

The Vintage Missive

November 2010

Give Thanks for Friends and Family...and of course, Good Wine!

Mamma Mia! Aldo Vacca from Produttori del Barbaresco is coming!

Please join us in welcoming Aldo Vacca, General Manager of Produttori del Barbaresco as we taste through the 2005 single Riserva Barbarescos! This promises to be one of the most exciting, in-depth tastings we have ever offered and seats are already selling out very quickly!

Monday November 8, 2010, 7 until 8:30

Little House Art Gallery on Linden Ave., 2915 Linden Ave, Homewood AL, 35209

Tickets are \$45 and seating is VERY Limited!

Call 205-980-9995 for more info. To see the complete list of wines we will be tasting, please go to www.vintagewineshoppe.net

Pick of the Month:

Patti's Thanksgiving Pick

2008 Bethel Heights Willamette Valley Pinot Noir

\$22.99 (29.99) 90 IWC

Happy Thanksgiving to our friends at home and in Oregon.

This is the first vintage of Pinot Noir made from grapes outside of the Eola-Amity Hills AVA, 40% of the grapes were grown in Dundee Hills, 60% came from Eola-Amity Hills.

"Bright ruby. Pungent, sexy scents of dried red fruits, star anise, allspice and rose. Lively and precise on entry, then gains flesh and breadth in the mid-palate, offering sweet raspberry and cherry compote flavors and showing no rough edges. The finish is juicy, seductively sweet and very long. A very impressive "basic" bottling that bodes well for the later-release single-site and reserve bottlings from this vintage." S.T

November Cellar Selections

2006 Anderson's Conn Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve \$49.99 (62.99), 94 WA

The unfinned, unfiltered 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve spends two years in French oak and another year in the bottle before being released. The dense ruby/purple-tinged 2006 offers notes of new saddle leather, black currants, autumnal vegetation, forest floor, cassis, and cherries, and superb richness.

2006 Ramey Cabernet Sauvignon, Larkmead Vyd, \$53.99 (71.99) 95 WS, 92WA, 93 IWC

This vintage is a blend of 91 % Cabernet, and the rest all traditional Bordeaux varietals. This is Ramey's third release from the historic vineyard on Larkmead Lane.

2008 Elk Cove Pinot Noir "La Bohème" \$41.99 (45.99), 91 WS, 91 IWC

The vineyard was planted in 1984 with original Pommard clones from Elk Cove's original estate. Blackberry, and cherry lead into brighter notes of wild strawberry and raspberry. The palate is alluring with

Impress your Friends and Family for the Holidays:
Take a wine that is OVER 90 points and UNDER 20 Bucks!

2008 Altos de la Hoya “Olivares”, Jumilla \$11.99 (13.99) 91 International Wine Cellar

“Deep, smoky, seductively perfumed bouquet of dark berries, macerated cherries, licorice and Indian spices. Powerful blackberry and cassis flavors are surprisingly lively, with notes of black cardamom and candied violet adding complexity. A zesty note of cracked pepper adds snap to the long, spicy, subtly sweet finish. Once again, this is probably the top value I found in my annual tastings of new releases from Spain. Some of the vines in this plot reportedly date back to 1872” S.T.

2009 Bodegas Berroja “Berroia”, Txakoli \$16.99 (18.99) 90 Wine Advocate

“Bodegas Berroja’s 2009 Berroia is composed of 90% Hondarribi Zuri (indigenous to Txakoli) with the balance Folle Blanche and Riesling. The 2009 vintage was near ideal in the region and the wine displays a lovely perfume of mineral, sea salt, lime, and spring flowers. Crisp, vibrant, and focused, it has excellent length and a refreshing finish.”

2008 Chateau St. Martin de la Garrigue “Bronzinelle” \$14.99 (17.99) 90 Wine Spectator

“A generous and fruity red, with plum, berry and raspberry character. This is polished and very beautiful, with a silky texture.”

2007 Eyrie Pinot Gris, Dundee Hills, Oregon \$14.99 (\$16.99) 90 Wine Advocate, 90 Wine Spectator

“Light gold in color. Notes of tangerine zest, peach and apricot lead to a mouth-filling, round, ripe, flavorful wine kept in check by the lively natural acidity of the vintage. The Eyrie Vineyard has not missed a beat since Jason Lett took the reins from his late father, Oregon wine legend David Lett.”

2007 Peter Lehmann “Clancy’s” Barossa Valley, \$16.99 (18.99) 90 Wine Spectator

“There’s a nice transparency to the dark berry, licorice, smoke and herb flavors, playing out over a medium-weight frame and lingering. Cabernet, Shiraz, Merlot and Cabernet Franc.”

