

# NOVEMBER 2009 WINES

► All wines we taste and review are current releases and can be found and purchased locally, at the winery or on the web ◀

## A CORNUCOPIA OF RED HOLIDAY WINES

COULDN'T RESIST DELVING INTO SOME WINES I'D BEEN HOARDING SO I COULD SHARE THEM WITH YOU AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME – AND NOW WAS THAT TIME!

### GOT FOOD?

How about the answer to that question being: Any food! These wines represent different varietals and different styles but they share the common goal of going well with all the deliciously delightful spectrum of flavors we enjoy over the holidays. We tasted a Pinot Noir, three Cabernet Francs, a Sangiovese, a Bordeaux blend, an 18-variety blend and a Syrah. So pick and choose -- one or all – and ENJOY!

## THE WINES!

LISTED IN THE ORDER TASTED – TASTING REVIEWS FOLLOW

|        |   |      |                              |                |                      |      |
|--------|---|------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|------|
| Wine A | ☐ | 2006 | LITTLE BLACK DRESS           | Pinot Noir     | France               | \$10 |
| Wine B | ☐ | 2006 | ACORN Alegria Vineyards      | Sangiovese     | Russian River Valley | \$32 |
| Wine C | ☐ | 2004 | LANG & REED “Premier Etage”  | Cabernet Franc | Napa Valley          | \$40 |
| Wine D | ☐ | 2006 | MERRIAM Jones Vineyard       | Cabernet Franc | Dry Creek Valley     | \$45 |
| Wine E | ☐ | 2006 | MERRIAM Windacre Vineyard    | Cabernet Franc | Russian River Valley | \$45 |
| Wine F | ☐ | 2005 | LANG & REED “Right Bank”     | Red Wine       | Napa Valley          | \$80 |
| Wine G | ☐ | NV   | TOAD HOLLOW “Erik's the Red” | Red Wine       | Paso Robles          | \$15 |
| Wine H | ☐ | 2006 | ACORN “Axiom”                | Syrah          | Russian River Valley | \$32 |

➤ When possible, prices listed are winery suggested retail ↵

### “Breaking the code” ♦ Terms used in the reviews that follow

- “Balance” ➤ Refers to Fruit, Acid and Tannin. When they are all perceivable in equal amounts and one doesn't appear to be excessive or lacking, the wine is in “balance”. This is a very good thing!
- “Hot” ➤ Refers to percentage of alcohol. If the alcohol is noticeable, it's not in “balance” and makes the wine unpleasant or “hot”. This is not a good thing.

Every wine will have the following self-explanatory terms to describe the **FRUIT, ACID** and **TANNIN**

**Ideal** (or “just right”)

'Slightly' excessive or 'Slightly' lacking,

Excessive or Lacking (more than 'slightly')

'Very' excessive or 'Very' lacking (definitely too much or too little)

ENJOY THE REVIEWS – ENJOY THE JOURNEY!

## WINE “A”



2006 LITTLE BLACK DRESS

Pinot Noir

France

\$10

Since Brown-Forman introduced Little Black Dress wines, with the goal of reaching out to women wine consumers, it has become known for producing some very nice wines. In a partnership with the Clothes Off Our Back Foundation, Little Black Dress Wines has helped raise more than \$65,000 through online auctions of celebrity dresses and celebrity-signed bottles of Little Black Dress Wines. This 100% Pinot Noir is Little Black Dress' first import – sourced from one of the most well-known Vin de Pays regions in France – the *Vin de Pays D'Oc*.

