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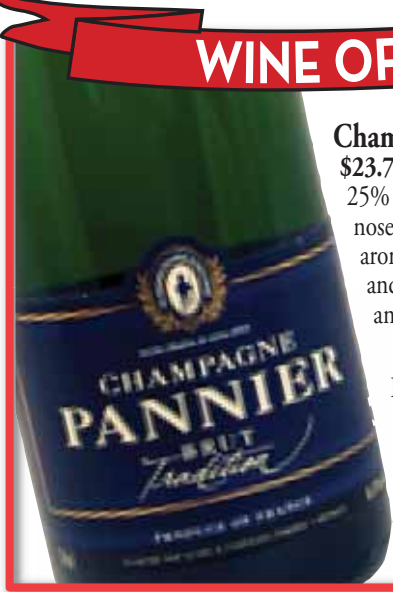
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Early December

SPEC'S UPDATE is a publication of Spec's Wines, Spirits & Finer Foods. All prices listed are subject to change without notice. ALL PRICES LISTED ARE FOR SPEC'S SMITH STREET SUPERSTORE AND INCLUDE A FIVE PERCENT DISCOUNT FOR CASH. (Many items are available at Spec's Neighborhood Stores at different prices.) All items are offered "first come, first served" and are subject to availability; some quantities may be limited. Spec's reserves the right to restrict quantities. Spec's is not responsible for errors in printing. Typographical errors will not be honored. "Spec's" and the rabbit logo are service marks of Spec's Family Partners and are registered with the State of Texas.



WINE OF THE MONTH!

Champagne Pannier Brut Tradition NV
\$23.74 cash
25% Chardonnay, 40% Pinot Meunier, 35% Pinot Noir. The nose is delicate yet lively with a floral note and hazelnut aromas. This cuvee is very well balanced with a fresh attack and strong presence of well ripened fruit. Excels as an aperitif and goes well with snacks and appetizers.

If this wine peaked your interest, try others from the same family:

- Champagne Pannier Brut Rose - \$39.76 cash
- Champagne Pannier Extra Brut - \$36.92 cash

Winery Profile:

TUDAL FAMILY WINERY

by Charles M. Bear Dalton



In August of 2005, I visited Tadal Winery for the first time. An arrangement had been made for us to stay in their guesthouse. We arrived well after dark feeling quite lucky to have found the place at the end of a dark drive at the end of a dark lane on a moonless night. We settled in and the next morning I got up early to go to the grocery store in Calistoga to get breakfast fixins for our group. As I went and came back, I thought the place looked somehow familiar. Another day passed and I finally realized that Tadal is across the street from the old Charles Shaw winery (yes, the name appropriated for the now infamous Two Buck Chuck) which I had visited a few times back in the 1980s when Chuck Shaw was making Gamay and Chardonnay in this northern neck of the St. Helena AVA. Back then, I had never noticed Tadal across the street.

A digression: Even though Tadal is properly in the St. Helena sub-AVA of Napa Valley, it is quicker to drive north into Calistoga for supplies than to go south into the larger town of St. Helena. The "us" above is me and a couple of others whose names will be omitted to protect the innocent. It should be noted that the guesthouse includes a secluded pool, a trampoline, and a massage table along with a fair supply of wine. The possibilities are endless.

We enjoyed our stay at Tadal. We enjoyed the quirky but very nicely appointed four bedroom, four bath house (which I believe can be rented). We enjoyed seeing the low key, low volume, anything but fancy winery and the famous although modest tractor shed that gave a name to Tadal's best known blend: Tractor Shed Red. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about our visit to Tadal was that, in the midst of a valley full of flash and sizzle, showplaces and show-ponies, we found none of that. Rather we found a family making really good red wines from their vineyards where they lived. It was downright refreshing.

Continues on page 3

Inside This Issue: Collin's Column, Deli Specials, Delicious Mischief, Beer Buzz, Wine and Cheese of the Week & more!

TUDAL FAMILY WINERY *from page 1*

Arnold and Alma Tudal started Tadal Family Winery 1974 when they retired from their vegetable farm Alameda to northern Napa Valley. After 27 years growing vegetables, the Tadal's purchased ten acres within the shadow of the Mayacamas Mountains with the Napa River running alongside the property. Louis P. Martini advised Arnold to plant Cabernet Sauvignon grapes on the property. By 1977 he was producing his own "home-made" wines from those vines. With the 1978 harvest, there were enough grapes to bottle and sell on a small scale. "We didn't even intend to go into the wine business" explains Arnold's son John, who took over the vineyard and winery in 2001 when his parents retired for the second time.

