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Wine List: This week's picks



By PEG MELNIK THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Published: Monday, January 23, 2012 at 3:00 a.m. Last Modified: Friday, January 20, 2012 at 10:55 p.m.

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):

Four Vines, 2009 Old Vine Cuvee California Zinfandel, 14.4 percent alcohol, \$12. A bright zin with good acidity. Notes of cherry, herbs and spice. Seamless texture. Tangy finish.

Francis Coppola Rosso, 2009 California Red Table Wine, 13.5 percent, \$12. A big red with a supple texture. Fruity, seamless and slightly sweet. Notes of cherry, blackberry and spice. Juicy.

Chateau Ste. Michelle's Eroica, 2010 Columbia Valley Riesling, 12.5 percent, \$20. A crisp riesling with aromas and flavors of lime, mandarin orange and mineral. Refreshing. Lingering finish.

Copain, 2009 Mendocino County Syrah, 13.5 percent, \$23. A smoky syrah with depth. Notes of red raspberry, black raspberry and cracked black pepper. Striking.

Balleto, 2010 Russian River Pinot Noir, 14.1 percent, \$28. A tasty pinot with notes of raspberry, black cherry, herbs and vanilla.

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Deloach, 2008 Forgotten Vines, Sonoma County Zinfandel, 15 percent, \$36. A juicy zin with a great undercurrent of spice. Layered aromas and flavors of black cherry, plum, a hint of cassis and cracked black pepper. Briary finish.

Paraduxx, 2008 Blue Wing Teal Red Wine, 14.6 percent, \$48. A full-bodied red with a seamless texture. Notes of blackberry, herbs and spice. Nice length.

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.

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