

# 45th Annual Tasting

## “A Selection of Cabernet Varieties from Napa Valley Appellations”

Most wineries are arranged in strict alphabetical order at wine tastings. This has been so at our Annual Tasting until the 45th when chairman Bob Long directed us to organize the wineries by appellation of the wine they poured and to arrange the appellations geographically in the Picnic Grove at Silverado Resort, Napa. On Sunday, August 12, over 1,200 Wine Library members made their way from Diamond Mountain south to Mount Veeder, around to Oak Knoll District and north, back to Calistoga, as they tasted the wines of 108 Napa Valley wineries. Most members enjoyed the new layout and were able to navigate thanks to a guide provided by the Wine Library and maps from Napa Valley Vintners Association.

86 wineries poured Cabernet Sauvignon; 63 poured their Cabernet Sauvignon from 2004 and 15 from 2003; four poured the 2002; three the 2001; and two the 2005. One winery poured its Meritage and 17 other wineries poured proprietary blends of Cabernet varieties (Cabernet

Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Merlot or Petit Verdot), although four wineries are also members of the Meritage Society and could have poured a Meritage. Two wineries poured Merlot, two poured Cabernet Franc and one poured Petit Verdot. A list of all the wines poured follows this write-up.

Members came from as far away as North and South Carolina and as nearby as Napa. Wine clubs from Santa Cruz and Los Angeles have made the trip since 1978, although some of their members have been coming since 1972. Orinda was well represented, as well as Oakland, Sacramento and Berkeley and the Napa Valley. A group from the San Francisco restaurant Bacar came in the bright red lobster claw hats they'd been given at a lobster feed by John Sorenson for ZD Winery. Oak Knoll District showed lots of team spirit with great signage. We need to follow their example next year so all appellations are clearly marked.

What really sets this occasion apart is participation by winery principals. Driving to Silverado we followed a black pickup truck, license plate: SEDUCTN. Even without the O's brushed on its doors, we knew it was the O'Briens (their proprietary red is “Seduction”). Throughout the afternoon, owners, many of them husbands and wives, and winemakers were on hand at over half the winery tables to

talk about the wines they poured. Decanters were in wide use (oxygenation can benefit younger wines). More wineries had chosen banners and magnums over flowers for decoration this year although Oakville Ranch had a sunny bouquet of rudbeckia. At HdV an upended box filled with corks rather than a magnum spilled its contents across a table corner.

Bouchon Bakery donated 90 loaves of epi French bread baked just that afternoon in Yountville and it was gone in an hour. Raymond & Co. served ten artisan cheeses; fortunately, crackers provided by Silverado outlasted the bread. Crystal Geyser donated 22 cases of still and sparkling water and two of its Tejava which refreshed Wine Library members on what proved to be a fine Sunday afternoon, breezy, not too warm, and perfect for tasting the Cabernet varieties of Napa Valley donated by Napa Valley wineries.

Next year's Annual Tasting will be held on Sunday, August 24, 2008 and will feature white wines from Napa Valley producers again arranged by appellation.

