

# Swirl on Castro Tasting Notes

## Staff Picks IV September 20, 2007

### 1) **Bele Casel Prosecco di Valdobbiadene Italy, NV**

**100% Prosecco.** Prosecco is the classic aperitivo of Italy. Its fruity aromas and flavors, bright acidity and effervesce make this style of wine a perfect way to start an evening, make a toast or to accompany lighter hors d'oeuvres and fresh fruit. Prosecco is a grape variety indigenous to the Veneto region of Northeast Italy, and the Valdobbiadene subzone is the finest site for Italy's most famous sparkling wine. Bele Casel is a small, artisanal winery which strives to make aromatic and concentrated Prosecco. Only 250 cases are produced, and bottled as the orders arrive. **Marc** agrees that we have tasted nothing fresher and more sublime. *A perfect way to greet the evening [or afternoon!] – always start with a glass of bubbles. A great match with fruit and cheese.* 11% alcohol.

### 2) **Jacoby Riesling Spätlese "Urziger Wurzgarten" Mosel '93**

**100% Riesling.** Jacoby is the Uncle of Stephan Pauly-Bergweiler – In the Mosel (and in Burgundy) many family members have inherited portions of the family vineyards. Jacoby owns a block of Urziger Wurzgarten vineyard in the Mosel region. **Mike** is a lover of older Rieslings, and is partial to the Mosel where the climate is cooler, producing wines of great elegance and finesse. The cooler temperature provides for a long growing season, producing wines with higher acidity levels and slightly lower alcohol levels. The wines of the Mosel are sleek, trim, and a bit lighter on their feet than the other wine growing regions in Germany – but also have great intensity. 1993 was an excellent vintage in the Mosel, producing ripe wines with crystalline fruit - this wine will go another decade. *Pair with spicy Asian foods.* 8% alcohol.

### 3) **Tenuta de Trinoro 'Le Cupole' Tuscany IGT '04**

**55% Merlot, 23% Cab Franc, 9% Cab, 5% Petite Verdot, 8% Cesanese.** **Timmy Lou** is a long-time fan of this small production 'Super Tuscan.' Owner Andrea Franchetti's vineyards are nestled among the soft undulating hills of the Val d'Orcia, in the province of Siena. Andrea is a perfectionist and believes in extremely low yields. His fruit is picked in several 'passes' in the vineyard, harvesting only the perfectly ripe fruit bunches. His flagship wine is Tenuta de Trinoro, a Bordeaux blend. (\$142.00/btl) 'Le Cupole' di Trinoro, is made from the barrels that aren't up to the exacting standards Franchetti requires for his 'Grand Vin', and allows us to sell a wine with a bit more accessibility. 2004 was a very good vintage in all of Europe, with late harvests and low yields. Serve with roasted meats, grilled vegetables and aged cheeses. 14% alcohol.

### 4) **Clos de L'Oratoire Chateauneuf-du-Pape Rhone '05**

**80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvedre, 5% Cinsault.** A stunning, potentially legendary wine from the most impressive Rhone appellation of the 2005 vintage. **Jerry** is a Rhone guy and has been awaiting the '05 vintage from the premiere estates. The Caves des Papes property has impressed high-profile critics for a decade. (L'Oratoire means "oratory", a place of prayer). Stones as large as cantaloupes ("galets") cover these vineyards and store the sun's heat during the day then reflect it back underneath the vines late into the evening. The average age of the vines is close to 30 years. "One of Châteauneuf's great domaines that appears to be serious about resurrecting its once lofty reputation. Bravo!" - Robert Parker (92 Pts) The '05s are drinking great now, decanting is recommended – the wine will continue to improve into the next decade. 14% alcohol.

### 5) **Jade Mountain 'La Provencale' Rhone Blend, CA '04**

**48% Mourvedre, 29% Syrah, 18% Carignane, 5% Grenache.** This exotic, soft, supple Rhone blend is a favorite of **James**. This boutique producer is mostly known for an array of exceptional Napa Valley Syrahs. We love the opulence of the Rhone blend. (And the price.) The Mourvedre lays down an earthy, leathery foundation; the Syrah is all luscious dark berries, and the Grenache bridges them with spicy plums. In your mouth this is no warm and breezy French summer day but a ripe, concentrated California red with a good dollop of oak. 15.2% alcohol. **6) Les Clos de Paulilles Banyuls, Collioure, France 500ml**

**100% Black Grenache.** **Tim Z.** is a fan of dessert wine - Banyuls is a fortified, Grenache-based French wine that takes its name from Banyuls Sur Mer in the south of France. Its sweetness results from the "mutage" method, in which grape spirit is added to interrupt the fermentation process. If you want to pair a rich, fresh and sweet wine with chocolate or any other dessert, Banyuls is a great match. Les Clos de Paulilles is France's southernmost AOC and is one of the prettiest seaside villages on the Mediterranean coast. 16% alcohol.