

# RED WINE FLIGHTS - THREE 3 OZ. TASTES

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<b>BIG, BAD NAPA CAB \$36.00</b> If subtlety is not your thing; If you think of the Terminator movies as "chick flicks" and, above all, if you think that the best color for your teeth is dark purple, this is the flight for you. The biggest of the big. The baddest of the bad. Can you handle 'em?	<b>1. 2001 FRANK FAMILY VINEYARDS, CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY</b> I know this question has been plaguing your thoughts, WWMD (What Would Mickey Drink)? Who better to answer that question and make that wine than former Disney Exec turned winery owner, Rich Frank. Filled with ripe blackberry, spicy plum, chocolate and cedar, it's delicious and mouse approved.	\$7.25	\$14.25
	<b>2. 2000 CARDINALE, CAB SAUV/ MERLOT, NAPA VALLEY (63%)/SONOMA VALLEY(37%)</b> When you only make one wine per year, you can't risk anything but the best. Cardinales entire production is limited to a blend of only two grape varieties from four vineyards. Everything is mountain-side fruit from dense plantings and the lowest possible yields. It's got to be perfect because they don't get a second chance. Rich layered nose and deep flavors of dark cherry, earth and vanilla. Now on to next year...	\$15.00	\$30.00
	<b>3. 2000 CLARK-CLAUDON, ESTATE, CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY</b> If Godzilla, King Kong and a bottle of Cabernet were involved in a freak nuclear accident, this would be the result. Big anise, smoke and earth on the nose. Huge dense mouthful of dark cherry, plum, earth and anise. Big, full tannins.	\$13.75	\$27.50
<b>MERLOT MADNESS \$14.75</b> French innovation with American development. A recipe for disaster? It's been a great partnership that has yielded one of the most popular wines of the last 10 years and a boon for lovers of smooth, full bodied red wines. The French invented Merlot but it was the Americans that made it into what it is today. If only all collaborations worked as well.	<b>4. 2003 DREYER, MERLOT, NORTH COAST</b> NorCal Rocks! We've got beautiful forests, complex communities, great food and, of course, some of the worlds greatest wine. This Merlot is a NorCal special with grapes from Sonoma and Mendocino counties all blended together into a deliciously balanced combo of ripe cherry, vanilla, chocolate and spice.	\$3.00	\$6.00
	<b>5. 2001 ROMBAUER, MERLOT, NAPA VALLEY</b> As Emeril would say, "This wine has got a lot of BAM!" Cherries? BAM! Plums? BAM! Cassis and spicey French oak? BAM! Great finish? BAM! (but a very rich and smooth BAM!) Grab a glass and kick your dining experience up a notch.	\$5.50	\$11.00
	<b>6. 2003 CH. LA REVERENCE, MERLOT, GRAND CRU, AOC SAINT EMILION, FRANCE</b> Right Bank Beauty. The Gironde river runs through the middle of Bordeaux. Some of the worlds greatest Cabernet is grown on the left bank. Some of the worlds greatest Merlot is grown on the right. This right bank star is has a huge, rich nose which hints at the layers of dark balanced fruit and hints of earth	\$6.25	\$12.50
<b>ORIGINAL ZIN \$13.75</b> Although originally from Croatia, in reality Zinfandel is an All-American grape. Nowhere else in the world has access to such ancient, diverse vineyards and nobody else better maximizes Zins potential to yield an incredible array of styles and flavors. From White Zin to extracted 17% alcohol monsters, no other grape can do so much.	<b>7. 2004 ROSENBLUM, ZINFANDEL, SAN FRANCISCO BAY</b> Saying that these grapes were grown in the shadow of the <i>Devil's Mountain</i> , sounds kind of ominous, but when that mountain is our beloved Mt. Diablo and when the grapes are from our best local vineyards, it's hard not to be enticed. Cherry, plum and coffee notes on the nose. Big flavors of juicy plum, spice, cheery and lavender.	\$4.00	\$8.00
