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## RESERVE WINE LIST

CHEF ANTHONY PINO

### **PAUL HOBBS, CHARDONNAY, ULYSES VALDEZ VINEYARD, 2008 \$150.00**

If you're looking for Paul Hobbs, you will most likely find him in a vineyard...

Whether in California or Argentina, where he is the owner/winemaker at Paul Hobbs Winery and Vina Cobos respectively; or in Chile, Hungary and other countries where he is a leading consultant, Paul knows that the essence of profound wines can be traced back to meticulous care and expertise in the vineyard.

Growing up on a working farm in upstate New York, Paul experienced first-hand the influence of terroir on the character of fruit, when his father had him taste apples of the same variety grown in different orchards several miles apart from one another. The diversity of flavors and textures made an impression on him and would later influence his approach to winemaking.

As a winemaker, Paul is highly regarded for his ability to identify exceptional vineyards, and for his pioneering spirit in working innovatively with new and historical sites and regions. His success has inspired a wealth of nicknames among the press, from quiet trendsetter to prospector to truffle-hunting dog. Hired by Robert Mondavi for his advanced understanding of oak aging, he went on to become winemaker for Opus One and Simi wineries, and then consultant to Peter Michael, Fisher, Lewis, Catena and others. He founded Paul Hobbs Winery in 1991 and Vina Cobos in 1999. He continues to be a leading consultant winemaker around the globe.

### **LA SPINETTA, BARBERESCO, 'STARDERI', PIEDMONT, ITALY, 2004 \$195.00**

This is a very strong set of releases from La Spinetta and proprietor Giorgio Rivetti. The 2004 Barbarescos are easily the best of his career. The wines still see 100% new French oak, but toast levels have been reduced and the Barbarescos now spend 12 months in oak rather than the 18 months they saw in previous vintages. Both changes have had a remarkably positive effect in allowing more site-specific character and Nebbiolo fruit to come through. The 2003 Barolo Campè shows that Rivetti is making important strides with this wine as well...In the past La Spinetta was an estate that relied just as much on style as substance.

"The 2004 Barbarescos, and especially the Starderì, are the first wines that truly live up to the glamorous image that Giorgio Rivetti has masterfully succeeded in creating." -- The Wine Advocate, Oct 2007

### **ALLARY HAUT BRION, PESSAC LEOGNAN, BORDEAUX, FRANCE, 2009 \$250.00**

Other than the fact that this plot of vineyards borders such prestigious neighbors as the Château Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion, what else do you need to know about this property?

Domaine de la Passion Haut-Brion (now bottled as Domaine Allary Haut-Brion) is a 1.5-hectare parcel of vines situated in the heart of the Haut-Brion vineyard. From 1954 to 1978, the property bottled under its own name, but for the past 30 years, the grapes – planted to 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon – have been going into Haut Brion wines under a cropshare agreement.

That's right. This wine used to go into the first growth Haut-Brion, and now we get to enjoy it.

Michel Allary, the current owner of the domaine, has decided to begin once again producing his own wine and the 2008 vintage was the first under the new label.

### **DAVID DUBAND, GRAND CRU, CLOS VOUGEOT, 2009, BURGUNDY, FRANCE \$220.00**

David Duband has been gradually been making a name for himself as part of the new generation of high quality red wine producers in the Côte de Nuits. Considering his family was based in Hautes Côtes de Nuits (in the town of Chévannes, where his domaine is still located) and he now owns multiple Grand Cru sites including Echezeaux and Charmes-Chambertin, it is fair to say he has been doing a very good job...

### **ESPECTACLE, EL ESPECTACLE DE MONTSANT, MONTSANT, SPAIN, 2008 \$190.00**

#### **98 points - Robert Parker's Wine Advocate**

"The 2008 Espectacle del Montsant continues a string of great successes dating from the first vintage in 2004. The sheer level of density and richness is stunning although the fruit is very primary at this stage of its development. Aromas and flavors of exotic spices, incense, licorice, truffle, black cherry, and blackberry lead to a full-bodied wine that deftly combines elegance and power. Sweetly fruited, savory, and precisely balanced, this voluminous effort will profit from 4-5 years of cellaring and be at its best from 2015 to 2028.

Espectacle is 100% Garnacha sourced from a 120-year-old (mostly ungrafted) parcel located at La Figuera on the northern edge of the Montsant DO. It is hard to believe but until the vineyard's purchase several years ago by the current owners (among them Rene Barbier and Christopher Cannan), the grapes were sold to a co-op and presumably intermingled with lesser quality fruit. I was able to see this incredibly steep and nearly inaccessible vineyard from a helicopter and it is a sight to behold."

### **SCHOLA SARMENTI, PRIMITIVO, "DICHIOTTO", PUGLIA, ITALY, 2008 \$150.00**

To prove just how cutting edge they can be, Schola Sarmenti have just begun to produce this super-premium 100% Primitivo. Made from one of the best vineyards they own, the vines are 65 years old. Carefully picked by hand, placed in little boxes to preserve the integrity of the skin and therefore the quality of the tannins. It undergoes a further selection of the best berries, by using a sorting table, and destemming of the grapes.

The maceration and fermentation of the destemmed grapes is in stainless steel tanks at controlled temperature of 22-23°C for 11-12 days. AGING in tonneaux of 550 litres for 14 months. The rest in stainless steel tanks for three months. Final aging in the bottle for 12 months. Packed with explosive power and concentration, the drinker is almost overwhelmed by the assault of fruit, chocolate and aniseed flavours. It is "in your face," but yet has the acidity and balance to carry it off. The length of finish is absolutely extraordinary. An extreme wine, but what a beauty.

### **ROCHIOLI, PINOT NOIR, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, 2008 \$145.00**

With three generations of dedication to the land, Rochioli Vineyards and Winery has earned the reputation as one of Sonoma County's finest wineries. This family legacy began in 1938, when Joe Rochioli Sr. purchased land he had long farmed. He had the foresight to know that the soil of the Russian River Valley would one day produce some of the world's greatest wines. His son Joe Jr. embraced this vision and today craft renowned, terrior-driven wines built on a foundation of superb fruit.

#### **92 points, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate**

"The delicious 2008 Pinot Noir Estate is one of the finest Pinots one can find from Russian River. It exhibits sweet pomegranate, raspberry, cherry, roasted herb notes along with a hint of smoky oak in its seductive, round, opulent personality. It should drink well for 7-8 years."