

The Walman Report,

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Artisan Family of Wines Announces Three New Releases Even in a Recession, You Needn't Lower Your "Wine-Drinking Standards

June 8, 2009

Here are three terrific food-wines for under \$20. The style may be different but the commonality is quality. From the flexible Cabernet to the elegant Meritage to the delightful Rose, we loved them all. So will you!

SEVEN ARTISANS
2006 MERITAGE

The 2006 Seven Artisan's Meritage was meticulously crafted by winemaking partner Jeffrey A. Miller. In 2005, Jeff Miller of Napa, California, became a wine grape grower. Along with his wife Beryl, they have a 34-acre vineyard under cultivation in adjacent Suisun Valley. As with many growers before him, it didn't take very long before the desire to taste the pure expression of what he was growing, and how it would perform as a wine under his watchful eye, took over. By 2006, as a budding winemaker, Jeff Miller and his partner Richard Burnley released their first vintage under the label of 2004 Sly Dog Cellars. Their next wine released was 2007 Red Côte Rosé.

Technical Information:

Variety: 89.5% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 0.25% Malbec, and 0.25% Petite Verdot

Alcohol: 14.1%

pH: 3.50

T.A.: 5.7 g/l

Production: 1,525 cases

Winemaker Notes:

The 2006 Meritage is a blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, with small amounts of Petite Verdot and Malbec. It is a well structured wine with good acidity and dark fruit that pairs well with richer foods, especially lamb, beef, and even game. It was bottled in September 2008, and released on March 20, 2009.

Food & Wine Pairing:

Pair with Cuban Style Picadillo, Roast Prime Rib of Beef, or Sirloin of Lamb with Black Currant and Juniper Berry Sauce.

Suggested Retail: \$17.99



The Story

Richard Burnley is the managing partner of sales and marketing for Artisan Family of Wines. He and his wife Louise Spinelli have been in sales and marketing all of their business lives. Having received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, Richard has worked for wine and spirits leaders, such as Wilson Daniels, Cuvaision Winery, and Cabo Wabo Tequila. The wines that Richard has marketed and brought to market from case #1 have combined sales of over one million cases.

Jeffrey Miller is managing partner of vineyards and winemaking operations. Jeff is a former attorney who has become a very hands-on grower and subsequent winemaker. Jeff's enthusiasm for winegrape growing and winemaking is unsurpassed. Along with his wife Beryl, he owns a small Napa Valley vineyard, and has 41 acres under cultivation in adjacent Suisun Valley. Because Jeff is growing Petite Sirah in Suisun Valley, Jeff joined PS I Love You.