### PANEL EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS

- Donna**      **Fruit:** Slightly excessive    **Acid and Tannin:** Ideal    /    Medium body, Med-long finish  
*A flavorful, rich, fruity wine with hints of strawberries and spice on the finish.*
- Jim H**      **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced    /    Medium body, Medium finish  
*Light, nice berry flavors. Not a typical “gamey” style pinot, but a very pleasant wine. A great daily drinker.*
- Mary**      **Fruit:** Slightly lacking    **Acid and Tannin:** Ideal    /    Med-light body, Medium finish  
*Very different than most CA pinots that tend to be bigger, more fruity and tart. This one is lighter and nicely balanced and should be a great complement to food.*
- Rob**      **Fruit:** Ideal    **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive    /    Med-light body, Medium finish  
*Earth and spice, with black cherry aromas. This is a fairly bold wine that would work well with a variety of foods. I find myself wanting more sips of this wine – and thinking of full-flavored foods.*
- Ingrid**      **Fruit:** Excessive    **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive    /    Med-light body, Med-short finish  
*Peppery, berry aromas. A nice sipping wine. Serve with cheeses – creamy Brie or Camembert.*
- Mark**      **Fruit:** Slightly lacking    **Acid and Tannin:** Ideal    /    Med-full body, Med-short finish  
*Aromas of herbs, earth and currants. A full-bodied pinot with a nice fruit balance and lower alcohol. An earthy, herbaceous wine that would be good for sipping or paired with lighter foods.*
- Linda**      **Fruit:** Ideal    **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly lacking    /    Med-light body, Short finish  
*A lovely nose with fruit and berries. This was a lighter style wine than I prefer.*
- Bill**      **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced    /    Med-full body, Med-long finish  
*Nice floral notes on the nose. A full-flavored, medium bodied wine with flavors that extended all the way to a pleasant medium finish. Ready to drink*
- Von**      **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced    /    Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Aromas of cherry and strawberry. A delightful food wine – very European style – good for sipping, with a pleasant finish. A good, clean, honest wine – no frills, just really enjoyable.*



## WINE "B"

2006 ACORN  
Russian River Valley

Alegria Vineyards

Sangiovese

\$32

Acorn is a two-person, family-owned winery that uses the talents of various consulting winemakers to craft their wines. In 1990, they discovered some 40-year-old Sangiovese vines in their old field-blend Zinfandel vineyard. They used cuttings from these vines, along with six other Sangiovese clones, to plant on a steep slope of their "Alegria Vineyard". This wine is a single-vineyard blend of 98% Sangiovese, 1% Canaiolo (for color) and Mammolo (for aroma) – all Italian varieties. The wine aged for 18 months in a selection of French, Hungarian, American and other European barrels. 786 cases.

### PANEL EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS

- Donna**      **Fruit:** Ideal    **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive    /    Medium body, Med-long finish  
*An intense nose of hazelnuts, tobacco, fruit and coffee notes that carries through to a finish that has hints of spice. A food wine – try with pizza and pasta with black olives and tomato sauce.*
- Jim H**      **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced    /    Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Red berries with oak aromas. Great berry flavors. Nice acidity for food but a bit hot. Tannic finish would benefit from a couple of years aging in the bottle.*
- Mary**      **Fruit:** Slightly lacking    **Acid and Tannin:** Ideal    /    Medium body, Medium finish  
*Nice wine! A little hot but overall, light and fruity and the balance is great. I could drink it on its own but I would also try it with food – perhaps pasta with a light sauce.*
- Rob**      **Fruit and Acid:** Slightly excessive    **Tannin:** Ideal    /    Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Very spicy aromas. It is pretty hot, but there's a lot going on that keeps me wanting more. It seems a shame not to enjoy it with a plate of pasta – with red sauce.*
- Ingrid**      **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced    /    Full body, Long finish  
*Smoky aroma with a full body and complex flavors. Serve it with a barbecue – or steak.*
- Jim A**      **Fruit:** Slightly lacking    **Acid and Tannin:** Ideal    /    Medium body, Medium finish  
*This wine has a bit of the typical Italian tartness, but it's nice. A spaghetti wine!*
- Mark**      **Fruit:** Ideal    **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive    /    Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Aromas of bright, red fruit – raspberry. It's a bold wine that lingers on the palate. The tannins should soften with 2 – 3 years of aging. A good pairing with mild cheese or light pasta.*
- Linda**      **Fruit:** Slightly lacking    **Acid:** Ideal    **Tannin:** Slightly excessive    /    Medium body, Long finish  
*This is a hearty, spicy wine with big tannins. A bit hot, but an otherwise very drinkable wine. Needs full-flavored food.*
- Bill**      **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced    /    Med-full body, Med-long finish  
*Intense spice on the nose. An excellently balanced, full-flavored wine with a long finish. Very easy to drink. Ideal for food.*
- Von**      **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced    /    Medium body, Long finish  
*Aromas of ripe fruit, plum, spice and pepper. A little hot, but the wine has nice ripe fruit characters and the fruit and spice linger in the finish. The crisp acidity makes it a good food wine.*



