APRIL 2008

Wines Evaluated: 138
Wines Rejected: 130
Wines Approved: 8
Wines Selected: 4



he first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year.

~MARK TWAIN

AUTOMOTO, 2005. MERLOT. CALIFORNIA

Buckle up and take a smooth wine ride with this plush Merlot. Never outof-style, Merlot is always ready for our enjoyment on the wine journey.

R & B CELLARS, 2006. SAUVIGNON BLANC, CALIFORNIA

Like music to your ears, this Sauvignon Blanc plays a great duet with great flavor and a great price. R & B believe that wine should be enjoyed with family, friends, and great

food with a sense of responsibility.

CLOS LaCHANCE, 2005. MERITAGE, CALIFORNIA

Clos LaChance Meritage (rhymes with "heritage") is a wonderful Bordeaux style blend with lots of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. A sure winner in our books!

AUTOMOTO, 2007. RIESLING, CALIFORNIA

Get your taste buds ready for this dry, crisp Riesling. This wine will accelerate your appreciation for this noble grape, often overlooked but always delicious.

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A NOTE FROM YOUR CELLARMASTER



Paul Kalemkiarian

As I write this I am recovering from surgery. Nothing too serious but requires recovery. The problem is my recovery note says, "No alcohol for 24 hours." "Wine too?" I asked. "Yes, wine is alcohol" the nurse responded. Well, apparently she hasn't heard....For many of us, "Wine is Life"

Salud!

talfalel

Paul Kalemkiarian

\mathcal{W} hat's New this month?

Well, as I let our bits and pieces of the "New Wine of the Month Club" I am happy to say I have more to divulge.

First, we have cut over our new member service software and things went reasonably smooth. Having owned a software company in the past...I know that it never goes exactly as planned. But we are up and running and working out the kinks. This software will provide more information to service you and your needs. It is very exciting.

We have already implemented our 100 point rating scale. What always makes me laugh is that we have not only been rating wines since 1972, but we stake our business on the fact you will like them. The magazines and the like only rate...whether you like them or not isn't of their concern. So, we are bringing you the best of both worlds. Check the rating under each wine description.

Yesterday I was notified by our scanning company that newsletters from 1989 through 2001 were available to retrieve. So currently we have 1972 through 2001 coming online. We are days away from our new website becoming active; that is, being able to see every newsletter and wine that we have chosen since 1972. You will also be able to look into my tasting database and see the wines (and their ratings) that we are tasting almost on a real time basis.

Folks, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Wine of the Month Club is producing the most relevant and topical wine site on the web.

Membership in *THE VINTNERS SERIES* is open to anyone with an interest in and an appreciation for superb wines... and excellent wine values. Membership is FREE. For more info write:

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Newsletter written by: Elizabeth Schweitzer, Master Sommelier

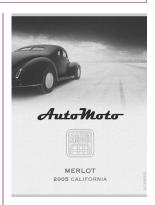
THIS MONTH'S SELECTION #1



he name Automoto sounds more like a robot toy or computer game than a wine. But, it is in fact the name chosen by Winemaker Melissa Bates for her wines. All the wines carry a 'California' appellation, which means that the grapes are sourced from all over the state rather than a particular region such as Napa or Sonoma. For Melissa, this gives her the opportunity to pick and choose the grapes she wants to use to make the wines. Hence, the name, Automoto, since she drives all over California searching for grapes with characteristics she wants in her wines. Her 'driving' motivation is to make wines that are a bump above the average, yet with the price of a Honda. She makes this delicious Merlot as well as Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and dry Riesling.

Before making Automoto, Bates spent over 20 years at leading wineries such as Rutherford Hill, Sebastiani, Belvedere, Silver Palm, and Camelot. "I am guided by respect for the good taste of our customers, says Bates, "I believe that every wine, regardless of price, should be crafted to deliver quality and pleasure."

