

September 5, 2018

Wine & Travel



"Woman in dress walking through vineyard" by Robert Smith

2016 Dr. Konstantin Frank Gewürztraminer Finger Lakes, New York

Dr. Frank, a native Ukrainian, believed that the lack of proper rootstock and not the cold climate in the Finger Lakes region was the reason for the failure of Vitis Vinifera (commonly European grape varieties). He sought out French champagne maker Charles Fournier and through Dr. Frank's research and Mr. Fournier's Gold Seal Vineyards, Finger Lake Vitis Vinifera was born.

Tasting Notes:

This lip smacking wine has a nose of lychee, honeydew, fresh red apple and stone fruits on the nose and tastes of sunny tangerines, peach and nectar. It has bright acidity, is just a shade off-dry and boasts a lingering floral finish.

Food Pairing:

Pair with crisp fall apples, chopped fennel, blue cheese crumbles and toasted almonds on top of your favorite salad greens and a light mustardy vinaigrette.

PLCB 75104 @ \$17.99 13% ABV

2015 Oscar Truschel Riesling Reserve Particuliere Alsace France

Alsace is located in the northeast corner of France between the Vosges Mountains and the French border with Germany marked by the Rhine River. It has been alternately under French and German sovereignty asnd shows examples of both cultures.

Many Alsatian words still have prominence there such as the word "s'gilt", which means "cheers" when toasting with wine.

Tasting Notes:

With a pale yellow color and hints of green on the edges, this wine has notes of lemon, grapefruit, licorice and lime, which are complemented by flinty mineral notes. It is delicate and dry with a tight structure and long finish.

Food Pairings:

Pair with a traditional dish from Alsace -- Sausage Choucrote, which is usually mixed sausages, gold potatoes and sauerkraut in a light, grainy mustard and olive oil. Serve with crusty bread.

PLCB 78632 @ \$13.99 13% ABV Chairman's Selection quoted @ \$21.99

2015 Ferrari Carano Siena Red Blend Sonoma, California

Tasting Notes:

This red blend has a hearty fruitforward nose of cherry, maple, cardamom, leather and chocolate. Pronounced oak provides a touch of bitterness that contrasts with the fruit. It is richly round and soft on the palate.



"Women with baskets in France" by Rodney Smith

Food Pairings:

Try this red with linguine and red sauce, chicken cacciatore, duck salad with raspberries and oranges or simply prosciutto on crostini.

PLCB \$LO 592420 @ \$15.19 14.5% ABV

2014 Lucky Country Shiraz McLaren Vale, Australia

The Lucky Country is synonymous with Australia, the name taken from the 1964 book of the same name, written by social critic Donald Home. It was meant to be ironic as an indictment of 1960's Australia. Mr. Home believed that the economic success of the 60's Australia was derived from luck rather than skill.

Tasting Notes:

This red has a deep purple color and a nose of vanilla, blueberries, a splash of pepper and a bit of mint. It is a rich, full bodied wine that has spice, big fruit and chocolate on the palate with a velvet finish that lingers.

Food Pairings:

Shiraz is great with a slow cooked brisket. Except for the large fat cap on top, it is a lean meat that is quite tough when quickly grilled. When cooked slowly with a mildly spicy rub, it is melt in your mouth tender and perfectly accented by Shiraz.

PLCB SLO 549611 @ \$10.99 14.5% ABV