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Nicholas Stooshinoff



Clara Bitzer Naidu

phone: 306.653.9000

300-416 21st St East, Saskatoon SK S7K 0C2
stooshinoff.law@sasktel.net



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810 ON BROADWAY, SASKATOON 384-9795

vintagereport

THE WINE:

St. Francis California Cabernet Sauvignon 1999

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:

USA (Sonoma County) California

GRAPE VARIETY:

Cabernet Sauvignon

COLOUR:

Deep dark colour - quite dense

NOSE:

Spicy oak - black currant

IN MOUTH:

Still fairly tannic - cassis, tobacco, hint of cherry

FOOD:

Prime Rib, Filet Mignon

Steaks, rack of lamb, hard cheeses

VALUE:

This is an excellent value for the price range. Can be drunk now but tannins will soften with time. This is a food friendly wine. Wine maker Tom Mackey did a great job.

RATING:

4.5 grapes (0 lowest - 5 highest)

This one is worth trying.



Try it with prime rib at John's Prime Rib and Steak House.

John's

Vintage.

HO! HO! HO!

BY LEN STECKLER

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR. Christmas is coming and all the good boys and girls are looking forward to it with anticipation. For all the bad boys and girls, there is some solace in the fact that the lump of coal you receive from Santa will keep you warm on cold winter nights. I've written Santa to ask for wines of different categories and countries. I've decided to share my list with you.

If I've been OKAY (did nothing out of the ordinary but didn't burn the house down):

- Carmen Chardonnay (Chile) or Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay (Australia)
- Soave Classico Bolla (Italy) or Yalumba Oxford Landing Chardonnay (Australia)
- Rene Barbiere Tempranillo (Spain) or Lindemans Bin 45 Cabernet Sauvignon (Australia)
- Jacob's Creek Cabernet Sauvignon (Australia) or Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut (sparkling wine) (Spain)

If I've been GOOD (remembered birthdays, anniversaries, said please and thank-you):

- Mission Hill Estate Chardonnay (Canada) or Sumac Ridge Private Reserve Gewurztraminer (Canada)
- Hawkes Bay Sauvignon Blanc (New Zealand) or Latour Chardonnay a Latour (France)
- Dunnewood 'Dry Silk' Carneros Chardonnay (USA) or E.J. Gallo Chardonnay Sonoma (USA)
- Mirassou Petit Syrah Monterey County (USA) or Foppiano Petite Syrah (USA)
- Beringer Gamay Beaujolais (USA) or Beringer Chardonnay (USA) or Beringer Cabernet Sauvignon (USA)
- Bouchard Anne et Fils Beaujolais (France) or Casa Lapostolle Cabernet Sauvignon (Chile)
- Santa Rita Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Chile) or Rosemount Estate Shiraz (Australia)
- Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon (Australia) or E+C Seaview Shiraz (Australia)
- Jaboulet Cotes du Rhone 'Parallele 45' (France) or Col di Sasso Banfi (Italy)

If I've been VERY GOOD (all above plus gifts, yard work, helped clean house):

- Mommessin Pouilly Fuisse (France) or Robert Mondavi Chardonnay Napa Valley (USA)
- Cantine Banfi (Italy) or Penfolds Thomas Hyland Shiraz (Australia)
- Penfolds Kalimina Bin 28 (Australia) or Meerlust Rubicon Bergkelder (South Africa)
- Marques de Caceres Gran Reserva Rioja (Spain) or Gardine Chateaufort du Pape (France)
- Anforio Barolo Reserva Premiovini (Italy) or Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon (USA)
- Gallo Zinfandel Frei Ranch Sonoma Single Vineyard (USA) or Rosemount Estate Chardonnay (Australia)
- Mumm's Cordon Rouge Champagne (France) or Sumac Ridge Pinnacle (Canada) or Mission Hill Oculus (Canada)

If I've been EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD (all of above plus should be nominated for sainthood):

- Moreau Chablis Grand Cru Clos (France) or Jaffelin Meursault (France)
- Gallo Northern Sonoma Estate Chardonnay (USA) or Caymus Mer Soleil Chardonnay (USA)
- Pol Roger Sir Winston Churchill champagne (France) or Wolf Blass Black label (Australia)
- Moet + Chandon Dom Perignon champagne (France) or Ironstone Vineyards Optimus (USA)
- Penfolds Grange (Australia) or Rothschild Amaviva (Chile)
- Paul Jaboulet Aine Hermitage la Chapelle (France) or Sassicaia (Italy)
- Castello Banfi Excelsus (Italy) or Penfolds RWT Barossa Valley (Australia)
- Banfi Poggio All'Oro Brunello Riserva (Italy) or Caymus Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Special Selection (USA)
- Mondavi/Rothschild Opus One (USA) or any Vintage Port (Portugal) or Icewine (Canada)

That's my list. I hope I'm not warming my feet with a lump of coal like last year. By the way, Mrs. Claus says that Sumac Ridge Gewurztraminer (Canada) is the wine to go with turkey or ham. It has enough body to handle the salt in ham as well as the richness of stuffing and gravy. If you must drink a red, try a Zinfandel that is not too peppery (Gallo Sonoma USA). May the New Year bring you health, prosperity and happiness. Till next time, CHEERS!

LEN STECKLER received his Cellar Masters Diploma in 1995 and is a member of the Wine Educators Society. He has visited wineries in every major wine region in the world and does wine seminars for sales groups, customer appreciation groups, and restaurants (staff training and wine list building and maintenance). If you are interested in learning more, call Len at 306-933-4393.

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