

Notes From The Cellar (NFTC); Winepairings e-letter December 30,2008

Wine Spectator 95 point US Cab under \$30 -are you kidding me?

Happy New Year You'all. Just when I thought it was safe to relax a bit after a very busy month out comes this crazy opportunity. While I plan on escaping to the mountains for a few days I needed to get this out quickly -timing after all is everything.

About a month ago we featured a fabulous closeout on what turned out to be our biggest domestic selling wine of 2008: The 93 point rated 2003 Walter Clore reserve Bordeaux blend from Columbia Crest. At \$24 We sold cases of the stuff – I really did not think we will top this. I get the feeling that todays offer will blow it away.

If you are an avid reader of this newsletter you recall some discussions here of the Wine Spectator's top 100. Well in it's "Web Only Insider's Preview "the Spectator just rated the Columbia Crest Reserve Cabernet 2005 an astonishing 95 points. If this would have been included in the printed edition of the magazine this would have undoubtedly made the top 100 list. I am not sure as to the politics that will play a role in upcoming publications but it is almost certain that this wine will be featured heavily in one of the upcoming issues in 2009. So yes this will probably be a top candidate in next year's top wine discussion.

Having just purchased a large chunk of the close out Walter Clore I was given an early heads up and a fantastic price – My guess is the distributor wanted to boost the bottom line for year end and apparently the wine is in the house.

From personal experience, while the Clore is a Blend designed to be enjoyed fairly early in it's life the Reserve Cab is a wine that will age beautifully for many years – I still have a stash of the 2001 in my cellar and it's the kind of wine that was drinking nicely on release and ever since. Add to it the fact that 2005 has been one of the finest vintages in the Washington state and the relative price advantage of this region over California and this is one of those opportunities that savvy wine buyers will embrace. So don't hesitate to grab a bunch as this is truly one of the finest values I have ever encountered.

Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$

**COLLUMBIA CREST RESERVE CABERNET SAVIGNON 2005 WS 95 points!
\$29/bottle; buy 6 or more and get them for just \$27 !!!**

Here is the advance Web only review from WS:

“Ripe in flavor, with a vivid array of black currant, blackberry, violet, black tea and black pepper aromas and flavors that zoom through to a long, expressive finish. Shows subtlety in the layers of complex flavor against a refined structure. Tannins are present but nicely contained. Best from 2010 through 2015. Tasted twice, with consistent notes.”

A limited amount of this will be delivered to me later today after which all additional orders will be subject. Thanks for your understanding.

All the best to our readers for 1999 !

**Thanks again for all your support and referrals, tell your friends,
Cheers!**

Paul David, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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