

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Friday, March 29th, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Mannina Cellars with
Owner and Winemaker Don Redman
And Ray Bloom Ray of Vinum Wines

\$10 Tasting Fee

Located in the Walla Walla Airport wine district, Mannina Cellars is a small, family run winery specializing in producing small lots of premium wine. Their location is in the heart of the spectacular Walla Walla Valley, one of Washington's best "terroirs."

Mannina Cellars owner and winemaker Don Redman was a Los Angeles police officer when he figured it was time for a change. "I decided whatever I could put in the back of my truck, that was what I was moving to Washington," Redman said.

To know Mannina Cellars is to appreciate the winegrowing family behind it — not just a lone winemaker, but an entire cast of family members. Don's wife, Nicole, and their three children are often found pruning the vines at their Cali Vineyard or assisting at their winery.

Don is proud of his family heritage, so it's no accident that many Mannina Cellars wines bear the names of family members. There is the red blend "Cali," named after his grandmother Rose Cali, and "RoseAnne's Red," named for his mother. Even the winery's name, "Mannina," comes from Don's maternal grandmother, who emigrated from Sicily in 1942.

Don relies exclusively on Walla Walla Valley fruit, including fruit from such notable vineyards like Pepper Bridge, Seven Hills, and Les Collines. As Don's own 28-acre Cali Vineyard matures, look for his increasing reliance on his own fruit.

2010 Mannina Sangiovese, Seven Hills Vineyard Walla Walla
\$25.99

Redman's "high chaparral" styled Sangiovese consistently wins awards. Like its predecessors, the 2010 bottle is 88 percent Sangiovese and 12 percent Merlot aged 16 months

in neutral French oak barrels, giving it complex sumptuous dried dark plum and fig aromas with signature clove and cayenne spice that meld on a lingering strawberry palate. Here's a Sangiovese that will go well with roasted meats such as lamb.

2009 Mannina RoseAnne's Red, Walla Walla \$23.99

This is a pretty and aromatic blend of 58% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Cabernet Franc from Golden Ridge and Birch Creek Vineyards in Walla Walla. With herbal notes, red cherries, and light wood spices, this wine is named after Don's mother.

2010 Mannina Merlot, Walla Walla \$23.99

The fruit for this wine (92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon) all came from Golden Ridge Vineyards in Walla Walla. It's full-bodied and offering intense flavors of dark plum, cherry and raspberry that complement notes of rose petal and cedar.

2010 Mannina Cali Red Blend, Walla Walla \$20.99

The 2010 Cali is named for Don Redman's grandmother Rose Cali. It's a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 8% Sangiovese from Birch Creek, Golden Ridge, XL and Seven Hills Vineyard, all in Walla Walla and shows a beautiful nose of plum, fig and high-tone floral aromas. It's a deep ruby in color and shows balanced acidity and tannins that lead into complex depths before a lingering finish with a light touch of pepper.

2010 Mannina Cabernet Sauvignon, Walla Walla \$32.99

Don's 2010 Cabernet from Golden Ridge Vineyard was blended with 4% Merlot to produce this deep, dark and robust Washington Cabernet. Hints of tobacco, cedar and cassis along with firm tannins and acidity allow this Cabernet to cellar well and gain complexity over the years.

One other wine will be coming, stop by to find out which one it is!