

Sarah Jane English Wine & Food On-Line

The Sarah Jane English Newsletter: 91st Edition

CRU VIN DOGS has the charitable idea to help our canine friends with these delightful wines. "CruVin Dogs wine company combines friendship, wine, art, and our love of dogs and worthy causes into a wine brand with a purpose. Wine that gives back. Wine that makes a difference. Our carefully handcrafted wine portfolio contains the finest fruit from the world's best wine growing regions. A minimum of 10% of our sales revenue on wines, art, and all merchandise is split equally between [Canine Companions For Independence](#) and the Morris Animal Foundation's [Cure Canine Cancer](#) Campaign. Our partnership of strongly bonded friends brings together people with a keen set of values and a wealth of wine experience. First and foremost, we're dedicated to producing premium wines of exceptional quality from outstanding worldwide vineyards. Offering wines directly to the public allows us approachable price points so that more people can enjoy the fruits of our labor. Our concept of a business social conscience commits us to donating a portion of our profits to charity. Because of our lifelong love of our canine friends, we support worthy causes that involve dogs. In addition to monetary support, we hope to raise public awareness and understanding of the causes these wines support, perhaps encouraging more people to become involved in their efforts. Finally, we celebrate our appreciation for art and its role in our lives. Our labels feature original, limited-edition illustrations by artist Jay P. Snellgrove. Each honors a real dog that has a special story—a reminder of how empty this world would be without the unconditional love and devotion of "man's best friend."

- CRU VIN DOGS 2006 Chardonnay, Dry Creek Valley "Golden Retriever" \$16: "This Chardonnay's aromas are similar to those released by the beekeeper's removal of the top of his honeybee hive--exquisite honey, pollen and nectar aromas. We attribute this to the very special Dijon Selection of Chardonnay in this wine, which tend to show much more flowery finesse than flashy tropical. The flavors and texture echo the incredible nose, with touches of pear, toasted almonds and Meyer lemon." Alc.14.4%, 1,455 Cases
- CRU VIN DOGS 2006 Puppy Series Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, NZ "Labrador Retriever" \$14.50: "Our first Puppy Series Sauvignon Blanc features an original graphite pencil drawing of a Chocolate Lab puppy. The Marlborough region in New Zealand produces perhaps the most consistent, unique and best value wines in the world. There . . I said it and I'll stand by it. One thing that makes it so special is that nearly indescribable sea breeze aroma. The unique flavors have high tome expression of fresh-cut pineapple, lime zest and kiwi fruit. The spicy edge gives this wine freshness and vibrancy that simply like nothing else. 2006 vintage was excellent and abundant so we were able to acquire a nice amount." Winemaker Tony Wasowicz
- CRU VIN DOGS 2006 Puppy Series Chardonnay, Dry Creek Valley California "Bloodhound" \$16: "It's hard to believe this wine is a California Chardonnay." That's what my wife said when she tasted this very first vintage of Cru Vin Dogs. And, for the record, she's got an incredible palate. It's not that there's anything wrong with California Chardonnay, it's just that this wine has a character and purity that screams white Burgundy. Aromas of dried flowers and raw honey are framed oh-so-nicely by bright citrus. The flavor profile simply begs to be studied and dissected ? pear, white peach, honeydew melon, and ginger root -- all steeped in the exquisite floral essences of orange blossom and chamomile. But, really, it's the texture that puts this wine into the "special" category. Did I mention that I REALLY like this wine?" Winemaker Tony Wasowicz Alc.14.2% 562 Cases
- CRU VIN DOGS Portrait Series 2005 Cabernet Syrah, North Coast, California \$26: "The inaugural release in our Portrait Series honors a remarkable Bloodhound named Yogi. The wine blends Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (75%) and Sonoma Dry Creek Valley Hillside Syrah (25%). Inspired by Penfolds wines from Australia, our American version is richly flavored with a smooth velvety texture. I often rush straight to the sniffing and sipping without taking time to enjoy looking at a fine wine. I ask you not to make that mistake. The hue and clarity of Cru Vin Dogs Portrait Series wine is simply glorious! The aromas and flavors testify to the pedigree of the blend--wild berry aromas,

hints of white pepper and exotic Asian spices, spiced blueberry, raspberry, and black currant fruit dusted with cocoa and a wisp of smoke. The texture, it's rare to find a wine so rich and silky without all the heat and fat. The finish of this wine really seals the deal--a delicate and elusive character that's almost floral and always difficult to capture and carry from grape to glass. And, perhaps best of all, the soft tannins that envelope the wine, start to finish, suggest a wine who's grace and character will only improve with additional aging. Enjoy this wine now but be sure to stash away a case or two in the cellar to catch this rare wine in its prime."