

AvalonWine.com

WINE CLUB

AvalonWine.com

February 2009

541-752-7418

**Oregon Reserve Pinot noir Club
J. Albin Month!**

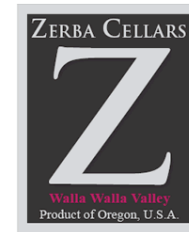
J. Albin Laurel Vineyard 06 \$30
J. Albin Reserve 06 \$52

**Northwest
Big Reds Club**

Big Table Farm Syrah 06
White Hawk Vineyard \$45
Soos Creek Cabernet Sauvignon
Champoux Vineyard 06 \$36

**Northwest New Discoveries Club**

Ana Vineyard Riesling 07 \$22
Zerba "Wild Z" Red 05 \$18



Avalon Wine Inc 201 SW 2nd St Corvallis OR 97333 541-752-7418

WINE SHIPPING NEWS

It's still cold across the country. We'll be monitoring the weather and will contact you if your shipment must be delayed. Air Shipping is safer and may be necessary in colder areas.

Big Table Farm - An Indie You Want to Know About

Fans of the sophisticated wines of Helen Turley and Sine Qua Non take note: tiny independent ("Indie") Big Table Farm is an Oregon winery you want to know.

Big Table Farm is Brian Marcy and Clare Carver's gutsy move to Oregon from their longtime home in Napa Valley. This young couple sold their property in Napa to purchase land for a farm and vineyard in the Willamette Valley.



Big Table Farm winemaker Brian Marcy "learned by doing" with winemakers at several of the most esteemed wineries in California including Turley Wine Cellars and Neyers Vineyards. Brian's multi-year relationship with Helen Turley and Associates influenced his winemaking style: with Syrah, it is big, full bodied, yet retaining layered fruit and mineral flavors. He made wine for several of Helen Turley's projects, including Blankiet Estate and Marcassin. He and Clare founded Big Table Farm in 2005, making the 2006 Big Table Farm Syrah their first wine.

The **Big Table Syrah 06** is made from grapes offered to the winery from Sine Qua Non's block at the very top of the White Hawk Vineyard in Santa Barbara County. The grapes were trucked to Amity, Oregon, and processed in a winery shared with Maggie Harrison, winemaker and co-owner of Antica Terra Winery.

Big Table Farm co-owner Clare Carver is a farmer, and Big Table is very much a working farm. She raises free range chickens, pigs, and beef for local sale. The "Big Table" name was inspired by the long table at their house, site of many feasts using the farm's produce and meats.

Big Table Farm's first Oregon wines were made in 2007. A Laughing Pig Rose 07 was released last year, and more Oregon wines will be released in 2009.

February Featured Wines**J. Albin Month!**

J. Albin Laurel Vineyard Pinot noir 2006 \$30
J. Albin Reserve Pinot noir 06 \$52

John Albin is Director of Viticulture and Winemaking for one of Oregon's largest wineries, King Estate Winery, located in the South Willamette near Eugene, Oregon. John's relationship with King Estate began when the winery was founded. - The winery purchased his Laurel Vineyard fruit, and Albin started working for King Estate in 1999.

J. Albin 2006 Laurel Vineyard Pinot noir is luscious. It's simultaneously refreshing and rich. Cinnamon-stick, sweet blackberry and juicy cherry leads into a creamy textured beauty, with fresh raspberry and earth on the velvety finish.

John may make highly regarded wine for some of Oregon and Washington's largest wineries, (Columbia, King Estate among them) but his personal vision of Pinot noir is even better.

**Soos Creek Cabernet Sauvignon
Champoux Vineyard 06 \$36**

Quilceda Creek, Andrew Will, Mark Ryan, Cadence, Soos Creek?

These five Washington wineries might not seem like peers at first glance. But consider the vineyards that provide their coveted wines: Champoux and Ciel du Cheval. While the first four are synonymous with Washington wine, Soos Creek flies under the radar, turning grapes into purple gold. We think Soos Creek makes the best value today in Washington Cabernet.

From the same vineyard that makes Quilceda Creek Cab and Andrew Will Sorella comes this indie-sensational Champoux Cab. Delivering lipsmacking, balanced, age-worthy Cab for \$36 isn't easy, but Soos Creek nails it.

