

Wine Flight December 7, 2011

Holiday Wine and Cheese



2009 Ventana Gewürztraminer, Monterey, California

Gewürz means "spicy" in German and that is the main characteristic of Gewürztraminer. Traminer means "coming from Tramin," which is a small city where the grape is from. Alsatian versions are bone dry, with their spicy character accentuated by bracing acidity. German versions range from dry (kabinett) through off-dry (spätlese) to sweet (auslese), sweeter (beerenauslese) and sweetest (eiswein and trockenbeerenauslese).

Tasting Notes:

Ventana models its Gewürztraminer in the off-dry Alsatian Style. With flavor characteristics of lychee, orange blossoms, cinnamon and nutmeg spices, it exudes a lively bouquet. The wine is medium bodied with a lingering crisp, spicy finish with some lemon-lime on the end.

Food Pairings:

A classic pairing is with French variety Munster cheese, Alpine Shepard, Ardrahan, Boursin, Chevre, Durrus, or Hirtenkäse.

PLCB 32288 @ \$9.99

2008 Hogue Genesis Viognier, Columbia Valley, Washington

Tasting Notes:

This wine is a blend of 88% Viognier and 12% Chardonnay and is aged in oak for seven months. It boasts a flowery nose with a hint of citrus. With pear, apple and citrus flavors, this well bodied wine finishes with a bit of spice.

Food Pairings:

Try this with Emmentaler, Manchego or Ossau-Iraty (Pyrénénes sheep milk cheese).

PLCB 32238 @ \$8.99



2006 Château Barreyres Haut-Médoc cru Bourgeois, France

Tasting Notes:

With a ruby red color and hints of purple, this wine has a nose of minerals and spice. On the palate, this wine tastes of strawberries and black cherry with the fresh fruits balancing a subtle oakiness.



Food Pairings:

Serve with Beaufort, Roquefort, Ossau-Iraty or Saint Nectaire. Best served at 62.6F, after decanting.

PLCB 32246 @ \$12.99

2008 Mastroberardino Aglianico Campania, Italy

Tasting Notes:

With a deep red color, this juicy wine has a lovely sweetness. It is filled with ripe cherries, dried herbs and tobacco and its sweetness spreads out nicely on the lingering finish.

Food Pairings:

This wine can be paired with aged cheeses such as aged provolone or Parmigiano Reggiano.

PLCB 32272 @ \$15.99

