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Wine Reviews: Weekly Mini Round-Up For December 16, 2013

Vinted on December 16, 2013 under [wine mini-reviews](#)



HiYa! If you're new here, you may want to [Sign Up](#) to get all the latest wine coolness delivered to your virtual doorstep. I've also got [short, easily-digestible mini wine reviews](#) and some [educational, entertaining wine vids](#). If you're looking to up your wine tasting IQ, check out my book [How to Taste Like a Wine Geek: A practical guide to tasting, enjoying, and learning about the world's greatest beverage](#). Cheers!

So, like, what is this stuff, anyway?

I taste a bunch-o-wine (technical term for *more than most people*). So each week, I share some of my wine reviews (mostly from samples) and tasting

notes with you via twitter (limited to 140 characters). They are meant to be quirky, fun, and easily-digestible reviews of currently available wines. Below is a wrap-up of those twitter wine reviews from the past week ([click here for the skinny on how to read them](#)), along with links to help you find these wines, so that you can try them for yourself. Cheers!

- **12 Kim Crawford SP Rise and Shine Pinot Noir (Central Otago):** It would very much like another cup of that spicy sweet berry tea, dear **\$30 B+** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **12 Kim Crawford SP Spitfire Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough):** Take everything cool about kiwi SB, and add a pinch of peppery awesome. **\$21 B+** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **13 Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough):** Long, assertive, about as subtle, but certainly not as dead, as that flik Zombieland. **\$17 B** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **07 Cornerstone Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley):** By Jove, but I do like the spicy, earthy, plummy cut off your jib, old boy! **\$65 A-** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **12 Quinta da Lixa Aromas das Castas Alvarinho Trajadura Branco (Vinho Verde):** Today's sunny tropical respite has arrived, & cheaply. **\$12 B** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **10 Montes Alpha Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley):** Starts in a garden, picks from an orchard then settles back in comfy oak chair **\$25 B+** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **10 MacMurray Ranch Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley):** Requires big boy pants, for sure, but it's all jammy deliciousness now. **\$37 B+** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **11 Clean Slate Riesling (Mosel):** The slate is, indeed, clean, a touch cloying, but also about as refreshing as you'll get for the cash **\$12 B-** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **08 Donnafugata Ben Rye Passito di Pantelleria (Sicily):** Like having amazing sex without having to fork over for an expensive dinner. **\$40 A** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **07 Vall Llach Idus de Vall Llach (Priorat):** Dried everything – licorice, figs & raisins – but everything dried is also damn high-end. **\$50 A-** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **07 Capafons-Osso Sirsell (Priorat):** He's beefy, and he clearly has your back if a fight just happens to break out at this saloon. **\$24 B+** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **11 Reichsrat Von Buhl Riesling Sekt Brut (Pfalz):** Sweet biscuits and pithy lemons with a penchant for startling, aggressive behavior. **\$20 B** >>[find this wine](#)<<
- **10 Fillaboa Seleccion Finca Monte Alto Albarino (Rias Baixas):** It came to refresh and chew wet rocks, & it's almost out of wet rocks. **\$25 B+** >>[find this wine](#)<<

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Solomon Mengu · 7 weeks ago

0

Wow pretty awesome to see a Riesling Sekt here, you are getting braver Joe Roberts & trying what different regions have to offer as far as sparkling wine.

I have heard so much about the Donnafugata Ben Rye Passito it seems to be a very alluring & seductive wine & a good deal for 40 bucks!

I think your wine list is becoming more well-rounded and internationalized & that's a good thing.

Cheers mate!

Solomon Mengu

Reply [1 reply](#) · active 7 weeks ago



1WineDude 119p · 7 weeks ago

+1

Solomon - thanks. I appreciate the comment and the sentiment. I'd challenge it, however; the mini reviews are a function of what's been getting front of me that I think is worth sharing, and I've been including lesser known stuff in then for years. And a sekt was the very first #1 in the very first Most Interesting Wines of the Year roundup. :-) But to your point, I'm coming more and more to see IWD as a place to highlight wines that otherwise wouldn't get much publicity; not exclusively, but it will continue to be the tend and the focus for 2014. Cheers!

Reply

 [Loire Spectator](#) · 7 weeks ago 0

That's very interesting, we will try it.

Reply

 [Loire Spectator](#) · 7 weeks ago 0

Do you have some article about Loire Valley Wine or some suggestion of its wine for tasting? We're preparing a big tasting for our Blog article.

Loire Spectator
5alcolique@gmail.com <http://loirespectator.blogspot.fr>

Reply [2 replies](#) · active 7 weeks ago

 [1WineDude](#) 119p · 7 weeks ago +1

Yes. Just search for Loire and you should find them...

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 [Loire Spectator](#) · 7 weeks ago 0

actually there is so much information... and it is good to hear from your opinions :)

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By leaving a comment on 1WineDude, you accept the fact that you totally rock, and possess excessive amounts of intelligence and good looks. You also agree not to be a douchebag (we love debate here, but we don't tolerate attacks), and to use your superpowers for good.

 **wine-searcher**



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[Losing It: El Camino del Vino \(A Real Wine Movie, At Long Last?\)](#)

MJ

For three years now I had been tracking this film waiting for the conclusion of it's "Film...

» 4 hours ago

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[Welcome To The Icebox \(Warre's Otima 10 Year Tawny, Chilled Old School\)](#)

gabe

I went through a big port phase last harvest. The 10-year Ottima was my favorite. It also blew the...

» 20 hours ago

1WineDude 119p

Dude, you\\'ve no idea...

» 22 hours ago

[The Drunken Cyclist](#) 47p

No power blows, but that is what you get when you live out in the wilderness!

» 23 hours ago

The last comments for

[Anyone Else Notice That Bay Area Wine & Food Trendsetting Is Up For Grabs?](#)

1WineDude 119p

You all may be reading too much into it. Setting trends is a product of what tastemakers do, in that...

» 1 day ago

Comments by [IntenseDebate](#)

Wise Up



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