

# The Grape Press 2010 (May – June)

The Wine Shops @ Western  
Locally Owned & Family Operated Since 1948

## New York City

We recently took a quick bite out of 'the Big Apple' – a 36 hour whirlwind of wine tastings (**Kermit Lynch, Cape Classics, Dark Star...**) and restaurant hopping (**Momofuku Ssäm Bar, Felidia, Casa Mono, Terroir...**) now please remember: we are professionals, this is a JOB – this was WORK, and above all, do not try this at home!)

## Tuesday AM

*After four hours sleep, a pound of coffee and a delightful breakfast at Penelope (check it out – Lexington@30th) our first tasting stop was **Cape Classics** headquarters – home to some of the best value wines we know of! From “party wines” to that special occasion bottle, this little portfolio has it all.*

**Beyond Sauv Blanc**: reg \$13.99 now **\$11.99** Great BFYB here! Racy, zesty lime, gooseberry and herbs, sweet tang and minerally, refreshing finish.

**Indaba Chenin BI** reg \$10.99 now **\$8.99** Luscious & crisp, tropical fruits & melons, hint of honey, squeeze of citrus – what a bargain! Would make an ideal “party white”

**Indaba Chardonnay** reg 10.99 now **8.99** : tropical fruits & citrus aromas lead to apple pear and pineapple flavors - crisp, fresh, slight honeyed finish. Hints of oak texture = depth and dimension = great value!

**Indaba Merlot** reg \$10.99 now **\$8.99**... very complex aromas/flavors of dark cherry, plum, earth, spice & dark chocolate. Forget it says Merlot just think “red” and enjoy!

**Raats Family Wines “Original” Chenin Blanc** reg \$13.99 now **\$11.99**

*Revered Winemaker Bruwer Raats avoids oak entirely preserving the fresh, crisp character of his Chenin fruit. Succulent, exotic even, yet refreshing Granny Smith apple, citrus blossom, peach and ginger. More full and structured than the Indaba - amazing for the price.*

**Sutherland Chardonnay** reg \$15.99 now **\$ 13.99** From the cooler coastal, apple growing region of Elgin. New project from highly regarded Thelema Mountain Vineyards. Citrus & stone fruits, minerally, vibrant, subtle even with hints of oak texture and structure... fresh and refreshing – this is great stuff!

**Demorgenzon “DMZ” Shiraz** (Stellenbosch) reg \$15.99 now **\$13.99**

*Voluptuously rich & ripe, damson plum and mixed berries... hints of white pepper, exotic spices, floral notes and vanilla on the finish. This is way good juice – complex, long, lingering. (bio-dynamically farmed)*

## Tuesday, Afternoon

*From Cape Classics to **Kermit Lynch** for his annual portfolio tasting – 300 or so wines with many winemakers/owners on hand, and of course, Kermit himself. We manage a bit of chat with B’ham expatriate **Dixon Brooks**, who seems pretty much to run the show for Kermit in Beaune.*

*We’ll have detailed notes on a bunch of Kermit’s selections in the next issue as many of these were new releases or not even....so much wine, so little time...*

*We did slip out for a much needed bite at **Casa Mono** – delicious as always. Then back to tasting. Later we sampled fare @ **Terroir**, Paul Grieco’s (partner and sommelier at Hearth) new little hot spot and easy winner of “most eclectic wine list award.” Then Momofuku Ssäm Bar, Chef David Chang’s unassuming little joint with the over-the-top food ie: steamed buns with pork belly, hoisin, cucumbers & scallions or golden-spotted tilefish with green-pea curry, coconut, boiled peanuts or perhaps Alaskan spot prawns with foraged lily shoots, sunflower & wild ginger would be to your liking... Don’t miss it!*