The grapes sourced for the Merlot are 70% from the North Coast; Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake Counties and the remaining 30% from the Central Coast; Monterey and San Benito counties. Merlot has fallen in and out of fashion in the wine-world and is sometimes considered the lesser cousin of Cabernet Sauvignon. Automoto Merlot is a statement of "come-back" and "Wow, I forgot how great Merlot tastes!" Take a ride with this special bottle of Merlot. The wine pours a dark blackberry color. The aromas are complex and up-front with cherry, pumpkin pie spice, green pepper, dark berries and sweet oak. The palate is smooth and fullbodied with soft wood tannins, and gobs of dark berry fruit with a hint of spice and green pepper. All this combined with the lingering fruity finish will make this wine a good match with marinated lamb, roasts and lasagna.



2005 AUTOMOTO

Merlot (mare-low)

California

Color: Dark blackberry

Nose: Black cherry, pumpkin pie, sweet oak

Palate:
Full-bodied,
soft wood tannins,
sweet cherry fruit,
green pepper

Finish
Lingering fruity
finish

WOMC Rating 84 Points

CELLARING SUGGESTIONS

Drink now or cellar through 2010 V408E Retail Price:

Special Member Price: Reorder Price: 31% Discount \$18.99/each \$15.99/each \$12.99/each

\$155.88/case

THIS MONTH'S SELECTION #2



he Brown family of R & B Cellars is determined to make "Wines that Swing." Every member of the Brown family has been blessed with musical talent. Winemaker, Kevin Brown is an accomplished jazz musician from Manhattan who plays piano, sings and writes songs. He has been in the wine industry for almost 30 years, marketing, distribution, promotion and winemaking. As well as making R&B wines, he educates and lectures frequently on winemaking and brand strategies. His wife, Barbara, is Assistant Winemaker for R & B Cellars. An accomplished flutist and vocalist, she plans all winery events and works with the marketplace for wine maker dinners and promotions. Son Ivan plays alto saxophone and serves as Director of Brand Development. Ryan writes poetry and plans and organizes winery events. (The family dog, Ajax is Chief Officer of Chaos and Commotion.) With all this talent, passion and ambition it is hard to imagine any wine coming out of this winery that would not be delicious and full of life.

R & B Cellars is a very detail-oriented and labor-intensive operation that is dedicated to crafting high quality wines with tremendous value. What began as a 230 case production has grown to 12,000 cases in just ten years. The Serenade in Blanc Sauvignon Blanc has already received awards and accolades in the press and at competitions.

The grapes were sourced mostly from the Rutherford Bench and then 20% from St. Helena and 10% from Healdsburg. "We have found over the years that the best blend of certain varietals will be better with a mix of regions and that blending these can add to the complexity of the final wine." says Brown.

The color is a light lime. The nose is assertive with ruby grapefruit, blood oranges, mineral and citrus. The taste is vibrant and crisp with complex tropical fruit flavors and a creamy oak touch and crème brulee. The finish is lingering with citrus. Try this wine with sweet n' sour shrimp, Hawaiian pizza and/or Caesar salad.



2006

R & B CELLARS

Sauvignon Blanc (saw-veehn-yawn blahn)

California

Color: Light lime

Nose:

Ruby grapefruit, blood oranges, mineral, citrus

Palate:

Vibrant, crisp, complex, tropical fruit, creamy, crème brulee

FinishLingering citrus
finish

WOMC Rating 85 Points

CELLARING SUGGESTIONS

Drink now through 2008

V408F Retail Price:

Special Member Price: Reorder Price: 25% Discount \$15.99/each \$13.99/each

\$11.99/each \$143.88/case

ADVENTURES IN GOOD FOOD



Marinate the lamb overnight for more flavors. Black olive paste is also known as Tapenade and is readily available in grocery stores. The *Automoto Merlot* will complement this meal nicely.

