

WINE LIST

by Peg Melnik

Press Democrat wine writer Peg Melnik scopes out restaurant wine lists around the North Bay, looking for good value and the occasional splurge. This week's picks (prices are retail; restaurant markup varies):

Beni di Batasiolo Gavi, 2009 Italian White Wine, 12.5 percent alcohol, \$16. A zesty white with bracing acidity. Aromas and flavors of green apple, lime and mineral. Balanced. Refreshing.

Estancia, 2009 Pinot Noir, 13.5 percent alcohol, \$16. A zesty white with bracing acidity. Aromas and flavors of green apple, lime and mineral. Balanced. Refreshing.

Thurnhof Good, 2009 Pinot Noir, 13.5 percent alcohol, \$16. A zesty white with bracing acidity. Aromas and flavors of green apple, lime and mineral. Balanced. Refreshing.

Beni di Batasiolo Gavi, 2009 Italian White Wine, 12.5 percent alcohol, \$16. A zesty white with bracing acidity. Aromas and flavors of green apple, lime and mineral. Balanced. Refreshing.

Thurnhof Good, 2009 Pinot Noir, 13.5 percent alcohol, \$16. A zesty white with bracing acidity. Aromas and flavors of green apple, lime and mineral. Balanced. Refreshing.

Pellegrini's Olivet Lane Vineyard, 2009 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir, 14.4 percent, \$35. A bright pinot with good acidity. Aromas and flavors of cherry, vanilla and mineral. Tangy fruit. Balanced. A smart pick.

Paul Dolan Vineyards, 2009 Mendocino County Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5 percent, \$25. A cab with depth. Has good structure, yet manages to have a seamless texture. Layered, with flavors of blackberry, cassis, herbs and pepper. Striking.

Mount Veeder Winery, 2006 Napa Valley Red Wine, 14.5 percent, \$40. A blend with tangy red fruit, black cherry, cranberry, herbs and spice. Balanced. Nice length.

Jordan, 2007 Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, 13.5 percent, \$52. A full-bodied cab with a seamless texture. Layered, with aromas and flavors of blackberry, plum, herbs and spice.

Want to share a current wine on your favorite restaurant's list? E-mail peg.melnik@pressdemocrat.com or check out her Tasting Room blog at pressdemocrat.com.

