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Wine Reviews: Weekly Mini Round-Up For September 8, 2014 »

Day For Night (Two Bright Stars From The High End Of The Sample Pool)

Vinted on September 4, 2014 binned in elegant wines, sexy wines, wine review

HiYal 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!

"Why you want to keep trying? You never get it right When you could be living day for night

Live my dream There's no dancing in between Why not let it go?"

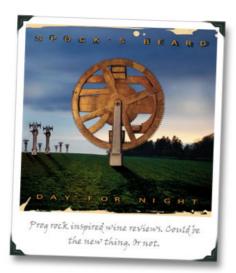
- "Day for Night" by Spock's Beard

Quite often, I find myself delving into the wine sample pool and coming up empty. Not in terms of empty hands, but empty fulfillment. While I'm not shortchanging this wine thang – because I love it – the sample volume is such that I can sometimes open a dozen bottles for tasting and not find one that I personally want to drink over the course of three days, savoring its development, seeing how it reacts with different cuisine, etc., etc., etc.



wine-searcher





More often, I give up, pour a glass of whatever I happened to like best, and go back to things like trying to figure out how to use the word "demiurge" in a wine review (go ahead, try it...).

Anyway, sometimes the fates smile, and offer wines that are so brilliant in their presentation that I have to don metaphorical shades, and then I sort of fall in love with them a little bit. Today is about two such wines, as different as a breezy, sunny Spring day and a sultry, moon-lit Summer night, but both shining with equal wine geek-rapture-inducing brightness. Like the addict who constantly chases after the elation of the first fix, I live day-for-night (also the name of a kick-ass prog rock album, by the way) for these moments. Damn, that looks sadder in print than it is supposed to sound when someone says it.

Best to get on with these recommendations, before I mangle any more mashed up similes (or spend any more time on the virtual psychoanalyst couch). The only remaining preamble is a word of caution, as we're about to enter some serious high-price-point territory (I know you're up for it, though!)..

quick fix.

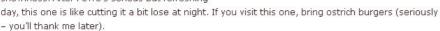


2008 Donnafugata Mille e una Notte Contessa Entellina (Sicily, \$75)

Named for "thousand and one nights," it could easily be taken as about a thousand and one reasons to love high-end Nero. Sicily is home to some stellar

wine bargains at the moment, and this is not one of them. Having said that, this beauty from Sicily's southwest it is stellar, but it's hardly a bargain, though I'd argue it's absolutely fairly priced. This is Nero d'Avola is sultry Persian-princess-from-anaction-film form: lovely, powerful, sexy, disarming, able to also kick ass if needed.

Apart from the high price tag, intense acidic vibrancy, and loooooong finish, Mille e una Notte is the polar opposite of Fevre's Chablis: deep, chewy, dark berry, cherry, and fig fruits, aromatic tobacco and chocolate overtones, and energetic bouts of showiness. After Fevre's serious but refreshing



Cheers!

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