

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Friday, December 13th, 4-7 p.m.
"International Holiday Party Wine Inspirations"
With Drew Murphy from A&B Imports
\$10 Tasting Fee

Camille Braun Cremant d'Alsace Brut Rosé \$26.99

The Braun family traces its roots in Alsace back to 1583. 90% of production goes to private customers in Europe, so little of this 100% Pinot Noir sparkler makes it here.

"Dry and spicy, with flavors of dried cherry, wild strawberry and black raspberry. This is well-meshed, offering subtle, juicy acidity and a creamy finish." -88 points, The Wine Spectator

2009 Domaine de la Janasse Cotes du Rhone, France \$18.99

This is 55% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 10% old-vine Carignan, 5% Cinsault and 5% Mourvèdre from vineyards adjacent to the estate's Châteauneuf du Pape vineyards. Nicely concentrated, it bursts with aromas of dark berries, earth and something wild and smoky. 89 points, *Wine Spectator*; 87 points, *Wine Advocate*; 89 points, *Rhone Report*.

2008 Vina Izadi Reserva Rioja, Spain \$21.99

The winery is located in the heart of Spain's Rioja Alavesa, Rioja's most northerly region. Tempranillo grown here achieves a richness and a delicacy that only grapes grown on mineral soils can achieve. A blend of 75% Tempranillo, 15% Graciano, and 10% Garnacha, the Reserva is an intense ruby red. On the nose the fruity aromas of Tempranillo blend with vanilla and smoky notes from oak aging to produce a wine that's elegant and balanced in the mouth but with an honest and stimulating attack.

2011 Finca Villacreces "Pruno," Ribera Del Duero \$21.99

From vineyards adjacent to Spain's most expensive red wine, Vega Sicilia, this cuvee is spectacular. It's full-bodied with an opaque purple color and a bouquet of charcoal, smoke, crème de cassis and blackberries mingled with hints of acacia flowers and licorice. Loaded with texture, richness, complexity, purity and length this deliver huge value!

Domaine Giraud 2011 "Premices" Châteauneuf du Pape \$43.99

"The 2011 Châteauneuf du Pape 'Premices' is 100% Grenache aged one third in French oak barrels with the balance in concrete tank for one year. Gorgeous all around and made in a friendly, seamless style that's hard to resist, it possesses a translucent ruby color followed by a perfumed array of kirsch, raspberry, flowers, and red licorice. Incredibly pure and smooth, with no hard edges and a silk-like texture, it stays light and elegant on the palate and is a joy to drink." -93 points, Wine Advocate; 93 points, Rhone Report; 91 points, Wine Spectator

Barnett Vineyard 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon, Spring Mountain \$81.99

Dark purple in its youth, Barnett Vineyard's 2010 Spring Mountain Cabernet has an immediate core of pure black fruit, mostly Cassis and Blackberry. This blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petite Verdot is full of fennel, black licorice and crushed violet and cocoa nibs aromas mixed black spices. Dark mountain earth minerality is balanced by sweet vanilla bean aromatics from the oak.

Tirecul la Graviere 2011 "Les Pins" Monbazillac, France \$21.99

Robert Parker has awarded this property two 100 point scores, comparing it with Sauterne's Chateau d'Yquem. With great acidity and a solid backbone, it can last for decades.

"It is an understatement to say these are the greatest wines I have ever tasted from Monbazillac; in fact, they are among the greatest sweet wines I have tasted ... from anywhere!" -Robert Parker