

GOTHAM BLOG:



RANTS, RAVES AND RANDOM THOUGHTS
FROM THE MIND OF GOTHAM

The Wine Blog, by Paul Napolitano

May 5th, 2008

Billy Joel once said "You can't get the sound from a story in a magazine". As with just reading about music, mere words about wine cannot bring your senses to life like smelling and tasting a great bottle. With this blog I hope to get you to try some wines that are off the radar screen of Robert Parker and Wine Spectator. But, alas, they are just words. So get them, try them, enjoy them and make your own opinions.

Last night I tried a wine that I had never heard of before. The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon from Guy Riedel wines. This is the first wine that Guy has produced and sold commercially and it is a resounding success in my opinion. A good solid core of red and black berry fruit and elegant aromas of black currants. The tannins are firm but not overpowering and a year or two of cellar time should round it out nicely. The good structure and the ample and pleasing (but not candied) fruit makes this one of those perfect Cal Cab steak wines. I applaud the winemaker for using 100% French oak. One thing I find so unappealing about Cal Cabs is the use of overbearing heavily vanilla scented American oak. The only fault I found was that it is presently showing a touch of heat at almost 15% alcohol. If you decant it for an hour, as the winemaker suggests, the alcohol blows off and the fruit blooms. I would rate the wine 93 points. All in all, an outstanding debut by Mr. Riedel. Get on the mailing list now before the masses find out about it. At a production of only 300 cases, it will sell out quickly.