LAMB MEDALLIONS WITH BLACK-OLIVE WINE SAUCE

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS:

1/4 cup Olive Oil

2 medium garlic cloves, minced

1 Tbsp finely chopped fresh rosemary

1/2 loin of lamb (about 2 lbs), boned and trimmed of fat

Salt/Pepper

1/2 cup Automoto Merlot

3/4 cup chicken stock

2 tsp black-olive paste (Tapenade)

2 Tbsp unsalted butter

PREPARATION:

Pour the olive oil in a shallow dish and put half the garlic and a third of the rosemary in the oil. Slice the lamb across into 8 rounds, lightly pound each into fourth inch thick medallion and place in the oil. Sprinkle the lamb with one-third of the chopped rosemary, the remaining half of garlic and salt and pepper to taste; set aside for 20 minutes (or overnight, if possible).

Pour 2 tablespoons of oil-garlic marinade in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the medallions, cook to brown on the outside and medium-rare on the inside, about 1 minute per side. Transfer to a platter, cover with foil. Pour off fat from the skillet.

Add the wine and the stock; cook, stirring to remove cooked-on brown bits. Add remaining rosemary and olive paste and cook until liquid is mostly reduced. Swirl in the butter to thicken, about 1 minute. Arrange medallions on a serving platter pour the sauce over the lamb and serve.

With spring just around the corner keep this recipe handy for a lazy weekend brunch with a glass of R & B Cellars Sauvignon Blanc.

PASTA WITH SMOKED SALMON IN DILL DRESSING

Serves 4-6

INGREDIENTS:

1/3 cup safflower oil

1-1/2 Tbsp minced shallots

2 Tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice

1/3 cup chopped fresh dill

Salt / fresh ground pepper

8 ounces gemelli (or other fancy shaped pasta)

1 cup ripe cherry tomatoes, halved

1/4 cup minced fresh chives

5 ounces (or more) smoked salmon, cut into small pieces

1 small red onion, thinly sliced rings

1 cup sour cream

Fresh dill sprigs (garnish)

PREPARATION:

Combine oil, shallots, lemon juice, chopped dill, salt and pepper to taste, whisk well and set aside.

Cook pasta until al dente. Drain and rinse in cold water. Place in large bowl and cool to room temperature, stirring to keep from sticking.

Add tomatoes, chives, and reserved dressing to the pasta and mix gently. Arrange salmon, onion rings, and sour cream on top of pasta. Garnish with dill sprigs.



TASTING NOTES



WINE:	
Date Tested	
Color	
Nose	
Tasted	
Tracking Notes	
Date	_ Comments
Date	Comments
Date	_ Comments
WINE:	
Date Tested	
Color	
Nose	
Tasted	
Tracking Notes	
Date	Comments
Date	Comments
Date	Comments

THE VINTNERS SERIES CELLAR NOTES

A report on how previous VINTNERS SERIES Selections are faring with age.

April 2005 Pinot Noir, 2003. Hill of Content. Drink now. Salice Salentino, 2000. Gladiator. Drink now.

April 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2003. Goundrey. Drink thru 2008. Merlot, 2000. Fife. Drink up.

April 2007 Carmenere, 2004. Loica. Drink thru 2010. Sauvignon Blanc, 2005. Forefathers. Drink up.

Need Another Binder? When your binders bulge with newsletters, just call us and we'll send you additional binders.