*Then it was off to bed for a luxurious 6 hours, before “Day 2.”*

## Day 2

We tasted through the beautiful wines of **Bastianich & La Mozza** over a stellar lunch at **Felidia** – a landmark of NYC fine dining for 30 years and impeccable still. **Lydia Bastianich** got hung up taping her TV show, so national sales manager **Caroline Salz** led us through the wines and **Chef Fortunato Nicotra** prepared a wonderful meal to accompany them. First course was “Sweet Baby Shrimp with Spring Vegetable,s followed by pear and pecorino filled ravioli with almond, then *Ensalada Barbabietole* - marinated beets, goat cheese, apples and watercress with balsamic vinaigrette. For a main dish, Chef served up quail with *Caponata fig balsamico...*, and for a bit of the ‘dolci’ - a simply delicious *Palacinche* of homemade ricotta, ricotta sorbet, fresh dates, and mountain honeycomb sliced straight from its frame.

It takes seriously good wines to compliment such foods – offering their own aromas and flavors as accent notes, singing their own melodic line in harmony with the food. These wines did not disappoint...

**Rosato : Sale \$12.99...** regularly \$15.99

“...Sangiovese – based rose...surprising’ lightness of being’ about it, nice herbal element sort of Provence-ish but rounder, darker fruit profile...very pretty, soft – folks will like this.”

**Tocai - Plus : Sale \$29.99...** regularly \$32.99

“...terrific depth and complexity in a bouquet of crushed rocks and flowers that melds into ripe, succulent peaches.” This generous, textured white shows outstanding length on the palate, with attractive honeyed notes that linger on the finish.

**Friuliano : Sale \$14.99...** regularly \$20.99

Tocai Friuliano is an indigenous species grown in Friuli for hundreds of years

“...fresh, perfumed, Medium-bodied, lovely pear and mineral... clean, refined finish. Screams for seafood or as pre-dinner sipper.”

**Sauvignon : Sale \$14.99...** regularly \$20.99

“...beautiful example of Sauv Blanc! Hints of new mown grass & herbs, lime & pear...racy, refreshing. Why don’t more SB’s taste like this?! Just keeps on giving...YUM!”

**Vespa Bianco : Sale \$35.99...** regularly \$39.99

...equal parts Chardonnay and Sauvignon with 10% late-harvested Picolit. This gorgeous, refined wine melds elements of ripeness and minerality with uncommon elegance. “Succulent ripe peaches, minerals, smoke and honey linger on ... impeccable finish..”

**La Mozza Morellino : Sale \$14.99...** regularly \$20.99

“...fresh, fragrant and vinous. This is an especially ripe, open vintage for this wine perfect for near-term enjoyment. Some of the verve of the superb 2006 is missing, but the 2007 compensates with a personality that is a touch more approachable. At under \$20 retail, **Perazzi** is one of the finest values in Italian wine today.” **WA** Peppery blackberry and plum aromas show captivating leather and forest floor ... a certain rustic element is part of the charm...

**La Mozza Maremma “Aragone” : Sale \$31.99...** regularly \$39.99

“Loads of sweet black cherries, wild herbs and earthiness. full-bodied and expansive on the palate, outstanding length, self assured and poised.” Aragone is 85% Sangiovese, with smaller portions of Alicante, Syrah, Cilieggiolo and Colorino.

**Calabrone : Sale \$59.99...** regularly \$71.99

...dense and rich, with superb concentration and plenty of style. It offers exotic Cabernet Franc aromas along with sumptuous dark fruit, cocoa, herbs and tar. This racy red is approachable today but also has enough freshness to drink well for years.” It is made from a blend of Merlot, Refosco, Cabernet Franc and Pignolo. Some bunches are dried (Amarone-style) giving the wine its body and depth of expression.

## Steele

Although he’s been making delicious wines as long as we can remember, **Jed Steele** seems in no hurry to retire or even slow down! Even with son Jason increasingly involved, and the number of wines offered growing, Jed remains very much hands-on - and the quality of his wines has never been better!

