

# Swirl on Castro Tasting Notes

## Winter Reds November 1, 2007

### 1) Mas Que Vinos, 'Ercavio' La Mancha, Spain '05 \$9.50 btl

**100% Tempranillo.** We are seeing some great value-prices wines coming from La Mancha, Spain's largest D.O. Mas Que Vinos is the brainchild of a group of friends who, having renovated an old family winery which dates back to 1851, sought to preserve as much as they could from the original property, including the old tinajas (clay amphors) which are still used today for the malolatic fermentation. Robert Parker awarded this vintage 90 pts. and wrote *"The 2005 Ercavio Roble is a remarkable value. Produced from 100% Cencibel [Tempranillo], this is a custom cuvee selected by importer Eric Solomon, and was aged for 5 months in French and American oak. Purple colored, with fragrant spice box, tobacco, blueberry, and blackberry aromas, this full-bodied effort has gobs of ripe fruit, a firm structure, and a 40-second finish, not bad value for a sawbuck. Although this well-made wine will surely evolve for 2-3 years, who will have the patience? This is one to purchase by the case."* 13.5% alcohol.

### 2) Flowers, Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast '06 \$48.75 btl

**100% Pinot Noir.** *The cult classic returns. What wine shop would pour their Flower's allocation at a wine tasting? Why not bring out the best for our Thursday group. This special treat, although still a baby, showcases the best of this appellation. In 1989 owners Walt and Joan Flowers purchased 321 acres of land, including a ridge top, high above the Pacific Ocean on the northern Sonoma Coast, the perfect appellation for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. The 06 offers up hints of cinnamon, herbs, and a bit of heft from the new oak. (35% new French) In the mouth, notions of sassafras, plums, cherries, and allspice emerge. Look for hints of violet, white pepper and mineral. Cellar up to 5 years. 13.8% alcohol.*

### 3) Selvagrossa, 'Trimpilin' Marche, Italy '05 \$31.50 btl

**100% Sangiovese.** "Trimpilin" means "trouble-maker" in local Modena dialect. After an eight year stint at Enoteca Pinchiorri, Selvagrossa owner Alberto Taddei acquired this affectionate nick-name from Giorgio Pinchiorri, originally of Modena and owner of the Enoteca. The vineyards are located in the hills just outside Pesaro on Italy's Adriatic coast in the Marche region. The wine is aged 16 months in new and used French barriques. *Intense perfumes of ripe cherries with forest floor undertones. Trimpilin has a very silky and velvety texture with a long generous finish.* 250 cases produced. 13.5% alcohol.

### 4) Chateau de Candale, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru, Bordeaux, France '03 \$33.50 btl

**80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon.** A classic "farmstead" property, the charming Ch. De Candale is located east of Saint-Emilion's celebrated limestone plateau in one of the region's most desirable districts. Saint-Emilion is one of the four principal red wine areas of Bordeaux (the others being Médoc, Graves and Pomerol). The same grape varieties tend to be used but in a different ratio, with Merlot and Cabernet Franc predominating, while relatively small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon are used. The region is much smaller than the Médoc and adjoins the wine region of Pomerol. In 1954 the wines of Saint-Emilion were "classified." There are 15 *premiers grands crus classés* and 46 *grands crus classés*. This wine is crafted by legendary winemaker Michel Rolland, and is a beauty. *Modern in style, this is a great example of the excellent 2003 vintage. Rich, concentrated dark fruit with velvety tannins – a wine of elegance and power. Plush, with notes of strawberries, cinnamon, mineral and toasty oak.* 796 cases produced 14% alcohol.

### 5) Niner Cabernet Sauvignon, Bootjack Ranch, Paso Robles '04 \$21.50 btl

**100% Cabernet Sauvignon** When Dick and Pam Niner purchased Bootjack Ranch in Paso Robles in 2001, they had a single goal in mind: to produce the highest quality wines possible in the Paso appellation. With the addition of winemaker Amanda Cramer (previously asst. to Heidi Barrett at Paradigm in Napa) in early '04 and the purchase and planting of an additional 70 acres on the Westside on Paso, they are well on their way to achieving their goal. Still small in production, we will look for great things to come. *Impressive, and a great value. Rich blackberry and ripe berry with cassis, and a slight touch of mint and clove spice. Flavors of cherry and black currant are prevalent, with a bit of licorice on the finish. This wine shows off soft tannins, a pleasing smooth mouthfeel, and is downright delicious.* 1500 cases produced. 14.4% alcohol.

### 6) Zoom Zinfandel Vaca Mountain Vny. North Coast '05 \$20.75 btl

**100% Zinfandel.** Zoom Wines has been producing ultra-high premium Zinfandels for over 10 years in the North Coast wine region of California. Vaca Mountain rests on a ridge high above Napa County, and the seven acres sustainably farmed by Hank and Libby Frantz are at an elevation of two thousand four hundred feet. *The Vaca Zoom zin is rich and hedonistic, yet beautifully balanced, drawing out the complexities of pepper, spice, and dark sweet fruit found in the grapes from these dramatic mountainside vineyards. This is old school zin, with deep tannins and structure.* 315 cases produced. 14.9% alcohol.