ace wrap?	

**VINO ROJO (any hack can churn out best-selling novels,  
but this wine list writing takes real commitment)**

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'03 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, BG, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone recioto, Veneto, Italy, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	80
'00 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, BG, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone recioto, Veneto, Italy, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	87

'00 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone recioto, Veneto, Italy, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	180
'01 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone recioto, Veneto, Italy, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	190
'99 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone recioto, Veneto, Italy, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	210
'00 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	280
'99 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	330
'99 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Vigneto Alto, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	350
'00 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Vigneto Alto, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	390
if these amazing wines were an action movie, they'd be 'the Guns of Amarone', but it wouldn't star Governor Arnold (way too big and difficult to comprehend) or Tom Cruise (short on size and overpriced on ego), the headliner would be George Clooney, a gigantic talent who still exudes enough cool to make the penguins at Sea World feel at home! {Mister Clooney has visited Cowboy Ciao on numerous occasions, and a mutual acquaintance who knows us both said she ran into him in Vegas and he asked "how's my favorite restaurant on the planet, Cowboy Ciao, doing?"...now, we have no confirmation on this, but, hey, George, as long as you're not wearing a Batman suit, you're our favorite, too}	
'97 Colle Della Santa Mustiola sangiovese, Poggio Ai Chiari reserve, Tuscany, Italy.....	80
'06 Kosta Browne pinot noir, Sonoma Coast, <i>half bottle</i> .....	80
'05 K Vintners syrah, Morrison Lane, Walla Walla, Washington.....	80
'04 Henschke bordeaux/rhone blend, Euphorium, Keyneton Estate, Barossa, Australia.....	80
'98 Showket sangiovese, Napa.....	80
yet another rare boutique wine from master consultant Heidi Peterson Barrett...who says wine is a man's game?	
'03 Bonaccorsi syrah, Larner Vineyard, Santa Ynez.....	80
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Canary Hill Vineyard, Eola Hills, Oregon, <i>half bottle</i> .....	80
'03 Glaymond shiraz/mataro, Landrace, Barossa, Australia.....	80
'00 Pieri sangiovese grosso, brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany, Italy.....	81
'03 Delius aglianico, Taburno, Campania, Italy.....	82
'06 Lucia pinot noir, Pisoni Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands.....	82
'05 Miner syrah, La Diligence, Stagecoach Vineyard, Napa.....	82
the quality <i>train</i> at Miner is picking up some serious steam; this collaboration between Dave Miner and fab Frenchman Francois Villard from lush <i>Stagecoach</i> fruit is a <i>supersonic transport</i> of fantastic flavor, you <i>auto</i> try it, <i>plane &amp; simple</i> {the previous message brought to you by Triple AAA}	
'04 Quinta Sardonía tinto fino blend, Sardon del Duero, Spain.....	82
a new property on the outskirts of Ribera del Duero from Peter Sisseck of Pingus fame, Sardonía is an international blend of tinto fino (a rare removed tempranillo clone) and bordeaux varietals (cab, merlot, petit verdot) with a dash of syrah (and when you take the 'pardon me' out of Sardonía, you are left with 'Si!') (sort of) (okay, not really, but whatever, it's yet another singularly spectacular Spanish wine from the supremely gifted Peter Sisseck, do I really need to sell that?)	
'06 Booker syrah/grenache, Vertigo, Paso Robles.....	82
one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, .....	

## **VINO ROJO continued (are the cows home yet?)**

\*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*

'02 Vincent Sauvestre pinot noir, Clos de la Platières, Pommard, France.....	82
'02 Hubert de Montille pinot noir, Volnay, France.....	112
'02 Jean-Michel Gaunoux pinot noir, Clos des Chénes, Volnay, France.....	133
'02 Bocquenet pinot noir, La Criox Blanche, Vosne-Romanée, France.....	150
'02 Domaine Marquis d'Angerville pinot noir, Premier, Volnay, France.....	185

'02 Vincent Girardin pinot noir, Clos Saint-Denis grand cru, France.....	211
'02 Dugat-Py pinot noir, Cœur de Roy, Gevrey Chambertin, France.....	335
'02 Dugat-Py pinot noir, vieilles vignes, Vosne-Romanée, France.....	375
'02 Dugat-Py pinot noir, Gevrey Chambertin premier cru, France.....	395
'02 René Engel pinot noir, Clos de Vougeot grand cru, France.....	470
'02 René Engel pinot noir, Grands-Echézeaux grand cru, France.....	502
'02 Camille Giroud pinot noir, Chambertin grand cru, France.....	855
<i>it sometimes seems the boys in Bordeaux like to claim another 'Vintage of the Century' every five minutes or so, but when critics and winemakers alike uniformly crown a Burgundy vintage as one of the best in decades, pay attention, and with 2002 we should stand at attention, this is powerful, concentrated, exotic Old World pinot at its pinnacle</i>	
'04 Kaesler grenache, the Fave, Barossa, Australia.....	82
'01 Edmunds St John syrah, Bassetti Vineyard, San Luis Obispo.....	82
'01 Descendientes de Jose Palacios mencia, old vine, Villa de Corullón, Bierzo, Spain.....	82
<i>since Alvaro Palacios took over the winemaking here, it doesn't take the mind of mencia to know these wines are keepers</i>	
'02 JC Cellars syrah, Caldwell Vineyard, Napa.....	83
'01 Sirita merlot, Napa.....	84
'05 Bryce pinot noir, Ribbon Ridge, Oregon.....	82
'07 Owen Roe pinot noir, the Kilmore, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	84
'03 Glaymond cabernet sauvignon, asif, Barossa, Australia.....	84
'00 Antoniolo nebbiolo/bonarda, Le Castelle, Gattinara, Piedmont, Italy.....	84
<i>it wasn't that long ago (after World War One and before the War of the Worlds first sequel) that Gattinara was considered every bit the collector's wine that Barolo or Barbaresco is now; the Antoniolo family are the current world beaters when it comes to the region, only producing wines crafted from estate fruit, regularly garnering top scores from Italy's wine bible Gambero Rosso, never settling for Cruise control (or jumping on Oprah's couch)</i>	
'03 David Arthur tuscan blend, Meritaggio, Napa.....	85
'03 Laurus grenache blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	85
'05 Long Shadows merlot, Pedestal, Columbia, Washington.....	85
'06 Venteux cabernet sauvignon, Starr Ranch, Paso Robles.....	85
'04 Radio-Coteau syrah, Timberline, Russian River.....	85
'03 Glaymond grenache, Gerhard, Barossa, Australia.....	85
'03 Kaesler shiraz, old vine, Barossa, Australia.....	85
'04 Failla syrah, estate vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	85
'06 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Asiaticus, Seyssuel, Rhône, France.....	85
'04 Bründlmayer blauburgunder, Cécile, Dechant/Käferberg Vineyards, Langenlois, Austria.....	85
'02 Carlisle red blend, Two Acres, Russian River.....	85
<i>from a 95 year old vineyard that yields about 200 cases, this wholly unique blend of mourvèdre, petite sirah, alicante bouschet and valdepeñas demonstrates the quality, craft and character Carlisle puts forth in every single wine they produce</i>	
'05 Radio-Coteau pinot noir, La Neblina, Sonoma Coast.....	86
'04 Stephen Pannell shiraz, 90 year vines, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	86
'05 K Vintners syrah, Cougar Hills, Walla Walla, Washington.....	86
'03 Glaymond zinfandel, Krause's Berg, Barossa, Australia.....	86

**VINO ROJO (did you ever notice that whenever someone says  
"to make a long story short...", it's always way too late?  
well, to make a long wine list short...)**

'03 Failla syrah, Phoenix Ranch, Napa.....	87
'00 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, BG, Valpolicella Classico,	

	Amarone recioto, Veneto, Italy, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	87
'03	Palmina nebbiolo/barbera/syrah, Savoia, Santa Barbara.....	87
'03	San Rustico corvina blend, Gaso Vineyard, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	87
'05	Darioush cabernet franc, Signature, Napa.....	87
'03	La Sirena syrah, Santa Ynez.....	87
	<i>when the conversation veers to winemakers, particularly California consultants capable of turning a wine program completely around and establishing a winery as a quality force to be reckoned with, the name that jumps from everyone's lips is Heidi Peterson Barrett, and deservedly so, she's worked for a veritable who's who of big names (Dalla Valle, Screaming Eagle, Revana, Jones Family, Showket, Vineyard 29, Hartwell, Grace, Paradigm); La Sirena is her own winery, and if you ever need to back up the claim that women can do it all, serve La Sirena</i>	
'06	Domaine Raymond Usseglio grenache blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	88
'04	Glaetzer shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....	88
'00	Antoniolo nebbiolo/bonarda, San Francesco, Gattinara, Piedmont, Italy.....	88
'99	Foradori teroldego blend, Granato, Mezzolombardo, Italy.....	88
	<i>teroldego, which is Italian for 'this is about as petite as petite sirah', does not get any better than Foradori, and Foradori teroldego does not get any better than the Granato reserve bottling, which, however, does get better!</i>	
'99	Silesian shiraz/cabernet, Barossa, Australia.....	88
'04	Freeman pinot noir, Akiko's cuvee, Sonoma Coast.....	88
'03	Garretson rhone blend, the Reliquary, Central Coast.....	88
'05	Hentley Farms shiraz/viognier, the Beauty, Barossa, Australia.....	89
'04	L'Angevin pinot noir, Sonoma Stage Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	89
'04	Peay Vineyard pinot noir, Sonoma Coast.....	89
'99	Classic McLaren grenache/shiraz, La Testa Vineyard, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	89
'05	Red Car syrah, Shake Rattle & Roll, Central Coast.....	89
'00	Jermann pignolo, Pignacolusse, Venezia Giulia, Italy.....	89
'05	W H Smith pinot noir, Maritime Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	89
'01	Copain pinot noir, Hein Family Vineyard, Anderson Valley.....	89
'00	Cigliuti nebbiolo, Serraboella, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	89
'03	Kaesler grenache, the Fave, Barossa, Australia.....	89
'06	Turley zinfandel, Cedarman Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	90
'02	Garretson syrah, Rozet Vineyard, Rocking Horse Ranch, the Luascáin, Paso Robles.....	90
	<i>Wine List Management, part 27: when faced with the most astute, genteel, intellectual, contemplative, well-spoken wine-geek-turned-wine-saleswoman, who normally goes into great discourse about her tastings, even down to soil types, and all she says after tasting the Rozet syrah is "this wine, it kicks ass" over and over, you just buy it and move on</i>	
'03	Westwood pinot noir, Nicholson Ranch Vineyard, Sonoma.....	90
'03	Outpost petite sirah, the Other, estate vineyard single block, Howell Mountain.....	90
'06	Shea Wine Cellars pinot noir, Shea Vineyard, Oregon.....	90
'05	Ramey syrah, Sonoma Coast.....	90
	<i>we have always been fans of David Ramey, the exceptionally gifted winemaker, not to mention David Ramey, the terrific human being, and apparently he's a fan of ours, too, as he sent a bit of this, his first syrah, which was produced in minuscule quantities, to Arizona specifically so it could be on this list (not to mention in your glass)</i>	

## **VINO ROJO continued (and it's about to get more Hitchcock-ian)**

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'04	Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	90
'03	Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	99
'02	Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	104
'03	Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Napa.....	105

- '02 Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Napa.....108
- '01 Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....115
- '04 Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Fat Boy, Madrona Ranch, Napa.....210  
Behrens & Hitchcock must really dig *The Who*, based on these meaty, beaty, big and bouncy merlots  
(p.s. if you don't get the pop culture reference, you're probably too young to appreciate these far-out cats)
- '05 Erna Schein bordeaux/syrah blend, Jersey Boy, Mendocino/Napa.....90  
and just like that it got less Hitchcockian, as Bob Hitchcock sold out to Les Behrens, who then changed the winery name to somebody's grandmother and the winery focus to much more creative varietal blending, skipping the stand-alone stuff
- '06 Alain Graillot syrah blend, La Guiraud, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France.....90  
my desk is strewn with periodicals like any captain of industry: sports journals, comic books, music reviews and wine magazines, and when I actually read them, this guy's name comes up in such wildly high esteem, you'd swear it was Holy Graillot...seriously, he gets more hero-worship press than Charlie Trotter, probably based on producing miniscule amounts of top quality expressive wines at pretty fair prices, which may make him a hero to some; in fact, I think he's even in some of the comic books!  
(if I really was a captain of industry, I'd have an actual desk, as opposed to the stacks of boxes stuffed in various nooks and crannies...maybe a superhero named Captain of Industry could fix that for me; hello, Stan Lee?)
- '00 AusVetia shiraz, South Australia.....90
- '05 Robert Foley merlot, Napa.....90
- '06 Schwarz zweigelt blend, A Lita, Andau, Austria.....90
- '01 Clarendon Hills grenache, old vines, Blewitt Springs Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....90  
perhaps they should call it 'Brett Springs', because if it's anything like the Clarendon shiraz, there's bound to be a significant amount of Rhone-y earth & saddle leather quality...giddy-up!
- \*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*
- '02 Rusden cabernet sauvignon, Hage Family Vineyard, Troll Creek, Barossa, Australia.....90
- '03 Rusden zinfandel, Crookshed, Barossa, Australia.....120
- '01 Rusden zinfandel, Barossa, Australia.....125
- '01 Rusden shiraz, Black Guts, Barossa, Australia.....130
- '02 Rusden zinfandel, Chookshed, Barossa, Australia.....131
- '02 Rusden shiraz, Hage Family Vineyard, Troll Creek, Barossa, Australia.....150  
you just gotta love anyone with the huevos to call one wine *Black Guts* and then bottle the first non-USA zin; colorful names aside, the contingent from the '01 Oz trip I missed picked Rusden as one of the rising superstars
- '97 Conti Sertoli Salis nebbiolo, Canua Sforzato, Lombardy, Italy.....91  
this historic Lombardy estate grows nebbiolo in vertical vineyards (IE on an ultra-steep mountainside, straight up and down, just like a good martini) all designed to enhance the fruit impact and soften the acids
- '02 Dutschke shiraz, Oscar Semmler, Barossa, Australia.....91
- '01 Cape d'Estaing shiraz, Kangaroo Island, Australia.....92
- '95 Oslavje Radikon merlot, Collio, Italy.....92  
nobody gets Radikon...his wines are less about old world earth or new world fruit than they are about rad world texture

**VINO ROJO** **listen, as far as I'm concerned,**  
**it's OK to jump to conclusions;**  
**at least that way, you're getting some exercise**

- '05 Villa Creek grenache/syrah/mourvèdre, High Road, James Berry Vineyard, Paso Robles..92  
as a card-carrying restaurateur (granted, the card says owner/wino, but enough about me), I'm of the belief that,

as a rule, restaurateurs should stay out of the winemaking business (I'm also of the belief that not only should I be able to text while I drive, I should be allowed a glass of rosé behind the wheel just to keep the road rage incidents to a minimum, but enough about me), but you know how I am about rules, they exist solely for Mavericks to crush them to little tiny pieces like so many really expensive wine glasses crashing to the cement floor due to nonchalant handling (the sound of which is at least partly responsible for the various facial tics and body vibrations I suffer that make Katherine Hepburn in her later years look like the Dalai Lama in meditation, but enough about me), and when the restaurateur/winemaker wearing both hats is the immensely talented Cris Cherry of Villa Creek, well, all bets are off (except the annual Spring Training wager that the Cubs are going to win the World Series....OK, you didn't really believe a South Sider weaned on the White Sox would ever cross that line, do you? the day that happens is the day I stop writing this wine list and retire to a life of quiet despair, languishing in my own deteriorating mental state and yelling at the Wheel of Fortune contestants on the TV as if they can hear me....but enough about me)

'00 Descendientes de Jose Palacios mencia, old vine, Corullón Villa, Bierzo, Spain.....	92
'01 d'Arenberg grenache blend, Ironstone Pressings, Fleurieu Peninsula, Australia.....	92
Ironstone Pressings may sound like Fred Flintstone's Laundromat, but if Chester Osborne makes it, it's bed-rock solid	
'03 Mitolo cabernet sauvignon, Serpico, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	92
is that the one where Pacino plays a cop?	
'05 DuMOL syrah, Russian River.....	92
'06 Littorai pinot noir, Mays Canyon, Russian River.....	92
'00 Clos Dels Llops carineña blend, Clos Manyetes Vineyard, velles vinyes, Priorat, Spain.....	94
'05 Darioush shiraz, Signature, Napa.....	94
'03 Darioush shiraz, Signature, Napa.....	95
'06 Turley zinfandel, Pesenti Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	95
'06 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Les Combe, Cornas, Rhône, France.....	95
'03 Domaine Alfred pinot noir, Califa, Chamisal Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	95
word is Christian Bale, Michael Keaton and Adam West all buy this by the case; however, Val Kilmer prefers Saintsbury	
'01 Andrew Will merlot, Pepper Bridge, Walla Walla, Washington.....	95
'03 Kalleske shiraz, old vine single vineyard, Greenock, Barossa, Australia.....	95
'02 Two Way Range shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....	95
'99 Lashmar shiraz, Three Valleys, Australia.....	95
'04 Garretson syrah, Bassetti Vineyard, Mon Amie, San Luis Obispo.....	95
'98 Genders shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	95
'02 Radio-Coteau syrah, Timberline, Russian River.....	95
'04 Burge Family shiraz, Draycott Vineyard, Barossa, Australia.....	96
it'll be a cold day in Scottsdale when I boycott the Draycott, one of the top shiraz in all of Barossa	
'02 Rockford shiraz, Basket Press, Barossa, Australia.....	96
'04 Pintia tinta de toro, Toro, Spain.....	96
'03 Mitolo shiraz, Gam, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	96
why don't they just come out and say it, this wine has great legs!	
'02 Red Car syrah, the Table, Thompson Vineyard, Santa Barbara.....	96
'06 Brewer Clifton pinot noir, Rio Vista Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	96
'01 Andrew Will merlot, Seven Hills Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	96
'01 Spring Valley Vineyards syrah, Nina Lee, Walla Walla, Washington.....	96

**VINO ROJO (if 'Sideways' had won the Oscar,  
I was putting this up for a Pulitzer)**

'05 Alain Graillot syrah blend, La Guiraud, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	96
'98 Albino Rocca nebbiolo, Loreto Vineyard, Barbaresco, Piedmonte, Italy.....	96
Albino Rocca is not Johnny Winter's new band, but a serious Barbaresco producer who picks some mean juice	

