

Five Great Wines

NOTE: With Zoltan Szabo in charge of the wine at Ruby Watchco, look for some interesting choices that are perfectly in tune with Chef Crawford's style. Until it's unveiled, we've asked him to pick some must-have wines to share. Look for Zoltan's "Five Great Wines" in each issue of *CityBites*. Ratings out of five stars.



OH CANADA!

2008 Sauvignon Blanc, Ravine Vineyard Niagara Peninsula VQA

\$16 ★★★★★

Peter Gamble knows the peninsula. He sourced very good grapes from very good growers. Brief aging took place in neutral oak. Aromas of kiwi, mango, grapefruit, cucumber and limestone. Medium weight with juicy acids and fresh thyme-basil notes on the finish. A very pleasant and food-versatile Sauvignon Blanc. Great value. (ravinevineyard.com or irubin@calibrium.com)

EXOTIC TASTES

2008 Rubaiyat Kosu Sur Lie, Marufuji Winery Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan \$36 ★★★★★

This wine contains 100% Japanese Kosu grapes, and is fermented in tanks designed to ferment sake. Marufuji is considered the oldest winery in Yamanashi, dating from 1892. The original family stills runs it. Tropical—pineapple, peach pit nutty, fresh breadcrumbs and flint. Light to medium bodied and grapey, soft and finishes with bruised Fuji apple tones. Must drink now; try with rustic charcuterie. (pablogarrido@saviawine.ca)

LUXE INDULGENCE

2006 Domaine de Chevalier, Pessac-Leognan Bordeaux, France \$68 ★★★★★

Provocative bouquet with black currants, herbal, spicy, floral and roast coffee notes. Full bodied and rich, ripe fruit-packed, with integrated tannins and a superb length. Already approachable, yet best wait for further development in the next 7 to 8 years. Delivers the same amount of winegasmic experience as many from the Medoc's classic grand cru villages. (Vintages LCBO, #0564104)



GOT BUBBLES?

NV Don Giovanni Dry Jubileum, Chateau Vincent Balatonlelle, Hungary

\$20 ★★★★★

A very interesting sparkler here, made in the traditional way from Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and indigenous Irsai Oliver. Released in 2006 to commemorate Mozart's 250th birthday. Sour yellow apple, tea leaves and dried white blossoms and strongly yeasty, mineral aromas. Full and persistent over the palate, not overly dry. Just perfect with steamed, buttered lobster. "Rock me, Amadeus!" (Karl K Kovacs Agencies, 416-743-6667)



GLOBAL TREAT

2007 Nephele, Terre Borboniche Calabria, Italy \$32 ★★★★★

A really interesting red made of Merlot, Magliocco and Nerello. Vinified in stainless steel, aged for 10 months in new French oak. Raspberry, herbal, exotic spice, soft-cured leather, fig, toasty oak, even salty seaweed/sea shell and iron-rich earth aromas. Full, with ripasso character, integrated tannins and a warm, sweet fruit and spicy-white truffle nuance over the long finish. You can meditate with it, or try with wild boar sausage risotto. (info@vinumnovum.com)

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