## WINE “C”

**2004 LANG & REED** “Premier Etage” **Cabernet Franc** \$40  
Napa Valley

Another very family-owned winery, Lang and Reed got its name from the two sons of John and Tracey Scupny and is a very unique winery in that it produces, almost entirely, wines made from the Cabernet Franc grape. Cabernet Franc is a varietal often used in blends with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, but makes quite an excellent wine on its own as well. “Premier Etage”, which means First Floor in French, is Lang and Reed’s flagship wine sourced from 2 vineyards, and consists of 97% Cabernet Franc with 3% Petit Verdot. It spent 20 months in softer 1-year-old French oak. 432 cases.

### PANEL EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS

- Donna** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Aromas of candied cherries and oak. A very pleasant, balanced wine with vanilla, red fruit and cedar. A soft mouthfeel, spice and pepper on the finish. I could drink this alone or with food.*
- Jim H** **Fruit:** Slightly excessive **Acid and Tannin:** Ideal / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Oak and dark berry aromas. Very dese berry flavors and a good finish. Unfortunately, the alcohol level masks some of the more subtle flavors. Otherwise an enjoyable wine.*
- Mary** **Fruit:** Ideal **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly lacking / Med-full body, Med-long finish  
*A nose of berries, oak and spice that carried through into the flavors. Loved the fruit. A little hot in the finish, but otherwise velvety, balanced and rich. Good with a meat dish.*
- Rob** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** All slightly excessive / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Plum and fig aromas – and a little heat. This is a more powerful style of a varietal I thoroughly enjoy. It needs big food, but the high alcohol makes it less food-friendly than it would normally be.*
- Ingrid** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** All slightly excessive / Full body, Long finish  
*Deep raspberry aromas and complex flavors, though a little hot. Great candidate for rich marinara sauced pasta or pesto calzone.*
- Jim A** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*This is my style of wine. Good fruit, a bit hot, but very nice for sipping, Definitely enjoyable.*
- Mark** **Fruit and Acid:** Ideal **Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Med-full body, Medium finish  
*Big fruit aromas with berries and clove. A bold wine with nice acid and fruit balance. A little too hot but a silky-smooth mouthfeel and lingering finish.*
- Linda** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Med-full body, Long finish  
*Jammy and citrus aromas. I'm partial to Cabernet Franc and I like this wine. I like the balanced, full mouthfeel, flavors of fruit and light tannins.*
- Bill** **Fruit and Acid:** Ideal **Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Med-full body, Long finish  
*The one thing that seems to over-ride other impressions of the wine is the tannin – which could be more noticeable due to the higher sensation of alcohol. Needs years of aging.*
- Von** **Fruit and Tannin:** Slightly excessive **Acid:** Ideal / Medium body, Long finish  
*Great nose of cherry and fresh red fruit along with some sweet oak. The wine is a mouthful of ripe fruit. Noticeable alcohol, but it carries it well. The fruit and soft tannins linger on and on and on.*

## WINE “D”



2006 MERRIAM

Jones Vineyard

Cabernet Franc

\$45

The next two wines – Wine D and Wine E are related. Same producer, same vintage, same winemaker. The one significant difference is the vineyard – one in Dry Creek Valley AVA and the other in the Russian River Valley AVA. The winery is owned by Peter and Diana Merriam – transplants, like so many others who have found a home, a vineyard and a winery in northern California. The grapes for this wine came from Dry Creek Valley – 18 -year-old Cabernet Franc vines, grown by 3<sup>rd</sup> generation grower Ray Teldechi. The blend is 95% Cab Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, barrel aged in 80% French, and 20% American Oak. 125 cases were produced.

