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## Our First Taste of the San Francisco Wine Association

As we mentioned last week, the San Francisco Wine Association (SWFA) had a big tasting party recently at Crushpad. **The SFWA is a new organization which unites boutique wineries that are based in or make their wine in the city of San Francisco.** As there is a distinct shortage of satisfactory grapevines within the city limits, the association's wineries source their fruit from some of the best vineyards up and down the West Coast.

While the SFWA is new, many of its wineries have been around for a while and all have experienced, talented winemakers. And, while they share a common city, the wineries are all unique and don't necessarily share a common style of wine or varietal focus. Some go for New World styles, some Old. Some are organic, others are not. There are bold wines and delicate. However, the SFWA does unite the wineries in another way that is of benefit to you; you can learn more about the SFWA wineries, their events and purchase many of the wines through a central website.

There were fourteen wineries pouring at Crushpad. Each had enjoyable wines. We'll go through all fourteen providers here, but will stick to highlights from each, rather than providing a full tasting note on every wine. There were almost forty offered.

Guy Riedel: Three more very good wines were on offer here, but were built a bit more for aging or at least decanting. If Placido Domingo were a wine, he might be one of these. And just like you wouldn't tell Placido to "speed it up a bit," you want to take your time to enjoy these wines and watch them as the drama unfolds. **Our top recommendation is the Guy Riedel 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon which features ToKalon fruit in its final appearance from Crushpad-based wineries. \$50.**

The San Francisco Wine Association put on a great tasting. It's hard to believe it was their first. We're looking forward to seeing them grow and to trying more excellent wines from their members. **If you want to try some of their wines, the next scheduled SFWA event is a Connor Brennan Cellars Winemaker Dinner on January 23, 2009 in San Francisco.**

Downtown San Francisco is a somewhat unusual place to make wine. What's the most unusual place in which you've found a great winery?

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