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THE 2012 JEFFERSON CUP SPARKLING WINE WINNER: TRUMP WINERY BLANC DE BLANC 2008 MONTICELLO, VIRGINIA

VINOGRAPHY: a wine blog

Wine and food adventures in San Francisco and around the world

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Most Recent Entries

- France In Crisis, Again: Red Wine Ruins the Tour de France
- Vinography Images: Blanket of Fog
- The Essence of Wine: Grapefruit Is the Wine Writing World Out of Touch?
- Vinography Unboxed: Week of January 6, 2013
- Vinography Images: Vineyard With a View
- 2013 ZAP Zinfandel Festival, January 31 - February 2, San Francisco
- Vinography Unboxed: Here We Go, 2013!
- 2007 Shafer Vineyards "Hillside Select" Cabernet Sauvignon, Stag's Leap District, Napa
- 2004 Craggy Range "The Quarry" Bordeaux Blend, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

Favorite Posts From the Archives

- Masuzumi Junmai Daiginjo, Toyama Prefecture
- Wine.Com Gives Retailers (and Consumers) the Finger
- 1961 Hospices de Beaune Emile Chandesais, Burgundy
- Wine Over Time
- The Better Half of My Palate
- 1999 Királyudvar "Lapis" Tokaji Furmint, Hungary
- What's Allowed in Your Wine and Winemaking
- Why Community Tasting Notes Sites Will Fail
- Appreciating Wine in Context
- The Soul vs. The Market
- 1989 Fiorano Botte 48 Semillion, Italy

Archives by Month

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01.02.2013

Vinography Unboxed: Here We Go, 2013!

Welcome to the latest installment of Vinography Unboxed, where I highlight some of the better wine samples that have crossed my doorstep recently, and the first edition of 2013.

This week's samples included a stellar wine that has quickly become one of Napa's best values, the (slightly difficult to find) "Herrick" red blend from the folks at Conn Creek winery. This bottle is great candidate for a house wine, but sophisticated enough for serious Cabernet drinkers.

Quivira, the biodynamic estate in Sonoma's Dry Creek Valley has been producing great wines over the past few years, many of which are excellent values. Their basic Zinfandel proves that case in spades for the cooler 2010 vintage, with great balance and pure drinkability.

I continue to be impressed with the value-priced wines of Pierre Sparr in France's Alsace region. His Cremant, a sparkling wine made from Pinot Noir and Chardonnay has a distinctive rocky character that is quite appealing, especially at the sub-\$20 price point.

Finally, this cool 2010 vintage has meant that some producers whose wines tend to be on the bigger-boned side are producing leaner versions of their wines. The 2010 MacPhail Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir is a great example. I often find MacPhail wines to be too massive and ripe, with overt new oak influence, but this wine is wonderfully balanced and quite pleasing to drink.

All these and more below.

Enjoy!

2011 Morgan Winery Sauvignon Blanc, Monterey, California

Pale greenish gold in the glass, this wine smells of cut green grass, green apple, and cucumber. In the mouth bright cut grass, lime zest, and gooseberry flavors have a nice zip to them thanks to excellent acidity. Crisp and very green. 13.5% alcohol. Score: around **8.5**. Cost: \$14. [click to buy](#).

2011 Simeonidis "Cantharus" White Blend, Pangeon, Greece

Pale gold in the glass, this wine smells of wet rocks and a hint of honey. In the mouth, wet stone, white flowers, and a hint of honey all blend in a nice mineral tone that is lively thanks to excellent acidity. Racy and lean, and quite pleasant, despite its unfortunate homonym of a name. A blend of 70% Assyrtiko and 30% Malagousia. 12.6% alcohol. Score: around **8.5**. Cost: \$19. [click to buy](#).

NV JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset "No. 21" Cremant de Bourgogne, Burgundy, France

Pale gold in the glass with fine bubbles, this wine smells of lemony pear and wet stones. In the mouth wet stones and lemon zest mix with a pear and apple fruit quality that honestly takes a back seat to the minerality. Nice delicate lacy acidity and a soft mousse. Good tangy lemon finish. 12% alcohol. Score: around **8.5**. Cost: \$16. [click to buy](#).

NV Pierre Sparr "Brut Reserve" Cremant d'Alsace, Alsace, France

Palest greenish gold in the glass with fine bubbles, this wine smells of wet stones and unripe pears and green plums. In the mouth, the wine has a stony austerity with flavors of green apple, green plum and wet rocks.



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