### PANEL EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS

- Donna**    **Fruit:** Ideal    **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive    /    Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Lots of cherry and almond aromas. Again lots of cherry flavors,, mixed with smoky cedar, clove and pepper. Noticeable alcohol which detracted from an otherwise interesting wine.*
- Jim H**    **Fruit:** Slightly excessive    **Acid and Tannin:** Ideal    /    Medium body, Medium finish  
*Jammy blackberry, oak and cinnamon aromas. Blackberry cobbler in a glass. A bit of cinnamon spice. Unfortunately, it's very hot – there is no subtleness.*
- Mary**    **Fruit:** Ideal    **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive    /    Full body, Long finish  
*The nose is intense – and a little hot. A huge, fruity wine, big on ripe, plummy fruit – and alcohol. Long, hot finish. Needs food to tone it down.*
- Rob**    **Fruit:** Ideal    **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive    /    Medium body, Medium finish  
*Aromas of black cherries. Liked this wine. Lively, but velvety and creamy – and a little hot.*
- Ingrid**    **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** All excessive    /    Full body, Long finish  
*Cherry aromas. A bright, fresh wine with a long finish. The wine would complement a hearty lasagna – suggest spinach with mozzarella.*
- Jim A**    **Fruit:** Lacking    **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive    /    Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Complex but lacking in fruit. Needs food.*
- Mark**    **Fruit:** Slightly excessive    **Acid and Tannin:** Ideal    /    Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Blackberry, pepper and cherry aromas. A bold wine with big fruit – both on the nose and on the palate. A bit too hot for my taste.*
- Linda**    **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced    /    Med-full body, Long finish  
*Clove, spice and heat on the nose. This is a balanced, nice drinkable wine. The nose suggested alcohol heat, but it wasn't as strong on the palate as I thought it would be.*
- Bill**    **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced  
*Nose has nice fruit but it's not intense. Full bodied with long, balanced finish.*
- Von**    **Fruit:** Slightly excessive    **Acid and Tannin:** Ideal    /    Medium body, Long finish  
*Nose of red cherry, bright fruit, and spice. Silky mouthfeel and flavors of ripe, almost jammy fruit. Subtleties lost in the high alcohol. Fruit lingers through the finish.*

## WINE "E"



**2006 MERRIAM** *Windacre Vineyard* **Cabernet Franc** \$45  
Russian River Valley

Same relationship and story as Wine D – same producer, vintage and winemaker. The grapes for this wine however, come from a different vineyard, located on the east edge of the Russian River Valley. The vineyard has been in operation since the 1890's but Peter and Diana Merriam purchased it in 2000 and planted part of it to Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot in 2003. The blend for this wine is the same as Wine D – 95% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot and has aged in the same percentage of oak – 80% French and 20% American. 125 cases were produced.

### PANEL EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS

- Donna** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Cherry, olive and toast aromas. Soft mouthfeel and balanced. Pepper and clove in the finish.*
- Jim H** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Aromas of blackberries and cherries. Very nice wine. Just slightly hot, but forgivable. Great berry flavors, with a lingering finish. Aromatic and delightful and can age 3 – 5 years..*
- Mary** **Fruit:** Ideal **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Full body, Long finish  
*Lots of spice, ripe fruit and tannins, coupled with higher alcohol levels and crisp acidity.*
- Rob** **Fruit and Tannin:** Slightly excessive **Acid:** Ideal / Medium body, Medium finish  
*Aromas of cherries and violets with a hint of lavender. This wine is seductive – it keeps me coming back for more. Can age 4 – 7 years. I'd have it by itself or with a rich meat dish.*
- Ingrid** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** All slightly excessive / Medium body, Long finish  
*Peppery aromas – seemed a little hot. I'd try this with pizza.*
- Jim A** **Fruit:** Ideal **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly lacking / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Bright and fruity. I'd enjoy it as a sipping wine, but also great with cheese and pasta.*
- Mark** **Fruit and Acid:** Ideal **Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Med-full body, Med-long finish  
*A nice nose of red currant, clove and earth. Big tannins and a bit hot. Could use food.*
- Linda** **Fruit and Acid:** Ideal **Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Med-full body, Long finish  
*Nice cherry aromas and flavors. A bit higher in tannin and fruit than the Jones Vineyard.*
- Bill** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Full-bodied, Long finish  
*Nose of intense fruit with some spice. A full-bodied wine with a long finish. Also, it's a bit hot and not ready to drink yet – wait 2 years.*
- Von** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Medium body, Long finish  
*Lovely dark cherry / berry aromas. Fresh, clean fruit with lots of cherry flavor. A clean, very pleasant and well-balanced wine. For both sipping and with food. An overall yummy wine!*



