

Wine Pick Of The Week:

Umani Ronchi

2006 Exclamation Point! Sangiovese

Sometimes I don't want to think too much in order to enjoy a glass of wine. I don't want to consider the structure and the nuances of a wine and the various fruits and vegetables, spices and chemicals a wine is trying to remind me of. Instead, I just want to relax and drink it. To paraphrase Dr. Freud, sometimes a wine is just a wine. Often winemakers try too hard. Not every wine needs to compete for a Robert Parker 90-plus rating and be on the December cover of the Wine Spectator. Not enough winemakers (or consumers) understand that there is an appropriateness to the wines we drink just as there is to the clothes we wear and the foods we eat.

As cool as I might think I look in my tuxedo, I would be out of place wearing it at a casual dinner. Brats on a bun are perfect for the ballgame. Foie gras is not. There is a place at the table for wines that aren't so full of the distractions, such as nuance and terroir, that otherwise would attract us to a wine. And that's what I found so appealing about the 2006 Sangiovese from Umani Ronchi. Sangiovese is the most planted red grape in Italy. It excels in the central regions, especially Tuscany. It also is important to the region of Marche, which borders the eastern coast next to Tuscany. Here the Umani Ronchi winery is one of the top producers, putting out some of the region's best wines as well as some very good everyday wines marketed under the Exclamation label.

The '06 Exclamation Sangiovese is perfect for quaffing, which is the opposite of tasting. This is not a wine you ponder. No need to sniff and swirl and hold it up to the light before jotting down a few notes. It is fresh and cheerful and full of light red fruit flavors. If I were to create a bumper-sticker-style marketing slogan for this wine, it would be "Just Drink It."

To find the wine contact Odom Corp. at 800-767-6366.

Richard Kinssies

Richard Kinssies is a freelance wine writer, director of the Seattle Wine School and owner of the Wine Outlet. He can be contacted at 206-652-1311 or richardkinssies@msn.com.