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What's new in the Grapevine this week?

- **Preview of December Wine Club**
- **Events and Hours**
- **Gift suggestions**
- **Wine and cold weather**

Preview of December Wine Club

**** Wines Ready Friday Noon****

Our first red wine for December is the **2012 Sur de los Andes Cabernet Reserva**. The nose is rich with red fruit, plum and mocha. The palate is direct and solid, with good depth. Rich dark berries, black fruit and complex wood tones of cedar and aged oak come together on the palate in this dense Cabernet. It earned the Argentine Gran Reserva designation with balance from the aroma to the lasting, tannic finish. The Sur de los Andes also got a well-deserved 90 point rating from Wine Enthusiast. This beauty should drink well over the next year. **\$18.**

The first white wine for December is the **2016 Fossil point Chardonnay**. This light and lovely Chardonnay hails from California's Edna Valley. The scent is layered and pleasing, with aromas of citrus blossom and white peach. Juicy tones of lemon verbena with a smooth palate of pastry crème and Asian pear come out on the palate. There is more minerality than your typical California Chardonnay but it still retains light pear fruit and a smooth finish. We love serving this Chardonnay with fresh diver scallops, tender flat fish, or tiger prawns. The Fossil Point Chardonnay is extremely versatile – you could make this your everyday Chardonnay! **\$15.75**

Members who receive two red wines will get the **2016 Casa Castillo Jumilla Monastrell** as their second red selection. This Monastrell (Mourvèdre) also contains

an 8% combination of Garnacha and Syrah. Spicy raspberry aromas flow into the bright refreshing palate, bursting with juicy red berries, tart cherry skins, baking spice, Mediterranean herbs, and a touch of earth. The typical bold style of Jumilla Monastrell is tempered without sacrificing its ripe, joyous fruit. I think it is irresistible with a light chill and a slice of pizza! Wine Advocate rated it **91+**. **\$14**

Wine Clubbers who choose two white wines will take home the **2017 Bieler Family Daisy Pinot Grigio** from Washington State. This wine is a co-fermented blend with Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Muscat. The aromas are compelling, with notes of freshly cut apple, honeysuckle, peach and pear. The palate delivers an intriguing interplay between rich, ripe notes and a firm acid backbone. There is a beautiful sense of lightness, texture and freshness to the fruit flavors that linger on the finish. The balance is exquisite but would stand up to heavier poultry dishes this Holiday season. **\$11**

Millennium Club members will get the Christian Moueix crafted version of **2015 Carpe Diem Cabernet** from the Napa Valley. Typical of Moueix's French style, earthy notes, mushroom and black pepper meet cedar and tomato leaf—a savory backdrop against which thick, persistent tannins rule. The fruit is a mix of black cherry and wild strawberry, which give the wine a ripe bold character touched only sparingly by oak. It consistently shows a touch of red candy amid the plum and cherry flavors. Supple, graceful and easy to enjoy, each sip ends with a touch of baking spices. Drink now through 2025. 2,800 cases made **\$32**

Holiday Hours and Events

As we roll into the Holidays, the Wine Gallery will be adjusting our business hours to give you ample time to browse our selection of gourmet foods, Olivelle products and tasty wines. Walmart, Kohl's and World Market won't go out of business if you do your Holiday shopping at the Wine Gallery, so carve out some relaxing, unhurried time to shop our store.

- On Wednesday, November 21st, we will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. to accommodate last minute wine selections and hostess gifts for Thanksgiving. **We will be closed on Thanksgiving, November 22nd so that our employees may spend time with family and friends.**
- We will resume crass commercialism on **Black Friday** although we will be opening at the regular civilized hour of 10 AM. We do not expect a jammed parking lot, long lines or jostling crowds because most of that will be up the street at the Mall. If you want to have a less frenzied time shopping, you are welcome to decompress at the Wine Gallery.
- The Saturday after Thanksgiving is **Small Business Saturday**. Please remember that Small Businesses are located all over the area not just in Downtown. Small business is the heart and soul of Montana and especially

Bozeman. Small Business supports the Intermountain Opera, The Bozeman Symphony, Eagle Mount, Haven, Thrive, Heart of the Valley, the Museum of the Rockies, countless other charities, non-profits and fraternal organizations. Remember the efforts they exert to make Bozeman a world class city when you go to spread your Holiday cheer. We will be open from 10-6 PM Saturday.