EARLIER SELECTIONS



	ITEM # & DESCRIPTION	QTY	MEMBER REORDER PRICE	TOTAL				
chate Mater	#V408E – Merlot, 2005. Automoto "Black cherry, sweet oak, green pepper" Retail Price \$18.99 31% Discount		\$12.99/Each \$155.88/Case					
R. J. B.	#V408F – Sauvignon Blanc, 2006. R & B Cellars "Ruby grapefruit, blood oranges, citrus" Retail Price \$15.99 25% Discount		\$11.99/Each \$143.88/Case					
Clos LaChance	#V408G – Meritage, 2005. Clos LaChace "Red plum, currant, dried sage" Retail Price \$18.99 31% Discount		\$12.99/Each \$155.88/Case					
Auto Moto-	#V408H – Riesling, 2007. Automoto "Jasmine, honeysuckle, golden raisins" Retail Price \$15.99 25% Discount		\$11.99/Each \$143.88/Case					
T R E W A	#V308E – Cabernet Sauvignon, 2004. Trewa "Cassis, vanilla, smoke" Retail Price \$19.99 35% Discount		\$12.99/Each \$155.88/Case					
Ture San Annerium	#V308F – Pinot Grigio, 2006. Tutu "Melon, mint, nectarine" Retail Price \$15.99 25% Discount		\$11.99/Each \$143.88/Case					
To order by phone call TOLL FREE 1 -800-949-WINE (1-800-949-9463) Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm (Pacific Time)		Sub-Total .						
To order by mail or fax please complete this order form.			8.25% CA Sales Tax					
Fax 626-303-2597 (24 hours a day) Or mail to: WINE OF THE MONTH CLUB P.O. Box 660220, Arcadia, CA 91066 Or shop online at: www.WineoftheMonthClub.com		S & H*						
		EARLIER SELECTIONS TOTAL						
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Name (Please Print) Signature								
Shipping Address (We do not ship to P. O. Boxes)								
City	State		Zip					
() Phone (day) Phone (evening) E-Mail Address								
INDUDANT DELIVEDA INEUDI	MATION: We can chin to CA CO ID IA II MO ND NE how If an adult is r	not roquilarly at	thic address during normal II	DC /Endoral Evarace				

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GIFT #	THE VINTNERS SERIES GIFT MEMBERSHIPS					QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	
10V	2 Bottles Current club selections					\$33.50*			
20V	6 Bottles Assortment of recent selections					\$94.00*			
30V	12 Bottles (1 Case) Assortment of recent selections					\$185.00*			
4VQGP						\$123.50*			
5VGP	VGP 6 Month Membership in THE VINTNERS SERIES Subscription: 2 Bottles every other month for one year (12 bottles total)					\$183.50*			
VGP	P 1 Year Membership in THE VINTNERS SERIES Subscription: 2 Bottles each month for the next 12 months (24 bottles total)					\$363.50*			
	SHIPPING AND HANDLING FOR GIFT ORDERS FOR EARLIER SELECTION ORDERS				Sub-Total				
Gift Number	CA Shipping	Out-of-State Shipping	Number of Bottles				8.25% CA Sales Tax		
Gift #10V Gift #20V	\$ 6.97 \$ 9.02 1 - 2 \$ 6.97 \$ 9.02 \$10.95 \$16.90 3 - 4 \$ 7.95 \$11.30			S & H					
Gift #30V Gift #4QGP	Gift #5VGP \$41.82 \$54.12 9 - 10 \$14.20 \$24.25 Gift #VGP \$83.64 \$108.79 11 - 12 \$15.65 \$27.60					GIFT ORDERS TOTAL			
Please call for shipping prices outside CA in states where permissible. *Giff wrapping included.									
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- are guaranteed to arrive in perfect condition.
- 3. All recipients must be 21 years or older.
- 2. Shipments are made by United Parcel Service and 4. If any of the items to be included is out of inventory, we guarantee that we will substitute a product of equal or superior quality. Call us for weekend delivery.

THIS MONTH'S SELECTION #3



los LaChance Winery takes its name from the small fenced-in area encompassing a vineyard (Clos) and from co-owner Brenda Murphy's maiden name. The Murphy's, Bill and Brenda, chose the Hummingbird as the winery's symbol for both its aesthetic beauty and its ability to keep other birds away from the grapes. Each wine in the Hummingbird Series is named for a true species of Hummingbird a species they felt has similar characteristics to the varietal. The Crimson Topaz Meritage was named after the Crimson Topaz Hummingbirds which are commonly found Amozonian Brazil and is one of the largest hummingbirds in that country.

