

What a week of crazy weather! Please join us at Santiam Wine Company for great Spanish wines that are also great values!

Cost: \$20. To taste all six of the following wines!

Time 4-7pm

THE WINES:

2006 Emina Ribera del Duero \$16.

The 12 Months (Crianza) was aged for 12 months in French and American oak. Purple colored, it offers an attractive perfume of cedar, vanilla, violets, coffee, blueberry, and blackberry. This leads to a layered, up-front, forward wine with excellent depth and concentration. It will evolve for 1-2 years but this lengthy, tasty effort can be enjoyed now. **89 Points Robert Parker**

2007 Descendientes de Jose Palacios Mencia Bierzo, Castilla Leon, Spain \$22.

The entry-level wine (what an entry!) is the 2007 Petalos del Bierzo, 100% Mencia from vineyards ranging in age from 40 to 90 years. It spends its first few weeks in new French barriques before transfer to seasoned oak for 6 to 10 months. Saturated purple in color, it offers up a super-fragrant bouquet of smoke, violets, mineral, wild blueberry, and black raspberry. Fruity yet complex on the palate, it has superb depth, grip, and balance. This sexy effort can be enjoyed over the next six years but only hedonists need apply. **92 Points Robert Parker**

Descendientes de Jose Palacios, first vintage was 1999. The men in charge are Ricardo Perez and legendary vigneron Alvaro Palacios.

2008 Bodegas Borsao Garnacha Tres Picos Campo de Borja \$17.50

The flagship of this portfolio is the perennially outstanding Tres Picos. The 2008 Tres Picos is 100% Garnacha old vines in which 50% was aged in tank and 50% in French oak for 10 months. It gives up a compelling nose of black cherry fruit that jumps from the glass along with earth and mineral notes. Plush on the palate bordering on voluptuous, this pleasure-bent, full-flavored effort will drink well for another 3-4 years although few will be able to resist its charms for that long.

91 Robert Parker

Same Wine: Opaque purple. Exotically perfumed bouquet of dark berry preserves, smoky minerals, potpourri and Indian spices, with a strong note of cracked pepper; smells like a high-end northern Rhone wine. Very spicy and tightly focused, offering juicy red and dark berry flavors and sexy notes of candied flowers and cocoa powder. Finishes with a wallop of sweet red berries and lingering, seductive spiciness; as ridiculous a value as one can find these days. The yield for this wine was reportedly under two tons per acre. **91 Points Stephen Tanzer**

2007 Pago Florentino La Mancha, Spain \$20.

Pago Florentino Tinto is 100% Tempranillo sourced from a single 72 hectare estate. The wine was barrel-fermented and then aged for 12 months in equal parts French and American oak, 50% new. Deep crimson-colored, it reveals an enticing perfume of cedar, pencil lead, leather, chocolate, and black cherry. On the palate it has loads of ripe fruit, a smooth texture, succulent flavors, and a 40-second finish. Drink this tasty effort over the next six years. **90 Robert Parker**

2006 Diaz Bayo Nuestro Ribera Del Duero \$28.

The grapes for the 2006 Nuestro are sourced from the highest altitude vineyards in Ribera del Duero. The wine was aged for 12 months in French oak. Dark ruby-colored, it gives up a fragrant nose of mineral, cedar, incense, and blackberry. Layered bordering on plush on the palate, it has excellent depth, savory flavors, and a lengthy, fruit-filled finish. Give it two years to fully blossom and drink it through 2018. **90 Robert Parker**

