

Rain, Snow, Freeze or Shine you can count on our wine tasting at Santiam Wine Company. Please join us tomorrow night: Obscure Grape varieties from around the globe that you may have never tasted! Give these a try you will like what you taste!!!

**Cost: Only \$20. Full pour 1/2 pour \$10.**

**Date: Friday, February 25th**

**Time: 4-7 PM**

**Bring your Friends! For your added pleasure we will taste these blind!**

**The Wines:**

**2007 Bodegas Hijos de Juan Gil Juan Gil, Mourvedre, Jumilla, Spain \$17.50**

The 2007 Juan Gil is also 100% Monastrell (AKA Mourvedre) from 45-year-old vines aged for 12 months in French and American oak. Purple-colored with an enticing bouquet of underbrush, cedar, plum, and blueberry, on the palate it is dense, sweetly-fruited, and concentrated. Drink this nicely balanced effort over the next 4-5 years. 90 Points Robert Parker

**2007 Chono Carmenere Maipo Valley, Chile \$12.**

Chile's signature grape and a unique sensory trip back to Bordeaux's historic, pre-phyllloxera roots. Carmenère is grown on the alluvial plains of the river Maipo, a high-altitude region in the shadow of the breathtaking Andes. Grapes are handpicked, and 60 percent of the wine is aged for 10 months in barrel. Lush and round on the palate, with plenty of baking spice and touches of tobacco in its perfume. Wonderfully supple and ripe; great mouthfeel.

**Olsen Estate Petite Verdot Yakima Valley, WA. \$28.**

What about Petit Verdot? Does it have anything else in common with Petite Sirah besides berry size? Well, it turns out that it does. First of all, Petit Verdot also is a blending grape that originated in France. It's one of the five Bordeaux varieties—the others are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Malbec. (Carménère, the sixth Bordeaux variety, is hardly grown in France anymore, but is successfully grown in Chile.) Petit Verdot is a small component of many of Bordeaux's best wines, mainly from the Medoc region on the left bank of the Gironde. Because of its strong tannins, blackberry flavors, and aromas of violets, it's used in small amounts to add color, spice, and structure to a wine. Petit Verdot means "little green," and it's aptly named, because it ripens very late or not at all, so in some years, the grapes remain green. That's why it's not more popular in France. Just like Petite Sirah, it does better in warmer climates where it can ripen fully, such as the Temecula region in Southern California, the east end of Long Island, and Eastern Washington.

**2006 Els Guiamets Montsant Tinto "Isis" Spain \$21.50**

A great blend of Black Garnacha and Cariñena, and from the top quality Syrah grapes. Bright ruby. Red berries, vanilla and woodsmoke on the nose. Initially tight but gains flesh with air and offers sweet, oak-spiced cherry and raspberry flavors, with a strong graphite underpinning. Finishes with good focus and grip, repeating the cherry and vanilla notes and hanging on with very good clarity and tenacity. 90 Points Stephen Tanzer. A controlled fermentation takes place for each grape type, with a minimum duration of 20 days. Wine ageing in brand new french and american oak barrels for 12 months.

**2008 Andrew Rich Columbia Valley Cabernet Franc, WA. \$25.**

From the famed Red Willow Vineyard near Yakima. This block was planted in 1989 on a rocky east-facing slope, where the poor, well-drained soil (not to mention Mike Sauer and his sons and crew) helps control vigor and yields. Rich and powerful, the wine can be drunk now with decanting, but a year in the bottle should work wonders.

**2005 Chateau Bouscasse Madiran (Tannat) France \$21.50**

Madiran is a small appellation tucked in the foothills of the Pyrenees between France and Spain. Crisp and well-defined flavors of red plum, berry and spice fill this well-structured red. Finishes with notes of mocha, violet and spice. Tannat, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2014. 89 Points Wine Spectator, French Tannat is characterized by its firm, tannic structure with raspberry

aromas and the ability to age well. They often have a deep dark color with high level of alcohol. The rosés produced in Irouléguay go through very limited maceration time with the skins in order to keep the wines from getting too tannic. The resulting wines are typically full bodied and very fruity. In Béarn both red and rosés are produced from blends that include 60% Tannat and a 40% mix of Manseng noir, Fer and Courbu noir.

Thank you,

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