

If you want a sure way to take the chill off, come to our SUPER TUSCAN WINE TASTING!

- **Where: Santiam Wine & Bistro**
- **When: Friday, January 17th**
- **Time: 4-8 PM**
- **Cost: \$21 for the first five wines**
- **Super Pour: \$9 (Optional)**
- **Full pour all six: \$30**
- **1/2 pour of six: \$17**

2008 Aia Vecchia Lagone Boigheri Rosso \$15

The 2008 Lagone is one of the rare values readers will find from Bolgheri. Layers of sweet, dark fruit flow effortlessly from this delicate, feminine wine. In 2008 Lagone is more about subtlety than power. The blend is 60% Merlot, the remainder split between Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014.

2007 Aia Vecchia SorUgo Tusany, Italy \$35

The 2007 Sor Ugo is 60% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc aged in French oak. This dark beauty emerges with layers of black fruit, grilled herbs, spices and minerals, showing wonderful richness, vibrancy and precision. In short, it's all there in the glass. The French oak is nicely balanced, even if another year or two in bottle will be helpful in allowing it to integrate further. This is a beautiful effort from Aia Vecchia. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2019. **91 Points Robert Parker**

2010 Tentuta dell 'Ornellaia Le Volte \$30

The 2010 Le Volte dell'Ornellaia is big, juicy and expressive in this vintage. There is firmness of tannin that is unusual for this wine but that works beautifully here in preserving freshness and structure. Dark red cherries, flowers, mint and licorice are some of the many notes that emerge from this beautifully balanced Le Volte. In 2010 the blend is 50% Merlot, 30% Sangiovese and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. As always, Le Volte is made from a blend of estate-grown grapes and purchased wine. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017. **90 Points Robert Parker**

Tenuta San Guido Guidalberto Tuscany \$55 From the producer of Sassicaia!

Purple-tinged ruby-red. Primary aromas of cassis, ripe black cherry, licorice and ink, with a welcome violet note adding freshness; much darker and riper than the Le Difese. Smooth, dense and full, with impressively concentrated dark fruit flavors lifted by harmonious acidity. Finishes with a trace of heat and a repeating blackberry note. Another very serious Guidalberto, though this strikes me as being a good deal riper and bigger than some more perfumed, refined versions of years past. **91 Points Steven Tanzer**

2007 Castello di Bossi Corbaia \$70

The 2007 Corbaia is 70% Sangiovese and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in new French oak. It is once again a very serious wine. The floral, expressive aromatics of Sangiovese are backed up by the tannic heft and sheer richness of the Cabernet. This is a big, yet sensual, wine that will require considerable patience for the tannins to soften, despite the early appeal of the vintage elsewhere. The sheer purity and depth of the fruit are breathtaking in this stunning Tuscan red. Anticipated maturity: 2017-2027. **95 Points Robert Parker**

SUPER POUR \$9 (Optional)

2008 Pedro Antinori Guado Tasso \$97

The 2008 Guado al Tasso is once again fabulous. In fact, it may be Tuscany's most improved wine over the last few years. Firm, vibrant tannins support expressive layers of dark fruit, plums, cherries, sage, espresso and mocha. The wine shows fabulous detail and nuance in a translucent, totally seductive style, with tons of focus, drive and verve. It is a striking wine that will be a joy to follow over the coming years. The 2008 Guado al Tasso is composed of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2028. **95 Points Robert Parker**

What is a Super Tuscan you ask?

Today, most super Tuscans use the legal appellation of IGT (Indicazione Geografica Tipica), which gives producers more flexibility than Chianti and other Tuscan DOCs and more prestige than *vino da tavola*. The wines tend to be modern, big and rich—and often carry a price tag of \$100 or more a bottle. Some Super Tuscans do contain Sangiovese, either 100 percent or in blends. But others are made solely from Merlot (such as the famous Tenuta dell'Ornellaia Toscana Masseto), from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah (Riccardo Baracchi Toscana Ardito), or from even more unusual blends, like an amalgamation of Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Merlot (Argiano Toscana Solengo).

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