

Good Evening! Happy end of tax season for a while....

Don't miss this exciting Merlot tasting Friday night April 16th from 4-7pm at Santiam Wine Company!

Here are the wines... I hope you catch the drool before it drips on your computer keyboard! Read on...

Leonetti is the super pour and it is optional for \$8. for each 2oz pour.

- **Cost \$22 for the first 5 pours, add \$8 for the Leonetti Cellar Merlot - You won't see this wine at many tastings!**
- **Total \$30 Remember you can share!**
- **We serve Cascade Baking Company rustic bread, cheese, olive oils and other goodies at our wine tastings and they are included in the tasting price. ENJOY**

2007 Mercer Estate Merlot Washington \$20

Winemaker David Forsyth crafted this wine from 83% Merlot with 10% Cabernet Franc and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon. He used grapes from Desert Wine Vineyard on the Wahluke Slope and McKinley Springs Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills. The resulting wine opens with concentrated aromas of Bing cherries, black cherries and understated oak, followed by bright, lush flavors of red cherries and raspberries. The oak is well integrated and the acidity provides ample structure. "Outstanding" Andy Purdue | Wine Press Northwest | 04/2010

2008 Buty Estate Winery Merlot & Cab Franc Walla Walla WA. \$38.

"All of the estate grown merlot and the majority of cabernet franc are grown in the silt-sands of Conner Lee Vineyard. The minority portion of cabernet franc is from the complex flood deposits of Champoux Vineyard. The two varietals are often evenly split, but the blend is vintage variable. The oak profile is entirely Taransaud Chateau barrels, both new and used. Our merlot and cabernet franc wine is elegant, structured, rich and floral. Fifteen barrels produced." The Winery

2007 Abeja Merlot Walla Walla, Washington \$38.50

"The nose of this wine is genuine Merlot, not like the sea of Merlot that crashed on to the wine shelves in the nineties. I promised myself that if we were to make Merlot, it had to taste like this. This wine is packed with dark fruit: boysenberries and dark cherries. It also has a nicely integrated aroma of oak married with red currants. I really like the layered flavors in the mouth, and it seems developed and generous in its youth. The tannins have richness and balance that surpass many I've seen in vintages past." John Abbot Winemaker

2007 Ferrari Carano Merlot Alexander Valley, California \$20.

"Select lots of grapes were chosen from our vineyards in Sonoma County to create this beautifully-balanced and full-bodied 2007 Ferrari-Carano Merlot. This is a velvety wine with a complex nose of fresh cherries, pomegranate and rhubarb pie, accented by intricately woven flavors of strawberry, brown sugar and crème brulee. This wine delights with a medium-bodied mid-palate, generous and approachable mouthwatering tannins, and a sweet, lively, smooth finish." Winery notes

2005 Newton Unfiltered Merlot Napa Valley \$50

"The 2005 Unfiltered Merlot is a beauty, dark ruby/purple with notes of cassis, plum, a hint of mocha, some truffle, and a long, full-bodied mouthfeel. There is tannin to shed, but the wine is fleshy, pure, and impressive. It should drink nicely for at least 15 or more years". 91 Points Robert Parker
One of the most spectacularly beautiful vineyards, high on the lower slopes of Spring Mountain, is Newton Vineyards. Organically farmed and impeccably manicured, this was one of the first outposts to which famed Bordeaux consultant Michel Rolland came, and an entire generation of winemakers formed by his brilliance have emerged from Newton. The overall style of the wine is one built on European elegance and longevity. The vintages from the early 1990s are still doing well, especially the 1990 and 1991.

SUPER POUR: \$8. for each 2 oz pour (Optional)

2008 Leonetti Cellar Merlot Walla Walla, Washington \$85.

"2008 is a spectacular vintage. Our various Merlot grapes from different vineyards and blocks show so well individually that the final blend ended up being comprised of 100% Merlot. The last time we had a 100% Merlot was in the remarkable vintage of 2000, and that wine is still drinking beautifully "speaking to the stand-alone capabilities of Merlot." The Winery "I,d be proud to serve this wine blind against any straight Merlot from anywhere in the world, including Pomerol. winemaker notes Pure Merlot from Walla Walla can be so stunning, and I feel this wine shows off all the varietal,s strengths. The nose leads with complex spice, ripe fruits including strawberries, raspberries, and other bramble fruits, and has background aromas of mint, pine, white pepper, and juniper berries. Searching harder, there,s just a hint of earthy mushroom or forest floor that I really love. It is deeply lush, soft, and packed with caramel, vanilla, fruit, and chocolate on the palate. Its tannin and acid are in perfect balance and will help this wine age for at least 15 years, though it is already drinking wonderfully." The Winery Vintage 2007 received 93 points from Robert Parker

Saturday: April 17th from 12-4pm Chardonnay and I am going to sneak in a new Rose that sells for \$8. from Portugal... yummy.....FREE Store Hours on Saturday 10am till 6pm

Cheers!

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