



WINE LIST

PEG MELNIK

Press Democrat wine writer Peg Melnik scopes out restaurant wine lists around the North Bay, looking for good value and the occasional splurge. This week's picks (prices are retail; restaurant markup varies):

Trecini, 2011 Russian River Valley Sauvignon Blanc, 13.2 percent alcohol, \$18. A snappy sauvignon blanc that's bright and crisp. Notes of grapefruit, lemon and lime. Light on its feet.

Wente Vineyards, 2010 River Ranch Chardonnay, 13.5 percent, \$20. A medium-bodied chardonnay with tropical fruit flavors. Notes of honey, cinnamon, butter and vanilla. Nice length.

Etude, 2010 Carneros Pinot Gris, 13.6 percent, \$24. A bright pinot gris with lively aromas and flavors. Notes of nectarine, peach and mineral. Good acidity. Crisp finish.

Buena Vista, 2007 Carneros Pinot Noir, 13.5 percent, \$25. A pinot with tangy fruit. Notes of tart cherry, herbs and spice. Balanced. Has some depth.

MacMurray Ranch, 2009 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir, 13.5 percent, \$27. A lovely pinot with deep cherry flavors. Briary, with notes of raspberry, herbs and spice. Lush texture.

Robert Sinskey, 2010 "Abraxas" Scintilla Sonoma Vineyard Los Carneros White Wine, 14 percent, \$34. A bright white wine with aromas and flavors of Meyer lemon, peach and herbs. Round, rich texture. Tasty.

Gracianna, 2010 Suzanne's Blend Chardonnay, 13.8 percent, \$34. A floral chardonnay with tropical flavors. Notes of citrus, cream and toast. Lingering finish.

Sojourn, 2009 Selected Vineyards Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir, 14.5 percent, \$39. A tasty pinot with bright red fruit. Notes of cherry, pomegranate, mushroom and spice. Lush texture. Nice length.

Landmark Vineyards, 2009 Kanzler Pinot Noir, 14.7 percent, \$65. A Burgundian pinot noir with aromas and flavors of plum, herbs and spice. Silky texture. Long finish.

Want to share a current wine on your favorite restaurant's list? E-mail peg.melnik@pressdemocrat.com or check out her Tasting Room blog at pressdemocrat.com.