**Writers' Block**  
**Roussanne, Petite Sirah & Zinfandel**  
regular price \$16.99 sale **\$13.99**  
**Stymie Syrah**  
regular price \$41.99 sale **\$31.99**

**Steele**  
**Chardonnay "Cuvee"**  
reg \$21.99 now only **\$15.99**  
**Cab Franc**  
reg \$17.99 now only **\$15.99**  
**Catfish Zin**  
reg \$23.99 now only **\$20.99**  
**Pinot Noir**  
Reg \$23.99 now only **\$19.99**

**Shooting Star**  
**Aligote & Blue Franc & Zinfandel**  
reg \$15.99 now **\$11.99**  
**Barbera**  
reg \$14.99 now **\$11.99**  
**Cabernet Sauvignon**  
reg \$17.99 now **12.99**  
**Pinot Noir**  
reg \$17.99 now **\$15.99**

### Guenoc

*We tasted through these wines recently, for the first time in a very long time, and from first to last were impressed with the quality – especially considering these crazy good prices!*

**California Series** regular price \$11.99 - now **only \$7.99**  
*Can't imagine what Lily saw in Lake County when she bought this massive property – how she managed to find it! Even now, it's relatively remote*  
**Langtry Claret** regular price \$19.99 - now **only \$10.99**

<p><b><u>McManis</u></b> All Flavors <b>Only \$9.99</b> (or <b>\$8.49 per bottle</b> by the case!)</p>	<p><b><u>Grayson Cellars</u></b> Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, and Merlot <b>Only \$9.99</b> (regularly priced at \$12.99)</p>
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### Lucas & Lewellyn - Queen of Hearts

"Among the handful on brands we know of that **over-deliver!** **Queen of Hearts** wines are "no-brainer" good, and then you step up to **Lucas & Lewellyn** and, well, it's just so special to taste what happens when all the planets align and all gods smile and 'home-grown' takes on a whole new level of meaning..."

### **Queen of Hearts**

**Chardonnay** Sale **\$10.99** reg \$13.99  
*" great fruit + no oaked, no malolactic fermentation & limited quantities (less than 1,000 cases) = great wine!*

**Pinot Noir** Sale **\$12.99** reg. \$14.99  
*"...bright, clear, focused – beautiful...spicy pure finish...great value here!"*

**Cabernet Sauvignon** Sale **\$11.99** reg \$13.99  
*"...no way this should be selling for this low price! I dare you not to love it..."*

## Lucas & Lewellyn

**Chardonnay** Sale \$14.99 reg \$17.99

*"...beautiful...crisp, bright apple/pear...some tropicals & spice...clean, pure finish."*

**Viognier** Sale \$ 15.99 reg \$19.99

*"...one of the 2-3 best domestic versions of this exotic varietal I've tasted – and at this price it's a steal! Grilled Chicken or game hens with some rosemary..mmmm.."*

**Santa Barbara Pinot Noir** Sale \$16.99 reg \$18.99

*"...loads of pure Pinot flavors with no "beefiness" or "Syrah-ness". Great finesse and length."*

**Cabernet Franc** Sale \$17.99 reg \$22.99

## Arista

*This young (2002) winery is on a mission – to create the most elegant expressions of Russian River Valley Pinot Noir while preserving each vineyard's unique, individual personality and character. Considering where they are and who their neighbors are, that goal sets some pretty high expectations! We might quibble over the over-used phrases and visual images of As these wines attest, so far they seem to be measuring up right well!*

*" We do have an obvious weakness for this quirky, exotic, difficult grape called Gewurztraminer. That said, this particular expression of it, is perhaps the best domestic version we've found – light and crisp and refreshing with a delicious spiciness on the finish. No clumsiness here."*

- **Gewurztraminer only \$23.99 (regularly \$26.99)**
- **Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir only \$29.99 (regularly \$32.99)**
- **Longbow Vineyard Pinot Noir only \$39.99 (regularly \$45.99)**

## Sierra Madre

Situated in one of the Central Coast's most coveted appellations, the Sierra Madre Vineyard lies near the western edge of the Santa Maria Valley, in northern Santa Barbara County. The light-textured, well-drained, sandy-loam soils cultivated here nourish our low-yielding vines to set clusters with small berries, intense with flavor, color and concentration, all essential qualities for top-level wines. Arguably California's coolest grape growing region, this coastal valley is equally well-suited to both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, as cold Pacific air blankets the vineyard each summer afternoon. This natural moderation of heat accumulation slows ripening in the developing grapes, allowing for extended 'hang-time' to deliver vibrant fruit character, while retaining crisp, fresh acidity in the resulting wines.



