



## January 2024 Session Report

**Session Theme:** California

**Date:** 25.01.2024

**Location:** Xara Lodge – Rabat

### Menu:

- Goats cheese mousse, Maltese bread, black olives and onion marmalade.
- Ham hock consommé en croute.
- Spiced beef brisket , sweet potato mash ,broccoli, baby carrots and black garlic jus.
- Caramelised Lemon Tart , Raspberry Espuma , Dried Meringue
- Petit Fours

|       |       | Wine           |                 | Region     | Vintage | Varietal      | RRP | Importer          | Consumption |
|-------|-------|----------------|-----------------|------------|---------|---------------|-----|-------------------|-------------|
| Aprtf | White | Sanfords       | St Rita Hills   | California | 2014    | Napa Valley   | €32 | Mirachem          | 7           |
| A     | Red   | Walter Hasle   | The South Slope | California | 2016    | Russian River | €46 | Farsons           | 9           |
| B     | Red   | Napanook       | Othello         | California | 2015    | Napa Valley   | €52 | Philippe Martinet | 9           |
| C     | Red   | The Prisoner   | The Pisoner     | California | 2018    | Napa Valley   | €50 | Farsons           | 7           |
| D     | Red   | Robert Mondavi | Maestro         | California | 2017    | Napa Valley   | €68 | Farsons           | 8           |

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Wine:</b> Sanfords St Rita Hills | <b>Region:</b> California – Napa Valley |
| <b>Vintage:</b> 2014                | <b>Varietal:</b> 100% Chardonnay        |
| <b>Alcohol Content:</b> 14.5%       | <b>Price:</b> €32                       |

**Description**

Enticing aromas of grilled peach, Meyer lemon, and toasted hazelnuts greet the nose. The bright fruit and honeycomb palate is nicely framed by crisp acidity and rich texture which carries to a long, clean finish. By gently whole cluster pressing and barrel fermenting in French Oak, this Chardonnay has lovely texture to complement the bright palate. The vibrant acidity gives the wine freshness and makes a nice pairing with seafood, poultry and pasta with lighter sauces.

**Tasting Notes**

92 - Wilfred Wong of Wine.com

Well-integrated and attractive, the full-flavored 2014 Sanford Chardonnay showcases the well-recognized AVA of Sta. Rita Hills. This wine exhibits substantial richness all the way and around. Its ripe citrus, rich oak, and lively mineral notes pair it well with rich shellfish dishes. (Tasted: April 14, 2017, San Francisco, CA)

91 - Wine Enthusiast

Sweet lemon blossoms and fresh-pressed tangerines provide the juicy core to the nose on this appellation blend, which gains aromatic complexity from the sharper orange rind and slate minerality. Sea salt and Meyer-lemon flavors meet with white peach on the palate, which is framed by a chalky grip and is very mouth-watering.



# IL-QATRA

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Wine:</b> Walter Hansel   | <b>Region:</b> California – Russian River |
| <b>Vintage:</b> 2016   | <b>Varietal:</b> 100% Pinot Noir          |
| <b>Alcohol Content:</b> 13%  | <b>Price:</b> € 46                        |
| <b>Tasting Notes</b><br>93 points Wine Advocate<br>Pale to medium ruby-purple in color, the 2016 Pinot Noir South Slope displays a very fruity nose of crushed blackberries and raspberries with delicate hints of smoked meats, tar and dusty soil with a waft of red roses. Medium-bodied, tightly wound and with a very lively line of acid, it has a firm, grainy texture and long mineral-laced finish. (LPB) 93+ (6/2018)<br><br>93 points Vinous<br>The 2016 Pinot Noir The South Slope Vineyard is broad, ample and creamy, within the mid-weight style of the year. As is the case with all of these Pinots, the South Slope boasts terrific fruit presence and density. One of the most immediate and giving of these wines today. (AG) (4/2018) |   |




|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Wine:</b> Othello - Napanook | <b>Region:</b> California – Napa Valley                                     |
| <b>Vintage:</b> 2015            | <b>Varietal:</b> 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot |
| <b>Alcohol Content:</b> 14.5%   | <b>Price:</b> €52   |

