



PURVEYORS OF FINE WINE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## Entrepreneurs Circle

June 2016

Release

### Wine #1

#### 2013 Hartwell Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District, Napa Valley

Retail ~~\$80~~ BOFW **\$72.50**

We learned about **Hartwell** fairly recently. Not by researching the wine, a tasting event or one of our Napa trips. No, this one was discovered while doing some background work on an up and coming winemaker whose wine we carry year round. Benoit Touquette is the winemaker for Realm and he made several 100 point wines for them. He also makes his own label **Fait Main** and **Teeter Totter**. Teeter Totter is one of our favorite sub \$50 cabernets and we stocked up heavily on the 2013. Now we've learned, he also makes the wine for Hartwell.

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year since Bob Hartwell purchased the southern portion of Wappo Hill from Harry See, heir to the See's Candy fortune. The other half of Wappo Hill was owned by Robert Mondavi. Hartwell is one of the perfect examples of the wines we like to

source. Hartwell while it has some history behind it, is a family owned winery and produces less than 700 cases of the Estate Cabernet. The fruit comes from a quality appellation, made by arguably one of the best winemakers at present and the 2013 vintage is simply spectacular. Sure, you may have heard of Hartwell and maybe even tasted it, but it's unlikely you will find this at any big box wine store and generally not even your fine Retail store.



No professional rating on the 2013 Hartwell yet, but we know it is a quality wine and we think you will

enjoy it as much as we enjoyed finding it for you.

#### Winemakers Notes:

*"The 2013 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon opens with a complex bouquet of dried cherries, boysenberry syrup, mulberry, leather and desert sage. The smooth and harmonious palate yields layers of raspberry coulis, dried fig, star anise, cocoa powder and cedar. This wine is always a fan favorite with its immediate charm and grace and will be a joy to drink over the next 10-15 years"*  
- **Benoit Touquette, Winemaker**

### Wine #2

#### 2011 Marques de Murrieta Dalmau Tinto Reserva

Wine Advocate 94

Retail ~~\$75~~ BOFW **\$56.50**

I must admit, we went into this selection with some bias. Maybe better stated, we purposefully sought out a classic Rioja to include in our June release. June ushers in a tasting trip for several of the Bent On Fine Wine team, where we will

learn more about the wines of Spain and Portugal.

**Rioja** unlike U.S. wines is named for the region not the grape. So a Rioja is required to source grapes from the *Denominacion de Origen* (designated region) of Rioja. **Dalmau** doesn't appear to take advantage of the classification, but it would be considered a **Rioja Reserva**, which requires three years of aging before release. At least one of those years must be in oak barrels. The most common grape in a Rioja is Tempranillo and the Dalmau bottling is 79% Tempranillo.

**Marqués de Murrieta** like so many European wineries has a much longer history than Hartwell and all U.S. wineries. Murrieta's roots tie back to the first Rioja wines and the original owner, Luciano Murrieta was the first Spaniard to export his wine.

In 1983 Vicente Cebrián Sagarriga, tenth Count of Creixell, took over the project. He modernized the winery and with his entrepreneurial vocation he continued the legacy of **Marqués de Murrieta**. Vicente's family still manages the winery today.



## 2013 Vintage Report

With our first selection of a 2013 wine, it seems time to summarize the 2013 vintage for you.

So here is the quick synopsis:

2011 Bad      2012 Good  
**2013 Great**      2014 Good

Obviously a little simplistic and overstated, but the 2013 vintage offered some of the best conditions California Cabernet has ever seen. From a sheer numbers perspective, Robert Parker gave the vintage 98 points the highest he has ever bestowed on California Cabernet. Prior to this 96 was the highest, which was given to 2012, 2007 and 2001. Bottom line, while 2012 should still be accumulated and is generally lower priced, 2013 should be hoarded for months to come. The initial feedback on 2014 is it won't be as good as either '12 or '13, but will certainly fair better than 2011. We still have plenty of 2012's in stock and the some great '13's are rolling in every week. We would encourage you to check tour latest inventory and stock up on 2013 before it's gone.

If you've never tried a Rioja. They are a big, full bodied wine that you can enjoy either upon receipt or in 10 more years. We tasted it a month ago by itself and would recommend it with food if you are going to consume it anytime soon!

### Wine Advocates review:

*"Bordeaux-like nose that is serious and concentrated. This is a cuvée that used to be quite oaky, but this has changed radically and the earthy personality is much stronger, and the oak is perfectly integrated, and even if it's extremely young is perfectly drinkable and showing classical aromas of cigar box, cedar wood and lead pencil. The texture is creamy and even if the tannins are velvety and the acidity is fine, just the complexity you will gain with a couple of years in bottle would payback a little patience. It's a matter of personal preference and the style in this wine is quite strong, but this is objectively a great vintage for Dalmau." - Luis Gutierrez*

Welcome new members, **Dylan** from the "Show Me" state, **Missouri** and **Leslie** from our own "Golden State", **California**. As always, we thank you for your membership and we hope you enjoy this quarters selections.

### Bent On Fine Wine!

#### June Shipment Invoice

2013 Hartwell Cabernet	\$72.50
2011 Murrieta Dalmau	\$56.50
Shipping/Handling	\$18.00
CA Sales Tax	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$147.00</b>