

Good Wine & Entrepreneurialism Thrive at Crushpad

. . . . as we headed to Crushpad last Thursday night. They were playing host at their facility for the coming-out party of the [San Francisco Wine Association \(SFWA\)](#). This new association with sixteen charter member “wineries” focuses just on operations that make their wine in that famous agricultural center: downtown San Francisco. Not all of the wineries use Crushpad, but many do. Fourteen of those wineries were pouring on Thursday. NorCal Wine was there to taste and report.

We’ll have a report on the SFWA in a forthcoming article. But, we can make a few things clear right now. Crushpad, the San Francisco Wine Association and their collective wines are for real. We tasted no less than 40 wines. Every single one was good. Some were better than others to our palates, but we would be happy to drink any of them. By and large, they are all good values at their full retail price. Some of the wines were truly exceptional. Some are a steal.

We were also pleased that vineyards which we were familiar with from non-Crushpad offerings, say Stolpman Vineyard and White Hawk Vineyard Syrah or Sleepy Hollow Vineyard Chardonnay, were very representative of those vineyards. And, in situations where multiple wineries sourced the same varietal from the same vineyard, as was the case with [Amber Ridge Vineyard \(Russian River Valley\) Pinot Noir from Pug Wine](#) and Connor Brennan Cellars, both wines were quite nice and had clear commonalities but were at the same time very different.

And, while you’re waiting for our upcoming details on the SFWA, let us leave you with a little tease. You cannot go wrong by picking up some of the following (in alphabetical order):

[Connor Brennan Cellars Pinot Noir Amber Ridge Vineyards, \\$42](#)
[Guy Riedel Wines 2005 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, \\$50](#)
[Seawind Wines 2006 Chardonnay, Sleepy Hollow Vineyard, \\$29](#)

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