(hey, you gotta love a cat who gets credited for 'lead guitar and assorted screams' on a Muddy Waters album)

'05 Paradigm cabernet franc, Oakville.....	97
the commanding wines of Paradigm (pair-a-dee-um? pair-a-dime? par-a-dig-em?) are highly sought after and always a tough find, so our advice is to buy soon to avoid a conundrum (co-nun-oh, never mind)	
'06 K Vintners grenache/syrah, the Boy, Walla Walla, Washington.....	97
'04 Karl Lawrence cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	97
'99 La Rasina sangiovese grosso, brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany, Italy.....	97
'98 Veritas shiraz/mourvèdre, Pressings, Barossa, Australia.....	97
'02 Antiqu <sup>2</sup> s syrah, Gary's Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands.....	97
'01 Andrew Will merlot, Klipsun Vineyard, Yakima, Washington.....	97
'04 Arnot-Roberts syrah, Griffins Lair, Sonoma Coast.....	97
a couple of cats from the Pax pack, these guys borrow from Pax, Alban, Kongsgaard & Beaucastel; cool cats, hot wines	
'00 Andrew Will merlot, Sheridan Vineyard, Yakima, Washington.....	98
'03 Ojai syrah, Thompson Vineyard, Los Alamos.....	98
'05 T-Vine syrah, Frediani Vineyard, Napa.....	98
"hail, hail, Frediani, land of the brave and free!" you know what they say, you can take the grouch out of the restaurant, but you can't take the Groucho out of the restaurateur (and, yes, I am fully aware that this is not the first time the Frediani line has been used in this list; I wanted to use "help, help, let me out, let me out or get me a magazine" but it didn't seem to fit here)	
'03 La Spinetta sangiovese/colorino, Sezzana, Tuscany, Italy.....	99
not for nothing, to quote another cliché which I have no clue as to it's meaning, but La Spinetta has been awarded Tre Bicchieri (Three Glasses, the top award) a total of thirty times in the twenty year history of Gambero Rosso, second only to the legendary Angelo Gaja — and now they're taking on Tuscany, not for nothing (still don't get that)	
'05 Quintessa bordeaux blend, Rutherford, <i>half bottle</i> .....	99
'06 Littorai pinot noir, Savoy Vineyard, Anderson Valley.....	99
'05 Bonaccorsi pinot noir, Presidio Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	99
Spago sommelier-turned-fast track winemaker Mike Bonaccorsi recently succumbed to heart disease way too young; he was a great guy, he made great wines, and I am of a mind to say drink up, life's too damn short; Salute, Mike	
'98 Cape d'Estaing cabernet sauvignon, Kangaroo Island, Australia.....	99
'06 Clos St Jean grenache blend, vieilles vignes, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	99
'01 Copain pinot noir, Dennison Vineyard, Anderson Valley.....	99
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	99
'05 Vincent Girardin pinot noir, Gevrey Chambertin, France.....	99
'06 Failla pinot noir, Hirsch Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	100
'97 Pojer e Sandri lagrein blend, Rosso Faye, Dolomiti, Trentino, Italy, <i>double bottle</i> .....	100
'06 Miner pinot noir, Gary's Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands.....	100
'06 Turley zinfandel, Dogtown Vineyard, Lodi.....	100
'06 K Vintners tempranillo/cabernet, El Hefe, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	100
'05 Linne Calodo rhone blend, Nemesis, Paso Robles.....	100

**VINO ROJO (if red wine consumption is that good for your health,  
I'll be living into the 25<sup>th</sup> century!)**

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Longcourts, Nuits-St-Georges, France.....	100
'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Jeunes-Rois, Gevrey-Chambertin, France.....	110
'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Ruchots, Morey-St-Denis, France.....	160
'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Brûlées, Vosne-Romanée, France.....	180

'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Charmes-Chambertin grand cru, France.....	375
'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Grand Echézeaux grand cru, France.....	475
'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Chambertin-Clos de Bèze grand cru, France.....	550
2005 was a magnificent vintage in more regions of France than any in recent memory - Bordeaux, Loire, Beaujolais, Southern Rhône, and, yes, another 'vintage of the decade' in Burgundy (that makes two this decade, by my count, unless decade means something else in French, like 'you Americans will believe anything'...) — 2002 and 2005 are a euro toss (coin flip, whatever) in Burgundy as far as we're concerned, but this time around we managed to hoard a good deal of spectacular selections from one of our favorite producers, Fred Magnien, and even though these wines are mere infants in their developmental stage at this point, they are nonetheless so delicious, cradle robbing is encouraged	
'01 Eric Texier grenache blend, Improbable reserve, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	101
not to be confused with the Unlikely Outcome or the Insignificant Other	
'05 Pride merlot, Napa/Sonoma.....	101
'06 Radio-Coteau pinot noir, Savoy Vineyard, Anderson Valley.....	102
'05 Mi Sueno cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	102
the sales manager at Mi Sueno, Tom Bracamontes, used to be called 'half-pint' by the Herrera brothers who own and run the winery; at least, he was until someone suggested they stop calling him half-pint, it's demeaning, call him 375!	
'06 Littorai pinot noir, Hirsch Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	102
'03 DuMOL syrah, Russian River.....	102
'99 Clos d'Agon cabernet sauvignon/merlot/syrah, Mesa de Calonge, Costa Brava, Spain.....	103
total cult winery, wacky varietal blend (especially for Spain), newly discovered wine region, there's no way you want to gamble a Ben Franklin on something this obscure, is there? (did I mention that in psychology class, I sat backwards?)	
'02 d'Arenberg grenache blend, Ironstone Pressings, Fleurieu Peninsula, Australia.....	103
'05 Erna Schein petite sirah, Spring Mountain.....	103
'01 Yarra Yering bordeaux blend, Lot No 1, Victoria, Australia.....	104
'02 Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	104
'06 K Vintners cabernet/syrah, Ovide, En Cerise Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	104
'06 Palazzo cabernet franc, Napa.....	105
'02 Pintia tinta de toro, Toro, Spain.....	105
'07 Ken Wright pinot noir, Abbott Claim Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	105
'99 Lengs & Cooter shiraz, old vines, Clare Valley, Australia.....	105
'03 Vincent Dureuil-Janthial pinot noir, Clos des Argillières, Nuits-St-George, France.....	105
'05 Torii Mor pinot noir, Hawk's View Vineyard, Willamette, Oregon.....	105
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Napa.....	105
'03 Garretson syrah, Bassetti Vineyard, Mon Amie, San Luis Obispo.....	105
'06 Raphet pinot noir, cuvee Unique, Champs Chenys, Gevrey Chambertin, France.....	105
'07 Martinelli pinot noir, Zio Tony Ranch, Russian River.....	105
if you ever wanted to try a pinot noir made by Helen Turley but found the big ticket price tag of \$1000 plus attached to her Marcassin wines to be a bit daunting, then perhaps you should give this wine a whirl - Helen's been in charge of Martinelli winemaking forever, and her style of sizable substantial wines of breadth and depth carries over	
'04 Alain Graillot syrah blend, La Guiraud, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	105

**VINO ROJO and now, the only wine named after a TV network,  
the planet where 'alien' Kevin Spacey is from,  
and the name the cops compare to McLovin on Superbad**

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'05 Pax syrah, Walker Vine Hill, Russian River.....	105
'06 Pax syrah, cuvee Christine, Sonoma.....	117

'04 Pax syrah, Walker Vine Hill, Russian River.....	120
'05 Pax rhone blend, cuvee Moriah, Sonoma.....	123
'05 Pax syrah, Obsidian, Knights Valley.....	124
'05 Pax syrah, cuvee Christine, Sonoma.....	127
'04 Pax rhone blend, cuvee Moriah, Sonoma.....	133
'06 Pax syrah, Kobler Family Vineyard, Russian River.....	135
'06 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	138
'04 Pax syrah, Castelli-Knight Ranch, Russian River.....	140
'04 Pax syrah, cuvee Christine, Sonoma.....	142
'03 Pax syrah, Castelli-Knight Ranch, Russian River.....	144
'05 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	146
'04 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	156
'05 Pax syrah, Kobler Family Vineyard, Russian River.....	160
'03 Pax rhone blend, cuvee Moriah, Sonoma.....	163
'03 Pax syrah, cuvee Christine, Sonoma.....	166
'05 Pax syrah, Griffins Lair, Sonoma Coast.....	170
'03 Pax syrah, Griffins Lair, Sonoma Coast.....	175
'05 Pax syrah, HdR Lot 14, the Mother Block, Alder Springs Vineyard, Terraces, Mendocino.....	199
'05 Pax syrah, HdR Lot 14, the Mother Block, Alder Springs Vineyard, Terraces, Mendocino, <i>double bottle</i> .....	375
'03 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Terraces, Mendocino.....	745
'02 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Terraces, Mendocino.....	945
'02 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino, <i>quadruple bottle</i> .....	2200
'01 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino, <i>quadruple bottle</i> .....	2500
'02 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Terraces, Mendocino, <i>quadruple bottle</i> .....	3800

*in 2002 I wrote:*

Pax Mahle was one of our first regulars at Cowboy Ciao back in the days when he was a hot shot Scottsdale bartender; now, he's a hot shot winemaker teetering on the verge of stardom; nice to see one of the good guys realize his dream (my dream involves a red room, a trapeze, and pie...no, wait, that's every movie David Lynch has ever made)

*fast forward to summer, 2005:*

Hospices du Rhone 2005 was Pax's official coming out party, as he completely owned the event, from hosting the most fascinating seminar to showing the most spectacular lineup of new releases to selling his half-barrel auction lot for almost twice the amount of the next highest item...admittedly, when it comes to Pax, he's a buddy and I'm biased, but I've made friendships with several winemakers (thank goodness they have strong palates, 'cause when it comes to taste in choosing pals, clearly they'll pony up to almost anybody), and I don't know anyone else who's made this type of cannonball splash as quickly, confidently and distinctively as him, and whatever I'm dreaming these days, it always involves a bottle of Pax

*and as the clock ticks to 2009:*

the world economy is in complete and utter disarray, the Cardinals are in the Super Bowl, and Pax is no longer with Pax! not sure who's taking over as winemaker at Pax (the winery), but my suggestion is to drink these Pax wines (made by Pax, the winemaker) now (before they become collectors items) & start looking for Pax (the Mahle) new winery project, Windgap

**VINO ROJO    "either this is the finest wine list I've ever seen,  
or you are completely insane"**

**(actual guest quote, and wouldn't you like to know) (yes, I would) (me, too)**

**\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\***

'04 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, Finca Dofi, Priorato, Spain.....	105
'03 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, Finca Dofi, Priorato, Spain.....	114
'01 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, L'Ermita velles vinyes, Priorato, Spain.....	422

'00 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, L'Ermita velles vinyes, Priorato, Spain.....	450
'02 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, L'Ermita velles vinyes, Priorato, Spain.....	466
'99 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, L'Ermita velles vinyes, Priorato, Spain.....	499
'04 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, L'Ermita velles vinyes, Priorato, Spain.....	700
Palacios packs a punch with these grenache-based blends...Les Terrasses offers great depth of flavor with versatile food affinities, Finca Dofi (single vineyard) is brazen with fruit and panoramic in complexity, and the very rare (how rare? as one of my mentors says when ordering strip steak, "smack it in the head, slap it on the ass and put it on my plate") L'Ermita (old vines, 50 years plus) displays mystical powers like a genie in a bottle (with a lot more than three wishes)	
'04 Behrens & Hitchcock petite sirah, Spring Mountain District.....	106
'01 Clos Mimi syrah, Bunny Slope Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	106
it's tempting to assume that something with words like Mimi and Bunny Slope in the name is less than masculine, but you know what they say, you can't judge a wine by it's wabbit (colossal and dangerous, should be called Suicide Leap)	
'05 Melville pinot noir, estate, Carrie's, Santa Rita Hills.....	106
'06 Penner-Ash pinot noir, Dussin Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	106
'07 Martinelli pinot noir, Bondi Home Ranch, Russian River.....	106
'05 Brewer Clifton pinot noir, Kimberly, Santa Rita Hills.....	106
'03 Ojai syrah, Melville Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	106
'98 Robert Johnson Vineyards merlot, Eden Valley, Australia.....	106
'05 Failla pinot noir, Occidental Ridge, Sonoma Coast.....	106
'05 K Vintners rhone blend, the Boy, Walla Walla, Washington.....	107
'03 Elderton shiraz, Command, Barossa, Australia.....	107
not that you care, but in drama class I was told I had a commanding presence (right before I was told I had radio face!)	

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'06 Noon grenache blend, Eclipse, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	107
'05 Noon grenache blend, Eclipse, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	110
'04 Noon grenache blend, Eclipse, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	116
'04 Noon grenache port, McLaren Vale, Australia, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	138
'05 Noon cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	145
'05 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	165
'03 Noon cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	175
'04 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	185
'03 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	225
'00 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	325
'01 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	375
'99 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	525
'98 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	650
Gary Cooper was on to something with High Noon, if this is what he meant; killer gunslingers from down under <i>{note: that sound you just heard was my entire crew saying "Gary Who?", proof I'm getting too old for this}</i>	

## **VINO ROJO (sometimes, it's the principle of the thing - other times, it's the Vice Principal !)**

'03 Freeman pinot noir, Akiko's cuvee, Sonoma Coast.....	107
'05 Owen Roe cabernet sauvignon, DuBrul Vineyard, Rattlesnake Hills, Yakima, Washington.....	107
'04 Tatiarra shiraz, Pressings, Heathcote, Australia.....	107
'04 Linne Calodo rhone blend, Sticks and Stones, Paso Robles.....	107

Matt Trevisan is younger than most of my socks, but what he lacks in 'aged wisdom' (seriously, folks, just because I've been on the planet longer doesn't necessarily mean I've figured out a whole lot more) he more than makes up for in instinct, enthusiasm and sheer raw talent, not to mention he's clearly mastered the art of multiple varietal blending (which, coincidentally, is what I've done with most of my socks) (proving my point about age not equalling wisdom)

'02 Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Napa.....	108
'05 Foxen pinot noir, Bien Nacido Vineyard, Block Eight, Santa Maria.....	108

**\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\***

'02 Clarendon Hills syrah, Liandra Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	108
'01 Clarendon Hills syrah, Moritz Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	110
'99 Clarendon Hills syrah, Moritz Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	120
'01 Clarendon Hills syrah, Hickinbotham Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	122
'01 Clarendon Hills syrah, Brookman Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	129
'02 Clarendon Hills grenache, Clarendon Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	130
'02 Clarendon Hills syrah, Moritz Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	137
'99 Clarendon Hills syrah, Astralis Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	566
'02 Clarendon Hills syrah, Astralis Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	600

for those of you enamored with the star-spangled fruit bombs typical of Barossa wines, hold up a sec...the wines from Clarendon Hills generally show a good deal more earth than you're used to, and unless you're ready for richly layered Oz fruit from a not-so-sun-baked climate that at times seem more Guigal than Penfold's, steer Clarendon of these

'05 Lewis syrah/cabernet sauvignon, Alec's blend, Napa.....	108
'03 K Vintners cabernet/syrah, Roma, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	109
'06 Turley zinfandel, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	109
'05 Melville pinot noir, estate, Terraces, Santa Rita Hills.....	109
'02 Warrenmang shiraz, Black Puma, Avoca Vineyard, Pyrenees, Victoria, Australia.....	109
honestly, I haven't tried the wine yet, but I always wanted a pair of black Pumas	
'03 Talley pinot noir, Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo Grande.....	110
'97 Poderi Luigi Einaudi nebbiolo, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	110
'03 Tatiarra shiraz, Pressings, Heathcote, Australia.....	110
'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Jeunes-Rois, Gevrey-Chambertin, France.....	110
'05 Noon grenache blend, Eclipse, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	110
'01 Clarendon Hills shiraz, Moritz Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	110
'07 Ken Wright pinot noir, McCrone Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	110
'03 Anderson's Conn Valley Vineyards cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	110
ACW has long been a highly overlooked Napa property due to their insistence on quality and complexity over power;	
'05 Bonaccorsi pinot noir, Sanford & Benedict Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	110
'02 Guigal syrah, Chateau d'Ampuis, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	110
'06 Bergström pinot noir, de Lancelotti Vineyard, Yamhill, Oregon.....	110
'03 Clos Mimi syrah, Brave Oak Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	110
'07 Sea Smoke pinot noir, Southing, Santa Rita Hills.....	110

**VINO ROJO (hint for aggressive swirlers: wear purple shirts)**

**\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\***

'05 Greenock Creek grenache, Cornerstone, Barossa, Australia.....	110
'04 Greenock Creek shiraz, Alices, Barossa, Australia.....	122
'03 Greenock Creek shiraz, Alices, Barossa, Australia.....	132
'03 Greenock Creek shiraz, Apricot Block, Barossa, Australia.....	136
'03 Greenock Creek shiraz, Seven Acre reserve, Barossa, Australia.....	140
'02 Greenock Creek shiraz, Seven Acre reserve, Barossa, Australia.....	144

