

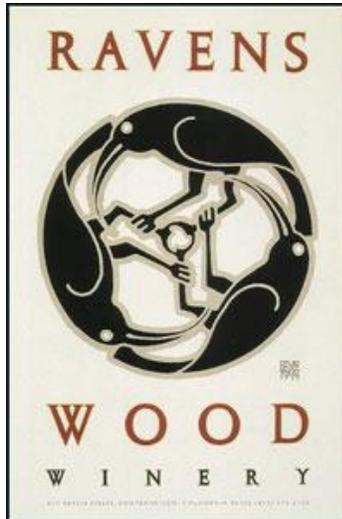
WTOP Radio Wine of the Week

November 2, 2012

Election Day Wines: Non-partisan Wines to Party With

With just four days left until the presidential election, now would be a good time to find a few non-partisan wines to hunker down with and enjoy as the votes are counted this Tuesday.

Here are a few of my favorite wines that get my vote, regardless of party lines.



**2009 Flora Springs Barrel Fermented Chardonnay, Napa Valley, California.**

Beautiful scents of peaches and baked apples dominate the nose of this chardonnay, which is a blend of grapes from three select estate owned vineyards. The rich, creamy mouthfeel features flavors of pear, peach and hints of pineapple. Serve, slightly chilled, with creamy cheeses. \$30

**2007 Two Angels Petite Sirah, Lake County, High Valley, California.** The grapes for Two Angels comes from Shannon Ridge Vineyards, an extremely volcanic, red pumice stone terroir, which at close to 2,200 feet, is one of the highest altitudes for a California vineyard. This wine boasts a complex bouquet featuring scents of dark berry and violets. Silky flavors of black cherries, chocolate, coffee and hints of licorice linger on the tongue, sip after sip. For something new, try it with the traditional turkey this Thanksgiving. \$30

**2008 Dry Creek Vineyards Meritage, Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma, California.** From one of the oldest wineries in the Dry Creek appellation of Sonoma - known more for their zinfandels – comes a delicious red wine, made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Petit Verdot. It has well-intergraded flavors of blackberry fruit, black plum, dark cassis and tell-tale notes of famed Dry Creek Valley spice, kept in balance by sweet tannins on the medium/lush finish. Serve it with a medium-rare New York Strip for maximum enjoyment. \$30

**2009 Ravenswood Winery Zinfandel Belloni Vineyard, Russian River Valley, Sonoma, California.** A truly remarkable zinfandel from one of the most reliable producers in Sonoma, this wine always delivers when I am in the mood for a mouth-filling, big wine. With just a touch of Petite Sirah and Alicante Bouschet blended in for balance and structure, the wine offers up aromas of cherry, dark cherry and bramble fill the glass while flavors of blackberries, boysenberry and baking spices coat the tongue, front-to-back. It has wonderful structure and great acidity to keep it all in balance. A perfect accompaniment with chili or a rack of barbequed ribs. \$30