

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes

Thursday, March 13th, 6:30 p.m.

Mariner French Connections Fundraiser

Bonnet-Huteau Muscadet "Les Levraudiere" 2009
\$12.99 (The Loire Valley)

This fine Muscadet from relatively young vines is scented with fresh lemon and pear, offering a luscious and refreshing palate underlain by salt, chalk, and subtle nuttiness. It finishes with lip-smacking persistence and invigorating suggestions of apricot fuzz and tart pear skin.

Domaine des Aubuisieres Vouvray Cuvee de Silex 2012
\$17.99 (The Loire Valley)

Bernard Fouquet, a young, quiet-spoken man, is making some of the most serious Vouvray of the last few vintages. He is now regarded in France and the international press as one of Vouvray's top three producers, and his wines represent sensational value. No one succeeds better than Bernard in capturing the mineral tones unique to Vouvray's soil, with its marvelous balance of explosive fruit and the titillating sensation of the Chenin Blanc grape.

Chateau Camelot La Chapelle Bordeaux 2011 \$10.99
(Bordeaux)

Here's further proof that \$10.99 Bordeaux (a rarity in itself) need not taste like its price. It's made from a traditional Bordeaux blend of 50% Merlot and equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc from Salignac

(north of Libourne district) in Bordeaux.

While this wine may not be rich or madly complex, behind the structure, it easily delivers medium bodied pleasant fruit against a backdrop of earthiness that makes Bordeaux wines so popular.

Domaine la Berangeraie Cuvée Maurin Cahors 2009
\$19.99 (Cahors in SW France's Midi-Pyrénées)

Andre and Sylvie Berenger's Cahors Cuvee Maurin is 100% Malbec and makes a complete, complex, and convincing statement. Ripe cassis and elderberry fill the nose and mouth, and fine-grained tannins support its juicy and expansive palate. The finish delivers the real goods: deep bitterness-tinged black fruits, humus, black pepper, and iodine. This juxtaposition of generous, refreshing juiciness and a dark-hued, almost somber set of flavors is fascinating. - *The Wine Advocate*, *89 points*

Domaine Grand Nicolet Cotes du Rhone 2010
\$ 17.99 (Rhône Valley)

A tank-aged blend of 80% Grenache blended with Syrah and Carignan, this Cotes du Rhone exhibits a dense purple hue as well as a sweet, creamy, raspberry, and cherry nose with hints of licorice, roasted herbs, and peppery spice. It is an opulent, fleshy wine revealing succulent fruit in addition to superb purity, texture, and length. - *The Wine Advocate* *(90-93) points (Rhône Valley)*