

on Wines,
is article from Piedmont Post.
Yours, Bill McNeill
aka Pierre du Mont

ain dog



Berkeley Humane Society. Now
re. Does that mean I have to live

log mix

y (2700 9th Street at Carleton)
nd cats, and is considered a "no-
put an animal to sleep except in
or viciousness.

e shelter for a modest fee: Puppy
Beyond the Litter Box (a type of
DWA - Dogs with Attitude.

lled Rally Obedience which in-
owing course to do the Ameri-
is something both you and your
re both students.

ar to the competitions you might
(At least, I like to watch them.)
signed up all get to go home with

Skills. This is where a dog is
h as how to close a door, retrieve
e a TV remote control. Suppos-
such services after four 1-hour
well worth it to my owner.

ella, because aren't your owners
-hour workshop to help owners
baby as smooth as a baby's bot-

going on at the Berkeley Humane
ries is offered, dealing with sub-
and issues affecting the dog and

ng fun and worthwhile to do with
a volunteer at the shelter. If your
es together to learn how to take
n to train, to muck out a kennel,
mixture of kibble and peanut but-
ouldn't benefit from that?

ched to the humane shelter which
streetwalkers of the canine/feline

ir web site at www.berkeleyhu-

el very welcome. I'm sure you'll
ll get your tail wagging.

bath.

s and dog thoughts on any pet
Ellen Stern at MSJ312@aol.com
help Abby read the mail when not



The Wine Corner

Petite Sirah – undeservedly overlooked

By Pierre du Mont

Each month noted wine expert
Pierre du Mont features an inter-
esting wine or group of wines from
around the world. Pierre, though
French, is Scottish at heart, thus he
is always in search of great bargains
to share with his readers.

His philosophy is: "Any idiot with
\$50 can buy a great bottle of wine. It
takes brains and good information to
buy a great \$10 bottle." His aim is to
give readers the information needed
to make smart wine purchases.

For years I have been trying to get
people to give Petite Sirah a chance.
I have not been too successful for the
variety is still undeservedly over-
looked. Cabernet has always been
king, Zinfandel has hordes of fans,
Pinot Noir is the trendy wine of the
day, sending Merlot to the doghouse
with the help of the movie *Sideways*.
There sits Petite Sirah on the shelves
of the wine shops slowly gathering
dust.

Well the humble Petite Sirah grape
now has a small band of admirers
who are going to going to bat for it
and trying to draw some attention to
the forlorn grape. The organization
is called P.S. I Love You, and last
month they gathered 29 producers
of Petite Sirah at Rosenblum Winery
in Alameda to show off the new vin-
tage. Though tiny in comparison to
something like the Zinfandel tasting
at Fort Mason, the crowd was enthu-
siastic and the wines were generally
excellent.

The following are the seven best
wines of the event.

(I should note that Ridge Winery,
one of the state's greatest producers
of Petite Sirah, was not present. If
you get a chance to try some of their
York Creek Petite, you should.)

2005 Maloy O'Neil Petite Sirah

This is one of the biggest, most
intense wines I have had in my life.
Inky black color, deep brooding nose
of black currants, a massive wallop
of fruit flavors and a steely grip of
tannin on the end. It needs to be put
away for ten years and will then last
another twenty. Only 90 cases of this



Big bodied and intesne, the 2005
Maloy O'Neil is like no other Petite
Sirah.

amazing stuff was produced. www.maloyoneill.com

2003 David Fulton Petite Sirah

Because I had never heard of this
wine I made the mistake of asking
the owner, "Are you new?" It turns
out that the Fulton family started
growing grapes in Napa Valley in
1860, nearly 150 years ago. Only the
label is new. The wine has the typical
power of Petite Sirah but also carries
an elegance to hone out the rough
edges. This wine held for three years
before release is ready to drink now
and will last for a decade.

2005 Huntington Petite Sirah – Best Value

Hints of blackberries and currants
on the nose with a palate of rich fruit
with a medium well-balanced body
and smooth, long finish. With its at-
tractive label and package, this wine
which retails for \$18 is a good value.
www.huntingtonwine.com

2004 Vina Robles Petite Sirah "Jardine"

I have had wonderful Sirahs and
Zins from the Paso Robles producer,

but this was my first acquaintance
with their Petite. It has an opulent
nose of fruit and oak and jammy,
plummy flavors on the palate typical
of hot weather wines, however it
is in no way overdone. It has great
balance and a long lasting finish.
Great wine for BBQ night. www.vinarobles.com

2002 Silkwood Petite Sirah

What I love about these guys is
that they are from Modesto. That's
right. They prove year after year that
just because your fruit comes from
the Central Valley, your wine does
not have to be flabby and insipid.
This, big firm tannic but well bal-
anced wine is bounding with black-
berry and earth flavors with just the
right lashing of oak. It should last for
decades.

2004 Rosenblum Petite Sirah "Rockpile Road"

When it comes to making quality
Petite Sirah, it is really hard to beat
Rosenblum. They were pouring four
different Petites and each was excel-
lent. While I preferred the Rockpile
just slightly, any of them would be
the perfect complement to a hearty
winter stew. All the wines had tre-
mendous fruit and a round softness
that made them immediately ap-
proachable. www.rosenblumcellars.com

NV Heringer Estates "Embrace" Sweet Petite Sirah

This is essentially a port made
from Petite Sirah. I have known
the potential of the grape as a port
source ever since 1978 when J.W.
Morris made one of the greatest
American ports ever produced from
Petite Sirah.

This is absolutely delicious stuff
with unctuous dark berry fruit and
gobs of jammy, spicy flavors. The
perfect accompaniment to a fine ci-
gar. www.heringerestates.com

Art show at J. Miller Flowers this Fri.

The public is invited to an art
show this Friday, March 30, from 11
a.m. to 4 p.m. at J. Miller Flowers &
Gifts, 4416 Piedmont Avenue. This
is featured event as part of the kick-
off for the Piedmont Avenue Tulip
and Art Festival, a special month-
long event during April that will
highlight artists, music, and fun for
the whole family.

The show on Friday features two

Bay Area artists, watercolorist Sarah
Gross and floral photographer Gary
Wilson. The photos will include na-
ture and floral related cards, as well
as note cards from last week's Bou-
quets to Art Show at the de Young
Museum. Proceeds from the sale of
the cards will benefit the Fine Arts
Museums in San Francisco.

For more information, call Valer-
ie at J. Miller Flowers at 658-0613.