This release of the Sierra Madre Vineyard Chardonnay and Pinot Noir is owner Doug Circle's celebration of the history of this fine vineyard, as well as its unbounded future potential.

**Chardonnay – 2007** regular price \$30.99 **now only \$20.99!**  
**Pinot Noir – 2007** regular price \$41.99 **now only \$28.99!**

## Summer Wines

### **Everything's Coming Up Roses'!**

Ah, yes, Spring has melted into Summer now, and the hotter it gets, the better a dry rose' tastes! From salads to seafoods, cold pastas to grilled veggies to barbeque, a cool, crisp and fruity rose can be just the thing.

Only a few years ago, we were begging people just to try a rose. Guess all those years when sweet, innocuous rose imposters dominated the American market had given rose' a bad name. Yet all over France, Italy and Spain, rose' wines and summer weather are like two peas in a pod – why, on a summer afternoon, you half expect the whole café to break into song and dance... “you can't have one, you can't have one... without the o-o-other...”)

Here in Alabama, with our heat and humidity, a chilled rose is often the perfect alternative to the awkward choice - “red or white?”

Roses' will run the gamut of color and flavor depending on grape varieties, climate and winemakers intentions. On the light, minerally side are those from Bandol (**Domaine Tempier & Pradeaux**) Cassis ( **Chateau Magdelene & Bagnol**) and more general areas of Provence, Cotes de Ventoux and Languedoc( **Ch. Peyrassol, Fontsaïnte & Pujol** come to mind) as well as Pinot Noir-based wines from the Loire Valley and domestic versions. There are also rich, dark roses' made from Malbec in Argentina, Syrah and Grenache- Syrah blends in Australia and the Southern Rhone, Sangiovese in Italy, and so on. Some are so dark we can't decide if they are actually rose or a light chill-able red – but who cares, really?! For what's in a name? A rose' by any other name would smell and taste as great!

So if you haven't already, why not take a walk on the wild side and try a rose' or two – better yet, get yourself a beautiful, twelve bottle rose' bouquet! And so many, many more!

## Whites

**Wolfberger, Pinot Blanc Sale \$12.99 reg \$14.99**

*“This just might become our summer “go-to” wine... so crisp and delicious and refreshing.*

*Can't think of a food it would not go with. I'm salivating waiting for our first 'homegrown' tomato to ripen, for my first sandwich of the season with homemade mayo, maybe a few homegrown basil leaves, salt & pepper on sourdough mmmm – and I guaranteeeee you, I'll be sippin' this wine with that sandwich!*

<b>Pieropan, Soave Classico Superiore 2008</b>	reg 25.99 <b>now \$16.99</b>	
<b>Ragotiere Muscadet</b>	reg 14.99 <b>now \$10.99</b>	
<b>Kessler Riesling, QBA</b>	reg 17.99 <b>now \$12.99</b>	
<b>Grans-Fassian Trittenheimer Riesling Kabinett 2006</b>	reg 25.99 <b>now \$19.99</b>	90WS
<b>Maximum Grunhauser Abtsberg Riesling Spatlese 2006</b>	reg 36.99 <b>now \$29.99</b>	
<b>Schloss Saarstein Riesling Kabinett 2006</b>	reg 23.99 <b>now \$17.99</b>	
<b>Schloss Saarstein Riesling Spatlese 2006</b>	reg 31.99 <b>now \$24.99</b>	90WS

## Light Reds

*Try these wines before you make up your mind you don't like light reds. Give 'em a little chillin' and enjoy! With or without food they are perfect for a summers' day – or evening for that matter...*