2007 Tenuta dell’Ornellaia “Le Volte” \$17.99 (26.99) 90 Wine Advocate

“Le Volte is especially opulent in this vintage. A soft, generous red, the wine offers terrific richness and depth in its ripe, perfumed fruit. Sweet scents of French oak linger on the long finish. This generous, seductive wine should continue to drink well over the next few years.”

2008 Dom. Claude Branger Muscadet “Les Fils des Gras Moutons” \$12.99 (15.99) 91 Wine Advocate.

Scents of oceanic inspiration and depth lead to a saliva-inducing palate presence tinged with salt, chalk, and iodine. Lime, grapefruit, and their rinds serve for juicy primary fruit as well as zesty pungency.

2007 Capcanes Mas Donis \$14.99 (\$17.99) 90 Wine Advocate, 90 International Wine Cellar

A blend of 85% Garnacha (from vineyards over 80 years of age) and 15% Syrah. Aged for eight months in French and American oak, it was bottled without fining and filtration. It offers up an alluring bouquet of smoke, pencil lead, earth notes, clove, cinnamon, and black cherry. This leads to a wine with remarkable depth and concentration for its humble price, savory flavors, and a fruit-filled finish.

2008 D’Arenberg Stump Jump Shiraz \$10.99 (12.99) 90 Wine Spectator

The nose is full of ripe and juicy red fruits and fresh plums mixed with dark cherry and exotic spices. The palate is rich, round and juicy with ripe raspberry and blackcurrant in abundance. The spicy tannins are fine and finish

Baker’s Dozen

15% discount applies to full or mixed of these super-value wines:

Castle Rock Pinot Noir \$10.99 (12.99)	Heron Chardonnay \$10.99 (12.99)
Grayson Cabernet Sauvignon \$10.99 (12.99)	“Hugo” Gruner Veltliner \$11.99 (12.99)
“Encore” Merlot \$12.99 (16.99)	Lot 205 Petit Sirah \$9.99 (11.99)
Lagaria Pinot Grigio \$10.99 (13.99)	Laurel Glen Reds \$10.99 (11.99)
La Vieille Ferme Rouge \$7.99 (9.99)	La Vieille Ferme Blanc \$7.99 (9.99)
Villa Sandi Prosecco \$10.99 (14.99)	Masi Campfiorin \$13.99 (18.99)
Chateau la Graviere, Entre deux Mers Blanc \$9.99 (11.99)	

November Spotlight: Staff Thanksgiving Picks:

It has become one of our favorite yearly traditions: every November the employees' get an opportunity to pick some of their favorite wines to share with family and friends on Thanksgiving. Below are their choices for this November. Pick up a bottle to take home to your family and friends!

Gerald Ware: 2009 Domaine Reuilly Sauvignon Blanc "Pierres Plates" \$24.99 (16.99)

"From winemaker Denis Jamain, we have this wonderful Sauvignon Blanc. Floral, citrus, and cut grass on the nose. Medium-full bodied tempered by an intensely complex, rich, key-lime-like creamy, mouth-watering finish. It has great balance that will keep you coming back for more. This comes from the "Pierres Plates" ("Flat Stones") parcel in the Loire Valley that has a very high content of clay and limestone dating back from the Kimmeridgian era, which has a very high lime content as well. This is the same soil found in the Grand Cru vineyards of Chablis"

Foster Smith: 2009 Kuentz Bas Alsace Blanc \$10.99 (13.99)

"This is one of France's oldest wineries (1795!) . It became Kuentz-Bas after a marriage of the two families in 1918. The vineyards were heavily damaged during WWII, and it took years to get it back together. The first impression of this wine is purity, freshness and charm. It is generously aromatic but still delivers its Alsatian character with delicacy. The palate is full, flavorful and dry. It is a wonderful alternative to other dry white wines, such as Pinot Grigio."

Katie Spurlock: 2008 Belle Glos "Meiomi" Pinot Noir \$19.99 (29.99)

"Meiomi, coming from the Wappa Indian word for coast, is sourced from Sonoma, Monterey and Santa Barbara and produced by Joseph Wagner who is the son of the famed Caymus producer Chuck Wagner (ahh isn't family business wonderful). Sweet ripe berries, black cherry, plum and cranberries along with aromas of cocoa and leather abound in the glass. The supple and silky tannins along with pepper, earth, tobacco and smooth vanilla will definitely pair with any Thanksgiving feast. Enjoy this beauty now through 2015."

Just in time for the holidays! We now have PORTS available!

This is the perfect time of year for ports. These are not cooking ports, however (although we do have those available as well). These ports are perfect pairings for Thanksgiving!

