

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Friday, December 27th, 4-7 p.m.
Killer Wines from Spain's Priorat and Ribera del Duero
\$10 Tasting Fee

Pazo Torrado 2011 Albariño (Rías Baixas D.O.) \$14.99

This first wine comes from neither the Priorat nor Ribera del Duero. Instead this Albariño from the Rías Baixas in Spain's Atlantic Northwest is fresh and lively, showing an attractive lemon-yellow color with flashes of green. On the nose, it offers fruity green apple, peach, citrus and floral aromas. On a smooth palate, the wine shows bright acidity leading into a persistent finish of green apple fruit with lingering minerality.

Creta 2010 Roble (Ribera del Duero) \$16.99

"It is not easy to find a Ribera del Duero for under \$25 a bottle, but this 100% Tempranillo aged four months in both French and American oak. From a 70-year-old vineyard, this outstanding red wine offers notes of melted chocolate, black cherry jam, cedarwood, charcoal and damp earth. Rich, dense, supple-textured, fleshy and medium to full-bodied, it should drink well for 4-5 years. As are all of the wines in this report, it is a very impressive value." -90 points, *The Wine Advocate*

Encastell 2010 Marge Priorat Tinto \$28.99

The 'Marge' is 60% Garnacha with the remainder a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah sourced from vines grown in the Llicorella schist soil of the Porrera sub-region of DOC Priorat and aged eight months in 2nd and 3rd year French oak and new American oak. Meant to be enjoyed young, this will continue to age for five years.

2010 Black Slate 'La Vilella Alta' Priorat Tinto \$21.99

Voluptuous and decadent, this Priorat offers a bouquet of kirsch liqueur, chocolate, liquid minerals, and baking spices to complement a full-bodied, yet rounded and supple

palate. It offers layers of fruit and texture, stays fresh and clean on the finish all for \$21.99. The price per quality with this wine is off the charts.

Bodegas Mas Alta 2010 Artigas Priorat Tinto \$29.99

This bright purple wine is a blend of 70% Garnacha, 25% Carinena and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged for 16 months in smaller French oak barrels. The resulting wine offers powerful aromas of blackberry, blueberry and Asian spices. Weighty dark berry flavors display a liqueur-like depth, with zesty minerality providing lift. Finally, smooth tannins give support and grip to a long, sweet, penetrating finish. Tanzer rates it at 91 points

O. Fournier 2007 Spiga (Ribera del Duero) \$31.99

"The 2007 Spiga was aged in French and American oak for 13 months before bottling without filtration. Purple-colored with an alluring perfume of cedar, spice box, mocha, espresso, and blackberry, on the palate it has excellent concentration, savory flavors, 1-2 years of aging potential and incipient complexity. It will be at its best from 2011 to 2019." -90 points, *Wine Advocate*

Clos Erasmus 2010 Laurel Priorat Tinto (Gratallops) \$49.99

Clos Erasmus was born in an afternoon with the purchase of some old vines of Garnacha by Daphne Glorian, who was in the Gratallops sub-region of the Priorat visiting friends. She had not planned to purchase land or start a winery, but her friends (Alvaro Palacios and Rene Barbier) convinced her that amazing wines could be produced there if given the right attention.

Clos Erasmus is now considered one of the benchmarks of the Priorat region and has received consecutive 100 Point scores from the Wine Advocate, the only wine of Spain to ever achieve such critical praise.

The Laurel is 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon that is oak fermented and then aged for 16-18 months in two-year-old French oak. Produced from younger vineyards in the region, It is a softer wine and quite approachable on release.