

Orangewood Wines

Small Wineries, Great Wines

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Introduction

A Happy Easter to you all. Easter puns are too easy, so don't egg me on. We are awaiting our first 100 degree Fahrenheit day of the year. It is close. We have been practicing drinking rosés. You can too.

Last month I described how Razz (of his eponymous restaurant) diced onions. Based on the feedback, I am the last person on the planet to have learned this technique.

Pillsbury Wine Co.

After 30 years of making movies in New Zealand and Los Angeles, Sam Pillsbury turned his hand to wine making. Convinced that the Willcox, Arizona, altitude, geology and climate were perfect for making wine, he purchased land, planted grapevines and started to make some. Sam's wines are unapologetically good wines. Often when Arizona wines are presented, they include apologies for the quality (Arizona is still learning how to make wine) or cost (it's expensive getting going in a new region). Neither of these are needed for Pillsbury Wines. They have stood up to all comers in San Francisco Wine competitions and, better yet, when blind tasted by the Orangewood sales team (they had no clue about origins) were found to be delicious.

Sam has been making wine for 18 years now. Orangewood has been distributing fine wine for 18 years. We realize that we can be helpful to each other and we have started cooperating. We anticipate that our first steps, where Orangewood helps with sales, will evolve to a full producer distributor relationship.

Rambling

Sometimes in this business there are some serious challenges that keep us awake at night for days, weeks, even years on end. One such is the grape varietal Tannat. This varietal that originated in southwestern France is crying out for a well constructed pun. My initial thoughts were along the Shakespearean "To be or Tannat to be...", but it really does not quite work. Our new sales person Lee suggested it would be advisable to not go there. Which worked much better. Finally, the construction suggested by Leslie allows me to sleep at night.

What's Tannat like?

It's a red wine from SW France. Generally pretty tannic when made as a single varietal there, it has blossomed in regions with different climates and soils. Uruguay has more or less adopted it as its national grape varietal, producing easy drinking, fruity wines.

What's to not like?

The Rambler rambles on...

Cheers,

Richard (newsletter writer) and Laurie (editor)
Orangewood Wines

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