Ports are split up into two general categories: **Barrel-aged ports** and **Bottle aged ports:**

Barrel Aged Ports: Tawny ports are aged in barrels, in the Solera method, exposing the wine to gradual oxidation and evaporation. As they age, they gradually mellow into a "tawny" color. A "Colheita" port is a tawny that comes from a specific vintage. These types of ports can typically be opened for a while. Because of the barrel-aging, these ports are full of flavors of caramel, peanut brittle, toasted almonds and walnuts and raisins. These are perfect pairings for pumpkin and pecan pies, or salty, hard cheeses like aged cheddar.

Bottle Aged Ports: These are ports that typically keep their deep purple color and do most of the aging in the bottle, as they spend very little time in wood. "Ruby ports" and "LBVs", are excellent values. "Vintage ports" come from a specific vintage and need a very long time to age in the bottle. They do not improve once they are opened, but they do make excellent gifts for the holidays. The flavors in these ports are cherries and chocolate. Bottle aged ports are great matches with decadent chocolate desserts, strong cheeses such as Stilton with walnuts.

And of course, you need Port glasses! We have the Riedel Port Glasses, \$25 a glass.

KWV Tawny Port NV \$10.99 (13.99)

Barros White Port \$17.99 (19.99)

Fonseca Bin 27 \$20.99 (22.99)

Ramos Pinto Porto Fine Ruby \$20.99 (22.99)

Warre's "Ottima" 10 yr Tawny \$27.99 (33.99)

2000 Warre's LBV \$31.99 (34.99) 91 WS

1995 Barros Colheita Port \$38.99 (43.99)

Taylor Fladgate 20 yr Tawny \$53.99 (55.99)

2001 Quinta do Vesuvio Port \$57.99 (62.99)

1994 W. & J. Graham's Port 112.99 (115.99) 98 WS 96 WS

Vintage Wine Shoppe Events

280 Station Shopping Center

432 Cahaba Park Circle

Birmingham AL, 35242

www.vintagewineshoppe.net, or visit us on Facebook!

Tuesday Nov 6th! 7-8:30 pm:

Fortified Wine Tasting!

Want to check out our new Ports, Sherries, Madeiras and other fortified? Space is limited to the first 40 people, so call 980-9995 to reserve your spot! We expect to book this one pretty quickly!

Aldo Vacca! Nov. 8th!

Awesome tasting!

Call 205-980-9995 for info.

Make your Holidays Easy! Order Gift Baskets!

We are your stop for the Holidays! We have the greatest selection of baskets, perfect for any occasion: hostess gifts, holiday gifts, Christmas presents, thank you gifts, corporate baskets...we can do them all! We have a wonderful selection of wine, cheeses, chocolates and other gifts for any basket.

There is no basket too small or too large, AND we deliver as well!!! But order soon!

Check out our website: www.vintagewineshoppe.net for samples of our ready made baskets or for information please call 205-980-9995.



November 26-29!

WOW! All cases of wine 15% off!
(does not include pre-sales, and pre-orders)

13th Anniversary Sale! Our Biggest Wine and Gift Sale of the Year.

Come Stock up for the Holidays!

Nov 4th, 5th and 6th

Go to www.vintagewineshoppe.net for a list of the wines.

Tasting times:

Thursday Nov 4th: 5-6:30

Friday Nov 5th: 5-6:30

Saturday Nov 6th: 3-4:30

November Tasting Schedule

There is **No Charge** for the tastings, but we ask that you please remember to bring a canned good for our food drive for the

Oak Mountain Mission. It was a tremendous success last year, and we hope to continue the tradition this Holiday Season!

Thursday Nov 4, 5-6:30: Anniversary Sale

Friday Nov 5, 5-6:30: Anniversary Sale

Saturday Nov 6, 3-4:30: Anniversary Sale

Friday Nov 12, 5-6:30: Newsletter

Thursday Nov 18, 5-6:30: California Gems w/ Susan Brock

Friday Nov 19, 5-6:30: Newsletter

Friday Nov 26, 5-6:30: Employees Favorites

Looking for a great Stocking Stuffer?

8th Annual Pinot Camp tickets!

This is our all-time favorite, most-popular event, and a great opportunity to meet some

wonderful wine people from Oregon

B & A Warehouse, Feb 22nd 5:30-8:00

\$30 in advance, \$40 at the door!

November Sale!

Pottery, Pilgrims
Pillows and
Paintings!
20% off!



After Thanksgiving Gift Sale, Friday Nov 26 thru Monday Nov 29! Most gifts 25 % off!

All Thanksgiving items 50% off (all sales final)

This is the last big sale before Christmas, so get your shopping lists ready! We have the PERFECT gift for you!

Veteran's Day Gift Sale

November 11-15

Most gifts 25% off

(ex. fresh cheeses, arthur court)

November 26-29!

WOW! All mixed cases of wine 15% off!

And...

Nov 18-22 Cellar Sale! Up to 10%-40% off! For a complete list of wines go to:

www.vintagewineshoppe.net
(no further case disc. & does not apply to presales, futures or newsletter wines)