



# Tasting Notes

Wine Garage Newsletter

May 2011

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## Opening Statement May Wine Club

Well another season has passed, Summer is almost here, and unless you join our new and improved Summer Wine Club, this is the last shipment until October. Read more about how you can get a free bottle of wine from us a little later in this message.

This Club shipment is very special, and for the very first time in Club history, we are sending FIVE new Wine Garage wines that we bottled this year. FIVE. The Red/White folks get three – but you guys tasted the new Joy Ride in April.

FIVE is a special number this May. May is the fifth month, sure, but more importantly, yours truly just turned the big FIVE-OH on May 2nd. Most people are in shock I made it this far, yes I realize, but the saying these days is 50 is the new 40 (but I feel 30, yet still act 20).

For the occasion, several years ago I purchased a 1961 Italian Barolo from a reputable dealer for north of \$200. The vintage from '61 was historic in Bordeaux (like my birth) but some of those babies cost several THOUSAND – but it was also an amazing year in Piedmont, Burgundy, even the Spanish Rioja was epic.

My best friend, Jeff Drawdy also turned 50 in May, and he was SUPPOSED to gather a wine from our birth year and we were gonna pop them both at Tra Vigne (where I still have a credit from trading the chef some of my best Porcini last September). Italian wine, Italian food.... Going to be fantastic.

Well Jeff failed pathetically in his attempt at procuring the wine and I shared mine with him and another friend (and wine club member, btw), Todd Vitale. The bottle had a good fill level, all systems were a go since I let it sit upright on my desk for several days to let all the sediment fall to the bottom of the bottle.

I called the chef, Nash Cogneti, a fellow Pennsylvanian from Scranton, and he gave us the best table. The waiter brought fresh pulled mozzarella and a salami plate, compliments of Nash, which would pair perfectly with the Barolo. The wine steward used an “ah-so” wine opener (that forkey thing, not to break the cork).

The waiter gently inched the cork from the bottle intact. He brought a beautiful Reidel decanter and a candle to back light the neck so no sediment reached the decanter. Slowly he poured a gentle stream into the \$300 crystal decanter. He halted the stream of wine just in-time, he poured me a taste.....

AND IT SUCKED. Gone completely bad, had the color of a white Zinfandel, thin, no fruit, tasted – and looked - like cheap rot-gut Madeira. Aw well, what's \$275 on your 50th birthday anyway. I figured that my gamble was like only \$5.50 – per - my 50 years. Not including tax.....

You KNOW I search high and low to bring you great wines at even better prices, but by sending you wines we actually make from scratch, I now can send you the experience of seeing what deals I bargain on in the vineyard. I feel they all taste fantastic. This isn't going to happen, probably EVER again.

**Sign up by June 10th to the Summer Wine Club and receive 6 bottles for the cost of 5!**

A decorative header featuring a cluster of green grapevines with dark grapes in the top left corner. In the top right corner, there is a black silhouette of a bird in flight. The background of the page is a light yellow color with a subtle pattern of diagonal rays emanating from the bottom right corner.

# SUMMER WINE CLUB OFFER

## **Bottling FIVE new wines on my FIFTIETH year...**

Sign up by June 10th to the Summer Wine Club and receive 6 bottles for the cost of 5! You may have to pay for 3 day air shipping, depending where you live, but totally worth it, duh.

All White – 6 bottles of white, sparkling, or rose. Sent June and August.

Half Red/ Half White – 3 bottles lighter reds (maybe one a fruit bomb), 3 bottles white (or rose or sparkling)

SEE WEBSITE FOR SHIPPING COSTS

## **NEW searchable Tasting Notes on Web Site - by the end of the month this function will be available.**

You pull your bottle from the cellar and you know it's from Wine Garage, but what Club month was it sent? Pain in the buttocks searching through all the notes, right? Wrong, coming soon we will list all the wines on the site, click on the bottle in question and zippity – do – da - day....You are sent to the proper months tasting notes. Cool, no?

## **Special Thanks to NEW STAFF**

Somehow, we had to replace all of our employees this past year, almost at once. We hired three new Garagistas: John Green, Deven Lockwood, and Anne Houghton. They have all done a remarkable job and have made the Wine Garage environment a very fun place to be, either working there or shopping. BIG THANKS from, Todd & Joy