'99 Greenock Creek shiraz, Seven Acre reserve, Barossa, Australia.....	178
'99 Greenock Creek shiraz, Roennfeldt Road, Barossa, Australia.....	625
'97 Greenock Creek shiraz, Roennfeldt Road, Barossa, Australia.....	645
'95 Greenock Creek shiraz, Roennfeldt Road, Barossa, Australia.....	855
the astonishingly talented Chris Ringland, arguably Australia's finest winemaker, is responsible for all these wines, many of which were rated a perfect 100 points by Robert Parker (and those that weren't were awfully close); standard hallmarks of Greenock Creek wines are fabulous depth, tremendous length and atomic-powered intensity, all adding up to the type of mind-expanding psychedelic taste experience that leaves one wondering exactly how Chris manages to cram so much into every bottle he makes (and why other folks are unable to do the same)	
'04 Behrens & Hitchcock bordeaux/syrah blend, Alder Springs cuvee, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	110
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock bordeaux/syrah blend, Alder Springs cuvee, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	111
'05 Argyle pinot noir, Spirithouse, Willamette, Oregon.....	111
here's the deal — this is the type of wine list that it is so we can get behind the wineries and winemakers who really bring it, who perform above expectations and don't always receive the accolades or attention they deserve, yet continue to shine brightly from vintage to vintage, varietal to varietal, wine to wine; Argyle and their vastly gifted winemaker Rollin Soles are picture perfect illustrations of that philosophical point — they produce perhaps the finest sparkling wine outside of Champagne (some of it in RD <i>{Recently Disgorged}</i> style, for Pete's sake, as if to prove my point even further), gorgeous thickly layered chardonnays, racy pinpoint riesling and superbly crafted pinot noirs that define the tightrope walk of Burgundian sense of place and fresh in-your-face delicious American fruit that the best pinots from Oregon regularly display...on top of all that, we sometimes attempt to showcase the work of our friends, and Rollin has become just that, with his garrulous nature, inquisitive bent, consistently positive attitude and tweaky sense of humor (something I apparently relate to, for some odd reason)	
'04 Garretson syrah, Hoage Vineyard, the Bulladoir, Paso Robles.....	111
'05 Soter pinot noir, Mineral Springs, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	111
'03 DeLille bordeaux blend, Harrison Hill Vineyard, Yakima, Washington.....	111
'01 Enzo Boglietti nebbiolo, Fossati Vineyard, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	111
'99 Scarpantoni cabernet/shiraz/merlot, Maslin Beach Vineyard, Australia.....	111
the only wine on the list where the vineyard overlooks a nude beach (which must make for some really racy grapes)	
'99 Caldwell red blend, Napa.....	111
classy cab/merlot/syrah blend from classy guys who just want to make classy wine...there's the bell, class dismissed!	
'04 Shirvington cabernet sauvignon, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	111
'03 Ojai syrah, Roll Ranch, Ojai.....	111
'02 Ojai syrah, Roll Ranch, Ojai.....	112
'04 K Vintners rhone blend, the Boy, Walla Walla, Washington.....	112
when it comes to rhone blends from Washington, K Vintners separates the Boy from the men	
'02 Hubert de Montille pinot noir, Volnay, France.....	112
'02 Phelan cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	112

## **VINO ROJO (don't you all wish I'd get writers cramp, already?)**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

'05 Cayuse syrah, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	112
'05 Cayuse syrah, Cailloux Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	114
'04 Cayuse syrah, Cailloux Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	117
'04 Cayuse syrah, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	119
'03 Cayuse syrah, Coccinelle Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	122
'03 Cayuse syrah, En Cerise Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	124
'03 Cayuse syrah, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	128

'03 Cayuse syrah, Cailloux Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	132
'02 Cayuse syrah, Cailloux Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	133
'02 Cayuse syrah, En Cerise Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	136
'02 Cayuse syrah, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	139
'01 Cayuse syrah, Cailloux Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	145
'04 Cayuse syrah, Armada Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	155
<i>Cayuse's crazy owner/winemaker Christophe Baron is the yin to K Vintner's Charles Smith's yang, or maybe vice versa; where Charles is knocking out wondrous Washington wines (many from these same vineyards) that possess a decidedly 'Old World' composition, France expatriate Christophe is capitalizing on Walla Walla's stony terroir to add notes of French sensibility to what are definitely 'New World' wines, large &amp; layered, garnering glittering Spectator scores galore!</i>	
<i>{storytime: Christophe is nicknamed 'The Bionic Frog' because, while on 'walkabout' down under, some big, bad Aussie winemakers thought it would be fun to stage a series of drinking contests with the much more diminutive Frenchman - when they couldn't drink him under the table with cab and shiraz, they switched to ultra-sweet stickies, and Christophe, in the role of underdog (or is it underfrog?), was ultimately the last man standing, albeit in a swirling sugar coma}</i>	
<i>{more storytime: Christophe and Charles were in one of their frequent good-natured discussions (animated conversations) (disagreements) (arguments) (out and out bar brawls), when Christophe said "you cannot possibly understand terroir as I do, you are not a Frenchman", to which Charles excitedly responded "I am so a Frenchman, I'm just not from France!"}</i>	
'05 Domaine du Caillou grenache blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	112
'01 Enzo Boglietti nebbiolo, Brunate Vineyard, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	112
'01 Enzo Boglietti nebbiolo, Case Nere, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	113
'05 d'Arenberg shiraz, the Dead Arm, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	113
'05 Erna Schein syrah, 'Homage to Ed Oliveira', Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	113
'05 Switchback Ridge merlot, Peterson Family Vineyard, Napa.....	113
'05 Cayuse syrah, Cailloux Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	114
'03 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, Finca Dofi, Priorato, Spain.....	114
<i>Alvaro Palacios makes superb single vineyard wines with massive power, explosive flavors and remarkable aging potential; Finca Dofi, a vineyard blend of 60% grenache with cabernet sauvignon, merlot and syrah, is full of complex notes ranging from cherry liqueur to french toast to spiced fruitcake, all with a broad backbone (if those flavors remind you of breakfast, you must have a strong constitution to go with that backbone!)</i>	
'06 Turley zinfandel, Ueberroth Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	115
'05 Brewer Clifton pinot noir, Mount Carmel Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	115
'01 Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	115
'07 Ken Wright pinot noir, Freedom Hill Vineyard, Coast Range, Oregon.....	115
'01 Ojai syrah, Thompson Vineyard, Los Alamos.....	116
'06 Turley zinfandel, Duarte Vineyard, Contra Costa.....	116
'04 Noon grenache blend, Eclipse, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	116
'03 Mitolo shiraz, Savitar, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	116

**VINO ROJO (as Pete Rose would say, you can bet it's worth the gamble to try one of these)**

*{first off, Pete Rose was the captain/sparkplug of the original Big Red Machine, the multiple world champion Cincinnati Reds, but the main purpose of the comment was so I can rail on the leaders of baseball who have seen fit to ban Rose from the Hall of Fame, even though he was the greatest hitter to play the game...c'mon, guys, it's called the Hall of Fame, not the Hall of Good Behavior!}*

'03 Henry's Drive shiraz, reserve, Padthaway, Australia.....	116
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'02 Red Car syrah, the Fight, Richard Perry Vineyard, Napa.....	117
<i>"It's like getting punched in the face, but, yeah, it's good!" actual wine geek quote from former Ciaoster Lisa Rein</i>	
'99 Cavallari tuscan blend, Grattamacco, Bolghieri Superiore, Tuscany, Italy.....	117
'04 Cayuse syrah, Cailloux Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	117
'06 Pax syrah, cuvee Christine, Sonoma.....	117
'06 Linne Calodo rhone blend, Sticks and Stones, Paso Robles.....	117
'06 Turley zinfandel, Mead Ranch, Atlas Peak.....	118
'05 Sanguis syrah, the Optimist, Santa Maria.....	118
'06 Paul Hobbs pinot noir, Ulises Valdez Vineyard, Russian River.....	119
'04 Turley zinfandel, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	119
'04 Cayuse syrah, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	119
'03 Soter cabernet franc, Little Creek Vineyard, Tulocay, Napa.....	119
'04 Melville pinot noir, estate, Terraces, Santa Rita Hills.....	119
'02 Ojai syrah, Melville Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	120
'06 Bergström pinot noir, Bergström Estate Vineyard, Dundee Hills, Oregon.....	120
'06 Martinelli pinot noir, Zio Tony Ranch, Russian River.....	120
'04 Bacio Divino cabernet blend, Napa.....	120
<i>unorthodox blend of cab, sangiovese, merlot and petite sirah that is consistently complex and anything but kosher</i>	
<i>(to say nothing of their other bottling, Pazzo, whose label once gave me vertigo, although the wine was good to go)</i>	
'03 Rusden zinfandel, Crookshed, Barossa, Australia.....	120
'99 Clarendon Hills shiraz, Moritz Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	120
'03 K Vintners cabernet/syrah, Ovide, En Cerise Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	120
'06 Paul Hobbs malbec, Bramare, Marchiori Vineyard, Mendoza, Argentina.....	120
'04 Pax syrah, Walker Vine Hill, Russian River.....	120
<b>***spotlight***</b>	
'06 Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Flor de Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	120
'05 Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Flor de Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	130
'06 Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	1000
'05 Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	1100
'01 Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	1200
'00 Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	1300
'98 Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	1500
<i>Dutchman Peter Sisseck has captured the imagination of a generation of young Spanish winemakers, as well as that of the auction houses, with his very unique and equally rare take on tempranillo</i>	
<i>(Pingus must be Dutch for bitchin'!)</i>	
'07 Ken Wright pinot noir, Carter Vineyard, Eola Hills, Oregon.....	120
'03 Shirvington cabernet sauvignon, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	121
'03 Garretson syrah, Hoage Vineyard, the Bulladoir, Paso Robles.....	121
<i>what's a Bulladoir, you ask? a heifer with really great gams!</i>	

**VINO ROJO (our initial list at Ciao began with a scant 88 choices; I remember it as if it were...actually, I don't remember it)**

'03 Bressler cabernet sauvignon, St Helena.....	122
'05 Kelly Fleming cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	122
<i>cult Napa cabs, strong vintages, for a second there it was like being in a steak house (without the horrific price gouging)</i>	
'00 Paolo Bea sagrantino, secco, Pagliaro, Montefalco, Umbria, Italy.....	122
'01 Clarendon Hills syrah, Hickinbotham Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	122
'06 Raphet pinot noir, cuvee Unique, Les Bussières, Chambolle-Musigny, France.....	122
'03 Cayuse syrah, Coccinelle Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	122
<i>how's this for a coincidence... Coccinelle, Pagliaro, Bussieres and Hickinbotham is the new name of our law firm</i>	

(it used to be called Chiseler, Charleton, Swindler and Flywheel, but for some reason, that wasn't working)

'04 Greenock Creek shiraz, Alices, Barossa, Australia.....	122
'06 Turley zinfandel, Dusi Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	122
'07 Ken Wright pinot noir, Shea Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	122
'05 Pax rhone blend, cuvee Moriah, Sonoma.....	123
'03 Cayuse syrah, En Cerise Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	124
'06 Martinelli pinot noir, Bondi Home Ranch, Russian River.....	124
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Abbott Claim Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	124
'05 Pax syrah, Obsidian, Knights Valley.....	124
'01 Rusden zinfandel, Barossa, Australia.....	125
'05 Brewer Clifton pinot noir, Cargasacchi Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	125
of all the fabulous Brewer Clifton pinots, the ones from Cargasacchi ("bless you!") Vineyard are generally the most exotic and eclectic, which, given the usual state of the unusual Brewer Clifton wines, translates to <b>WAY</b> far out there	
'03 Clos Mimi syrah, Shell Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	125
'03 W S Keyes merlot, estate, Howell Mountain.....	125
'04 Behrens & Hitchcock syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	125
'06 Bergström pinot noir, Shea Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	125
you may occasionally spot a dark, swarthy-looking character with a wry sense of humor wandering the property here; it's not me, I've got more of a Bela Lugosi's Uncle thing going on; rather, it's Jason Morris, professional wine geek, whose Quench Wine Company represents an astounding number of red hot boutique wineries from the Pacific Northwest, and the Bergström line is his current 'absolute must, holy cow, rockin' wines' selection among pinot noir from Oregon (did you hear that Robin Williams recently opened up a delicatessen? it's called 'Ham on Wry!' is this thing on?)	
'05 Turley zinfandel, Pesenti Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	125
'03 Outpost cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	125
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Nysa Vineyard, Dundee Hills, Oregon.....	125
*** <i>spotlight</i> ***	
'06 Beaux Freres pinot noir, Beaux Freres Vineyard, Ribbon Ridge, Oregon.....	126
'05 Beaux Freres pinot noir, Beaux Freres Vineyard, Ribbon Ridge, Oregon.....	133
'06 Beaux Freres pinot noir, Beaux Freres Vineyard, the Upper Terrace, Ribbon Ridge, Oregon.....	148
'03 Beaux Freres pinot noir, Beaux Freres Vineyard, Ribbon Ridge, Oregon, <i>double bottle</i> .....	359
if you're waiting for Parker to review these wines, it'll be a long dry spell for you, as he's part owner of the winery and won't rate it for fear of poor objectivity, so for once take my word for it: Beaux knows, mon frere, perfect pitch pinot	
'04 Shirvington shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	126
'06 Turley zinfandel, Moore-Earthquake Vineyard, Napa.....	126
'00 Kay Brothers shiraz, Tintara Vineyard Block Six, Barossa, Australia.....	126
'05 Linne Calodo rhone blend, Sticks and Stones, Paso Robles.....	126

## **VINO ROJO ("...and wipe that silly grenache off your face!")**

'99 M Chapoutier grenache blend, Croix de Bois, Chateaneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	126
'06 Martinelli zinfandel, Giuseppe & Luisa, Russian River.....	127
Martinelli is the only winery that regularly challenges Turley for top zinfandel honors; call it the Helen Turley factor	
'05 Pax syrah, cuvee Christine, Sonoma.....	127
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, McCrone Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	127
'06 Turley charbono, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	128
'03 Cayuse syrah, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	128
'98 Melka bordeaux blend, Matisse, Napa.....	129
Phillipe Melka makes tiny, tiny, tiny amounts of wine, and he treats them all like works of art (hence the	

designation of Matisse)...from his palate to your palate, with both broad brush strokes and subtle backgrounds

'05 Brewer Clifton pinot noir, Rancho Santa Rosa, Santa Rita Hills.....	129
'02 Clarendon Hills grenache, Clarendon Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	129
'99 Chateau Montelena cabernet sauvignon, estate, Napa, <i>half bottle</i> .....	129
'05 Domaine Jean Garaudet pinot noir, Noizons, Pommard, France.....	129
'05 Turley zinfandel, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	129
'03 Seavey cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	129
'01 Clarendon Hills syrah, Brookman Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	130
'05 Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Flor de Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	130
'01 Hobbs shiraz, Barossa Ranges, Australia.....	130
'06 Paul Hobbs pinot noir, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros.....	130
'01 Rusden shiraz, Black Guts, Barossa, Australia.....	130

finally, a wine to drink at Quentin Tarantino movies

'05 Turley zinfandel, Dusi Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	130
'03 Adrian Fog pinot noir, Demuth Vineyard, Anderson Valley.....	130
'03 Bodegas Alion tempranillo, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	130
from the Vega Sicilia peeps, this is their more 'modern' attempt to produce a tempranillo with bordeaux-like qualities	
'04 Clos Martinet carignan blend, Cataluna, Priorato, Spain.....	131
'04 Clos Figueres carignan/grenache, Priorato, Spain.....	131
how about that, Spain takes carignan, a Rhône varietal high on acid (who isn't?) but low on charm and somehow manages to feature it prominently in Priorato to create succulent wines of power and grace — go Figueres (er, figure)	
'06 Turley zinfandel, Rattlesnake Acres Vineyard, Napa.....	131
'02 Rusden zinfandel, Chookshed, Barossa, Australia.....	131
'03 Arnot-Roberts cabernet sauvignon, Wild Iris Vineyard, Chalk Hill.....	131
'03 Arnot-Roberts cabernet sauvignon, Bugayl Vineyard, Mayacamas Range.....	132
'06 Glaetzer shiraz, Amon-Ra, Barossa, Australia.....	132
'03 Cayuse syrah, Cailloux Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	132
'05 Bergström pinot noir, Bergström Estate Vineyard, Dundee Hills, Oregon.....	132
'05 Turley zinfandel, Mead Ranch, Atlas Peak.....	132
'03 Greenock Creek shiraz, Alices, Barossa, Australia.....	132
'98 Remoissenet pinot noir, Mazis-Chambertin, France.....	132
'02 Garretson rhone blend, the Reliquary, Central Coast.....	132
'01 Garretson rhone blend, the Reliquary, Central Coast.....	133
'05 Beaux Freres pinot noir, Beaux Freres Vineyard, Ribbon Ridge, Oregon.....	133
'04 Dry River pinot noir, Martinborough, New Zealand.....	133
most hard-core wine freaks believe Dry River to be the best winery in KIWITOWN, primarily due to this super pinot	
'02 Jean-Michel Gaunoux pinot noir, Clos des Chénes, Volnay, France.....	133
'01 Giaconda shiraz, Warner Vineyard, Barossa, Australia.....	133
'02 Shirvington cabernet sauvignon, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	133
'02 Cayuse syrah, Cailloux Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	133

## **VINO ROJO (if you're looking for closure, you came to the wrong list)**

'04 Behrens & Hitchcock syrah blend, Chien Lunatique, Napa.....	133
'04 Pax rhone blend, cuvee Moriah, Sonoma.....	133
'02 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Barbaresco, Piedmonte, Italy.....	133
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Freedom Hill Vineyard, Coast Range, Oregon.....	133
'99 Seven Lions merlot, Blakeman Vineyard, Anderson Valley.....	134
'00 Montevetrano cabernet sauvignon/merlot/aglianico, Campania, Italy.....	134
pair a visionary photographer (Sylvia Imperata) with a money winemaker (Riccardo Cotarella), get picture perfect results	
'03 Paul Hobbs merlot, Michael Black Vineyard, Napa.....	134
'06 Turley zinfandel, Dragon Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	134