Although the Tudals came to the wine business in Napa Valley from vegetable farming, there is a family wine connection. Although the name Tadal is Norwegian, the family left Norway for France many generations ago with one branch of the family eventually settling in Massachusetts. At a Tadal Family reunion in Bordeaux, they met an elderly French relative who had spent her life in the wine trade in Bordeaux. While there, she tasted the 1978 Tadal Cabernet Sauvignon, blind, and swore it was a Bordeaux.

While I don't think these wines resemble Bordeaux, I do think they are excellent, very fairly priced Napa Valley reds that are sure to brighten any table. Here are my notes on the Tadal wines Spec's has in broad distribution.

TUDAL "Clift Vineyard" Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley , 2007

12x750ml \$39.62 \$446.23

Tech: 13.8% Alcohol. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged 28 months in French oak barrels. Inky purple in color with well formed legs that stain the glass; dry, full-bodied with balanced acidity and chewy phenolics. Offers dense, developed dusty-ripe black & red fruit (blackberry, black cherry, black currant, and black raspberry) perfumed with mure and cassis along with gravelly dusty earth. Supple integrated dusty spicy oak, and accents of pencil shavings, tobacco, and black pepper. Really very long finish. Integrated, satisfying, and utterly delicious; lovely-in-the-mouth and sweet with fruit. *Really Excellent.* BS: 95

TUDAL Napa Valley Cuvee, Napa Valley , 2006

12x750ml \$13.78 \$155.18

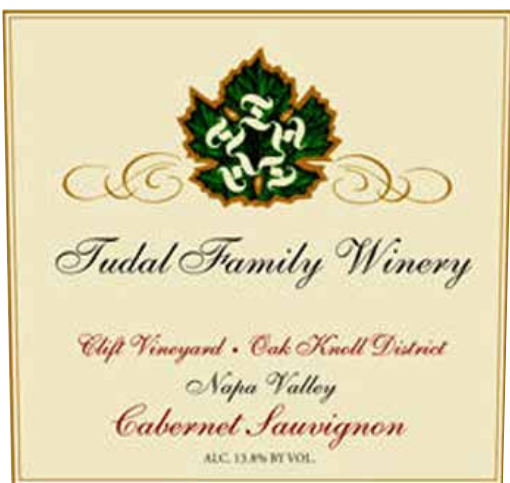
Tech: 14.5% Alcohol. A blend of 60% Zinfandel, 20% Merlot, and 20% Sangiovese aged in all French oak barrels. Medium-red-purple in color with good legs; dry, medium full-bodied with fresh acidity and lightly chewy phenolics. It is lively and dusty in the mouth offering more red than black fruit (red cherry, raspberry, a hint of strawberry) with dusty, gravelly earth and accents of cedar, black pepper, subtle briar. Long finish; lively, focused, almost elegant. Super everyday red. *Fine.* BS: 89+.

TUDAL "50/50" Cabernet Sauvignon, 50% Napa and 50% Sonoma Counties, 2007

12x750ml \$18.97 \$213.60

Tech: 13.5% Alcohol. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in all French oak barrels. Black-red in color with well formed legs; dry, medium full-bodied with fresh acidity and lightly chewy phenolics.

Dusty-lively with red & black cherry berry fruit along with mineral-gravelly earth, subtle oak, and accents of pencil shavings, tobacco, and black pepper; Very long finish; delicious, elegant, lively. *Really Fine.* BS: 90+.



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11 am - 2 pm
Spec's Mason Rd. 3 pm - 6 pm
- Thursday, Dec. 17
Spec's Smith St. Superstore
11 am - 2 pm, 3 pm - 6 pm
- Friday, Dec. 18
Spec's Smith St. Superstore
11 am - 2 pm, 3 pm - 6 pm
- Saturday, Dec. 19
Spec's Smith St. Superstore
11 am - 2 pm. 3 pm - 6 pm

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- Saturday, Dec 11
Spec's Smith St. Superstore 11 am - 3 pm
8416 Katy Frwy 4 pm - 8pm
- Tuesday, Dec 15
Spec's Smith St. Superstore 3 pm - 7 pm
- Wednesday, Dec 16
Spec's Smith St. Superstore 11 am - 3 pm
11990 Westheimer 4 pm - 8pm

MORE DATES TO FOLLOW



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Saturday, December 19, 2pm-5pm
MORE DATES TO FOLLOW

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