## 45th Annual Tasting Wines Poured:

Arns NV Cab 04	NV Cab 04 Dyer Vineyard DM Cab 03	Neal Family Vineyards HM Cab 04	C NV Cab 04 Swanson Vineyards and Winery O Cab 04
Astrale e Terra AP Cab TBD	Ehlers Estate SH Cab 04	Newton Vineyards SM "The Puzzle" 02	Terra Valentine SM Cab 04
Atlas Peak AP Claret 03	Elan Vineyards AP Cab 03	Oakville Ranch Vineyards O Cab 04	The Terraces R Cab 04
Baldacci Family Vineyards SL Cab 04	Faust NV Cab 04	O'Brien Estate OK "Seduction" 04	Trefethen Family Vineyards OK Cab 04
Barnett Vineyards SM Cab 04	Fife Vineyards SM Cab 03	Pahlmeyer NV Proprietary Red 04	Tres Sabores R Cab 04
Bialla Vineyards AP Cab 04	Folie á Deux SH Cab 04	Paradigm O Cab 03	Trinchero Family Estates SH Cab 04
Bighorn Cellars Tu NV Cab 03	Forman Vineyard SH Cab 04	Peju R Cab 04	Truchard Vineyards LC Cab 04
Blackbird Vineyards OK Proprietary Red 04	Frazier Tu NV Cab 04	Piña HM Cab 04	V. Sattur Winery SH Cab 04
Boyd Family vineyards OK Merlot 04	Freemark Abbey Winery R Cab 04	Pine Ridge Winery SL Cab 04	Venge Vineyards O Cab 04
Broman Cellars NV Cab 02	Grgich Hills Estate Y Cab 02	Pride Mountain vineyards NV Cab 04	Viader Vineyards HM "Viader" 04
Buehler Vineyards NV Cab 04	Groth Vineyard and Winery O Cab 04	Prix Vineyards NV "Melange" 04	Vin Roc AP Cab 04
Burgess Cellars NV Cab 04	Gustavo Thrace R Cab 04	Reverie on Diamond Mountain DM Cab 04	Vincent Arroyo Winery C NV Cab 05
Cain Vineyard and Winery NV "Concept" 04	HdV LC "Belle Cousine" 04	Robert Foley Vineyards NV Claret 04	Vinoce MV Proprietary Red 04
Calafia Cellars SH Bordeaux Blend 04	Hartwell Vineyards SL Cab 03	Robert Pecota Winery C NV Cab 03	Von Strasser Winery DM Cab 04
Casa Nuestra Winery & Vineyards SH NV Meritage 04	Heitz Wine Cellars SH Petit Verdot 05	Robert Sinskey Vineyards LC Cab 04	White Cottage Ranch HM Cab 04
Caymus Vineyards NV Cab 05	Hendry Tu NV Cab 04	Rocca Family Vineyard Y Cab 03	White Rock Vineyards NV Cab 03
Ceja Vineyards NV Cab 03	hope & grace Winery SH Cab 04	Rombauer Vineyards NV Cab 04	Whitehall Lane Winery NV Cab 03
Chappellet Winery NV Cab 04	J. Davies Vineyards DM Cab 04	Rutherford Ranch Winery NV Cab 05	Wing Canyon Vineyard MV Cab 03
Charles Krug Winery Y Cab 04	Jocelyn Lonen Winery AP Cab 04	St. Clement Vineyards NV Cab 04	ZD Wines NV Cab 04
Chateau Montelena Winery C NV Cab 04	Judd's Hill SL "Estate" 01	Saddleback Cellars NV Cab 04	
Chateau Potelle MV Cab 04	Keenan Winery SM Cab Franc 04	Seavey Vineyard SH Cab 04	C = Calistoga, pending
Clos du Val SL Cab 03	Lamborn Family Vineyards HM Cab 04	Seps Estate, Storybook Mountain Vineyards C NV Cab 04	HM= Howell Mountain
Cloud View Vineyards NV Red Wine 04	Lang & Reed NV "Right Bank" 04	Shafer Vineyards SL "One Point Five" 04	SH= St. Helena
Corison Winery SH Cab 02	Long Meadow Ranch Winery NV Cab 03	Signorello Vineyards Tu NV Cab 04	R = Rutherford
Crane Brothers OK Cab 04	Madonna Estate LC Cab 01	Snowden Vineyards NV Cab 04	O = Oakville
Cuvaison Estate Wines MV Cab 04	Markham Vineyards NV Merlot 04	Spottswode Family Estate SH Cab 04	Y = Yountville
Darioush NV Cab 04	Miner Family Vineyards O Cab 04	Spring Mountain Vineyard SM "Elivette" 04	OK= Oak Knoll
Duckhorn Vineyards	Monticello Vineyards Y Cab 04	Stag's Leap Wine Cellars SL Cab 03	SL= Stags Leap
	Moss Creek Winery NV Cab 01; NV Cab Franc 04	Sullivan Vineyards R Cab 04	AP= Atlas Peak
	Napa Cellars O Cab 04	Summers Estate Wines	Tu= Tulocay, pending
			LC= Los Carneros
			MV= Mount Veeder
			NV= Napa Valley
			SM= Spring Mountain
			DM= Diamond Mountain