	<b>8. 2001 OTTIMINO, "RANCHO BELLO VINEYARD", ZINFANDEL, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY</b> Behind almost every great Zin vineyard is an old Italian man. For this wine that man was Ottimino Cristiani, the youngest of eight children (Ottimino means "little eight") from Italian immigrant parents. For a majority of his 101 years he tended these vines and is the inspiration for the wine that they now yield. Classic spicy, briary nose. Plum, dried tobacco and tons of deep Bing Cherry flavors. Great acid. Big oak.	\$5.25	\$10.50
	<b>9. 2001 DASHE, "TODD BROTHERS RANCH", ZINFANDEL, ALEXANDER VALLEY</b> Think globally, drink locally. Formerly based in Alameda and with a new winery in Jack London Square, this wine is infused with the hustle and flow of the East Bay. Think of it as a warm neighborly welcome filled with dark cherry, smoke, vanilla and smooth hints of anise.	\$4.50	\$9.00
<b>BRENDANS PICKS \$21.75</b> Brendan is a dynamic figure, often seen helping old women across the street and protecting baby seals from being clubbed. In his free time Brendan works as the Director of Wine for Va de Vi and bakes 10-Minute Brownies in 5-minutes. After all of this hard work Brendan likes relaxing by drinking big, red wines out of chipped coffee mugs. Here are three of his favorites. Cheers.	<b>10. 1999 LANG &amp; REED, "PREMIER ETAGE", LIBRARY RELEASE, CABERNET FRANC, NAPA</b> <b>THE BEST CABERNET FRANC MADE IN THIS COUNTRY.</b> (Too subtle?)	\$7.50	\$15.00
	<b>11. 2003 CASCINA VAL DEL PRETE, "CAROLINA", BARBERA D'ALBA, PIEDMONTE, ITALY</b> This wine is like Sophia Loren. Vibrant, full-bodied, assertive and very sexy. It also keeps getting sexier and smoother as it gets older. This is one of the best wines made in Italy today. Toasty balanced oak. Huge, lush fruit. Huge palate. Perfect balance. Incredible wine.	\$7.00	\$13.75
	<b>12. 2003 PERISCOPE CELLARS, "TIPICITA", SYRAH, DRY CREEK VALLEY</b> Why are Washington apples tastier than other apples? Why are Idaho potatoes more sought after than other potatoes? The answer is that each crop is grown in a unique area that gives it a unique character and taste. The French call this Terroir, the Italians call it Tipicita. Produced by Emeryville's best, and only, winery, this dark berry filled beauty highlights the flavors that only top-end Dry Creek fruit can create.	\$7.25	\$14.25
<b>WORLD REDS \$10.50</b> Humankind cannot live on Cabernet and Chardonnay alone. There are more than THREE THOUSAND lovingly cultivated wine grape varieties around the world. We have kindly narrowed it down to three. We've done the hard part, all you have to do is drink!	<b>13. 2004 VALDUBON, COSECHA, TEMPRANILLO, RIBERA DEL DUERO, SPAIN</b> 100 days. That is often all the time that Tempranillo in Ribera del Duero has to sprout, grow and produce delicious wine grapes. The window may be small but after generations of work the results are delicious and filled with fresh berries and layered spice.	\$2.50	\$5.00
	<b>14. 2003 PAPE JOHANNOU, ESTATE RED (ST. GEORGE), PELOPONNESIAN, GREECE</b> It's Toga Time! From the country that brought you Dionysus, Socrates and Hercules, comes Athanassios Papaioannou. Papaioannou isn't quite as famous as his fellow countrymen but if he keeps making such wonderful wine it will only be a matter of time. Spicy, cherry nose. Balanced fruit with hints of earthiness.	\$3.00	\$6.00
	<b>15. 2000 ANNIE'S LANE, "COPPER TRAIL", SHIRAZ/GREN/MOURV, CLARE VALLEY, AUSTRALIA</b> For centuries Syrah(Shiraz), Grenache and Mourvedre have been blended together in the Rhone valley of France to yield some of the worlds greatest wines. Recognizing the wonderful flavors that this magical combination yields, Annie's Lane decided to give a try. Aged for 5 years, this perfectly balanced wine melds the structure and depth of Shiraz with the soft, fruitiness of Grenache and the warm spice and earthiness of Mourvedre.	\$5.00	\$10.00
<b>MASTER BLENDERS \$15.00</b> Treading the thin line between genius and madness a small handful of winemakers dare to push the envelope of flavor by making wines that are total unique personal expressions. In the right hands, blending allows a winemaker to focus purely on making the best and most perfect wines possible without being constrained by the limitations of variety, region or tradition.	<b>16. 2002 QUINTA DO CARMO, DOM MARTINHO, TEMPRANILLO/ALICANTE BOUCHET/ TRINCADEIRA/CASTELAO/SYRAH/CAB SAUV., ALENTEJO, PORTUGAL</b> Whether random luck or inspired genius, this eclectic combination of grapes yields a great glass of wine. The result is subtle and layered flavors from an amazing combination of traditional Portugese grapes and estate-grown french varieties. Dark cherry/bery/earth notes on the nose. Structured flavors of bright cherry, blueberry and dust.	\$3.00	\$6.00