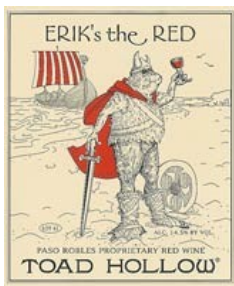
## WINE "F"

**2005 LANG & REED** "Right Bank" **Red Wine** \$80  
Napa Valley

What? Lang and Reed, the house of Cabernet Franc producing a "Red Wine" -- a term that hints at a more traditional Bordeaux Blend? You know – a blend of any 5 varietals – Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. In France, generally the softer, often more elegant wines are produced on the Right Bank of the Gironde River that runs from the Atlantic Ocean on the west and flows through Bordeaux. Naming this wine "Right Bank" was very clever. It perfectly describes this blend of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon. 180 cs.

### PANEL EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS

- Donna** **Fruit and Tannin:** Ideal **Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Cherries, red currant and raspberry aromas. Cherries dominate the flavor as well, with a little leather, coffee and spice. Great complexity – layer upon layer of flavors.*
- Jim H** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Med-full body, Med-long finish  
*Smoky berries on the nose. Great berry flavors, though just very slightly hot and a little jammy. Intense finish with a slightly tannic note at the end. Should have good aging potential.*
- Mary** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Med-full body, Med-long finish  
*Great nose of fruit, with floral notes. I really enjoyed this wine. Bright cherry – a little heat but a wonderful balance of fruit and tannins. Smooth and velvety.*
- Rob** **Fruit and Tannin:** Slightly excessive **Acid:** Ideal / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Very ripe fruit aromas with that wonderful smell you get when you enter a cellar. Further aromas and flavors of currants, cranberries blackberries and other dark fruit. Even better with age.*
- Ingrid** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Full-bodied, Long finish  
*Smoky, berry aromas. Perfect for sipping – beautiful European style – a French wine from Napa.. "Right Bank" is the perfect name for this one.*
- Jim A** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Med-full body, Med-long finish  
*A fine dinner wine with lots of flavor. A "special event" wine. Tasty and food-worthy*
- Mark** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Med-full body, Med-long finish  
*Cherry, blackberry, spice aromas. A very pleasant wine with a nice balance, a silky mouthfeel and lingering finish. Good sipping or food wine.*
- Linda** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Med-full body, Long finish  
*Aromas of soft fruit and spice. Very smooth, with cherries and a hint of pepper.*
- Bill** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Full-bodied, Long finish  
*Excellent wine with an intense nose of fruit, oak and spice. Full-bodied with a long, perfectly balanced finish.*
- Von** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Med-full body, Long finish  
*Complex nose of cherries, currant, fresh red berries, cocoa and spice. European style, mouth-filling, rich and balanced, with aging potential. Long finish carries the fruit. Basically delicious.*



## WINE "G"

**NV TOAD HOLLOW** "Erik's the Red" **Red Wine** \$15  
Paso Robles

The Toad is back! If you don't think "fun wine" can be "good" wine, you haven't met the Toad.

Founded in 1994 by two good friends, Todd Williams and Rodney Strong, the winery's mission is to produce high quality wines that are interesting, at a reasonable price. Enter Erick the Red, a famous Norseman-sailor-conqueror and, clearly an early wine connoisseur. The majority of the blend is Cabernet Franc, Petit Sirah, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Mourvedre, Refosco, Merlot, Pinot Noir Primitivo, Rubired, Petit Verdot, Barbera, Syrah, Counoise, Chardonnay and Sangiovese. Yes, 18 different grape varieties. Sounds like the Toad to me!