- Looking forward to December, we have the **Winter Art Walk scheduled for Friday, December 14th**. The folks at Miller's Jewelry will be open to show you artful arrangements of jewelry, delicately detailed estate pieces, diamonds direct from Antwerp and Yogo Sapphires direct from Montana. I will also be there as part of the Miller's Jewelry hospitality by pouring some delicious samples of great wines for you to sip as you peruse their store for great Holiday gifts. The Art Walk goes from 6PM to 8PM so be sure you come by for some cheer.
- **The Wine Gallery will be open the four Sundays before Christmas from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. starting the first Sunday in December (December 2nd)**. We will be open from 10:00 am to 6 p.m. every day after that until Christmas.
- **The Wine Gallery will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th as well as Tuesday, January 1st, 2019.**

Gift basket season is upon us

I have spent countless hours getting all the goodies we need to make gift baskets for this season. Every year I put in more "stuff" and every year on the day after Christmas the Wine Gallery looks like Egypt after the locusts left. This year, I will have two full time basket makers so we should have lots of speedy production to go with the great variety of goodies to go into the baskets.

Wine Gallery baskets are the most sought after gift baskets in Bozeman. Last year we made almost 200 of them and every one was unique. (Our design scheme is from the "snowflake" school; no two are alike.) Each one is unique because you pick what goes into it, the size and how much it costs. We do the rest to make a stunning presentation for your friends, relatives, neighbors and business associates. Order yours soon!

Stocking Stuffers

Not everybody needs another bottle of wine or a whole gift basket for Christmas. (There are a few that deserve just a lump of coal). The Wine Gallery will have lots of wine gadgets and accessories to fill stockings or to bring to a gift swap.

Of course my favorite gadget is the Haley's corker. This gismo is a Swiss Army knife of wine gadgets. The soft plastic makes it easy to push into the neck of a wine bottle. There is a handy drip-free pouring spout, an aerating snorkel, and a fine mesh screen to catch sediment and tartrates. The Haley's corker also has an attached stopper that is tight

enough to seal the bottle for spill-proof side storage in the refrigerator. The plastic is FDA approved and imparts no aroma or flavor to the wine. Just put it in the dishwasher to clean it and reuse it as many times as you wish. The Haley's corker is made right here in the USA and I guarantee there is no lead in it. Even better, it costs just \$5.95.

We also have a full array of wine charms, decanters, bottle toppers, corkscrews, cheese knives, stemware, foil cutters, wine books, Vacu-vins, wine preservers, wine chillers, trays, buckets and wine books.

For an extra special gift, take a gander at the Montana made **Gwynne corkscrews**. These large and very masculine openers have a double wound worm screw, double step lever, and a sizable foil knife. Each one is inlaid with different pictures of game, dry flies, or Bobcat logos. For gift giving, every corkscrew is enclosed in a wooden gift box. Take a look the next time you are into the Wine Gallery. They will never give out and each one is a beautiful gift for **\$59.95**.

Wine and Cold Temperatures

Every year at this time when shoppers rush home with their treasures, I get asked if wine will freeze if left in the car while more shopping is undertaken.

My guess is that more wine gets frozen from putting a bottle in the freezer for a quick chill and forgetting about it till the next morning than gets frozen on a cold day. Here are a few things that will put your mind at ease:

- If the seal and/or bottle are intact, frozen wine will be fine when it thaws out.
- Unlike beer which can suffer from temperature changes, it is perfectly OK to let wine go between the fridge and room temperature without any damage. (It is also OK for sparkling wine.)
- Wine has about 14-15% "anti-freeze" in the form of ethanol so it will only turn to slush between the temperatures of 19-23 degrees F. A few hours in the back of your car while shopping is not likely to chill the wine to that temperature.
- Occasionally wines subjected to freezing temperatures may develop clear, glassy tartrate crystals in the bottle. These are harmless and don't normally affect the flavor of the wine.
- Be careful shipping wine this time of year. Packages are often shipped for days in unheated trucks or left on the front porch in sub-zero temperatures. I have been on both ends of that story and it doesn't ever have a happy ending.

In an ideal world, wine thrives best in long-term storage at "cellar temperature" around 55F (13C). But failing that, too cold is better than too hot. If you have to choose, pick the chilly basement over the stuffy attic for your wine collection, and you won't be sorry.