'03 Montes bordeaux blend, Alpha M, Colchagua, Chile.....	134
'03 Montes syrah, Folly, Colchagua, Chile.....	135
the folly would be to pass up on the spectacular wines from Montes, one of Chile's top three producers	
'04 Brewer Clifton pinot noir, Cargasacchi Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	135
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Meredith-Mitchell Vineyard, McMinnville Foothills, Oregon.....	135
'03 Tenute Dettori cannonau, Tenores, Sardinia, Italy.....	135
many wine experts believe cannonau is a Sardinian clone of grenache; Sardinians believe cannonau is the original, thereby relegating grenache to clonal status; our Somm Sean believes this is the best cannonau on earth (& Sardinia)	
'01 Jasper Hill shiraz, Georgia's Paddock, Heathcote, Australia.....	135
'06 Pax syrah, Kobler Family Vineyard, Russian River.....	135
'05 Turley zinfandel, Dogtown Vineyard, Lodi.....	135
'03 Kay Brothers shiraz, Tintara Vineyard Block Six, Barossa, Australia.....	136
'03 Greenock Creek shiraz, Apricot Block, Barossa, Australia.....	136
Greenock Creek is famous for it's Seven Acres and Roenfeldt bottlings, and this is a chip off the old Apricot Block!	
'04 Kelly Fleming cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	136
'02 Cayuse syrah, En Cerise Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	136
'04 Realm bordeaux blend, the Tempest, St Helena.....	136
***spotlight***	
'04 Artadi tempranillo, Pagos Viejos, Rioja, Spain.....	136
'04 Artadi tempranillo, El Pison, Rioja, Spain.....	266
'99 Artadi tempranillo, El Pison, Rioja, Spain.....	290
'99 Artadi tempranillo, Grandes Anadas, Rioja, Spain.....	325
cool Rioja producer specializing in tempranillo that covers the spectrum from the Pagos Viejos 'diner wine' (tastes a bit like a peanut butter sandwich and cherry-vanilla coke) to the Grandes Anadas 'galloping gourmet' (more along the lines of beef Wellington with a fine framboise), Artadi makes one fine toddy after another that are a far cry from the 'dusty roads' school of Rioja {true story: we worked with a gigantic singing waiter named Dusty Rhodes in the days of Steven Café whose idea of a proper table greeting was a theatrical "how about a toddy for the body from the bar?"}	
'02 Clarendon Hills shiraz, Moritz Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	137
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock petite sirah, Spring Mountain District.....	137
'98 Fattoria Le Pupille cabernet blend, Saffredi, Tuscany, Italy.....	137
super super-tuscan made primarily from cab and merlot, with a splash of alicante, and did we mention it's super?	
'99 Clos Mimi syrah, Etiquette Bleue late harvest, Bunny Slope Vineyard,	
Paso Robles, <i>half bottle</i> .....	137
'01 Hazy Blur shiraz, late picked, Settlers Plateau, Kangaroo Island, Australia, <i>half bottle</i> ....	137
those of you who are fans of late harvest zin and vintage port, these late pick syrahs are a razzle-dazzle surprise (hey, at \$137 for a half bottle, they better be more than a pleasant surprise, no?); drink these after dinner, or with a dense chocolate concoction like Mexican chocolate pot de creme with chipotle cream at Cowboy Ciao, or anytime you want to lapse into a sugar coma of delight and wonderment (cheaper than heroin and no messy syringe!)	
<b>VINO ROJO so, let me get this straight: when a guest tells me "I enjoy the non-linear writing", it's really just a polite way of asking me exactly why I got off the medication in the first place?</b>	
'03 Linne Calodo rhone blend, Sticks and Stones, Paso Robles.....	137
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Guadalupe Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	137
'05 Turley zinfandel, Moore-Earthquake Vineyard, Napa.....	138
'06 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	138
'02 Cayuse syrah, En Chamberlin Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	139
'06 Paul Hobbs pinot noir, Lindsay Vineyard, Russian River.....	140
'03 Greenock Creek shiraz, Seven Acre reserve, Barossa, Australia.....	140
'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Elton Vineyard, Eola Hills, Oregon.....	140

'05 Domaine Chanson pinot noir, Clos des Fèves, Beaune, France.....	140
'04 Turley charbono, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	140
'03 DuMOL syrah, Eddie's Patch, Russian River.....	140
'87 Raymond cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	140
'04 Pax syrah, Castelli-Knight Ranch, Russian River.....	140
'02 K Vintners grenache/tempranillo/syrah, the Boy, Walla Walla, Washington.....	140

**\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\***

'05 Clos Mogador garnacha blend, Priorato, Spain.....	140
'04 Clos Mogador garnacha blend, Priorato, Spain.....	147
'03 Clos Mogador garnacha blend, Priorato, Spain.....	155
'02 Clos Mogador garnacha blend, Priorato, Spain.....	167
'97 Clos Mogador garnacha blend, Priorato, Spain.....	228

Priorato renaissance pioneer Rene Barbier has over two decades of perfecting this rich, robust blend of garnacha, mataro, cab & syrah; supposedly, the considerable concentration derives from the use of an olive press rather than a standard one

'05 Turley petite sirah, Library Vineyard, Napa.....	141
'00 Marques de Caceres tempranillo/graciano, Gaudium, Rioja, Spain.....	141
'99 Paolo Bea sagrafino, passito, Montefalco, Umbria, Italy, <i>half bottle</i> .....	142
passito sagrafino falls somewhere between dessert digestivo & the world's best root beer — wicked, wild, wondrous stuff	
'03 Saint Cosme syrah, Montsallier, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	142
'02 Turley zinfandel, Pesenti Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	142
'96 Abadia Retuerta tempranillo, Pago Negralada reserva, Sardon de Duero, Spain.....	142
'04 Pax syrah, cuvee Christine, Sonoma.....	142
'05 Leonetti sangiovese, Walla Walla, Washington.....	143
'02 Montepeloso sangiovese/cabernet sauvignon, Nardo, Tuscany, Italy.....	143

speaking of Nardo, why is it the taxis I take never have a cabbie that looks like Marilu Henner?

'97 Coltibuono sangiovese, Tuscany, Italy.....	143
'94 Coltibuono sangiovese, Tuscany, Italy.....	144

*Cowboy Ciao*, year two, one of our first wine events was held with the winemaker from Badia y Coltibuono, Roberto Stucchi, who was exactly like Furio from the Sopranos (except he wasn't lovestruck, he was jetlagged); the various chiantis they produce have varied in quality the last few vintages, but the flagship wine they make from the rare sangiovese clone is consistently a winner, and these are the best vintages we could dig up (or as Little Stevie would say, Bada Bing!) (personally, of all the sidemen from the E Street band, my choice for a consigliere would have been Nils Lofgren, although Clarence Clemons would make one scary enforcer)

'06 Ken Wright pinot noir, Canary Hill Vineyard, Eola Hills, Oregon.....	144
'04 Glaetzer shiraz, Amon-Ra, Barossa, Australia.....	144
'03 Turley zinfandel, Dusi Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	144
'04 Bergström pinot noir, Shea Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	144
'02 Kelly Fleming cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	144

**VINO ROJO (like Muddy Waters says "got my rojo working")**

'01 Paul Hobbs merlot, Michael Black Vineyard, Napa.....	144
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock syrah blend, Chien Lunatique, Napa.....	144
'02 Greenock Creek shiraz, Seven Acre reserve, Barossa, Australia.....	144
'03 Pax syrah, Castelli-Knight Ranch, Russian River.....	144
'05 Brewer Clifton pinot noir, Melville Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	145
'04 Guigal syrah, vignes de l'Hospice, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....	145
'04 Hentley Farms shiraz, the Beast, Barossa, Australia.....	145
depends what you mean by Beast — Kelsey Grammer as the Beast in X-Men III, it ain't that; Robbie Benson as the Disney voice-over, not so much; Amare Stoudemire plowing through the lane for a tomahawk jam, now you're talkin'!	
'01 Cayuse syrah, Cailloux Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	145
'05 Alban grenache, Seymour's Vineyard, Alban Estate, Edna Valley.....	145

John Alban was one of the first winemakers to grasp the potential for Rhone varietals in California and fully realize that potential from both a grower and winemaker standpoint, and he was a co-founder of Hospice du Rhone, one of America's premier wine festivals, and, if that's not enough juice, he spent 15 years pursuing Philippe Guigal until Guigal finally wine-caved in and presented one of the top wine seminars ever at the 2008 HdR, perhaps the acme highlight of 17 years of festivals full of highlights; this stunning grenache is yet one more Alban over-achievement

'01 Descendientes de Jose Palacios mencia, old vine, Moncerbal Corullón, Bierzo, Spain.....145

'05 Domaine Arlaud pinot noir, Millandes, Morey-St-Denis, France.....145

the Arlaud father & son team is known for producing pinots that are at once both hedonistic and intricate, overt and elegant, as if the laws of physics and gravity don't apply to them, and when you toss in the second 'vintage of the decade' (first 2002, now 2005, where is this place, California?), you have yourself a run of special wines from special places (for example, their Roncevie Bourgogne is actually from a single vineyard formerly under the jurisdiction of Gevrey) made by special people in a special vintage, so, while they may not follow the same laws of gravity as us mere mortals, it's perhaps because they follow their own special laws of gravitas

**\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\***

'07 Molly Dooker shiraz/cabernet, Enchanted Path, McLaren Vale, Australia.....145

'07 Molly Dooker shiraz, Carnival of Love, McLaren Vale, Australia.....146

'06 Molly Dooker shiraz/cabernet, Enchanted Path, McLaren Vale, Australia.....175

'06 Molly Dooker shiraz, Carnival of Love, McLaren Vale, Australia.....176

'07 Molly Dooker shiraz, Velvet Glove, McLaren Vale, Australia.....450

'06 Molly Dooker shiraz, Velvet Glove, McLaren Vale, Australia.....500

we've been twice blessed by visits from the positively infectious (or is that infectiously positive?) Sparky Marquis, the 2001 Australia Winemaker of the Year (actually, co-winemaker, along with his wife Sarah, and I say anyone who can both live and work with their spouse deserves the name Sparky); much sought after as winemaking consultants (busier than a one-armed grape picker, Sparky might say), Molly Dooker is the Marquis' marquis property (always wanted to say that); typical of their style, all these wines are across-the-board big, bold powerhouses with about as much subtlety as a Shaquille O'Neal free throw (although these score with much greater consistency; the first vintage of Molly Dooker wines all scored 90+ points in Robert Parker's Wine Advocate, and this year may be even better)

'05 Noon cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard,  
Langhorne Creek, Australia.....145

'07 Molly Dooker shiraz, Carnival of Love, McLaren Vale, Australia.....146

'02 Kay Brothers shiraz, Tintara Vineyard Block Six, Barossa, Australia.....146

'04 Domaine Bonnefond syrah, Les Rochains, Côte Rotie, Rhône, France.....146

'05 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....146

'02 Turley zinfandel, Dusi Vineyard, Paso Robles.....146

'03 Behrens & Hitchcock bordeaux/syrah blend, Les Chats du Monde, Napa.....147

**VINO ROJO they said it couldn't be done (and as soon as I find out who they are and what it is, I'll let you know)**

'02 Argiano tuscan plus blend, Solengo, Tuscany, Italy.....147

equal parts cabernet sauvignon, merlot, syrah and sangiovese make up this impressive, rare, multi-layered wine

'04 Betts & Scholl syrah, Napa/Sonoma.....147

Master Sommelier-turned-winemaker Richard Betts is a wine geek's wine geek...to quote our good friend Dan Phillips of the Grateful Palate, "Don't you just love to hear a Sommelier talk about wine? It's like watching Ben Wallace rebound", especially so when it's Richard; his enthusiasm for wine is fully realized in his harmonious prose, which is not only as luxuriantly textured as this superlative grenache, but makes my own writing look as lean and spare as Elmore Leonard's (not to mention his youthful Boy Scout appearance, which makes me look more like Leonard Bernstein)

'04 Henschke shiraz, Mount Edelstone, Eden Valley, Australia.....147

'04 Clos Mogador garnacha blend, Priorato, Spain.....147  
'04 Turley zinfandel, Dogtown Vineyard, Lodi.....147

\*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*

'00 Chateau La Petite Eglise bordeaux blend, Pomerol, France.....147  
'00 Chateau Haut-Carles bordeaux blend, Fronsac, France.....173  
'00 Chateau du Tertre bordeaux blend, Margaux, France.....210  
'00 les Forts de Latour bordeaux blend, Pauillac, France.....245  
'00 Chateau Faugères bordeaux blend, Pèby, St Emilion, France.....255  
'00 Chateau Calon-Ségur bordeaux blend, St Estèphe, France.....313  
'00 Chateau Angelus bordeaux blend, St Emilion, France.....360  
'00 Chateau Montrose bordeaux blend, St Estèphe, France.....400  
admittedly, Bordeaux has never been my thing, but the 2000 vintage was much ballyhooed, and since I have never used that word in a sentence, I figured it's nigh time to buy in (and as an added bonus, I get to use the word nigh!)

'03 Montepeloso cabernet franc/cabernet sauvignon, Gabbro, Tuscany, Italy.....148  
'05 TOR cabernet sauvignon, Mast Vineyard, Yountville.....148  
'04 Melis rhone blend, Priorato, Spain.....148  
'06 Beaux Freres pinot noir, Beaux Freres Vineyard, the Upper Terrace,  
Ribbon Ridge, Oregon.....148  
'02 Clos Mimi syrah, White Hawk Vineyard, Los Alamos, Santa Barbara.....148  
'97 La Massa sangiovese, Giorgio Primo, Chianti Classico, Tuscany, Italy.....148  
'03 Sherwin Family cabernet sauvignon, Spring Mountain.....149  
put this on for our DJ pal Mr P-Body (P-Body & Sherwin, get it? you would if you had a way-back machine)  
'05 Peter Michael bordeaux blend, l'Esprit des Pavots, Mount St Helena, Knights Valley.....149  
'04 Behrens & Hitchcock syrah, 'Homage to Ed Oliveira',  
Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....149  
'00 Hobbs shiraz, Barossa Ranges, Australia.....149  
'07 Caduceus cabernet sauvignon, Nagal del Judith, Merkin Vineyard, Cornville, Arizona...149  
'02 Standish shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....149

\*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*

'98 Montevervine sangiovese, riserva, Tuscany, Italy.....149  
'99 Montevervine sangiovese blend, Le Pergole Torte, Tuscany, Italy.....185  
'98 Montevervine sangiovese blend, Le Pergole Torte, Tuscany, Italy.....200  
'97 Montevervine sangiovese blend, Le Pergole Torte, Tuscany, Italy.....225  
'97 Montevervine sangiovese, riserva, Tuscany, Italy, *double bottle*.....280  
'97 was touted as the greatest vintage ever in Tuscany (with '98 & '99 not too far behind), and cantankerous winemaker Sergio Manetti is generally considered to be one of the vanguard of sangiovese; the super-reserve blend of 90% sangiovese with 10% canaiolo, Le Pergole Torte, has established a huge cult following for its dynamic combination of power and purity

## **VINO ROJO**     **you can always spot an Aussie winemaker – they swirl their wine counter-clockwise**

'98 Hutton Vale shiraz, Eden Valley, Australia.....150  
'02 Rusden shiraz, Hage Family Vineyard, Troll Creek, Barossa, Australia.....150  
'03 Standish shiraz/viognier, the Relic, Barossa, Australia.....150  
again with the name-calling?  
'07 Sea Smoke pinot noir, Ten, Santa Rita Hills.....150  
'97 Antoniolo nebbiolo/bonarda, Osso S Grato, Gattinara, Piedmont, Italy.....150  
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock bordeaux blend, Tenth Anniversary cuvée, Napa.....150  
'05 Alban syrah, Reva Vineyard, Alban Estate, Edna Valley.....150  
'02 Bocquenet pinot noir, La Criox Blanche, Vosne-Romanée, France.....150  
'05 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Côte Rôzier, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....150

'05 Jones Family Vineyards cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	150
'06 Turley zinfandel, Salvador Vineyard, Contra Costa.....	151
'98 M Chapoutier cabernet/syrah/grenache, Domaine des Béates, Terra d'Or, Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence, France.....	151
'04 Turley zinfandel, Pesenti Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	152
'01 Guigal syrah, vignes de l'Hospice, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....	152
'04 Bergström pinot noir, Bergström Estate Vineyard, Dundee Hills, Oregon.....	152
'98 Emmanuel Rouget pinot noir, Nuit-St-Georges, France.....	153
'95 Laurel Glen cabernet sauvignon, Sonoma.....	154
'05 Turley zinfandel, Rattlesnake Acres Vineyard, Napa.....	154
'98 Montevetrano cabernet sauvignon/merlot/aglianico, Campania, Italy.....	154
'02 Behrens & Hitchcock bordeaux blend, Rudy's cuvee, Napa.....	155
'98 M Chapoutier syrah, La Sizeranne, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	155
'04 Beaux Freres pinot noir, Beaux Freres Vineyard, the Upper Terrace, Ribbon Ridge, Oregon.....	155
'07 Kosta Browne pinot noir, Sonoma Coast.....	155
'00 Gantenbein pinot noir, Switzerland.....	155
<i>this tightly wound, eclectic, bright bing cherry pinot gets the nod from most collectors as Switzerland's top wine (and this tightly wound, erratic, not-so-bright &amp; older-than-Bing-Crosby wino nods in agreement before nodding off)</i>	
'05 Jones Family cabernet sauvignon, estate, Napa.....	155
'04 Cayuse syrah, Armada Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	155
'03 Clos Mogador garnacha blend, Priorato, Spain.....	155
'06 Alban grenache, Edna Valley.....	155
'04 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	156
'97 Henschke shiraz/cabernet/merlot, Abbott's Prayer, Lenswood, Australia.....	156
'04 Montepeloso sangiovese/cabernet sauvignon, Nardo, Tuscany, Italy.....	157
'05 Linne Calodo rhone blend, Martyr, Paso Robles.....	157
<i>best way to guarantee a good seat for the crucifixion — always tip the Martyr D'!</i>	
'06 Turley zinfandel, Grist Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	157
'99 Henschke shiraz, Mount Edelstone, Eden Valley, Australia.....	157
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock syrah, 'Homage to Ed Oliveira', Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	158
'97 Parusso nebbiolo, Bussia Vigna Rocche, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	159
'04 Tablas Creek rhone blend, Panoplie, Paso Robles.....	159
<i>Panoplie is a mourvèdre-based small lot selection (280 cases) intended to mirror the top Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape model produced at Chateau Beaucastel (Tablas Creek's sister property in the Rhône), the stunning Hommage à Jacques Perrin</i>	
'03 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Côte Rôzier, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	160
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock bordeaux blend, the Contender, Napa.....	160
<b>VINO ROJO    never keep wine at third base - it's the hot corner</b>	
'05 Domaine Moillard pinot noir, Beaux Monts, Vosne-Romanée, France.....	160
'04 Alban syrah, Reva Vineyard, Alban Estate, Edna Valley.....	160
'06 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Descendant, Barossa, Australia.....	160
'02 Turley zinfandel, Dogtown Vineyard, Lodi.....	160
'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Ruchots, Morey-St-Denis, France.....	160
'05 Pax syrah, Kobler Family Vineyard, Russian River.....	160
'06 Leonetti merlot, Columbia, Washington.....	161
<i>Washington State is marching on the Pacific Northwestern front, quickly yet quietly becoming a major league force for American wine in general and merlot in particular, but there is nothing save extremely loud applause for Gary Figgins, owner/winemaker at Leonetti, a true Washington wizard, having set the highest of standards for over three decades</i>	
'05 Turley zinfandel, Ueberroth Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	161
'02 Behrens & Hitchcock syrah blend, Chien Lunatique, Napa.....	162

