

Northern Neck Wine Society

Tasting Notes - March 3

The Northern Neck Wine society met for the first time at the Belle Mount tasting room, at 7 PM. Many thanks to Ray and Catherine Petrie for inviting us to their tasting room for our meeting. The focus of the meeting was to define the group, while drinking some ABC wines. ABC was anything but Chardonnay and anything but Cabernet. The offerings were Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Merlot, Syrah and a Belle Mount Merlot.

The first offering provided for a education in itself, the Sauvignon Blanc which was bad. It has an artificial cork and there were no signs of leakage and the odor did not point to oxidation. It had a chemical odor and the closest descriptor I could come up with was Chlorophenol. Also, the color was quite yellow which is not at all typical of a Sauvignon Blanc.

The second wine we sampled was the Freiherr Heyl 2003 Estate Reisling. It had definite citrus fruit in the nose and although not indicated on the bottle, it tasted like it was aged sur lies.

The last white was a 2004 Twisted River Gewürztraminer. It was not everyone's favorite as it is a spicy sweeter wine. It was a good Gewurtz however, and would go well with various desserts or spicy meals.

Our first red offering was a Heron 2003 Merlot from California. It has plenty of plum and raspberry fruit, but it disappeared quite quickly. It was soft on the palate and all agreed it would be fine with food.

Ray offered Belle Mount's merlot in comparison which all agreed was a superior wine. It had lots of good fruit forward plum and berry and ample tannin on the palate.

Our last wine was a fun Syrah called Great With Steak. It is a Vin de Pays D'oc (Languedoc) from France and a wonderful wine for its price. It had lots of pepper, as one would expect in a Syrah (Shiraz) and good mouth feel. It was imported by Country Vinters for the USA market.

Our next meeting will be on April 7th at the Belle Mount tasting room at 7 PM. The subject, while not yet totally defined will likely be a comparison of Rutini family wines in Argentina with similar wines in Chile, if I can find what I want.

Northern Neck Gourmet carries all the wines we tasted and would be happy for you to visit them!

Wine society Notes

Interlaced with the tasting of wine, we discussed the type of wine tasting group we might want to be. Some thoughts were educational lectures, lectures with food wine pairings, guest speakers, or a field trip to a winery or other facility. Dinners with wine pairings were suggested as well as a pool party in the summer, an October fest in the fall and a Christmas party during the holiday season. All seemed to think that was a pretty good mix.

With the ambiance of a roaring fireplace, we continued to discuss the wine tasting group and wine. It was fun and relaxing evening.