Castello Nieve, Grignolino... **Sale \$13.99 reg \$15.99**

Vin de Pays des Gaules, Gamay... **Sale \$9.99 reg \$14.99**

## Great Grillin' & Chillin' Choices + Barbeque Beauties

### **ZZZZinzationals**

*Nothin' does sweet-spicy Southern BBQ more proud than a spicy-sweet Cali Zln!  
Check out these delicious deals!*

<b>Cline</b>	<b>Sale \$8.99</b> reg \$10.99
<b>Temptation</b>	<b>Sale \$11.99</b> reg \$13.99
<b>Edmeades</b>	<b>Sale \$16.99</b> reg \$19.99
<b>Plungerhead</b>	<b>Sale \$14.99</b> reg \$18.99
<b>Murphy Goode "Snake Eyes"</b>	<b>Sale \$33.99</b> reg \$41.99
<b>Sin Zin</b>	<b>Sale \$15.99</b> reg \$19.99
<b>D Cube, Brown Vineyard,</b>	<b>Sale \$39.99</b> reg \$47.99
<b>Joel Gott, Dillan Ranch</b>	<b>Sale \$24.99</b> reg \$39.99

### Prime Choice Reds

<b>Jam Jar</b>	<b>Just \$9.99</b> reg \$11.99
Try it with BBQ or make a killer Sangria - or just chill, pour and enjoy. A real, quality wine with a Serious touch of sweet.	
<b>128 Red Wine</b>	<b>Sale \$7.99</b> reg \$10.99
A popular & tasty 'field blend' style wine that offers up serious BFYB! And at a crazy low price to boot!	
<b>Tres Ojos, Calatayud, Old Vine Grenache</b>	<b>Sale \$8.99</b> reg \$10.99 (88 WA)
<b>Tir Na Nog, Old Vine Grenache '06</b>	<b>Sale \$23.99</b> reg \$32.99
<b>D-Cube Petite Sirah</b>	<b>Sale \$27.99</b> reg \$34.99
<b>Murphy-Goode "Wild Card" Claret</b>	<b>Sale \$13.99</b> reg \$22.99
<b>Alexander Valley Vyds Cabernet</b>	<b>Sale \$15.99</b> reg \$19.99
<b>La Bracessca, Sabazio</b>	<b>Sale \$12.99</b> reg \$14.99
<b>Ornellia, Le Volte</b>	<b>Sale \$23.99</b> reg \$26.99

### Pinot Envy

<b>Bearboat</b>	<b>Sale \$16.99</b> reg \$21.99
Don't ask me what two bears in a rowboat has to do with anything – especially good wine?! That said, ya'll been askin' fer it - well here y'ar, so come un git it!	
<b>Tohu, NZ</b>	<b>Sale \$14.99</b> reg \$18.99
<b>Carneros Creek</b>	<b>Sale \$16.99</b> reg \$24.99
<b>Eola Hills, Oregon</b>	<b>Sale \$18.99</b> reg \$22.99
<b>Torii Mor 'Black Label'</b>	<b>Sale \$21.99</b> reg \$32.99 (90pts WA)

### Bubbles are Better

<b>Domaine Chandon</b>	<b>Sale \$15.99</b> reg \$19.99
<b>Mont Marcal Cava, Rose, Brut Reserva</b>	<b>Sale \$18.99</b> reg \$23.99 (90ptsST)
<b>Shooting Star "Black Bubbles" Syrah</b>	<b>Sale \$14.99</b> reg \$19.99

## Here's Proof - Wines Don't Have to Taste Bad to Be Good!

A few Delicious Organic/Biodynamic Wines

### **Natura, Chile**

Sale \$8.99 reg \$10.99

*Good **BFYB** wines – nothing fancy - just tasty and true to varietal.*

*Would make great "every-day" or "party wines"*

### **Montinore Estate, Oregon**

Borealis White...Sale \$10.99 reg \$12.99

Pinot Gris... Sale \$ 13.99 reg \$15.99

Pinot Noir... Sale \$15.99 reg \$18.99

### **Paul Dolan, Mendocino**

Chardonnay... **Sale \$13.99 (regularly \$19.99)** Sauvignon Blanc... **Sale \$13.99 (regularly \$19.99)**