Clos LaChance Winery produces quality and affordable wines from their 150-acre Estate Vineyard. The vineyard is planted to diverse collection of varietals that are ideal for the growing conditions and the 2005 Meritage is no exception. 100% of the fruit for the 2005 Meritage was

sourced from the Clos LaChance vineyards in San Martin. The hot sunny days throughout the growing season, coupled with cool ocean breezes in the allow evenings, increased grape hang-time, and further development of flavors and complexities. Winemaker, Stephen Tebb, oversees the entire Clos LaChance portfolio, including the Estate Vineyard wines. Part of Stephen's winemaking philosophy is "Whether as a stand-alone varietal or as a blend, the most important focus of wine production is on the vineyard." The 2005 Meritage displays this focus well and we think you will agree.

The wine pours a medium red with aromas of red plum and cherry fruit with dried tobacco, cedar and a touch of smoke. Flavors of black plum, currant and dried sage with a hint of earth and firm tannins on the finish. This wine would pair wonderfully with a New York Striploin rubbed with a Cajun spice or with hard or soft goat cheeses.

Clos LaChance



2005

CLOS LA CHANCE

Meritage (Meh-rih-TIJ)

California

Color: Medium red

Nose: Red plum and cherry

Palate:

Black plum, currant and dried sage

> Finish Earth and firm tannins

WOMC Rating 86 Points

CELLARING SUGGESTIONS

Drink now through 2008 V408G

Retail Price: Special Member Price: \$15.99/each

Reorder Price: 31% Discount

\$18.99/each

\$12.99/each \$155.88/case

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THIS MONTH'S SELECTION #4



Automoto Merlot and also found that Melissa Bates is making a simply delicious dry Riesling. Bates seems to be doing a great job picking and choosing where to drive to get the best grapes for her wines. They are well-made and reflect the characteristics of the wines and are still very affordable. This Riesling is a medal-winner and gets our vote for being so refreshing. Riesling is sometimes viewed as being sweet and unfashionable. Be the first to know that Riesling is on the rebound. If you wait long enough, everything comes back in fashion. Before Prohibition, Riesling was Napa Valley's dominant white varietal. Cheap bottling with noticeable residual sugar left a bad taste for the wine. Riesling sales climbed 29 percent in 2006 and they are still climbing. Winemaker's and consumers are realizing that Riesling is no longer a "beginners wine".

Riesling is a grape that originates in Rhine,

Germany. It is most noted for being very aromatic with perfumed flowers and high acidity. It can make wines that run the gamut from bone-dry and crisp to complex, unctuous nectars. The Riesling vines hard-wooded and bud late so they love a cooler growing season or region. The grapes sourced for this wine are from vineyards in California's cool Central Coast and then a small portion from Clarksburg. This is Riesling that accentuates all the fruit flavors of Riesling without being sweet. It is made in the rich, Alsatian style, except with no oak and reflects all the good things that this noble grape has to offer. It pours a pure pale yellow color. The nose is luscious with scents of jasmine, honeysuckle, and orange blossom. The flavors are crisp and complex with citrus, lemon, golden raisins, green apple and tangerine with a refreshing crisp finish. This wine is a great vehicle for shellfish, pork with mango salsa and spicy Asian dishes.



2007

AUTOMOTO

Riesling (reez-ling)

California

Color: Pure pale yellow

Nose: Jasmine, honeysuckle, orange blossom

Palate: Rich, crisp, citrus, lemon, golden raisins, green apple

FinishRefreshing crisp finish

WOMC Rating 84 Points

CELLARING SUGGESTIONS

Drink now through 2008

V408H Retail Price:

Special Member Price: Reorder Price: 25% Discount

\$15.99/each \$12.90/each

\$11.99/each \$143.88/case

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