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Wed., October 15, 2008 Tishrei 16, 5769

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## Wine and Spirits / Everything's coming up rose

By Daniel Rogov

Tags: Rose, Israel News, Wine

For quite a few years rose wines were scoffed, often for being "not serious enough" for sophisticated wine lovers. Until recently that was a fair enough judgment - many of the roses on the market were too sweet, with not enough balancing acidity to keep them lively, and they were often made from grapes considered second rate by various wineries. Happily, all of that is changing rapidly, and rose wines - now dryer, made from fine grapes and given appropriate care in the winemaking process - are justifiably increasing in popularity around the world.

Ros? wines are never meant to be taken with too much seriousness. The entire goal of a good ros? is to sit comfortably on the palate, to make a refreshing quaffing wine, to provide something lighter and more frivolous than the so-called "serious" wines. Rose wines at their best should be entirely hedonistic - that is to say, they have no reason to give us pause to contemplate their complexities, their futures or their age-worthiness. They are, in a sense, wines to satisfy our need for short-term gratification and out-and-out simple pleasures.

None of which is to say that such wines cannot be a delight, nor that such wines are not meant to be judged. It is, however, to say that (with the possible exception of a few rose Champagnes) that no rose wine has ever attained nor will one ever attain a score of 95 or higher. The simple truth is that a rose wine that scores 86-89 points will offer a great deal of pleasure.

Following are reviews of a Advertisement

small collection of rose wines being introduced to the local market by the boutique importer Giaconda, all of which are very good value for money. The wines, from the Loire Valley, the Southern Rhone Valley and Bordeaux, can be ordered directly from the importer by phoning (03) 602-2746.

Domaine le Couroulu, Rose, Vacqueyras, Rhone, 2006: Near-orange in color, a blend of Syrah, Grenache and Mourvedre, this wine is distinctly medium-bodied but sits - almost floats - on the palate to show off its raspberry, cherry and blackberry fruits, with an appealing tannic hint backed up by notes of lead pencil and minerals. Fresh, with just enough complexity to grab our attention. Needs food. NIS 79. Score 89.

Domaine le Couroulu, Rose, Vin de Pays de Vacqueyras, Rhone, 2007:

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Orange-pink in color, this simple but delightful little rosé blend of Merlot and Syrah shows cherry and raspberry fruits on a crisp background, with just the barest hint of white pepper that floats in on the finish. Nothing complex here, but oh, what a fun wine for a hot summer morning, afternoon or evening. Drink now. NIS 50. Score 86.

Chateau d'Aqueria, Rose, Tavel, 2007: Rose-petal pink with a glimmer of orange, a medium-bodied rose with a tempting floral and fruity nose that opens to show generous cherry, red currant and raspberry fruits. A blend of Grenache, Clairette, Picpoul, Mourvedre and Bourboulenc grapes, showing a nice hint of cigar tobacco on the surprisingly long and generous finish. Drink now. NIS 76. Score 88.

Chateau Belle-Rive, Rose, Loire, 2006: Made entirely from Cabernet Franc grapes, give this one a few minutes to open in the glass until the nose comes into its own and then shows appealing aromas of wild berries, heather and minerals. Ruby colored, showing generous wild berry and cassis flavors on a lightly spicy background. Crisp, lively and thoroughly refreshing. Drink now. NIS 63. Score 88.

Chateau du Seuil, Rose, Graves, Bordeaux, 2006: Fresh and lively, a rose blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc developed (perhaps surprisingly) in barriques for a short while to add depth and a note of complexity. With its tantalizing hint of spicy oak, the wine reveals fresh and dried berries and cherries, along with hints of green apples and stony minerals. An unusually muscular rose that will go as nicely with small cuts of beef as with grilled chicken, fish and seafood. Drink now. NIS 63. Score 88.

Domaine du Closel, Chateau des Vaults, Rose, La Tentation, Cabernet d'Anjou, Loire, 2006: Categorized as off-dry but with only the barest hint of sweetness, this wine gets its liveliness from fine balancing acidity. Made entirely from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, and showing red berries, cassis and a charming little hint of watermelon, this wine sits comfortably on the palate. Drink now. NIS 90. Score 88.

Domaine Mejan-Taulier, Rose, Canto Perdrix, Tavel, Rhone, 2006: A blend of traditional Southern Rhone grapes (including Grenache, Picpoul, Clairette, Cinsault, Mourvedre and Bourboulenc), light rose-petal pink in color, showing a tempting array of cherry and raspberry fruits, supported nicely by hints of chalk and stony minerals. Crisp, clean and refreshing. Drink now. NIS 67. Score 87.

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