'06 Turley zinfandel, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	163
'01 Rolf Binder shiraz, Hanisch Vineyard, Barossa, Australia.....	163
of the many wines Rolf Binder makes, this single vineyard syrah is typically the most spectacular, Hanisch down	
'03 Pax rhone blend, cuvee Moriah, Sonoma.....	163
and while we're on the subject of spectacular wine, the debut of Pax Mahle's cuvee Moriah, a grenache-driven	
monster truck that includes syrah, mourvèdre, and splashes of counoise and roussanne, is unquestionably the best	
Chateauneuf-du-Pape inspired blend I've ever had from California (and perhaps the best Chateauneuf-du-Pape I've	
ever had, as well, except it's not actually from there, but why quibble); props to you, Pax (or should I say Papes?)	
'06 Turley petite sirah, Turley Estate Vineyard, Napa.....	164
'94 Marques de Caceres tempranillo, 100 year vine gran reserva, Gaudium, Rioja, Spain.....	164
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock bordeaux blend, reserve, Kenefick Ranch, Napa.....	165
'05 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	165
'02 Sean Thackrey syrah, old vines, Orion, Rossi Vineyard, St Helena.....	165
'05 Turley zinfandel, Dragon Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	165

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'05 Arietta bordeaux blend, Claret, Howell Mountain.....	165
'00 Arietta merlot/syrah, Variation One, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	166
'02 Arietta merlot, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	168
'03 Arietta merlot/syrah, Variation One, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	169
'02 Arietta merlot/cabernet franc, Hudson Vineyard, H Block, Napa.....	170
'02 Arietta merlot/syrah, Variation One, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	172
'99 Arietta merlot, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	175
'01 Arietta merlot/cabernet franc, Red, Hudson Vineyard, H Block, Napa.....	179
'01 Arietta merlot/syrah, Variation One, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	180
'05 Arietta cabernet sauvignon, Thorvilos Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	183
'03 Arietta cabernet sauvignon, Thorvilos Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	186
'03 Arietta merlot/cabernet franc, Hudson Vineyard, H Block, Napa.....	195
'05 Arietta merlot/cabernet franc, Hudson Vineyard, H Block, Napa.....	220
in case you missed the earlier plugs, John Kongsgaard (who co-owns this property with celebrity auctioneer Fritz Hatton)	
is a phenomenally talented winemaker who is lauded primarily for his work with chardonnay, but his various red varietals	
are just as daring and dynamic; these merlot-based beauties are terrific takes on the hypothetical Pomerol-meets-Napa	
'01 Oasi Degli Angeli montepulciano, Kurni, Marche, Italy.....	166
'03 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Les Vialleres, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	166
'97 Callaghan merlot/cabernet sauvignon, Buena Suerte cuvee,	
Cochise County, Arizona, double bottle.....	166
'05 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Descendant, Barossa, Australia.....	166

**VINO ROJO "It was either give your wine list the award for  
'Most Innovative' or for 'Least Readable'..."**

**actual guest quote from Master Sommelier/Monterey Wine Fest Director Doug Frost**

'03 Pax syrah, cuvee Christine, Sonoma.....	166
'02 Tua Rita bordeaux blend, Giusto di Notri, Tuscany, Italy.....	166
'98 Arnaldo Caprai sagrantino, 25 Anni reserve, Montefalco, Umbria, Italy.....	166
if you're one of those folks who think nebbiolo and sangiovese are the only Italian grapes consistently capable of both	
power and complexity, have we got a Caprai — ze for you, sagrantino is all that and a bowl of chocolate truffles	
'00 Argiano tuscan plus blend, Solengo, Tuscany, Italy.....	167
'02 Clos Mogador garnacha blend, Priorato, Spain.....	167
'96 Reverie bordeaux blend, special reserve, Diamond Mountain, Napa.....	168
'02 Arietta merlot, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	168
'03 Tablas Creek rhone blend, Panoplie, Paso Robles.....	169
'03 Nicolás Catena Zapata cabernet sauvignon/malbec,	

La Pirámide /Domingo/Adrianna Vineyards, Mendoza, Argentina.....	169
'03 Azelia nebbiolo, San Rocco, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	169
'03 Arietta merlot/syrah, Variation One, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	169
'96 Quintarelli corvina blend, Rosso del Bepi, Veneto, Italy.....	170
Giuseppe Quintarelli makes this IGT like a baby Amarone, mainly from corvina and rondinella, but with a noticeable amount of less expected varietals such as cabernet sauvignon, nebbiolo, sangiovese and croatina, and the resulting wine drinks like a hypothetical cross of late-picked zin from Biale, milk chocolate cab from Andrew Will, and a silky Taurasi (not to be confused with a slick Taurasi, IE the Phoenix Mercury's own unbelievable all-world all-star Diana Taurasi)	
'05 Pax syrah, Griffins Lair, Sonoma Coast.....	170
'03 Turley charbono, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	170
'03 Ramey cabernet sauvignon, Jericho Canyon Vineyard, Napa.....	170
'01 Behrens & Hitchcock bordeaux blend, Kenefick Ranch reserve, Napa.....	170
tax accountant walks into a bar, says to the owner "why the Celine Dion?", owner says "I want to make wine", so together they do, and despite the lack of training in oenology, they succeed greatly, no horsing around	
'98 Hobbs shiraz, Barossa Ranges, Australia.....	170
'02 D R Stephens cabernet sauvignon, Moose Valley Vineyard, Napa.....	170
'02 Arietta merlot/cabernet franc, Hudson Vineyard, H Block, Napa.....	170
'02 Turley charbono, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	171
'01 Revana cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	171
'92 Domaine Bernard Chave syrah, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	172
'99 Schwarz zweigelt, unfiltered, Andau, Austria.....	172
'02 Arietta merlot/syrah, Variation One, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	172
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock bordeaux blend, Cemetery, Saint Helena.....	172
not much of this left – buy it now, if only to fulfill your morbid curiosity	
'00 Chateau Haut-Carles bordeaux blend, Fronsac, France.....	173
'05 Turley petite sirah, Turley Estate Vineyard, Napa.....	174
'06 Raphet pinot noir, cuvee Unique, Les Combottes, Gevrey Chambertin, France.....	174
'97 Conterno Fantino nebbiolo, Vigna del Gris, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	175
either the stars are realigning or I'm maturing in some fashion (although obviously not with my writing skill), because I'm finally starting to get the whole nebbiolo thing...the overwhelming perfume of wild violets, the chewy prosciutto, the glacier-like pace of aeration, all looming larger with the spectacular '97 vintage	
'04 Alban syrah, Lorraine, Seymour's Vineyard, Alban Estate, Edna Valley.....	175
'03 Behrens & Hitchcock bordeaux blend, the Heavyweight, Thorevilos Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	175
I would've called it the Cartman, but keep in mind my marketing degree is from the school of hard liquor – er, knocks	
<b>VINO ROJO the end is near (unless you're the lead dog)</b>	
'02 Schrader Cellars cabernet sauvignon, Double Diamond, Beckstoffer Amber Knolls Vineyard, Lake County.....	175
'96 Chateau de Beaucastel mourvèdre blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	175
the pride of the Perrin family, Beaucastel CdP is a regional rarity in it's heavy reliance on mourvèdre, yet the consistent success they enjoy seemingly year after year makes you wonder why more properties don't jump on the rhonewagon	
'03 Noon cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	175
'04 Turley zinfandel, Ueberroth Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	175
'03 Pax syrah, Griffins Lair, Sonoma Coast.....	175
'06 Egly-Ouriet pinot noir, cuvee des Grand Côtés, grand cru, Coteaux de Champenoise, Ambonnay, Champagne, France.....	175
you don't see a lot of Champagne houses selling still wines to begin with, but when it's a pinot noir from the groovy cats at Egly-Ouriet, you pretend to know how to pronounce the name and buy up all you can	
'98 Callaghan bordeaux blend, Buena Suerte cuvee,	

	Cochise County, Arizona, <i>double bottle</i> .....	175
'04	Araujo bordeaux blend, Altagracia, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....	175
'99	Arietta merlot, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	175
'01	Nicolás Catena Zapata cabernet sauvignon/malbec, Uxmal/Nicasia Vineyards, Mendoza, Argentina.....	175
'06	Molly Dooker shiraz/cabernet, Enchanted Path, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	175
'06	Molly Dooker shiraz, Carnival of Love, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	176
	Sparky & Sarah Marquis are famous for their previous work with Shirvington, Parsons Flat, Fox Creek, Marquis Phillips; essentially, they are Aussie Wine Rock Stars (and with a name like Sparky, what else would you expect?), and Molly Dooker (Oz for Left Handed) is their newest project since splitting with Grateful Palate...these two wines remind me most of Shirvington, with their blackberry liqueur texture and jackhammer intensity (plus, if you put these two bottles side by side, the labels create a new image altogether, which is the creativity level one should expect from Rock Stars)	
'02	Nicolás Catena Zapata cabernet sauvignon/malbec, Uxmal/Domingo/Adrianna Vineyards, Mendoza, Argentina.....	176
	the first guy to nail the quality potential of Argentina wine was Nicolás Catena, and he continues to greatly impress with his wines across the board (as well as his bloodline...his kids are making terrific wines at Luca and Tikal)	
'97	Le Machiole sangiovese grosso, riserva, brunello di Montalcino, Italy.....	177
'05	Clos du Mont-Olivet grenache blend, cuvee du Papet, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	177
'04	Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Descendant, Barossa, Australia.....	177
'02	Behrens & Hitchcock syrah, 'Homage to Ed Oliveira', Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino.....	178
'99	Greenock Creek shiraz, Seven Acre reserve, Barossa, Australia.....	178
'04	Montepeloso cabernet franc/cabernet sauvignon, Gabbro, Tuscany, Italy.....	178
'97	Allora bordeaux blend, Treasa, Napa.....	178
'03	Guigal syrah, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	179
'01	Arietta merlot/cabernet franc, Red, Hudson Vineyard, H Block, Napa.....	179
'05	Turley zinfandel, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	179
'01	Brogan pinot noir, Buena Tierra Vineyard, Helio d'Oro Block, Russian River.....	180
'01	Arietta merlot/syrah, Variation One, Hudson Vineyard, N Block, Napa.....	180
'05	Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Brûlées, Vosne-Romanée, France.....	180
'05	Leonetti cabernet sauvignon, Walla Walla, Washington.....	180
'00	Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone recioto, Veneto, Italy, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	180

**VINO ROJO don't be disappointed if I don't remember you;  
with this many wines, my brain is full, so I can either remember  
people names or wine names, and I think I like the wines better  
(just ask my daughters, numbers one, two and three)**

'02	Turley petite sirah, Library Vineyard, Napa.....	180
	trust me, if all books were as powerful as petite sirah, as celebrated as Larry Turley & winemaker Ehren Jordan, and as dynamically extravagant as the '02 vintage was in California, I'd be spending a lot more time at the library	
'03	Hobbs shiraz, the Gregor, Barossa Ranges, Australia.....	181
'05	Arietta cabernet sauvignon, Thorvilos Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	183
	***spotlight***	
'99	Tenuta di Trinoro tuscan blend, Palazzi, Tuscany, Italy.....	184
'04	Tenuta di Trinoro bordeaux blend, Trinoro, Tuscany, Italy.....	260
'03	Tenuta di Trinoro bordeaux blend, Trinoro, Tuscany, Italy.....	290
'00	Tenuta di Trinoro bordeaux blend, Trinoro, Tuscany, Italy.....	390

Andrea Franchetti is fairly new to Tuscany (first vintage was '97), so he's playing a deck without preconceived cards; Le Cupole is a blend of mostly cab franc with splashes of merlot, troia and cesanese, the Palazzi is cab franc and merlot with a bit of sangiovese, and the big dog is mostly cab franc, some cab sauv and a dollop of petit verdot; Franchetti is pals with some high flyers like Peter Sissick of Pingus and Jean-Luc Thunevin of Chateau Valandraud, and apparently the grapes aren't falling far from the bush, because the use of indigenous yeasts, micro-oxygenation and the like is resulting in the most prodigious cab franc-based wines this side of Cheval Blanc and Dalla Valle!

'03 Guigal syrah, vignes de l'Hospice, Saint Joseph, Rhône, France.....	185
'05 Domaine Arlaud pinot noir, Aux Combottes, Gevrey Chambertin, France.....	185
'04 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	185
'00 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Le Crêt, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	185
'04 Turley zinfandel, Moore-Earthquake Vineyard, Napa.....	185
'02 Domaine Marquis d'Angerville pinot noir, Premier, Volnay, France.....	185
'99 Montevervine sangiovese blend, Le Pergole Torte, Tuscany, Italy.....	185
'03 Arietta cabernet sauvignon, Thorvilos Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	186
'06 Turley petite sirah, Rattlesnake Ridge, Howell Mountain.....	187
'01 Tua Rita bordeaux blend, Giusto di Notri, Tuscany, Italy.....	188
'03 Domaine du Caillou grenache blend, Les Quartz, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	188
'06 Turley zinfandel, Vineyard 101, Dry Creek.....	188
'01 Giaconda pinot noir, Victoria, Australia.....	188
never thought I'd say a wine had serious undertones of sea urchin roe, but here it is...crazy, eccentric Oz pinot	
'01 Paolo Scavino nebbiolo, Carobric, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	189
Paolo Scavino is considered one of the top producers in the Langhe for his ability to consistently provide wines of individual character AND exquisite balance, a difficult achievement indeed, not to mention sixteen awards of 'tre bicchieri' (three glasses, the highest score) from Gambero Rosso, placing him in the all time top thirty	
'95 Hutton Vale shiraz, Eden Valley, Australia.....	189
'97 Hutton Vale shiraz, Eden Valley, Australia.....	190
'98 Gehringer Brothers cabernet/merlot, ice wine, Okanagan Valley, Canada, <i>half bottle</i> .....	190
'03 Yalumba shiraz, the Octavius, Barossa, Australia.....	190
'03 Turley zinfandel, Grist Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	190
let's see, zin demigod Larry Turley, winemaker supreme Ehren Jordan, stellar '03 vintage...yep, that's the Grist of it	
'91 Anderson's Conn Valley Vineyards pinot noir, Valhalla Vineyards, Napa.....	190
'01 Tomaso Bussola corvione blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone recioto, Veneto, Italy, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	190

**VINO ROJO Wine & Spirits magazine just gave us an award for the nation's wine list with the 'Most Unfettered Personal Expression'; um, yeah, tell that to my analyst, and what the hell is a fetter?**

'00 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Côte Rôzier, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	190
'95 Corison cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	190
'05 Leonetti merlot, Columbia, Washington.....	191
'02 Hobbs shiraz, the Gregor, Barossa Ranges, Australia.....	192
it's not from Paul Hobbs the winemaker or Roy Hobbs the Natural, just more Grateful Palate shiraz to hobb-nobb with	
'05 La Pousse d'Or pinot noir, Clos d'Audignac, Volnay, France.....	193
'05 La Pousse d'Or pinot noir, Les Jarollières, Pommard, France.....	194
layered like a pousse café, sporting direct acidity like Pouilly Fuisse, with aromatics as spiced as scent by Dior, there's no Pousse-footing around the wines of La Pousse d'Or, particularly these amazing '05 Burgundies	
'03 Chateau Pichon-Longueville bordeaux blend, Comtesse de Lalande, Pauillac, France.....	195
'00 Pio Cesare nebbiolo, Il Bricco, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	195
'03 Arietta merlot/cabernet franc, Hudson Vineyard, H Block, Napa.....	195

'03 Turley zinfandel, Ueberroth Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	195
'05 Domaine du Caillou grenache blend, Les Quartz, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	196
'00 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Descendant, Barossa, Australia.....	196
'00 Gaillard syrah, cuvee Unique, Les Vialleres, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	196
'98 Argiano tuscan plus blend, Solengo, Tuscany, Italy.....	197
'00 Phillip Togni black hamburgh, Ca' Togni, Napa, <i>half bottle</i> .....	199
'05 Araujo bordeaux blend, Altagracia, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....	199
'05 Pax syrah, HdR Lot 14, the Mother Block, Alder Springs Vineyard, Terraces, Mendocino.....	199
Pax made ONE BARREL of this (four cases and six magnums), an ultra-rare one-time Mother (Block) of an offering that was auctioned at Hospices du Rhone, and we bought it, the whole lot (which, truly, isn't really a whole lot, is it?), so the question you have to ask yourself is "I know it's Pax so I know it's spectacular, but am I honestly worthy of this once-in-a-lifetime experience?", in response to which I quote our very own Icelandic Goddess, "go big or go home!"	
'06 Continuum bordeaux blend, Oakville.....	200
'04 Switchback Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Peterson Family Vineyard, Napa.....	200
'98 Montevervine sangioveto blend, Le Pergole Torte, Tuscany, Italy.....	200
'03 Thirteen bordeaux blend, Napa.....	200
new project of Steve Reynolds in which he takes one ton of fruit from each of Napa's 13 sub-appellations to blend an anti-single vineyard wine, which next year will become Fourteen as the Oak Knoll AVA kicked in during 2004	
'04 Fourteen bordeaux blend, Napa.....	201
is it next year already?	
'00 Schwarz zweigelt, unfiltered, Andau, Austria.....	202
zweigelt for two bills? yep, one franklin each for the duo of winemakers, Austrian patriarch Alois Kracher and California wunderkind Manfred Krankl, then toss in two singles for the most California of Austrian vintages, the super-ripe 2000, and essentially you got yourself a pricing strategy...now if only I had an exit strategy for the wine list, we'd be somewhere	
'02 Turley zinfandel, Ueberroth Vineyard, Paso Robles.....	205
'04 Araujo syrah, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....	205
'05 Turley zinfandel, Vineyard 101, Dry Creek.....	209
'00 Chateau du Tertre bordeaux blend, Margaux, France.....	210
'99 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone recioto, Veneto, Italy, <i>two-thirds bottle</i> .....	210
for some, the dried fruit oddity Amarone is an acquired taste; if that shoe fits you, Bussola is the Beluga of the style	

## **VINO ROJO my motto? always the Frankenstein, never the bride**

'02 Vineyard 29 bordeaux blend, Aida Vineyard, Napa.....	210
'03 Turley zinfandel, Rattlesnake Acres Vineyard, Napa.....	210
'99 Moraga cabernet sauvignon, Bel Air.....	210
Moraga is the only bonded winery in Bel Air, and winemaker Scott Rich is the only reason for no Hollywood jokes here	
'04 Behrens & Hitchcock merlot, Fat Boy, Madrona Ranch, Napa.....	210
'03 Turley zinfandel, Keig Vineyard, Napa.....	211
'00 Guigal syrah, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	211
'02 Vincent Girardin pinot noir, Clos Saint-Denis grand cru, France.....	211
'99 Hare's Chase shiraz, estate vineyard, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	212
'01 Hartwell cabernet sauvignon, Misté Valley, Stags Leap District, <i>double bottle</i> .....	212
'02 Bodegas El Nido cabernet sauvignon/mourvèdre, El Nido, Jumilla, Spain.....	215
yes, a wine from Jumilla for two bills seems high, but when Chris Ringland is making it, I'd have to be high not to buy	
'04 Luca malbec, Nico, Mendoza, Argentina.....	215
'04 Turley zinfandel, Rancho Escondido Vineyard, Baja, Mexico.....	215
'05 Continuum bordeaux blend, Oakville.....	219

new project from Tim Mondavi — harkens back to early Mondavi Reserve cabs, but with significant petit verdot

'06 Kosta Browne pinot noir, Kopen Vineyard, Russian River.....	220
'05 Arietta merlot/cabernet franc, Hudson Vineyard, H Block, Napa.....	220
'00 Domenico Clerico nebbiolo, Percristina, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	220
'99 Vega-Sicilia tinto fino blend, Tinto Valbuena, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	221
'01 Karl Lawrence cabernet sauvignon, Napa, <i>double bottle</i> .....	221
'02 Karl Lawrence cabernet sauvignon, Napa, <i>double bottle</i> .....	222

a double header of double bottles; order one on the double

'98 Chateau Quinault l'Enclos bordeaux blend, St Emilion, France.....	222
'03 Hobbs shiraz, Barossa Ranges, Australia.....	222
'04 Turley zinfandel, Dragon Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	222
'05 Jack Quinn cabernet sauvignon, Agave Rose Vineyard, Rutherford.....	223
'00 Kongsgaard syrah, Hudson Vineyard, Q Block, Napa.....	224
you can call it en garde, if you like, as this is one swashbuckling syrah (probably more Johnny Depp than Errol Flynn)	
'04 Karl Lawrence cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Morisoli Vineyard, Napa.....	225
'02 Turley zinfandel, Rattlesnake Acres Vineyard, Napa.....	225
'04 Peter Michael bordeaux blend, Les Pavots, Mount St Helena, Knights Valley.....	225
'05 Charles Smith syrah, Heart, Royal Slope, Columbia, Washington.....	225

overheard at the Oz Diner: "OK, who ordered this, you with the straw everywhere or the squeaky guy?"

