

From: Debbie debbie@santiamwine.com
Subject: Malbec Tasting at Santiam Wine Wine & Bistro on Friday, January 5th
Date: January 4, 2018 at 9:03 PM
To: bwelsh@mind-over-media.com



Good Evening, This is the exciting evening we have planned for you tomorrow night! Join us if you can!

Malbec from Argentina, Oregon and Washington

Special: Grilled Frank Steak with Chimichurri Sauce and Pureed Sweet Potatoes

When: Friday, January 5th

Time: 4-8 PM

Cost: Full \$26 Half Pour \$15

The Wines:

2016 Achaval Ferrer Malbec Mendoza, Argentina \$24

Very good Malbec from Mendoza aged for 8 months on French oak. Dark blue violet color. Still young nose of black cherries, blackberries and currants with well integrated oak. Full bodied, very fruity wine with taste of dark plums, black cherries and currants with well integrated oak and hidden tannins. Drink 2017-2020. Perfect to roasted meat or steak.

2014 Susana Balbo Malbec, Valle de UCO, Argentina \$23.50

The 2014 Susana Balbo Signature Malbec is sourced from the same vineyard in Altamira where the Torrontés vines are planted, the Finca la Delfina. It contains some 5% of Petit Verdot grapes. It was kept with lees that were occasionally stirred and it matured in French barriques, 30% of them new, for 13 months. They have reduced the oak drastically, and the wine shows purer, fresher and subtler, finely nuanced. The ripeness is contained, it also shows a little less alcohol as it was harvested a little earlier and with more acidity. There is always a note of mint in the wine produced from this vineyard. I very much like this new direction. 80,000 bottles produced. **91+ Wine Advocate**

2014 Luca Malbec UCO Valley Argentina \$34.50

From new plantings in Gualtallary, the 2014 Malbec has increased the proportion of fruit coming from this cool place to make it approximately a 50/50 blend of Malbec fruit from Gualtallary and La Consulta, both in the Valle de Uco. There is a big jump in precision and harmony along with more freshness and elegance. The expansive palate has great depth and fruit with very good freshness. This could well be the best vintage of Luca Malbec and I think the best might be yet to come, as the new vineyard matures. **93 Points Wine Advocate**

2013 Ransom Malbec Rogue Valley, Oregon \$23

Associated with mountain ranges the world over, Malbec is at home and expressive in the Rogue Valley, tucked into the rugged terroir of Oregon's Southern Cascades. Opening with rich aromatics of huckleberry conserve and sarsaparilla, the palate is lush, with piquant flavors of elderberry and sweet tobacco punctuated by fresh acidity and structured with fine, velveteen tannins. The finish is long and full, leaving behind flavors of blueberries and a breath of mountain sage Elegant and worthy of cellaring, but open and ready to drink now.

2015 Seven Hills Malbec Walla Walla, WA. \$30

Bright, full red-ruby. Aromas of cassis, blackberry, boysenberry and violet, plus a suggestion of bitter chocolate. Juicy, penetrating, lightly saline wine with a note of licorice stick accenting its dark fruit flavors. (The spice character here may come from some François Frères barrels made from Hungarian oak.) Very tightly wound but with good depth and lurking sweetness to support its firm tannins. McClellan is looking for vibrancy here, using a divided trellis to get 4-3/4 tons of fruit per acre and keeping a lot of "leaf panel" to extend the ripening period. 89 Points Vinous

2015 Aquijon de Abeja Malbec Patagonia, Argentina \$16

Concentrated wine, with good structure. Dark red color. Nose of black pepper, spices and ripe blackberries.

Velvety in the mouth with persistent tannins, balanced with a hint of acidity.

More about this wine:

Varietal: [Malbec](#)

Grown mostly in South America, its popularity has made it almost synonymous with Argentina, the wine producing powerhouse which has now adopted the varietal as it's national grape. While many offer bursting juicy fruit including blackberries, cherries, and plums, the grape is also capable of extended oak-ageing adding spice box, tobacco and leather aromas, as well as a richer texture on the pallate. Originally a vineyard neighbor alongside Carmenere (another French expat) in Bordeaux, Malbec is mostly planted in the neighboring regions of south west France. The town of Cahor, just north east of Bordeaux, is probably the varietals most important region in the country, where it's required to make up at least 70% of the blend. Although a simplification, French versions tend to be drier and more tannic, however they can still display great concentration and depth.

Type: [Red](#)

Red wine is wine made from dark-coloured grape varieties. The color of red differs based on the grapes variety or varieties used. Interestingly, black grapes yield a juice that is greenish-white. The actual red color comes from anthocyan pigments (also called anthocyanins) from the skin of the grape (exceptions are the relatively uncommon teinturier varieties, which produce a red colored juice). Most of the production centers around the extraction of color and flavor from the grape skin.

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