

Friday, February 28th, 4 to 7 p.m.
Top Shelf NW Wine New Releases with
Steve Hoverson of Cru Selections

\$10 Tasting Fee \$5 for Wine Club Members
Tasting Fee Refunded with Purchase of Three Bottles From the Tasting

Maison Bleue 2012 "Au Contraire" French Creek Vineyard
Chardonnay \$21.99

This is a Washington 100% Chardonnay that any lover of Burgundy's Meursault would enjoy. Not an oak centric wine, it presents the freshness of Bartlett pears and citrus floating out of the glass along with rich aromas of apple cinnamon pie, lemon curd, pound cake and hazelnut. There is great mid-palate weight with flavors of honeydew melon, minerals, shortbread cookie, crème fraîche, balanced acidity and a long persistent finish.

Patton Valley Estate Willamette Valley Pinot Noir 2010 \$40.99

The 2010 Patton Valley Pinot Noir shows the alluring characteristics of cool-climate Pinot, with fruit and savory components playing off each other, all wrapped in an elegant package. Earth, spice, leather, tobacco, and coconut meld with red fruits to create a complex and exotic aromatic profile. In the mouth, this wine has more power than one might expect from a cooler vintage. Notes of earth, dark plum, and black pepper grace the palate.

Sweet fruit and well-integrated soft tannins create the backbone for this wine's smooth and silky finish. Delightful now, the 2010 Patton Valley Pinot noir has the balance and body to age beautifully for the next 10 years and beyond.

Robert Ramsay Red Heaven Syrah 2011 \$34.99

Owner/Winemaker Robert Ramsay Harris, known to most as Bob Harris, named his winery after his great-uncle Mason Ramsay, a rancher, shop teacher, friend and mentor to many.

Fruit from Damon Lalonde's Red Heaven Vineyard on Red Mountain resonates with bright plum and cherry. A hint of licorice gives way to a consensus of simultaneously soft and rough mouth feel, finishing like toast with a light jam and lingering leather. Thick and rich throughout, it's a blend of 75% Syrah, 21% Cunoise, and 4% Viognier.

Guardian Cellars "Confidential Source" Merlot 2011 \$32.99

Debuting in winter 2013 as Guardian Cellars' newest wine, this 100% Merlot from Red Mountain's Ciel du Cheval and Columbia Valley's Conner Lee and Stillwater Creek vineyards is sleek and well focused. The 2010 Confidential Source exudes fresh ripe cherry, red currant, cedar and nutmeg on the nose. With a seamless integration of silky, smooth tannins on the palate, the wine boasts a lovely finish full of fresh acidity.

Guardian Cellars "The Informant" Syrah 2011 \$32.99

A 3% splash of Viognier added to 97% Syrah from Stonetree Vineyard in the Wahluke Slope, creates a dark, brooding and simply captivating wine. Blackberry, black plum, vanilla, roasted marshmallow, black pepper and a hint of slowly simmered beef stock greet the nose. The palate is rich, full of grippy tannins – yet still savory after 17 months aging in 50% new French oak.

Darby Live Wire Cabernet Franc 2010 \$29.99

Part of Darby's second label the 2010 Live Wire Cabernet Franc is elegant and deftly balanced with pretty red berry and raspberry fruit against dusky herbs, white pepper and cedar notes. The fruit comes from Stonetree Vineyard and a small amount from Stillwater Creek Vineyard.