



share a glass

With Us

November 2007



What's in a name?

A lot ...Have you ever shied away from a wine, because you couldn't make heads or tails of it? Well, this article will not demystify the world of wine in one page, but it will encourage you to venture beyond the New World.

New World wines, otherwise known as wines produced outside the traditional wine-growing areas of Europe and North Africa, are typically labeled by grape variety. If we are seeking out Chardonnay from Australia or Cabernet Sauvignon from California, there is no mistaking, the variety is printed on the label.

Old World wines are not so simple, though some would say that if you are drinking wine from a particular area, you "should" know what grape variety you are drinking, based on the appellation printed on the bottle.

What is an appellation? It is a grape growing region that has its own regulations for winemaking. Based on centuries of documentation, tasting and growing, the Old World, namely France, began categorizing grape varieties to appellations, based on their performance in specific areas.

When you come across a Burgundy chances are you are drinking Pinot Noir or Chardonnay, not a foreign grape variety that you are unfamiliar with. Granted, once you venture outside of France, grape varieties change name and more indigenous varieties become prevalent. A fabulous example is Barolo from Italy; the town is Barolo and the grape variety is Nebbiolo.

Single varieties aside, another mystery in both the Old World and the New World are "blends". Most commonly known as Meritage in the New World and Bordeaux in the Old World. The primary grape varieties present are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Based on the style of wine the winery produces, the percentages of each grape variety will vary from year to year, as well, certain areas will lend themselves to the land and one grape variety will be dominant year after year.

So, dominate your decisions and venture beyond the single variety new world wines you are accustomed. I promise, you will be pleased.

Enjoy!

Check us out...

The Gourmet Food & Wine Expo is fast approaching and Share a Glass has a booth. Come visit booth #164 to pick up your Share a Glass bookmark and enter to win a gourmet food basket and help support two wonderful charities – Toronto Rehab Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund.

Event Spotlight

Gourmet Food & Wine Expo -- November 15 - 18

The annual Gourmet Food & Wine Expo, Canada's premier wine appreciation event is heading into its 13th year at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Theme country Chile will be featured at the Expo, allowing showgoers to enjoy exciting Chilean wines and experience an up-and-coming hot spot. Chile is currently experiencing record breaking sales and is the leading growth category in the LCBO. The Chilean experience will include live entertainment, salsa dancing and music, festive foods and wines and an awesome Chilean ambience.

Returning expo favourites include the Food Network Canada Stage, 9 of Dine Chefs of Distinction Awards Program, Art of the Cocktail, Dairy Farmers of Canada Cheese Corner, Connoisseurs' Corner and a fabulous line-up of sessions and presenters within the Tutored Tasting program.

Can't wait to see you there!

Christine's Pick

Ironstone Calaveras County 2003 Reserve Meritage

I had the opportunity to taste this wine at a portfolio tasting for Ironstone Vineyards. It was my final taste and I have to say, I saved the best for last; lots of berries and cassis on the nose followed by black pepper and cream on the palate and a perfect satin finish.

**** Email me one of your favourite blends and the first to email me will receive 2 tickets to the Gourmet Food & Wine Expo****