

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Friday, January 11th, 4-7 p.m.
A Taste of Spain
With Ray Bloom of Vinum Wines

\$10 Tasting Fee



PHOTO: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

there with all those different varietals and types of terrior.

In recent years Spanish wine has entered a golden age as a new generation of young winemakers combine new production equipment and techniques with a deep respect for the wisdom of old ways and the flavors it can produce. Spain is home to over six hundred varieties of grapes, 20 of which account for 80% of the wine made, but the potential for incredible variety is

2011 Pardevalles Albarín Blanco \$18.99

Vinedos y Bodegas Pardevalles is a family owned and operated bodega in the Tierra de Leon region of Spain. They produce this wine from 100% Albarín, an incredibly rare variety that winemaker Rafael Alonso rescued from extinction (only 30 hectares grown in all of Spain). It's similar in spelling but no relation to the Albarino grape, and though it shares Albarino's fresh brisk character, it also offers herbaceous earthy tones, aromas of stone fruits, exotic tropical fruits and a wonderful zippy, citrus greengage and saline palate. The variety is set to be one of the new wonders of the wine world.

2011 Fílon Grenache \$11.99

The unique soil and climate of Campo de Borja give this Garnacha (Grenache) sourced from 30-to-40-year-old high altitude vineyards in Spain's Campo de Borja region a

special character. It offers up notes of smoke, mineral, redcurrant, raspberry and wild cherry that mingle with layers of ripe cherry fruit on the palate.

2009 Pardevalles Gamonal \$21.99

Owner and winemaker, Rafael Alonso, is famous for saving the rapidly disappearing varietal, Prieto Pículo, from which this wine is made.

Named for his Gamonal Vineyard, this red boasts a bouquet of mature, blackberry and plum fruit with roasted hints and subtle touches of licorice and slight meaty undertone. Well balanced with a rich and fleshy sensation leading to a long finish featuring mint, spice and black fruit.

2011 Agnes de Cervera la Petite Agnes Priorat \$19.99

A blend of 85% Garnacha and 15% Carinena, La Petite Agnesa teases with a nose boasting ripe red fruits, flowers, ashy mineral and a subtle hint of spiced vanilla. She also reveals a palate of plush sweet berries cut by a characteristic minerality, but be careful taking Agnes home, she's much too attractive and way too easy.

2009 Medievo Graciano Tuercebotas \$28.99

Bodegas del Medievo is one of a few wineries in Rioja that makes a 100% Graciano that captures all the traditions and flavors of this region. Here is an intense, ripe and luscious example of what old vines can do with Graciano in the Rioja.

2009 Mas Blanch i Jove SAO Abrivat \$28.99

Blending Tempranillo, Garnacha, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this wine offers balanced aromas of mature red fruits with highlights of spiced vanilla, cinnamon and black pepper. The palate is soft yet structured, durable and warm.

The winemakers chose the name "Sao" because in Catalan it means "maturity, perfection, and optimally fertile earth". *The Wine Advocate* rated this wine at 90 points.