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CHECK, PLEASE! BAY AREA:

LODI WINES:

Check, Please! Bay Area Wine Tips

My name is Leslie Sbrocco and I'm the host of *Check, Please! Bay Area*. Each week, I will be sharing my tasting notes about the wine the guests and I drank on set during the taping of the show. I will also **share some wine and spirits tips** with each episode.



"Lodi is home to rich reds and eclectic whites that pack a powerful punch underscored with just the right amount of freshness."

You might not recognize the name at first but pay attention, especially if you love Zinfandel. **Lodi**. Located east of San Francisco at the intersection of the Sacramento River delta, it's a place with both history and geography working for it.

The Mediterranean-like warm days that grapes love are coupled with cool breezes from the delta, helping to keep the vines in a state of bliss. Lodi is home to rich reds and eclectic whites that pack a powerful punch underscored with just the right amount of freshness.

Though the AVA, American Viticultural Area, was only recognized in 1986, over the past two decades the number of Lodi labeled wines has skyrocketed. Almost 100 wineries are crafting wines, from grapes that range from Albariño to Vermentino. Recognized varieties such as Chardonnay and Cabernet are prevalent, but it's hearty Zinfandel, America's heritage grape that put Lodi on the map. With over 40% of California's premium Zin hailing from Lodi, it's benchmark bottles come from gnarled old vines dating to the 1880s, which produce wines of distinction. Rustic yet elegant, these intense reds leave you wanting more, and more, and even more.

Check, Please! Bay Area guests drank the following wines on the set of episode 807:

2012 Domaine Gerovassiliou, Epanomi, Greece (\$16) — Greek wines are getting attention these days for their exotic flavors and high quality. This unique white blends two indigenous white Greek grape varieties, Assyrtiko and Malagousia. Crisp and refreshing, it has a lush texture and succulent citrus fruit notes. It's an absolutely delicious discovery.

2011 St. Amant, Old Vine Zinfandel "Mohr-Fry Ranch" Lodi, California (\$18) — Lodi is a hot spot when it comes to world-class Zinfandel. This is one of my favorite expressions of the variety. Spicy, peppery and chock full of wild berry fruit flavors but still capturing a sense of elegance. Barbeque ribs and Kobe beef burgers are my dream dates when uncorking this delicious red.