'03 Phillip Togni cabernet sauvignon, Spring Mountain.....	225
'05 Robert Foley bordeaux blend, Claret, Napa.....	225
'99 Tomaso Bussola corvina blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Veneto, Italy, <i>double bottle</i> .....	225
'97 Arnaldo Caprai sagrantino, 25 Anni reserve, Montefalco, Umbria, Italy.....	225
what do you take to drink at Gioco, the hip Italian spot with a hot Irish chef in a dicey Chicago neighborhood? this!	
'03 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	225
'97 Monteverte sangiovese blend, Le Pergole Torte, Tuscany, Italy.....	225

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'05 Kaesler shiraz, Old Bastard, Barossa, Australia.....	225
'03 Kaesler shiraz, Old Bastard, Barossa, Australia.....	226
'02 Kaesler shiraz, Old Bastard, Barossa, Australia.....	227

do we even need to go there?

'94 Pesquera tempranillo, gran reserva, Ribera del Douro, Spain.....	227
'97 Clos Mogador garnacha blend, Priorato, Spain.....	228
'98 Pignan grenache blend, reserve, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	228

## **VINO ROJO as Marv Albert says, "we're on fire" (but it's a dry heat)**

'98 Barnett cabernet sauvignon, Rattlesnake Hill, Spring Mountain.....	229
'04 Turley zinfandel, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	230
'04 La Sirena cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	230
'01 Paolo Scavino nebbiolo, Bric del Fiasc, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy.....	233
my Italian is no too good, Paisan, but bric del fiasc reminds me of the times I tried to help my dad build chimneys (just one of the many reasons I wound up doing this rather than, say, the construction industry; other reasons include thrilling different guests with wine and food on a nightly basis as opposed to dodging the trowels of irate bricklayers)	
'05 Turley petite sirah, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	234
'03 Turley zinfandel, Moore-Earthquake Vineyard, Napa.....	235
'04 Robert Foley bordeaux blend, Claret, Napa.....	235
'03 Turley petite sirah, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	236

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'98 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Staderi, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	238
'98 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Gallina, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	239
'01 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Gallina, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	245

'01 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Staderi, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	248
'99 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Gallina, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	250
'99 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Staderi, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	258
'01 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Valeirano, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	278
'98 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Valeirano, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	288
<i>scary giant bottles with rhino pictures...this is either really serious Barbaresco, or someone really likes the vür-zoo</i>	
'04 Turley petite sirah, Library Vineyard, Napa.....	239
'03 Peter Michael bordeaux blend, Les Pavots, Mount St Helena, Knights Valley.....	240
'06 Kosta Browne pinot noir, Amber Ridge Vineyard, Russian River.....	240
'03 Turley zinfandel, Dragon Vineyard, Dry Creek.....	240
<i>marketing can be tricky, especially when it comes to naming things; for example, that flick starring Dennis Quaid as a knight and Sean Connery as the voice of a dragon was an abomination, and the unlucky few who suffered through it may hold a grudge against this vineyard...fortunately, they all probably think first of the greatest chop-socky ever, Bruce Lee in 'Enter The Dragon', and suddenly yet another zin from Larry Turley is flying high and breathing fire</i>	
'02 Turley zinfandel, Moore-Earthquake Vineyard, Napa.....	244
'05 Torbreck mataro, the Pict, Barossa, Australia.....	244
'01 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Gallina, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	245
'97 Dominique Laurent pinot noir, Charmes-Chambertin, France.....	245
<i>take one part new guard pastry-chef-turned-winemaker, add a dash of willingness to experiment, throw in some old vines and fabulous vineyard sites, and finish with a vintage that many burgundians consider to be 'Californian' (abnormally warm, dry weather which sent sugar levels skyrocketing), you have a recipe for some fabulous juice; Laurent, one of the key figures in Burgundy's move toward less laurel-resting and more true improvement, says "1997 is the greatest expression of Burgundy since the stunning '59 vintage"; who can argue with a pastry chef?</i>	
'03 Robert Foley bordeaux blend, Claret, Napa.....	245
<i>Bob Foley is the stud winemaker behind the terrific Pride Mountain wines, and his success there has allowed him to both consult (see Paloma merlot) and package his own monumental bordeaux blend in teeny tiny amounts</i>	
'00 les Forts de Latour bordeaux blend, Pauillac, France.....	245
'01 Karl Lawrence cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Herb Lamb Vineyard, Napa.....	247
'01 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Staderi, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	248
'98 Chateau de la Gardine grenache blend, cuvee des Generations Gaston Phillippe, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	250
<i>the only thing longer than the name of this wine is it's multi-layered, richly textured finish</i>	
'61 Antoniolo nebbiolo/bonarda, Gattinara, Piedmont, Italy.....	250

**VINO ROJO (call off the legal department, the rumor that 'Kazimierz' is Polish for 'Hooters' is entirely untrue)**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

'02 Dal Forno corvione blend, Vigneto di Monte Lodoletto, Valpolicella Superiore, Veneto, Italy.....	250
'99 Dal Forno corvione blend, Vigneto di Monte Lodoletto, Valpolicella Superiore, Veneto, Italy.....	320
'97 Dal Forno corvione blend, Vigneto di Monte Lodoletto, Valpolicella Superiore, Veneto, Italy.....	390
'01 Dal Forno corvione blend, Vigneto di Monte Lodoletto, Valpolicella Superiore, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	775
'98 Dal Forno corvione blend, Vigneto di Monte Lodoletto, Valpolicella Superiore, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	925

*the various Veneto creations of Dal Forno have an almost mythical mystique, like the Loch Ness Monster or a film role that Michael Caine actually passed on, IE people claim to have seen it but you never have...well, now you have*

'04 Coup de Foudre cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	250
'02 Kongsgaard syrah, Hudson Vineyard, Q Block, Napa.....	250
'06 Clos St Jean grenache blend, La Combe des Fous, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	250
'99 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Gallina, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	250
'03 Turley petite sirah, Library Vineyard, Napa.....	250
'05 Charles Smith syrah, Skull, Royal Slope, Columbia, Washington.....	250
'02 Karl Lawrence cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Morisoli Vineyard, Napa.....	252
'98 Chateau de Beaucastel mourvèdre blend, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	252
Beaucastel puts the <b>MORE</b> in mourvèdre as the rare Chateauneuf-du-Pape producer putting grenache in the back seat	
'98 Denis Mortet pinot noir, Combe-du-Dessus, Gevrey Chambertin, France.....	253
'05 Torbreck grenache, Les Amis, Barossa, Australia.....	254
'05 Viña Cobos malbec, old vines, Marchiori Vineyard, Mendoza, Argentina.....	254
'04 Viña Cobos malbec, old vines, Marchiori Vineyard, Mendoza, Argentina.....	255
Paul Hobbs continues to push the limits of Argentine vino, both in quality and price	
'03 Turley zinfandel, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	255
'00 Chateau Faugères bordeaux blend, Pèby, St Emilion, France.....	255
'01 Ken Wright pinot noir, Shea Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	255
'99 Yalumba shiraz, the Octavius, Barossa, Australia.....	255
Yalumba winemaker Allan Hoey (go ahead, say it...it sounds like a bunch of hooley to you) hosted a Yalumba dinner at Cowboy Ciao for the new millennium and put on quite a show, especially with some big-boned bad boy reds from their formidable reserve lineup; the Octavius is our favorite, with tentacles of inky complexity	
'01 Guigal syrah, Chateau d'Ampuis, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	256
'99 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Staderi, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	258
'02 Turley petite sirah, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	260
recipe for success: take one part Hayne Vineyard, one part winemaker Ehren Jordan, and one part superb 2002 vintage, mix liberally (or conservatively, if that's your political bent), and you've got yourself a monster wine, yes-sir-ah-bob!	
'04 Tenuta di Trinoro bordeaux blend, Trinoro, Tuscany, Italy.....	260
'90 Laurel Glen cabernet sauvignon, Sonoma.....	260
'05 Darioush cabernet sauvignon, Napa, <i>double bottle</i> .....	260
'01 Alban grenache/syrah, Pandora, Seymour's Vineyard, Edna Valley.....	260
FINALLY! the spectacular wines of John Alban come to the desert (Pandora's Box and then some!)	
'99 Turley charbono, Tofanelli Vineyard, Napa.....	265

## **VINO ROJO (it's a big list because I have peccable taste)**

**\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\***

'00 Ridge bordeaux blend, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	265
'99 Ridge bordeaux blend, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	300
'95 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	440
'86 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	750
'93 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz, <i>double bottle</i> .....	875
'85 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	950
'84 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	1000
'76 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	2220

"Stunning - the food, wine list, crew, the whole package. Obviously a labor of love."

actual 1997 guest quote from first-time Cowboy Ciao visitor Donn Reisen, the President of Ridge Vineyards, who now makes an annual pilgrimage to Scottsdale to dine at all our venues and regale us with tall tales and one-liners; Donn is a class guy, Ridge is a class act, and the Monte Bello cab-driven vineyard blend has been a California benchmark since it's inception, thanks to legendary winemaker Paul Draper's insistence on developing a tradition

of terroir for most of Ridge's bottlings, which has consistently proven successful with winning wines of many types; most serious collectors would agree that, of all the big name California cabs, Monte Bello has the best potential to age and mature in the style of first-growth Bordeaux; Donn, right back at you, MBV is stunning, it's no labor to love it! *some of the biggest obstacles with a wine list like this is in the time it takes to get to this size of depth and breadth, some of the heroes who helped to get it there take the journey to Eden, or Valhalla, or wherever it is that Bacchus escorts fallen warriors of the wine world; sad to say, Donn left us in 2009, leaving behind an unfillable void - that said, he didn't leave us alone, his spirit (not to mention the above-listed spirits) lives on in our heart (& glasses)*

'97 Steven Kent cabernet sauvignon, Folkendt Vineyard, Livermore Valley, <i>double bottle</i> .....	265
'04 Artadi tempranillo, El Pison, Rioja, Spain.....	266
'00 Guigal syrah, Chateau d'Ampuis, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	266
'05 Lewis cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Napa.....	269
'02 Peter Michael bordeaux blend, Les Pavots, Mount St Helena, Knights Valley.....	270
'97 Moraga cabernet sauvignon, Bel Air.....	270
'03 Torbreck grenache, Les Amis, Barossa, Australia.....	274
'01 La Sirena cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	275
'04 Turley petite sirah, Turley Estate Vineyard, Napa.....	275
'96 Chateau Lafon-Rochet bordeaux blend, St Estèphe, France.....	275
'01 Vineyard 29 cabernet sauvignon, estate, Napa.....	275
'93 Soldera sangiovese grosso, Case Basse reserve, brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany, Italy....	275
recent efforts from this estate have paled in comparison to the '93, a benchmark brunello	
'01 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Valeirano, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	278
'99 Guigal syrah, Hermitage, Rhône, France.....	279
'00 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	280
TB or not TB, that is not the question, not when it involves the boss Bussola Amarone...TB ASAP!	
'01 Turley petite sirah, Library Vineyard, Napa.....	280
'97 Monteverdine sangiovese, riserva, Tuscany, Italy, <i>double bottle</i> .....	280
'02 Turley zinfandel, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	285
'98 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Valeirano, Vürsù, Barbaresco, Piedmont, Italy.....	288
'04 Turley petite sirah, Hayne Vineyard, Napa.....	288
'04 Lewis cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Napa.....	290
'03 Tenuta di Trinoro bordeaux blend, Trinoro, Tuscany, Italy.....	290
'00 Ken Wright pinot noir, Canary Hill Vineyard, Eola Hills, Oregon.....	290
'83 La Jota cabernet sauvignon, Howell Mountain.....	290
'03 Turley petite sirah, Turley Estate Vineyard, Napa.....	290

**VINO ROJO (surprisingly, our newsletter makes the wine list seem normal...OK, less abnormal)**

'99 Artadi tempranillo, El Pison, Rioja, Spain.....	290
'99 Chateau Rayas grenache blend, reserve, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	292
'00 Bressler cabernet sauvignon, St Helena.....	294
'70 Marques de Murrieta tempranillo, Ygay gran reserva, Rioja, Spain.....	294
'99 Barnett cabernet sauvignon, Peacock Family Vineyard, Spring Mountain.....	294
really rare cab, perhaps the best Barnett ever made, and we are proud as ... well, you get the idea	
'04 El Espectacle grenache, Monsant, Spain.....	295
Spain has long been great at grenache, but this? WOW! Robert Parker's Wine Advocate gave this 99 points, stating " ...it is as pure an expression of grenache as exists anywhere, certainly the greatest example of Monsant ever produced"	
'02 Vineyard 29 cabernet sauvignon, estate, Napa.....	295
'04 Turley petite sirah, Rattlesnake Ridge, Howell Mountain.....	295
***spotlight***	
'04 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-Dr Crane Vineyard, St Helena.....	300

'04 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Stagecoach Vineyard, Napa.....	325
'03 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-Dr Crane Vineyard, St Helena.....	350
'03 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Stagecoach Vineyard, Napa.....	370
'04 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-ToKalon Vineyard, Oakville.....	380
'03 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-ToKalon Vineyard, Oakville.....	400
'02 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-ToKalon Vineyard, Oakville.....	424
'01 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-ToKalon Vineyard, Oakville.....	440
'99 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-ToKalon Vineyard, Oakville.....	500
<i>hey, all you whiners looking for Cakebread, Mondavi, Beringer (IE over-priced Napa cabs you can buy virtually anywhere)</i>	
<i>Hobbs has been making higher-rated wines from first-rate vineyards for several vintages, here's a hanky, wipe your tears</i>	
'04 Quilceda Creek cabernet sauvignon, Washington.....	300
'99 Ridge bordeaux blend, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	300
'05 Charles Smith syrah, Old Bones, Royal Slope, Columbia, Washington.....	300
'05 Joseph Phelps cabernet sauvignon, Insignia, Napa.....	300
'04 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-Dr Crane Vineyard, St Helena.....	300
'98 Chateau Rayas grenache blend, reserve, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	310
'05 Kongsgaard syrah, Hudson Vineyard, Q Block, Napa.....	310
'05 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Run Rig, Barossa, Australia.....	312
'03 Turley petite sirah, Rattlesnake Ridge, Howell Mountain.....	312
'00 Chateau Calon-Ségur bordeaux blend, St Estèphe, France.....	313
'99 Dal Forno corvione blend, Vigneto di Monte Lodoletto, Valpolicella Superiore, Veneto, Italy.....	320
'99 Vincent Girardin pinot noir, Romanee-St-Vivant grand cru, France.....	324
'02 Torbreck grenache, Les Amis, Barossa, Australia.....	324
'00 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	325
'03 Vineyard 29 cabernet sauvignon, estate, Napa.....	325
'04 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Stagecoach Vineyard, Napa.....	325
'05 Leonetti bordeaux blend, reserve, Mill Creek Upland Vineyard, Walla Walla, Washington.....	325
'88 Louis Jadot pinot noir, Ruchottes-Chambertin grand cru, France.....	325
'99 Artadi tempranillo, Grandes Anadas, Rioja, Spain.....	325
'01 Turley petite sirah, Rattlesnake Acres Vineyard, Napa.....	325
'04 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Run Rig, Barossa, Australia.....	325
'98 Guigal syrah, Chateau d'Ampuis, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	326

*we believe it's the 5% viognier in the standard blend that puts the 'wheee!' in d'Ampuis*

## **VINO ROJO continued (but wine-ding down)**

'05 Sine Qua Non grenache, Atlantis Fe2o3-2a,2b,2c, Central Coast.....	329
'05 Sine Qua Non syrah, Atlantis Fe2o3-1a,1b,1c, Central Coast.....	330
<i>so the next time you feel tempted to question my sanity as to the monikers we attach to our businesses and products under the Spaghetti Western Productions banner (and there still may be a joint named after the Pig 'n Puddin' dish on the lunch menu at Ciao, so get your BBQ bib ready), maybe check out the Sine Qua Non newsletter to read the rambling, incoherent reasoning Manfred attaches to naming these wines 'mythical city, rust, one from column a' deal — I make more sense sitting at the bar (hanging on, really) at last call, discussing politics and religion (holy senator!)</i>	
'96 Chateau Pape Clément bordeaux blend, Pessac-Léognan, France.....	330
'99 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	330
'04 Kongsgaard syrah, Hudson Vineyard, Q Block, Napa.....	330
'98 Chateau Rol Valentin bordeaux blend, Pomerol, France.....	332
<i>there are those who believe Kazimierz is not only the best wine bar in town (country) (planet), but also the top jazz club; that because of sterling performers like Margo Reed, Alice Tatum, and the main man, Dennis Rowland, who is so cool that when sheep want to sleep, they count him...how's this, Valentine's Day, he opened with "Ladies, your chocolate has arrived"</i>	