Pinot Noir... **Sale \$16.99 (regularly \$21.99)** Zinfandel... **\$13.99 (regularly \$19.99)**

### **Nicodemi, Italy**

Trebbiano d'Abbruzzo... **Sale \$12.99 reg \$15.99**

Montepulciano d'Abbruzzo... **Sale \$15.99 reg \$17.99**

### **Raventos, Spain**

I Blanc, Brut Cava 'L'Hereu'

*In the early 1500s, Llorenc Codorniu settled on a piece of land west of Barcelona in Catalunya.*

*That land was handed down through generations of Codornius until 1681 when Marie Anna Codorniu*

*married Miquel Raventos . In 1872 Josep Maria Raventos created the first Cava and a dynasty began.*

*In 1984 Josep Raventos and his son Manuel sold their interest in the Codorniu empire keeping only what they felt were the very best vineyard sites and set about making not just another Cava but a sparkling*

*wine to become Spain's greatest and among the world's best.*

*This is their wine... you pay only \$16.99... regularly \$19.99!*

## **New**

**Falcor , "H Block"**

was \$64.99 **Now Only \$39.99!**

**Hall, Napa Cabernet Sauvignon 2006**

was \$47.99 **Now Only \$40.99** (94pts WS!)

## **"Name Brands" at 'no-name' Prices**

### **Robert Mondavi**

Napa Chard **Sale Price \$14.99** reg \$18.99

Fume Blanc **Sale Price \$14.99** reg \$18.99

### **Franciscan**

Chardonnay **Sale Price \$13.99** reg \$16.99

Cabernet Sauvignon **Sale Price \$19.99** reg \$28.99

### **Simi**

Chardonnay **Sale Price \$12.99** reg \$17.99

Sauvignon Blanc **Sale Price \$10.99** reg \$13.99

Cabernet Sauvignon **Sale Price \$18.99** reg \$23.99

### **Frei Brothers**

Russian River Chardonnay **Sale Price \$14.99** reg \$19.99

Russian River Sauvignon Blanc **Sale Price \$14.99** reg \$17.99

Russian River Pinot Noir **Sale Price \$17.99** reg \$27.99

**Robert Keenan Winery**

Spring Mountain Chardonnay      **Sale Price \$22.99** reg \$31.99  
Napa Valley Merlot                      **Sale Price \$25.99** reg \$37.99

**Elizabeth Spencer**

Sauvignon Blanc                              *Sale \$14.99* reg \$19.99  
Cabernet Sauvignon                         *Sale \$32.99* reg \$38.99

**Schug Sonoma**

Chardonnay & Pinot Noir                  **Sale \$17.99** reg \$21.999  
Cabernet & Merlot                         **Sale \$20.99** reg \$28.99  
Carneros  
Chardonnay & Pinot Noir                  **Sale \$21.99** reg \$30.99

**Joel Gott**

Cabernet Sauvignon & Zinfandel         **Sale \$14.99** reg \$22.99  
Chardonnay                                   **Sale \$14.99** reg \$22.99  
Sauvignon Blanc & Riesling               **Sale \$10.99** reg \$17.99

**Stephen Ross**

Edna Valley Chardonnay                  **Sale \$19.99** reg 24.99

**Sauvignon Blanc**

**The Crossings**                                 **Sale \$11.99** reg \$14.99  
**Kim Crawford**                                 **Sale \$14.99** reg \$19.99  
**Longboat**                                         **Sale \$13.99** reg \$23.99  
**Quivira, 'Fig Tree' Sauvignon Blanc**     **Sale \$16.99** reg \$19.99  
**Cht Presle, Touraine**                         **Sale \$13.99** reg \$16.99

**Budget Bin Bargain\$**

**Tisdale**

Cab, Chard, Pinot Noir, Moscato

**Rex Goliath**

Chardonnay , Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon

**Your Choice - Only \$4.99**