Produced from the historic Napanook vineyard in Yountville, California, Othello is a wine that expresses the singularity of its exceptional terroir and is accessible and enjoyable in its youth. A Bordeaux blend, the wine is forthcoming with lovely aromas of red fruit, round, silky tannins and an abounding brightness. It was at the famed Napanook vineyard that Christian Moueix established Dominus Estate in 1983. An historical site, it was the source of fruit for some of the finest Napa Valley wines in the 1940's and 1950's. Notably, the vineyard's history can be traced back to Napa Valley's beginnings, when in 1838 George Yount, for whom the town of Yountville was named, first planted grapevines there. Today, the vineyard produces three wines: Dominus, its flagship, Napanook, and Othello. A model for its sustainable farming practices, the Napanook vineyard has been hailed for its dry-farming, which shuns watering the vines, thus spurring them to draw deeply on the land's unique geology. Meticulous viticultural and winemaking practices are undertaken with the objective of producing wines that are pure, balanced and complex. Minimal intervention and restraint throughout the process of grape berry selection, fermentation and aging preserve the character of the fruit. The resulting wines are an expression of this unique vineyard.

**Tasting Note**

The 2015 Othello is a brilliant example of this wine for those in the know: the best made yet, surely. Dark cassis and plum on the nose with hints of tapenade and spice are encompassed in ripe, voluptuous tannins, with a fine thread of acidity running through the wine. A brilliant introduction to the Californian wines of Christian Moueix.



# IL-QATRA

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|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Wine:</b> The Prisoner     | <b>Region:</b> California – Napa Valley  |
| <b>Vintage:</b> 2018          | <b>Varietal:</b> Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Malbec, Petite Sirah, Charbono |
| <b>Alcohol Content:</b> 15.2% | <b>Price:</b> €50  |

## Tasting Notes

The Prisoner Wine Company's eponymous first wine was inspired by the drinkable "mixed blacks" made by the Italian immigrants who originally settled in Napa Valley. Since launch, The Prisoner soon became recognized as one of the most innovative Napa Valley wines, leading the resurgence of California red blends and earning "cult wine" status. Now complemented by a white blend



(Blindfold), Chardonnay (The Snitch), Cabernet Sauvignon (Cuttings), Zinfandel (Saldo), Merlot (Thorn) and a Red Blend (Dérangé), The Prisoner Wine Company's winemaking philosophy remains the same: To collaborate with a family of growers throughout California's best winegrowing regions to craft wines of exceptional quality and unexpected character.

The Prisoner Wine Company acquires grapes from more than 100 vineyards throughout California's premier grape-growing regions, partnering with phenomenal growers who are dedicated to cultivating unique varieties. Chrissy Wittmann and her team of winemakers collaborate with this family of growers, visiting each vineyard site throughout the year to carefully assess the style and quality of every lot to make the best possible wine from each vintage.



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|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Wine:</b> Maestro – Robert Mondavi | <b>Region:</b> California – Napa Valley   |
| <b>Vintage:</b> 2017                  | <b>Varietal:</b> 55% cabernet sauvignon, 31% merlot, 7% petit verdot, 5% cabernet franc and 2% malbec |
| <b>Alcohol Content:</b> 14.5%         | <b>Price:</b> € 68  |

## Tasting Notes

A joyful celebration of all five Bordeaux varietals. Lush black plum, cassis, and cherry aromas intermingle with earthy cinnamon, nutmeg, and cedar with just a touch of vanilla. Round and full, its lovely fruit lasts all the way through to a long finish. The wine has the classic, soulful To Kalon Vineyard structure at its core. This is dense and layered with a beautiful and poised combination of tannin and fruit. Full-bodied and reserved with blueberry, currant and light plum. Some chocolate undertones, too. Needs a couple of years to come completely together. James Suckling 95/100