'99 La Sirena cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	333
'06 Clos St Jean grenache blend, Deus Ex Machina, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	333
'98 Cape d'Estaing shiraz, Admirals reserve, Kangaroo Island, Australia, <i>double bottle</i> .....	333
this list is dotted with several ultra-rare highly rated 'thunder from down under' powderkegs that are sure to provide memorable experiences; for example, this new producer from tiny Kangaroo Island has fashioned a ripe, flashy shiraz full of exotic flavors (vanilla espresso, blackberry jam, sweet peppers) and dazzling concentration	
'02 Dugat-Py pinot noir, Cœur de Roy, Gevrey Chambertin, France.....	335
'00 La Spinetta nebbiolo, Vigneto Campé, Barolo, Piedmonte, Italy.....	335
'05 le Clos du Caillou grenache blend, reserve, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France.....	340
'03 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Run Rig, Barossa, Australia.....	341
'98 Denis Mortet pinot noir, Lavaux St-Jacques premier cru, Gevrey Chambertin, France....	343
'94 Pesquera tempranillo, Janus reserve, Ribera del Douro, Spain.....	345
road trips to LA restaurants often leave us shaking our head in dismay about the 'all show — no soul' approach so many of them exhibit, but we were treated to a true wonder at Lucques, a place with substance to spare... chef/owner Suzanne Goin was nice enough to let us bring in a bottle of this equally wondrous reserve from Alejandro Fernandez, and we were nice enough to share some of it with her, which left us all shaking our heads, this time in awe of it's indefinable fruit (pomegranate?), unique terroir, and chameleon-like layers of complexity	

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'95 Dunn petite sirah, Park Muscatine Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	345
'93 Dunn petite sirah, Park Muscatine Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	375
'92 Dunn petite sirah, Park Muscatine Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	395
'94 Dunn petite sirah, Park Muscatine Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	440
these petite gems are courtesy of Rick Beard of Groezingers Wine Merchants in Yountville, and if you enjoy our wacky newsletter, you should sign up for Groezingers, Rick is laugh out loud more times than the last three Hollywood Comedies I've seen put together funny... a quick sample: what do you call an elderly leper in wine country? extended maceration!	
'98 Wild Duck Creek cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Heathcote estate, Australia.....	350
'03 Marquis-Philips shiraz, Integrity, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	350
'05 Quilceda Creek cabernet sauvignon, Columbia, Washington.....	350
Quilceda Creek is generally considered the premier cabernet producer in Washington State; the wine is consistently remarkable from vintage to vintage; they make precious little of it, so if you want some, don't blink	
'04 Domaine Dujac pinot noir, Gevrey Chambertin, France.....	350
'03 Sine Qua Non syrah, Papa, Central Coast.....	350

## **VINO ROJO when the going gets tough, I'll be in the wine room**

'99 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico, Vigneto Alto, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	350
'96 Dunn cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	350
Randy Dunn set the Napa standard for mountain cabs beginning with his inaugural '79 vintage and never wavering since, making 'mutant squid' wine (big, black, inky wines that submerge you with their weight and power); the Howell is 100% Howell Mountain fruit, the Napa is mostly Howell with 10% - 15% added from the Valley floor, they are all 100% cab, and all of them give 150% while aging slower than I can run a marathon (now, a drinking marathon, different story)	
'03 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-Dr Crane Vineyard, St Helena.....	350
'03 Shafer cabernet sauvignon, Hillside Select, Stags Leap District.....	350
I used to mow old Mr Shafer's lawn as a kid, and darned if there wasn't a funky hillside full of spittin' rocks and stuff; my superior landscaping never fetched these kinds of prices, though (the broken windows maybe were an obstacle)	
'94 Mayacamas pinot noir, Napa, <i>double bottle</i> .....	355
'74 was considered the first California 'vintage of the century' shortly after the Paris tasting (which was loosely re-enacted in "Bottle Shock", a movie that in turn has forever scarred Bo Barrett of Chateau Montelena into	

thinking he's really James T Kirk), but then California went through a period in the latter eighties of tripping on acid so much that Napa wines became thin insipid shadows of their former selves...the '90s brought back the bounce, culminating in the lively, lush fruit defining the '94 vintage (once again, 'of the century') across the board, and, while California pinot was just finding a fan base, Mayacamas had the distinct advantage of 100 years of history utilizing extraordinary mountain fruit, plus, it's a magnum, so live long and prosper

'04 Leonetti cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Mill Creek Upland, Walla Walla, Washington.....355  
if I told you you had a textural cab, would you hold it against me? (some pick-up lines just don't translate well)

'01 Lignier-Michelot pinot noir, Clos de la Roche grand cru, France.....355

'03 Beaux Freres pinot noir, Beaux Freres Vineyard,  
Ribbon Ridge, Oregon, *double bottle*.....359

'00 Chateau Angelus bordeaux blend, St Emilion, France.....360

'03 Kongsgaard syrah, Hudson Vineyard, Q Block, Napa.....360

'94 Corison cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....365  
reviews for Cathy Corison's cabernets are typically peppered with words such as 'elegant, harmonious, graceful', as in everything the Detroit Pistons are not...think of Corison cabs as the beautiful expression of what Napa fruit should be, just like how the Phoenix Suns of '04/'05 showed the NBA that heavy-handed thuggery really wasn't fan-friendly

'05 Domaine Arlaud pinot noir, Charmes Chambertin grand cru, France.....365

'03 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Stagecoach Vineyard, Napa.....370

'99 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Run Rig, Barossa, Australia.....371

'06 Sine Qua Non syrah, Raven Series, Central Coast.....373

'90 Corison cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....375

'02 Dugat-Py pinot noir, vieilles vignes, Vosne-Romanée, France.....375

'93 Dunn petite sirah, Park Muscatine Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....375

'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Charmes-Chambertin grand cru, France.....375

'05 Pax syrah, HdR Lot 14, the Mother Block,  
Alder Springs Vineyard, Terraces, Mendocino, *double bottle*.....375

'01 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....375

'00 M Chapoutier syrah, Le Pavillon, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....378

'04 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-ToKalon Vineyard, Oakville.....380

'06 Raphet pinot noir, cuvee Unique, Clos Vougeot grand cru, France.....385

'97 Dal Forno corvione blend, Vigneto di Monte Lodoletto,  
Valpolicella Superiore, Veneto, Italy.....390

'00 Tenuta di Trinoro bordeaux blend, Trinoro, Tuscany, Italy.....390

## **VINO ROJO continued (great wines drink alike) (or not)**

'00 Tomaso Bussola corvinone blend, TB, Valpolicella Classico,  
Vigneto Alto, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....390

'92 Dunn petite sirah, Park Muscatine Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....395

'02 Dugat-Py pinot noir, Gevrey Chambertin premier cru, France.....395

\*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*

'05 Araujo cabernet sauvignon, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....395

'03 Araujo cabernet sauvignon, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....425

'02 Araujo cabernet sauvignon, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....525

'99 Araujo cabernet sauvignon, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....725

'94 Araujo cabernet sauvignon, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....1100

*in 2001, I wrote:*

you won't see a lot of '98 cabs on this list, as I found the vintage generally thin and overly herbaceous, but a couple producers pulled cabernets out of hats (would you really want to pull out a rabbit?), and the famous Eisele Vineyard gave Bart Araujo some splendid fruit to work magic with (what would you do with a rabbit, anyway?)

*in 2007, I redirect:*

we finally sold out of the '98 this past Christmas, so our gift to you is a string of Araujo from heralded years for Napa cab, which awards you the combination of vintage brilliance, acclaimed vineyard and fastidious winemaking, but, alas, still no rabbit (however, our new concept, FnB, offers fantastic farm-to-table fare such as lamb shank and jidori chicken, so the chances are that rabbit won't be far behind (to pair with their selection of AZ wines!)

'99 Burge Family shiraz, Draycott Vineyard, the Grateful reserve, Barossa, Australia.....	399
'99 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Conteisa Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	400
'02 Tua Rita merlot, Redi Gaffi, Tuscany, Italy.....	400
winemaker Stefano Chioccioli, previously known for his work at other fine wineries such as Allegrini and Fanti, has become a hot commodity due to the uncompromising quality machine he has overseen at Tua Rita since '98; review after review has universally extolled the virtues of Tua Rita's stupendous wine array, culminating with one of the planet earth's most sought-after merlots, the perennial powerhouse named Redi Gaffi; now, I'm a fan of great Pomerol, and certain American wineries manage to corral the merlot grape exceptionally well (Behrens & Hitchcock, Leonetti come to lips...er, mind), but I have to share the following observation: first Falesco's Montiano merlot, now this masterpiece, is Italy becoming the new source for the world's best merlot?	
'03 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-ToKalon Vineyard, Oakville.....	400
'00 Chateau Montrose bordeaux blend, St Estèphe, France.....	400
'06 Sine Qua Non grenache, Raven Series, Central Coast.....	405
'05 Robert Foley bordeaux blend, Claret, Napa, <i>double bottle</i> .....	410
'01 Tua Rita merlot, Redi Gaffi, Tuscany, Italy.....	420
'01 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, L'Ermita velles vinyes, Priorato, Spain.....	422
'97 Dalla Valle cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	424
Naoko Dalla Valle, the ultra-proud owner of this eponymous world-class winery, has a policy of allowing her wines to be placed only in accounts she herself has pre-approved; the equally ultra-proud owner of Cowboy Ciao (some would say stubborn as all get out) (others just say get out) didn't want to jump through hoops that day (his legs were tired and his ego bruised), so he was willing to forego his possible allocation of Dalla Valle by not dropping everything and frantically rushing copies of the wine list and menus (and photos and first born... please, if I deal away daughter #1, who's going to take care of me when I'm old, like next year?) to Ms Naoko; fortunately, cooler heads prevailed (that is to say my wine rep jumped through the hoops and Fed Ex lines) and, despite my stubborn streak and burgeoning Alzheimer's, you have the chance to taste some of the most utterly mesmerizing, concentrated, complex, layered cabernets and cabernet francs produced in California	
'02 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-ToKalon Vineyard, Oakville.....	424

## **VINO ROJO why did the duck confit cross the road? to sit a-round the house!**

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'96 Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	424
'93 Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	700
'92 Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	800
'91 Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	900
'88 Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	1400
'82 Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	1700
'81 Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	1750

home, home on the Grange  
where the roo and the wallaby play  
where often is heard

a superlative word (like "WOW, this is astonishing juice!")  
and our tongues are deep purple all day

'99 M Chapoutier syrah, Le Méal, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	424
you really can't make a mountain from a molehill, but it is quite possible to make a meal of the Le Meal	
'95 Dunn cabernet sauvignon, Howell Mountain.....	425
'00 Gaja cabernet sauvignon, Darmagi Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	435
'94 Dunn petite sirah, Park Muscatine Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	440
'01 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-ToKalon Vineyard, Oakville.....	440
back when Mondavi was California king of cab, much of the reserve juice was harvested from this vineyard	
'94 Chateau Montelena cabernet sauvignon, estate, Napa.....	440
'95 Ridge bordeaux blend, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	440
'01 Dalla Valle cabernet franc blend, Maya, Napa.....	444
'03 Araujo cabernet sauvignon, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....	445
if California ever established a classification system similar to that of Bordeaux, it's safe to say that Chateau Montelena, Ridge, Dalla Valle and Araujo would all be front-runners for first growth status (although the whole classification thing can run the wrong way, like Baron Mouton, who for decades fought his lesser status with the slogan "first I am not, second I will never be, I am Mouton", until finally being elevated to a First Growth about 100 years too late)	
'04 Domaine Dujac pinot noir, Echezeaux grand cru, France.....	445
'00 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Costa Russi Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	445
'04 Aubert pinot noir, UV Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	447
this wine is so rare, I've never had the occasion to taste it, so I'll quote Mr Wine Advocate himself, Robert Parker:	
"the amazing 2004 Aubert UV Vineyard pinot is one of the finest California pinot noirs I have ever tasted.	
This Sonoma Coast vineyard has produced a prodigious wine exhibiting gorgeous aromas of blueberries, black raspberries, plums, forest floor and violets. Full-bodied with superb underlying acidity, layers of texture and richness yet unbelievably surreal and light on the palate, this stunning wine can be consumed over the next decade."	
'99 M Chapoutier syrah, Le Pavillon, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	448
'95 Turley zinfandel, Black Sears Vineyard, Howell Mountain.....	450
'93 Dunn cabernet sauvignon, Howell Mountain.....	450
'07 Molly Dooker shiraz, Velvet Glove, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	450
'02 Sine Qua Non pinot noir, Hollerin' M, Shea Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton District, Oregon.....	450

many sommeliers look down their nose, so to speak, at gigantic, hellacious pinot; me, I think M is one of those wines that's not indicative of it's varietal but a phenomenal experience nonetheless, so if you don't want it, good, more for me

**VINO ROJO the only thing I dislike more than business documents (such as job applications) with smiley faces is text messages with :) (although the emoticons are starting to grow on me, if they wink)**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

'04 Bond cabernet sauvignon, St Eden Vineyard, Oakville.....	450
'04 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Melbury Vineyard, Lake Hennessey, Rutherford.....	525
'03 Bond cabernet sauvignon, St Eden Vineyard, Oakville.....	540
'03 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Pluribus, Spring Mountain.....	550
'03 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Vecina Vineyard, Oakville.....	555
'03 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Melbury Vineyard, Lake Hennessey, Rutherford.....	565
'01 Bond cabernet sauvignon, St Eden Vineyard, Oakville.....	570
'01 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Vecina Vineyard, Oakville.....	575
'02 Bond cabernet sauvignon, St Eden Vineyard, Oakville.....	590
'01 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Melbury Vineyard, Lake Hennessey, Rutherford.....	600
'02 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Melbury Vineyard, Lake Hennessey, Rutherford.....	625
'04 Harlan cabernet sauvignon, estate, Oakville.....	990

Bill Harlan is the iconoclast behind the painstakingly selective wine production at both Bond and Harlan, with the stated

goal of never making anything less than first growth quality cabernet-based wines indicative of the terroir of Napa Valley  
*{storytime: at Hospice du Rhone this year, my name was called out from some café as I was crossing the street and it turned out to be, putting it delicately, a complete freak who makes my skin crawl, who then proceeded to ask me why I was "wandering around town like a vagabond"; when I related this tale to Sean, he responded with "Bond....Vagabond!"}*

'00 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, L'Ermita velles vinyes, Priorato, Spain.....	450
'02 Dalla Valle cabernet franc blend, Maya, Napa.....	464
'02 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, L'Ermita velles vinyes, Priorato, Spain.....	466
'02 René Engel pinot noir, Clos de Vougeot grand cru, France.....	470
'00 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sperss Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	470
'00 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Conteisa Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	475
'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Grand Echézeaux grand cru, France.....	475
'02 Marquis-Philips shiraz, Integrity, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	475
<i>"This wine is so phenomenal, I could french kiss you right now!" (actual guest quote)</i>	
'04 Sine Qua Non pinot noir, Covert Fingers, Arita Hills Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.....	476
'98 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sperss Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	485
'97 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Conteisa Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	495
'99 Dalla Valle cabernet franc blend, Maya, Napa.....	499
'99 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, L'Ermita velles vinyes, Priorato, Spain.....	499
'94 Dunn cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	500
'01 Turley zinfandel, late harvest, Delinquent, Paso Robles, <i>half bottle</i> .....	500
'01 M Chapoutier syrah, La Mordorée, Côte Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	500
'99 Paul Hobbs cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer-ToKalon Vineyard, Oakville.....	500
'06 Molly Dooker shiraz, Velvet Glove, McLaren Vale, Australia.....	500
'86 Pesquera tempranillo blend, Janus reserve, Ribera del Douro, Spain.....	500
'04 Domaine Dujac pinot noir, Clos de la Roche grand cru, France.....	500
'02 René Engel pinot noir, Grands-Echézeaux grand cru, France.....	502
'05 Seavey cabernet sauvignon/petit verdot, Premiere Napa X, Lot 071, Napa.....	510
'99 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	525
'97 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sperss Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	525
'02 Araujo cabernet sauvignon, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....	525
'04 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Melbury Vineyard, Lake Hennessey, Rutherford.....	525
'02 Alban syrah, Seymour's Vineyard, Alban Estate, Edna Valley.....	540

## **VINO ROJO (is the existence of a wine list like this crazy?**

**well, I don't know, was Jerry Garcia crazy when he invented the necktie? how about the Marquis de Sade, was he crazy when he wrote all those racy scripts for Desperate Housewives? OK, actually, he was as nutty as a Frangelico stone sour – forget I said anything)**

'03 Bond cabernet sauvignon, St Eden Vineyard, Oakville.....	540
'05 Frédéric Magnien pinot noir, Chambertin-Clos de Bèze grand cru, France.....	550
'03 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Pluribus, Spring Mountain.....	550
'00 Abreu cabernet sauvignon, Madrona Ranch, Napa.....	555
David Abreu is perhaps the most gifted vineyard manager in California (certainly the most sought after for consulting); this is his project, highlighting single vineyard sites of cab to the tune of 200 - 250 cases per lot, and the reviewers tend to lapse into 'shampoo speak' with his wines, as terms such as 'sumptuous, satiny, cascading' are bandied about	
'03 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Vecina Vineyard, Oakville.....	555
'03 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Melbury Vineyard, Lake Hennessey, Rutherford.....	565
'99 Clarendon Hills shiraz, Astralis Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	566

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'82 Chateau Léoville Poyferré bordeaux blend, St Julien, France.....	570
'82 Chateau l'Arrosée bordeaux blend, St Emilion, France.....	700
'82 Chateau Margaux bordeaux blend, Margaux, France.....	2640
1982 was the first ever real 'American' vintage of Bordeaux, as the weather created climactic conditions which stunned and surprised many Bordelais; try as they might not to, even the most overtly old world winemaker produced wines of remarkably extracted fruit that had more to do with bombast than beauty, all the while remaining thought-provoking and ageworthy; put it this way, of all the Bordeaux vintages we've experienced, if you ever desired one with more melted milk chocolate than leaving a box of Hershey bars on a Scottsdale rooftop in August, 1982 is the vintage for you!	
'01 Bond cabernet sauvignon, St Eden Vineyard, Oakville.....	570
'00 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sori San Lorenzo Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	575
'02 Sine Qua Non syrah, Just for the Love of it, Central Coast.....	575
'01 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Vecina Vineyard, Oakville.....	575
'02 Bond cabernet sauvignon, St Eden Vineyard, Oakville.....	590
'02 Clarendon Hills shiraz, Astralis Vineyard, Clarendon, Australia.....	600
'01 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Melbury Vineyard, Lake Hennessey, Rutherford.....	600

