

Little Sonoma's Wine of the Month

March 2010



Wine Word

Appellation

A term used to describe a demarcated wine region, one where the boundaries of the region are mapped out. The term is originally French.

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The Wine: 2008 Hanna Sauvignon Blanc

Producer: Hanna Winery and Vineyards ~ Hanna has evolved from a winery dependant primarily on outside growers to, a 100% estate winery, with 252 acres of planted vineyards in three of Sonoma County's finest appellations. Owning their own vineyards allows Hanna to control every aspect of grape growing, resulting in greatly improved wine quality.

About the Wine: This wine is made from 100% estate fruit from Russian River Valley Vineyards. Hanna grows and vinifies their Sauv Blanc to be fresh, vibrant, and evocative of the grapes themselves.

Country of Origin: USA, CA

AVA (American Viticultural Area*): Russian River Valley

The Russian River Valley AVA accounts for about one-sixth of the total planted vineyard acreage in Sonoma County. The appellation was granted AVA status in 1983 and enlarged in 2005. The Russian River Valley has a characteristically cool climate, heavily affected by fog generated by the valley's proximity to the Pacific Ocean. The area is known for its success with cool climate varietals, notably Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

*AVA ~ Official place-name designation for American vintners.

Aromas & Flavors: This wine shines with a vibrant straw color and aromas of grapefruit, lychee, and green apple. An explosive mid-palate of guava, lemon, and grass is followed by a clean, crisp finish

Food Pairings: Shrimp, fresh, green vegetables, and goat cheese.

Ageing Potential: Drink now or within the next 2-3 years.

Current Retail Price: \$17.99

90 points –Wine & Spirits Magazine

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The Wine: 2008 d'Orsaria Pinot Grigio

Producer: Marco Cecchini—The Cecchini family have been producing great wine since 1998 when the company was founded with just 2½ acres of vines. Today he farms 21 acres and has conducted numerous replanting to modernize the vineyards.

Grape Varietal: Pinot Grigio or Pinot Gris is a white grape related to the Pinot Noir grape. In Alsace it is Tokay; in Germany it is Ruländer. Northeastern Italy is the most common locale for this grape. It's grown in small quantities in the US, mostly Oregon, but is slowly gaining popularity in California. Pinot Grigio is medium to full-bodied, somewhat neutral in flavor and low in acidity when well made.

About the Wine: "d'Orsaria" is derived from "land of the bears". So named for the numerous bears that used to live in the wooded hills.

Country of Origin: *Italy* is one of the world's foremost wine producers, responsible for approximately one-fifth of world wine production. Grapes are grown in almost every part of Italy, with more than 1 million vineyards under cultivation.

Region: *Tre Venezie* ~ The juncture between Italy, Slovenia and Austria in the very far corner of NE Italy in the area of Friuli Colli Orientali. It is a land of rolling hills and thin soil, with a long summer and lots of sunshine. Here the influence of the Alps and the Adriatic are most felt, with the Alps providing cool air and very little precipitation and the Adriatic providing warming influences to moderate the winters.

Aromas & Flavors: Fresh tasting and supple with richness and depth mid-palate, this wine shows fragrances of acacia blossoms and toasted almonds.

Food Pairings: Pork chops, salads, fresh green vegetables and pasta with butter and cheese sauces.

Ageing Potential: Drink now or within the next 2 years.

Current Retail Price: \$11.99

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