	<b>17. 2003 DAVID COFFARO, "NEIGHBORS CUVÉE", CABERNET SAUVIGNON/PETITE SIRAH/ ZINFANDEL/SYRAH/ CARIGNAN, DRY CREEK VALLEY</b> David Coffaro is a blend master and fashion maverick. Dressed in Birkenstocks, a tank top and shorts, Dave has been making wine in Dry Creek for 25 years. This wine is blended from the best small lots of grapes that Dave could grab from his friends and neighbors in Dry Creek. Dark forward fruit. Long finish.	\$4.50	\$8.75
	<b>18. 2004 THE CHOCOLATE BLOCK, SYRAH/GRENACHE/CAB SAUV./ CINSAULT/VIIGNIER, FRANSCHHOEK VALLEY, S. AFRICA</b> Are you going to LOVE this wine? Come on, it's called The Chocolate Block, what do you think? Earth and dark plum on the nose. Soft, full tannins, dark cherry, and, oh yeah, chocolate.	\$7.50	\$15.00
<b>PINOT ENVY \$17.25</b> Have the crazy ravings of an unbalanced wine snob caused you to be intrigued about one of the worlds most fascinating wine varieties? Are you looking at the Merlot flight with suspicion? Sample some of the best Pinots that this country has to offer and see what all the hype is about.	<b>19. 2001/02 TRUCHARD, PINOT NOIR, CARNEROS</b> You've seen "Gorillas In The Mist". Now see "Grapes In The Mist", a touching story of making Pinot Noir in Carneros. Highlighting the daily adventures of winemaking, this fog shrouded DocuDrama also delves into some of the unique challenges of Carneros such as finding the grapes. When it's all over rejoice with this wonderfully balanced Pinot and the soft cherry, vanilla flavors that come from a life in the mist.	\$6.25	\$12.50
	<b>20. 2004 WILLAKENZIE, PINOT NOIR, WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON</b> WOW! WillaKenzie's Willamette is Wonderful! Yes, you heard it here first, only alliteration can possibly communicate the depth and flavors of this wine. Do not be Wary, the Cherry is not Scary (guaranteed non-dairy). Volumes of Violets! A Cascade of Currants! Super Supple Spice! Sip Soon.	\$5.25	\$10.50
	<b>21. 2003 D. CHOFFLET VALDENAIRE, 1ER CRU, GIVRY 'CLOS DE CHOUÉ', BURGUNDY</b> Long live the king. 600 years ago King Charles VI decreed which areas of Burgundy were exceptional and which were only average. Even today this delineation can be used reliably pick the best Pinots in the region. From the stellar '03 vintage, this is one of them. Subtle earth, leather, cherry and great balance.	\$5.75	\$11.25
<b>SOUTHERN ITALY \$15.00 -YOU ARE HERE-</b> 	<b>22. 2004 PLANETA, "LA SEGRETA", NERO DI AVOLA/ MERLOT/ SYRAH, SICILY</b> Sometimes kids will do the darndest things. In the case of the newest generation of Sicilys' Planeta family, this would include being at the forefront of the wine revolution on their famous island. This wine mixes new & old world styles to create an ultra juicy, super fresh creation with balanced acids and spice.	\$3.75	\$7.50
	<b>23. 2003 I FAVATI, 'CRETAROSSA', AGLIANICO D' IRPINIA, CAMPANIA, ITALY</b> Living on top of old volcanos has its advantages and disadvantages. As local landmarks Pompeii and Vesuvius will attest to, sometimes the disadvantages can be pretty big. On the other hand, without such unique volcanic soil, the Taurasi region of Campania would not be able to produce such dense and beautifully balanced red wines. Dark cherry, anise, vanilla and light spice.	\$5.75	\$11.50
	<b>24. 2003 TORMARESCA, 'TORCICODA', PRIMITIVO, SALENTO, PUGLIA, ITALY</b> As Zinfandel was being transplanted to America from its' home in Croatia, it was also moving across the Adriatic to the Puglia region of Italy where it was renamed Primitivo. This wine comes from legendary Italian vintner Piero Antinori and is packed with dense dark fruit, earth, anise and smoke.	\$5.50	\$11.00