



Wine Club Tasting Notes

February 2008

2006 Peirano Estate “The Other” White 2006 Peirano Estate “The Other” Red Lodi, California

Every year for February’s Wine Club selections, we try to choose wines that are little romantic or even sexy. The selections this year are the total package, literally. The label is pretty darn hot and the juice inside is, yes, sexy. (I don’t care what anybody says, certain wines are *sexy*.) Over the years we’ve served wines from Peirano Estate, and I have to say I’ve never tasted a bad wine from them. “The Other” wines are both blends – the blend for the white and the red changes every year – and this label from Peirano has only been around for a couple of years. As the label says, the wines are ‘Sin-sually delicious.’ But more on that later.

Giacomo Peirano arrived in San Francisco in 1879 from Genoa, Italy. In 1881, he began farming in Lodi, and year by year he gained a place for himself pioneering vineyard and orchard development. Planted in the early 1800's, Peirano Estate was one of the first vineyards in Lodi. Located in the heart of the Lodi Appellation, the 300 acre estate consists of Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and perhaps the largest single block of old, head-trained, natural rooted Zinfandel left in California. Beginning with the hard work and inspiration of Giacomo Peirano, five generations have grown and harvested grapes from their vineyard for over 100 consecutive years. Knowing that great wines must begin with the finest of grapes, it has always been their belief that wine should reflect the character of the fruit and the land.

“The Other” White – 65% Chardonnay, 25% Sauvignon Blanc, 10% Viognier. This is an interesting white blend for many reasons. Chardonnay dominates the palate, while the Sauvignon Blanc gives the acidity a boost and the Viognier adds richness and aromatics. (Viognier is one of those grapes that if used in a blend, a little dab of it will do ya. Not only that, Viognier is the sexiest white wine grape. Period.) One is immediately struck by the vibrant color of this wine. The aromas of apples, pears and peaches are complemented by subtle spice and oak notes. Upon washing this elixir across the palate, a wave of green apple, ripe pears and peaches, with a hint of oak, lead to a long, totally seductive, finish.

“The Other” Red – 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 10% Syrah. When you taste this wine, there is no mistaking it is Cabernet based. The Merlot, however, softens the tannins nicely while the Syrah adds depth and a little oomph. The aromas of black cherries are complemented by spice, toasty oak and cedar notes. On the palate delicious notes of black crabapple, plum, candied sweet fruits, with a hint of smoky, dark oak lead to a long, juicy finish.

