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Subject: Rock star Merlot Tasting at Santiam Wine and Bistro
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To: tasting_santiam tasting@santiamwine.com

We chose some Rock star Merlot producers for tomorrow nights blind tasting of Merlot! I hope you can join us... We have Ed Sbargia-famous winemaker for Beringer Wine Estates, Decoy a second label for the famous Duckhorn Vineyards, Chateau Ste Michelle from WA. very well known, the incredible Woodward Canyon, Plumjack from Napa Valley hard to find and amazing then we have Leonetti Merlot from Walla Walla with 94 points from the amazing 2012 Vintage and famed Walla Walla Valley!

What: Excellent Merlot

When: August 22nd

Time: 4-8 P.M.

Where: Santiam Wine & Bistro

Cost: Full Pour \$32. Half Pour \$18

The Wines:

2012 Sbargia Rush & State Merlot Napa Valley \$24

Warm, lush flavors of cherry liqueur are punctuated with notes of bright red currant and rhubarb with notes of dark chocolate, vanilla and cinnamon spice.

Pairings. Made exclusively for our Wine Club Members and the good folks at Morton's Steakhouse, this wine pairs beautifully with your choice cut steak. The dry yet soft tannins and bold dark fruit flavors leave your mouth watering in anticipation for the next bite of succulent, charred filet. Bon Appetite! Blend 85% Merlot, 7.5% Petite Sirah, 7.5% Cab Franc

2012 Decoy Merlot Napa Valley \$28

For more than three decades, Duckhorn Vineyards has been crafting exceptional Napa Valley Merlot reflecting the rich diversity of the valley's many appellations Drawing on our winemaking team's expertise working with this varietal, Decoy Sonoma County Merlot is a lush and inviting wine highlighting the elegance of the varietal from another exceptional growing region. -

2011 Chateau Ste Michelle Cold Creek Merlot WA \$28

Bright ruby-red. Aromas of crushed blackberry, bitter chocolate and complementary oak. Sweet, supple and fine-grained, with an easygoing charm to the black raspberry, mocha, chocolate and floral flavors. Finishes with ripe, sweet tannins and attractive lingering fruit. There's some exotic chocolaty oak here but this merlot has the creamy middle to support it.
89 Points Stephen Tanzer

2010 Woodward Canyon Merlot Walla Walla, WA. \$42

The 2010 Merlot is a plump, textured and structured effort that's comprised of 98% Merlot and 2% Grenache that spent 20 months in 50% new French oak. Loaded with beautiful red and black fruit, chocolate, wild herbs and floral tones, it is medium to full-bodied on the palate and possesses striking purity of fruit as well as a seamless, elegant texture. Firm and tannic on the finish, it needs 3-4 years of bottle age and will have an easy 10-12 years of ultimate longevity. Drink 2016-2023. **91 Points Robert Parker**

2012 Plumpjack Merlot Oakville, Napa Valley \$65

This incredibly balanced wine possesses rich raspberry and black cherry notes layered with chocolate and a touch of smoke imparted by our barrel aging. The location of our Oak Knoll vineyard helps to bring darker fruit aromatics to the nose giving this wine a full, robust, and concentrated palate, while the region's mild climate gives this wine an elegance and a wonderful natural acidity that lifts this wine from start to finish.

2012 Leonetti Merlot Walla Walla, WA \$95

The 2012 Merlot, which was already in bottle at the time of this tasting, offers an elegant, yet sexy style, with gorgeous black raspberry and crème de cassis fruit, toast, dried spices and licorice, with hints of background tobacco and green herbs, all emerging from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, plump, pure and layered, with a fabulous texture and a big finish, it's a beautiful wine to drink over the coming decade or more.

94 Points Robert Parker

Cheers,

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