

WILFRED'S WINE GUIDE

ADVENTURE



November 2009 Selections:

- Provenance Sauvignon Blanc, Rutherford '08 (USA)
- Chateau Ste Michelle Merlot, Indian Wells, Columbia Valley '06 (USA)

Dear Wine Lover,

Two incredibly eloquent wines make up this month's Adventure Club, the posh ['08 Provenance Sauvignon Blanc](#) runs circles around even some of Bordeaux's finest white wines and the delicious supple ['06 Chateau Ste Michelle Indian Wells](#) just clobbers some of Pomerol's top dogs.

Over the last several years, both these producers have been spot on in the handling of these two varietals. Provenance staying varietal correct but all the soul a wine lover would want in a wine that graces the dinner table. [Chateau Ste Michelle](#), a maker of great Rieslings and other varietals has punctuated the varietal taking it from boring to indelibly memorable.

While a great many folks are steering away wine drinkers from Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc, there are some of us who insist on staying with the tried and true. I am not advocating a conservative approach; I can say that there is a reason why some varietals never go away. Let's return and re-discover the many producers who have never left this land of familiarity. Let us remember that just because these varietals are not the new kids on the block that they just can't be as good as or better than what is coming from around the corner.

Cheers!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wilfred Wong'.

Wilfred Wong
Cellar Master

WINERY NOTES

Provenance Sauvignon Blanc '08:

Our 2008 Sauvignon Blanc offers vibrant lemon-lime, floral and papaya nectar aromas. Hints of lemongrass, gooseberry and minerals—the signature of this grape varietal—add complexity. The flavors echo the aromas, while picking up lychee, melon and ginger spice. Beautifully balanced, this wine combines bright acidity with a creamy texture. Lemon custard nuances mingle in the fruit-intense finish.



Chateau Ste Michelle Merlot, Indian Wells '06

The Indian Wells Merlot offers ripe black fruit aromas and jammy flavors typical of Wahluke Slope reds. This is a full bodied style of warm climate Merlot with a round, soft finish. We added Wahluke Slope Syrah to enhance the mouthfeel and jammy fruit character." In 2006 was a year of extremes in weather. A cooler than normal, wet spring was followed by a very long, hot summer. The weather was nearly ideal during the growing season. Summer fell into a consistent pattern of dry, warm days and cool nights. A cool spell in mid-September allowed more hang time for intense finish. enhanced flavor development.