### PANEL EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS

- Donna** **Fruit:** Ideal **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Aromas of dark fruit, strawberry, cherry, raspberry and red current. Very interesting wine!*
- Jim H** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Med-full body, Med-long finish  
*Spice and leather aromas. Nicely balanced wine. Rich, with just the right amount of tannins in the finish for aging.*
- Mary** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Med-full body, Med-long finish  
*Nice spicy nose. Great barbecue wine. Fruity smooth, peppery, easy to drink. a nice everyday wine. Flavorful, balanced – a great daily drinker. Barbecue chicken and hamburgers.*
- Rob** **Fruit and Tannin:** Slightly excessive **Acid:** Ideal / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Big, dark fruit, wrapped in earth and spice. Very dry and tannic. A big wine that needs big food. Typical of many CA wines couples with CA Wines.*
- Ingrid** **Fruit and Acid:** Slightly excessive **Tannin:** Ideal / Full-bodied, Long finish  
*Blackberry aromas. Beautiful! Deep and rich, well-balanced. Perfect wine! Wonderful by itself.*
- Jim A** **Fruit and Acid:** Slightly lacking **Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Med-full body, Medium finish  
*A rich, opulent wine. Good for food, and just fine for sipping, too.*
- Mark** **Fruit and Acid:** Ideal **Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Med-full body, Medium finish  
*Aromas of blackberry, pepper, clove and earth. A nice, elegant wine with a velvet mouthfeel that would pair well with Spanish Paella, pepper steak and other similar dishes.*
- Linda** **Fruit:** Ideal **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Medium body, Medium finish  
*Lots of spice. First impression was "wham" -- lots of cranberries and alcohol.*
- Bill** **Fruit and Tannin:** Ideal **Acid:** Slightly excessive / Full-bodied, Long finish  
*Excellent wine with an intense nose of fruit, oak and spice. Full-bodied with a long, perfectly balanced finish.*
- Von** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Med-full body, Medium finish  
*Bright red fruit – raspberry, dark cherry, leather earth and forest floor. Aromas. Mouthful of lush fruit – rich, smooth velvety mouthfeel. A lovely, balanced wine. Good with food or just for sipping.*

## WINE “H”



**2006 ACORN** “Axiom” **Syrah** \$32  
Russian River Valley

From the same family-owned winery as Wine B, Acorn's Axiom Syrah comes from five clonal selections of Syrah grown in sustainably farmed vineyards. Typical of a Syrah produced in the Rhone in France, this wine is blended with a small amount of Viognier to enhance aroma and draw out the dark color and flavors of the Syrah. It aged for 18 months in a combination of French, American, and Hungarian oak barrels, all adding to the wine's complexity

### PANEL EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS

- Donna** **Fruit:** Ideal **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Medium body, Medium finish  
*Aromas of cherries and raspberries – with a slight floral note. The higher acidity makes it a good match for food.*
- Jim H** **Fruit:** Slightly excessive **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly lacking / Medium body, Medium finish  
*Smoky, toasty, cherry notes. A light and drinkable wine. More a party type wine than a dinner wine that's also good sipping.*
- Mary** **Fruit:** Ideal **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Med-full body, Long finish  
*Nice fruity aromas – cherries, berries. A little hot with crisp acidity which makes for a good food wine. I'd like to try this with pork with a cranberry stuffing and gravy.*
- Rob** **Fruit:** Ideal **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Medium body, Medium finish  
*Earthy, spicy aromas. A bit like black cherries dipped in cocoa. Fairly tannic. This could stand up to big foods like barbecue. Light but does cry out for food.*
- Ingrid** **Fruit:** Ideal **Acid and Tannin:** Slightly excessive / Full-bodied, Long finish  
*Nose of strawberries. Deep, complex flavors, though just a little 'hot'. Would complement blackened Redfish or Salmon -- perhaps Jambalaya.*
- Mark** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and in balance / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Light cherry, berry, character – some oak comes through, and it has a velvety mouthfeel. A robust, well-balanced wine that would go well with game meat.*
- Linda** **Fruit and Tannin:** Slightly lacking **Acid:** Ideal / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Nice wine – a soft wine that could use just a little more acidity.*
- Bill** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Full-bodied, Med-long finish  
*Intense nose of spice and berries. Bright, lively, full-bodied wine – perfectly balanced. Excellent wine to drink alone or with food.*
- Von** **Fruit, Acid and Tannin:** Ideal and balanced / Medium body, Med-long finish  
*Complex nose of ripe plum, cherry, coffee, and toffee, with a hint of floral. Very enjoyable wine – both for sipping and with food. Interesting spice, pepper character in finish.*

## **AND FINALLY...**

A VERY SPECIAL, AND ONGOING THANK YOU TO...

*Linda* and *Donna*, the delightful owners of **PELICAN ART GALLERY** in Petaluma who continue to so graciously offer their beautiful gallery for our tastings. We're surrounded by beautiful art while tasting exciting wines. Life is good.

**SEE YOU NEXT MONTH FOR MORE  
WINES TO EXPLORE,  
MORE WINES TO ENJOY!**

