

VINOGRAPHY®: a wine blog

Wine and food adventures in San Francisco and around the world

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Vinography Unboxed: Week of July 16, 2017

Hello, and welcome to my periodic dig through the samples pile. I'm pleased to bring you the latest installment of Vinography Unboxed, where I highlight some of the better bottles that have crossed my doorstep recently.

This week's wines included a number of gems, including a nice pair of French Colombards from the grape's leading proponent in California Yannick Rousseau. He offers two bottlings, one fermented in steel, the other fermented in wood, and both are interesting and worth checking out.

Napa's best Riesling was also on offer this week, in the form of the annual bottling from Smith-Madrone on Spring Mountain. This vintage is particularly charming.

I opened a clever bottle of Beaujolais this week, produced collectively by the village of Moulin-a-Vent as a way of demonstrating what their particular patch of Beaujolais tastes like. It's a nice bit of marketing, and one that some other regions of the world would do well to emulate.

Moving on to richer stuff, the blockbuster wine of the week is The Bridge, produced by Jesse Katz Aperture cellars in conjunction with his long-time family friend, the south African winemaker Ken Forrester. This is their first collaborative effort and it's a fantastic wine.

Finally, I also got around to opening the Troon Vineyard Tannat, which is definitely the best I've had outside of Uruguay, which is where the grape reaches its apogee.

All these and more below.

Enjoy!



2014 Raymond Vineyard "40th Anniversary Red Velvet Label Reserve Selection" Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California

Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of dark cherry and tobacco aromas. In the mouth, cherry and cocoa powder and tobacco flavors have a nice velvety texture thanks to voluminous, soft tannins. While the wine could have more acidity, there's enough lift here to make it lively on the palate. 14.5% alcohol. Score: between **8.5** and **9**. Cost: \$45. [click to buy](#).