\*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*

'00 Colgin bordeaux blend, Cariad, Napa.....	600
'03 Colgin syrah, IX estate, Napa.....	625
'04 Colgin syrah, IX estate, Napa.....	655
'03 Colgin bordeaux blend, IX estate, Pritchard Hill, Napa.....	675
'03 Colgin bordeaux blend, Cariad, Napa.....	700
'04 Colgin bordeaux blend, IX estate, Pritchard Hill, Napa.....	725
'02 Colgin bordeaux blend, Cariad, Napa.....	750
'01 Colgin bordeaux blend, Cariad, Napa.....	800
'00 Colgin cabernet sauvignon, Herb Lamb Vineyard, Napa.....	900
'01 Colgin cabernet sauvignon, Tychson Hill Vineyard, Napa.....	1150
Colgin is synonomous with cult wine, as these auction stars are ultra-rare, priced high, and always a hullabaloo in a bottle	
'88 Simi cabernet sauvignon, reserve, Sonoma, <i>quadruple bottle</i> .....	625
'02 Bond cabernet sauvignon, Melbury Vineyard, Lake Hennessey, Rutherford.....	625

## **VINO ROJO (excessive, maybe, but it beats collecting stamps)**

'99 Greenock Creek shiraz, Roennfeldt Road, Barossa, Australia.....	625
'97 Greenock Creek shiraz, Roennfeldt Road, Barossa, Australia.....	645
Aussie winemaking legend Chris Ringland has received more 100-point scores from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate (ten as of July 2005) than any other winemaker from anywhere, and the Roennfeldt shiraz is one of them	

\*\*\**spotlight*\*\*\*

'79 Domaine Leroy pinot noir, Pommard, France.....	645
'86 Domaine Leroy pinot noir, Ruchottes-Chambertin grand cru, France.....	770
'98 Domaine Leroy pinot noir, Clos de Vougeot grand cru, France.....	900
'96 Domaine Leroy pinot noir, Clos de Vougeot grand cru, France.....	1000
'98 Domaine Leroy pinot noir, Clos de la Roche grand cru, France.....	1175
Mme Lalou Bize-Leroy and her phenomenal array of standard-setting pinot noirs are considered 'the bomb' in Burgundy...these wines regularly evolve for two decades plus, with terms like hedonistic, opulent and decadent being bandied about with astounding regularity; produced with minimal handling in tiny quantities, all with their specific vineyard terroir firmly in mind, the Leroy wines represent the essence of what is considered great red Burgundy (plus, any gal who climbs mountains in her spare time must be in touch with the planet, right?)	
'98 Noon shiraz, reserve, Borrett 20 Rows Vineyard, Langhorne Creek, Australia.....	650

'01 Guigal syrah, Ex Voto, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....	650
a new project for Guigal, I had the amazingly good fortune to taste this against his astronomically highly rated syrah	
'98 La Landonne Côte-Rôtie at The Little Nell in Aspen during Food & Wine Classic 2005 and, while the altitude did cloud my judgement (as did copious amounts of alcohol), the Ex Voto gets my voto as the best wine of the fest	
'04 Colgin syrah, IX estate, Napa.....	655
'89 Chateau Léoville-Las-Cases bordeaux blend, St Julien, France.....	660
'03 Colgin bordeaux blend, IX estate, Pritchard Hill, Napa.....	675
'86 Chateau La Mission Haut-Brion bordeaux blend, Pessac-Léognan, France.....	675
many believe this winery should supplant Haut Brion as king of the vineyard in this district of Bordeaux	
'95 Vega-Sicilia tinto fino blend, Unico, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	677
'94 Vega-Sicilia tinto fino blend, Unico, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	700
maybe they should call this wine 'Umami' instead, it certainly delivers a 'profound sense of deliciousness', not to mention marvelous mouthfeel and ethereal energy — like a hypothetical blend of Heitz Martha's Vineyard with Charmes Chambertin	
'82 Chateau l'Arrosée bordeaux blend, St Emilion, France.....	700
'03 Colgin bordeaux blend, Cariad, Napa.....	700
'04 Alvaro Palacios grenache blend, L'Ermita velles vinyes, Priorato, Spain.....	700
'00 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sori Tilden Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	700
Manfred Krankl's final vintage of pinot from Shea Vineyard, it goes out with a big bang (less Omega, more O My God)	
'93 Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	700
'02 Schrader cabernet sauvignon, Beckstoffer/To-Kalon Vineyard, Napa, <i>double bottle</i> .....	704
glorious cult cabernet, legendary vineyard, stupendous vintage, what else could you want, a bigger bottle? done!	
'02 Wild Duck Creek shiraz, Duck Muck, Heathcote, Australia.....	705
'00 Wild Duck Creek shiraz, Duck Muck, Heathcote, Australia.....	710
normal wine lists (and if you haven't figured out this isn't one of those by now, go directly to the nearest clinic for a full catscan and neural work-up) that win the big accolades typically feature a large number of cabs and bordeaux in their highest price ranges; we tend to lean a bit more to the syrah/shiraz selections, partly due to our tremendous access to them, partly due to how our food pairs with them, partly because we can't pass up names like 'Duck Muck'	
<i>{actual quote from Phoenix Magazine: "there's nothing mainstream or even particularly normal about Cowboy Ciao"}</i>	
'04 Colgin bordeaux blend, IX estate, Pritchard Hill, Napa.....	725

**VINO ROJO 'the world is your oyster' page  
(unless you're allergic to shellfish)  
(or spectacular wine)**

'99 Araujo cabernet sauvignon, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....	725
'92 Shafer cabernet sauvignon, Hillside Select, Stags Leap District.....	740
'03 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Terraces, Mendocino.....	745
'I've always felt that when you appear at one of these seminars, it really helps if you have a French or Australian accent; after drinking until the wee hours, I woke up today with a frog in my throat, but that's not quite what I had in mind"	
Pax Mahle, hosting a 'Young Guns' seminar at Hospice du Rhone 2005	
'98 Henschke shiraz, Hill of Grace, Eden Valley, Australia.....	750
"damn, this smell makes me want to talk Korean and get my toes done"	
direct quote from the lovely and vivacious Stephanie Caraway, former blonde bombshell barkeep at Cowboy Ciao, and although she was referring to the chemical aroma wafting from the sealant on the Sea Saw kitchen bar top, it mirrors my sentiment from the first time I got a whiff of the stupendous Hill of Grace shiraz from Henschke	
'01 Sine Qua Non syrah, On Your Toes, White Hawk/Alban/Stolpman Vineyards, Central Coast.....	750
"I can't believe I'm saying this out loud, but you may actually be more anti-social than me!"	

direct quote from the equally lovely and stupendous (and decidedly more Not-Up-With-People) Caraway sister Jennifer, following our first encounter at Kaz; Jen, who whined like a Cub fan when she realized her sis had more list-hits (stop, you're an adult, it's unbecoming), constantly keeps me on my toes with sushi knife-sharp wit and sar-caustic humor

- '02 Dutschke shiraz, Single Barrel, Barossa, Australia.....750
- '02 Colgin bordeaux blend, Cariad, Napa.....750
- '74 Chappellet cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....750
- Chappellet may be off the 'Killer Cabernet' radar these days, but in '74 it was as celebrated as Mondavi & Silver Oak
- '86 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....750
- '86 Chateau Pichon-Longueville bordeaux blend, Comtesse de Lalande, Pauillac, France.....755
- '02 Torbreck shiraz/viognier, Run Rig, Barossa, Australia, *double bottle*.....760
- '86 Domaine Leroy pinot noir, Ruchottes-Chambertin grand cru, France.....770
- if you pass up an opportunity to drink a Leroy Burgundy, you'll Ruchottes-Chambertin the day
- '00 Abreu cabernet sauvignon, Thorevilos Vineyard, Napa.....775
- '99 Vincent Girardin pinot noir, Chambertin Clos de Bèze, France, *double bottle*.....775
- '01 Dal Forno corvione blend, Vigneto di Monte Lodoletto,  
Valpolicella Superiore, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....775
- '01 Colgin bordeaux blend, Cariad, Napa.....800
- '92 Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....800
- '97 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....825
- '03 Guigal syrah, Ex Voto, Ermitage, Rhône, France.....850
- '02 Camille Giroud pinot noir, Chambertin grand cru, France.....855
- '95 Greenock Creek shiraz, Roennfeldt Road, Barossa, Australia.....855
- '93 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello, Santa Cruz, *double bottle*.....875
- '97 Guigal syrah blend, La Turque, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....875
- '02 Sine Qua Non syrah blend, reserve, Heart Chorea, Central Coast.....875

Manfred Krankl (say, is that Austrian for crackpot, or maybe crackpipe?) is once again pushing the envelope, and then tearing it to little bitty pieces; this blend of mostly syrah with liberal splashes of grenache and viognier from five leading Central Coast sites (White Hawk, Bien Nacido, Alban, Stolpman, and Shadow Canyon Vineyards) is 'best barrel select' held back from the 'Just for the Love of it' release, so it's at essence a reserve, and in truth perhaps a bit more reserved than the typical Krankl offering — or perhaps just finer, with a greater degree of mesh and soul to balance the power

**VINO ROJO      the good news is all the wines on this page  
are available by the glass;  
the bad news is there's a four glass minimum  
(thanks to very cool cats at Anchor & Hope, San Francisco,  
from whom we borrowed that line)**

- '00 Colgin cabernet sauvignon, Herb Lamb Vineyard, Napa.....900
- '98 Domaine Leroy pinot noir, Clos de Vougeot grand cru, France.....900
- '91 Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....900
- '92 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....900

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

- '04 Rochioli pinot noir, East Block, Russian River.....900
- '04 Rochioli pinot noir, Little Hill, Russian River.....925
- '04 Rochioli pinot noir, West Block, Russian River.....950
- '04 Rochioli pinot noir, River Block, Russian River.....975

last year was my first time at the First Press wine auction, and, for one feeling like a fish out of water (or wino out of decanter, or something), I did ok - landed this auction lot of single vineyard pinots (I'd never seen them outside Cal) and got a shout-out from Big D, Dennis Rowland, Kazbar's own jazz master, who was the evening's entertainment

(normally, when a guy like me gets a shout-out, it's along the lines of "hey, you mental patient, get out of the road")

'90 Shafer cabernet sauvignon, Hillside Select, Stags Leap District.....	925
'98 Dal Forno corvione blend, Vigneto di Monte Lodoletto, Valpolicella Superiore, Amarone, Veneto, Italy.....	925
'01 Bryant Family cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	925
2001 was Helen Turley's last vintage as consulting winemaker at Bryant Family	
'78 Duckhorn merlot, Three Palms Vineyard, Napa.....	930
California wines became Zeitgeist in the early '80s, thanks in part to a combination of the infamous Paris Tasting, an upsurge in National Pride following the Bicentennial, an influx in winemaking pioneers, and a string of great vintages, perhaps the best of which was 1978 (Dan Duckhorn's inaugural bottling of Three Palms and my favorite Duckhorn ever)	
'02 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Terraces, Mendocino.....	945
'85 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	950
'97 Gaja nebbiolo blend, Sori Tilden Vineyard, Piedmont, Italy.....	950
'04 Rochioli pinot noir, West Block, Russian River.....	950
'03 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	950
'03 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	965
'04 Rochioli pinot noir, River Block, Russian River.....	975
'74 Robert Mondavi cabernet sauvignon, Oakville.....	975
1974 was the first 'superstar' vintage for Napa cabernet, and may represent the finest Mondavi non-reserve cab made	
'03 Guigal syrah blend, La Turque, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	975
'04 Harlan cabernet sauvignon, estate, Oakville.....	990
'06 Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	1000
'84 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	1000
'96 Domaine Leroy pinot noir, Clos de Vougeot grand cru, France.....	1000
'96 Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1000
'02 Henschke shiraz, Hill of Grace, Eden Valley, Australia.....	1015
'73 Heitz cabernet sauvignon, Martha's Vineyard, Napa.....	1050
California's first cult cabernet from a vintage that helped put them on the wine collectors collective radar	

## **VINO ROJO continued (if you can't say anything else about us, at least you can say we're well-red)**

*\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\**

'00 Chris Ringland shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....	1050
'99 Chris Ringland shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....	1150
'97 Chris Ringland shiraz, Randall's Hill Vineyard, Barossa Ranges, Australia.....	1250
'98 Chris Ringland shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....	1350
'96 Three Rivers shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....	1500
essentially, these are all Three Rivers shiraz produced by winemaker extraordinaire Chris Ringland, but there is yet another legal trademark brouhaha forcing the name change (which is, as per usual, ludicrous, although the next time I hear John Wayne referred to as a 'Cowboy' I'm gonna come down on his estate with my legal six-guns a'blazin); I am proud to admit I've tasted all these at various dinners Chris has attended, and, as he says, "I'm a big believer in going for it, all of it, nothing halfway...I mean, what's the point?", a philosophy that is abundantly echoed with these bold, bawdy, just-on-the-verge-of-dry-finished-port-like concoctions (and speaking of bawdy, the next time I hear Liberace sing that song 'Ciao' on the radio, I'll be going after his estate for every shiny sequin that's left)	
'01 Abreu bordeaux blend, Madrona Ranch, Napa.....	1100
'96 Guigal syrah blend, La Turque, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1100

'05	Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	1100
'94	Araujo cabernet sauvignon, Eisele Vineyard, Napa.....	1100
'66	Chateau Mouton Rothschild bordeaux blend, Pauillac, France.....	1125
	Michael Broadbent, perhaps the foremost expert on older vintage Bordeaux, says '66 is "one of my favourite vintages, a lean long distance runner" and calls the Mouton "a typically dramatic wine with fragrance surging out of the glass"	
'90	Henschke shiraz, Hill of Grace, Eden Valley, Australia.....	1125
'01	Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1150
'99	Chris Ringland shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....	1150
'01	Colgin cabernet sauvignon, Tychson Hill Vineyard, Napa.....	1150
'01	Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1165
'98	Domaine Leroy pinot noir, Clos de la Roche grand cru, France.....	1175
'01	Guigal syrah blend, La Turque, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1175
'00	Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1195
'01	Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	1200
'00	Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1200
'83	Vega-Sicilia tinto fino blend, Unico, Ribera del Duero, Spain, <i>double bottle</i> .....	1200
	the astounding Vega Sicilia opened la puerta to Ribera del Duero and introduced the world to tempranillo beyond Rioja; the '83 was bottled in 750ml in '90 but wasn't put into magnum until '94, and also has cab, merlot and malbec in it	
'00	Guigal syrah blend, La Turque, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1250
'97	Chris Ringland shiraz, Randall's Hill Vineyard, Barossa Ranges, Australia.....	1250
'99	Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1275
'61	Chateau Malartic-Lagravière bordeaux blend, Graves, France.....	1280
'69	Ulysse Jaboulet pinot noir, Chambolle Musigny, France.....	1300
	many believe the best vintages in the last century for Bordeaux and Burgundy were 1961 and 1969, respectively	
'99	Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1300
'00	Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	1300
'99	Guigal syrah blend, La Turque, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1325
'98	Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1350
'98	Chris Ringland shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....	1350
'97	Marcassin pinot noir, Marcassin Vineyard, Sonoma Coast.....	1350
	Winemaking Goddess Helen Turley's own personal label pinot noir AND vineyard, from the spectacular '97 vintage	
'98	Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1365

## **VINO ROJO "where Margaux, I goes" David Munyon, circa 1979**

'88	Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	1400
'91	Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1475
'98	Dominio de Pingus tempranillo, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain.....	1500
'96	Three Rivers shiraz, Barossa, Australia.....	1500
'86	Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1600

\*\*\*spotlight\*\*\*

'88	Chateau Margaux bordeaux blend, Margaux, France.....	1690
'89	Chateau Margaux bordeaux blend, Margaux, France.....	1788
'55	Chateau Margaux bordeaux blend, Margaux, France.....	2228
'82	Chateau Margaux bordeaux blend, Margaux, France.....	2640
	the beknighted Bordeaux first growths rarely rest on their laurels, but Chateau Margaux doesn't even rest during time-outs! Margaux, under the expert leadership of Corinne Mentzelopoulos, has become the paragon of consistent excellence that all truly great wineries strive for and rarely achieve; each vintage listed here was exceptional, all meriting nearly perfect scores	
'82	Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	1700
'81	Penfold's shiraz, Grange reserve, South Australia.....	1750
'89	Chateau Margaux bordeaux blend, Margaux, France.....	1788
'89	Guigal syrah blend, La Mouline, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	1800

'02 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino, <i>quadruple bottle</i> .....	2200
'86 Chateau Petrus bordeaux blend, Pomerol, France.....	2200
the only first growth in Pomerol, Petrus is the gold standard for merlot-based blends	
'76 Ridge cabernet sauvignon, Monte Bello Vineyard, Santa Cruz.....	2220
'55 Chateau Margaux bordeaux blend, Margaux, France.....	2228
'80 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	2250
'79 Guigal syrah blend, La Landonne, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône, France.....	2450
'01 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino, <i>quadruple bottle</i> .....	2500
'59 Chateau Montrose bordeaux blend, St Estèphe, France.....	2610
renowned expert Michael Broadbent has called 1959 a five star vintage and says the Montrose is a 'Rock of Ages'	
'82 Chateau Margaux bordeaux blend, Margaux, France.....	2640
'81 Chateau Petrus bordeaux blend, Pomerol, France.....	2800
'02 Screaming Eagle cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	2900
'01 Screaming Eagle cabernet sauvignon, Napa.....	3000
'74 Joseph Phelps bordeaux blend, Insignia, Napa.....	3300
'02 Pax syrah, Alder Springs Vineyard, Terraces, Mendocino, <i>quadruple bottle</i> .....	3800
'17 Chateau Latour bordeaux blend, Pauillac, France, ( <i>relabeled</i> ).....	10,000

*thanks for playing our game, you've been a terrific audience;  
remember your Sommelier, he works for sips and sips alone*