



Join us for Saturday afternoon wine tastings, 2 to 6:30 p.m.

This Saturday, July 3rd

Independent Grapes

Whites

Girard Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley, 2008

Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc is a bit of a wallflower given the attention paid to Cabernet Sauvignon or Chardonnay there, but a few wineries with favored sites have steadfastly made Sauvignon Blanc with style and verve. While not as well known as Cakebread's Sauvignon Blanc, Girard has been making their Sauvignon Blanc for over 20 years from grapes from the acclaimed Morgan Ranch and Crocker Vineyard. 100% Sauvignon fermented in stainless steel, this shows the vibrant citrus elements of this grape in a fresh, clean, unadorned style that lets the crisp fruit flavors shine.

Reg. \$18.99 Special \$16.99

Foxglove Chardonnay, Edna Valley, 2008

Review by Robert Parker, *Wine Advocate* # 184 (Aug 2009)

Rating: 91

"The sensational 2008 Chardonnay Central Coast, which is fermented and aged completely in stainless steel with no malolactic fermentation, is a 30,000-cuvee of fabulous Chardonnay. Loads of tropical fruit, honeysuckle, and orange blossom notes fill the olfactory sense, as does the luscious medium-bodied texture on the palate. The wine is buttressed by crisp underlying acidity, and the result is a fresh, naked expression of Chardonnay that is top-flight. Drink it over the next year or so. These are absolutely spectacular bargains from the very high-quality Varner Winery in the Santa Cruz Mountains. This is their less expensive line-up of wines, and I encourage readers to try them - they are true winners."

Reg. \$15.99 Special \$14.39

Reds

Charles & Charles Red, Columbia Valley, 2007

Charles & Charles is a collaboration between Charles Smith, one of Washington State's best new winemakers, and Charles Bieler (Three Thieves wines, Bieler Pere et Fils). We've previously debuted their dry rosé of Syrah and the red is their second release of a 50/50 blend of Cabernet and Syrah from the Columbia Valley's important Wahluke Slope. Big, juicy flavors of black cherry, blackberry, cranberry and spiced oak make this a gregarious partner to an Independence Day barbeque.

Reg. \$13.99 Special \$12.59

Three Rocks Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2007

Three Rocks is one of those California labels that doesn't own vineyards, have a big winery or a fancy tasting room. But don't underestimate what a label like this can accomplish with access to

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top vineyards in Napa Valley. The equation often results in exceptional value, especially for this pricey wine neighborhood. Aged 18 months in French oak barrels, Three Rocks is sourced from several Napa Valley vineyards that must remain anonymous because they are associated with a very sought-after, high-priced Napa Cab. Outstanding Cabernet character as only Napa Valley can produce without the ego and name premium. 1,200 cases produced.

Reg. \$19.99 Special \$17.99

Sextant Zinfandel Wheelhouse, 2007

The Central Coast of California, which extends from Monterey to south of Santa Barbara, is sprawling, diverse and easily the most dynamic and exciting wine region of the Golden State. Between Monterey and San Luis Obispo is Paso Robles, an American Viticultural Area (AVA) that has some of the largest winery operations in the state and some of the smallest. This wine region is becoming established as source of top Zinfandel and Cabernet and Sextant winemaker

Kevin Riley, a Connecticut native, has brought Sextant's Zins to the forefront of the appellation. Aged 11 months in oak and blended with 16% Syrah and small amounts of Petite Sirah and Mourvedre, Wheelhouse Zin has rich flavors of cherry, raspberry, dark chocolate and plum wrapped in smooth tannins. 3,300 cases produced.

Reg. \$21.99 Special \$19.79

- By Jeff Gledhill

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