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Subject: Red wine tasting tonight at Santiam Wine and Bistro
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To: tasting santiam tasting@santiamwine.com

DR

The day after Christmas and I hope you are all well and rested. Tonight we are back to normal with another great Friday night tasting!

The wines tonight are from the famous Orin Swift including the Prisoner that he created long ago and then sold the label. Let's see if it as good as it was when he made it.

Wine & Dine with us!

When: Friday, December 26th

Time: 4-8 PM

Cost: Full pour \$26 Half Pour \$15

The Wines:

2012 Orin Swift Papillon \$70

BA vibrant crimson is present in the glass with a claret fringe on the rim. Luring aromas of currants, mulled blackberries, French vanilla, and exotic spices serve as an intriguing precursor to tasting. The opening is dense and powerful with extracted blue and red fruit flavors which leads to beguiling cassis, plum, and a hint of mocha later. The tannins are already so soft and suave which lends to early appeal and cellaring if one so chooses.

Blend-Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc

Aged 16 months in French oak 40% new 15.1% Alc./Vol.

2012 Orin Swift Abstract \$30.50

Abstract is a blend of Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino Grenache, Petite Sirah, and Syrah primarily from hillside vineyards.

Opaque and purple to the rim of the glass, an elevated display of aromatics is immediately present. Fragrant dark fruits, spring flowers, violet, and hint of garrigue greet the nose and tempt added review. Extraordinary freshness is present upon entry leading to lush flavors of sweet boysenberries, kirsch, licorice, dark cherries, and exotic floral notes. The palate is thoroughly treated and left with a finish of bright acidity and round tannins, which exist in seamless balance. Aged 10 months in new and seasoned French oak. 15.7% Alc. by volume

2012 Prisoners \$42 (Use to be part of the Orin Swift portfolio)

There are 20,000 cases of the 2012 The Prisoner, which is an interesting blend of 46% Zinfandel, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Petite Sirah, 12% Syrah, and a small amount of Charbono. Its deep ruby/purple color is followed by a big, peppery, meaty, Rhone-like bouquet with hints of bay leaf, unsmoked cigar tobacco, black currants and sweet jammy cherries. Medium to full-bodied and explosively fruity, this is a lovely, hedonistic, seriously endowed red to drink over the next 3-4 years. 90 Points Robert Parker

These offerings, which are the products of Quintessa's Huneus family, are interesting wines, especially the proprietary blends. I hope consumers embrace these blends as they give

winemakers lots of different options. Even more important, they are a lot of fun to taste.

2012 Orin Swift Locations Wines "E-2" \$18

"A blend of Grenache from Priorat, Rioja and Toro, Tempranillo from Rioja, and Carignan from Ribera del Duero and Carinyena. It has the same fermentation and upbringing as the French and Italian wines. Majestic, soaring black fruit aromas intermixed with forest floor, white flowers and kirsch emerge from this full-bodied, opulent, voluptuously textured red along with stunning richness and depth. Robert Parker 93

"I reviewed these Locations offerings from Dave Phinney of Orin-Swift Cellars last year, who is going against all conventional wisdom of vineyard and vintage dating wines. Some will claim the devil has possessed Phinney, as his offerings from France, Italy and Spain are all blends from different sectors of each country. If you judge wines on how they taste and the degree of pleasure they offer, they are all incredible efforts. The three new cuvees I tasted are among the finest wine values one could hope to find. Moreover, there are 50,000 cases of each, no easy feat given the grapes Phinney has accessed and the quality he has turned out. As of now, Dave Phinney might be my "value winemaker of the year" candidate."

2012 Locations "I-2" \$18

The Non-Vintage Locations I-2 Italian Red Wine (also all 2012 fruit, but it can't be called that because of the blend) is composed of Nero D'Avola and Negroamaro from Puglia, Barbera from Piedmont, and a small percentage of Sangiovese from Tuscany. It receives vinification in large oak and spends ten months in barrel prior to bottling. It displays more acidity than the French cuvee, along with notes of wild herbs, licorice, tomato skins, black olives, red and black currants, cherries, barbecue spice and burning embers. This serious, medium to full-bodied, tasty, distinctive wine can be consumed over the next several years. **90 Points Robert Parker**

2012 Locations "F-2" \$18

Locations F-2 French Red Wine is all from the 2012 vintage and is a blend of Grenache from the Roussillon, Syrah from the Rhone Valley and assorted Bordeaux varieties. It was fermented in large oak vats and aged in barrel for ten months prior to bottling. A dense ruby/purple color is followed by a big, sweet kiss of licorice, black currants and camphor. Deep, full-bodied and ripe (but not over-ripe), it possesses good freshness, vibrancy and delineation as well as a juicy, in-your-face style. These wines are all meant to be drunk upon release, but enough stuffing is present that they should evolve for 4-5 years. The Non-Vintage Locations E-2 Spanish Red Wine is a blend of Grenache from Priorat, Rioja and Toro, Tempranillo from Rioja, and Carignan from Ribera del Duero and Carinyena. It has the same fermentation and upbringing as the French and Italian wines. Majestic, soaring black fruit aromas intermixed with forest floor, white flowers and kirsch emerge from this full-bodied, opulent, voluptuously textured red along with stunning richness and depth. **91 Points Robert Parker**

Cheers!

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