Wine Club Password Protected Web Pages are at http://www.avalonwine.com/protected/wineclubs_Members-Page.php

User name is "wineclub" password is "member" (no quotes)

For website assistance call 541-752-7418 or email store@avalonwine.com



J. Albin Laurel Vineyard Reserve Pinot noir 06 \$52

John Albin's J. Albin 2006 Laurel Vineyard Pinot noir Reserve is John Albin's finest wine, and that's saying a lot. The 2006 J. Albin Reserve Pinot noir is made from the best two barrels of his 2006 wine. 75 cases were made of the Reserve, a wine made only in the best vintages. Neither a 2005 nor a 2007 Reserve were made.

100% Estate grown.

Fruit source: Oldest block of Laurel Vineyard (planted 1981),

Harvested on 10/06/06 at 23.7brix; 3.41 pH, 7.56 total acidity

Aged 16 months in French oak barrels (33% new, 33% one year old barrels and 33% 2 year old barrels.

Barrel types: Claude Gillet, Nadalie Marsennay and Dargaud & Jaegle

Bottled in March of '07 at 13.5% alcohol; 3.60 pH; 5.50T.A. as tartaric



J. Albin Laurel Vineyard Pinot noir 06 \$30

The Albin family's J. Albin 2006 Laurel Vineyard Pinot noir is luscious. It's simultaneously refreshing and rich. Cinnamon-stick, sweet blackberry and juicy cherry leads into a creamy textured beauty, with fresh raspberry and earth on the velvety finish.

Scents of black cherry, black berry, milk chocolate, and black raspberry are reiterated in the flavors. One taster in our panel says: "chocolate!" and it's there, under the rich fruit and vibrant berry fruit. There's a hint of fresh nutmeg in the finish. Quite lively and fresh tasting, this wine has not peaked, and offers a very enjoyable experience now, and for several more years.

From the winery: "This wine is elegant with notes of dark cherry and violets in the aroma. Blue fruit and a pleasing earthiness balance the flavors of chocolate, barrel toast and soft tannins. A delightful taste lingers on the palate. Crafted from Pommard clone from the oldest vineyard block planted in 1981, the fruit was gently handled and cold soaked for three days followed by fermentation using Assmanhausen yeast.

In a hot and difficult vintage, here's a wine with optimal alcohol levels, delicious flavors, balanced acidity and tannic structure that holds the flavors together into a vibrant whole.

Only free run wine was collected from the fermenters. The wine was aged 14 months in French oak (1/3 new oak; 50% Allier and 50% Vosges forests). Only 525 cases were produced."

Vineyard: The Laurel Vineyard is located in the northeast corner of Yamhill County, Oregon, in the proposed Chehalem Mountains AVA, overlooking the town of Laurel. The vineyard slopes south, southeast and has Laurelwood soil. The vines are planted on their own roots and trellised on a Geneva Double Curtain. The 2006 growing season we saw just about everything: Threats of spring frost very high temperatures during late summer and extended warm temperatures at harvest. All things considered the crop yields were normal and the fruit quality was impressive.

About J. Albin Winery

John "J" Albin has a single passion: Crafting extraordinary wines with the grapes of his home region. Jay earned his Fermentation Science degree 1978 from U.C Davis. He has since served as winemaker for numerous prominent Northwest wineries including King Estate and Columbia Winery. J. Albin is his personal pursuit. With his tiny family winery's Pinot noirs, John expresses his personal preferences for classically styled wines of great finesse.

As early as 1980, John recognized Oregon's Willamette Valley' potential as a premier grape growing region. After graduating from UCD, he searched Oregon and found the ideal property to plant his own vineyard. In 1981, he and his wife Lynn discovered a beautiful site within the Chehalem Mountains (now the Chehalem Mountains AVA) where they planted their first block of Pinot Noir. Their visionary choice of a vineyard site was joined by neighboring wineries like Willakenzie and Beaux Freres.

Celebrating its 28th growing season, the Laurel Vineyard bears some of the highest elevation and oldest vines in Oregon. The vineyard is comprised of Laurelwood and Loess wind-deposited soils from Eastern Oregon. They overlay basalt parent soils.

The Laurel Vineyard site is planted to Pinot Noir : Pommard, 113, 114 and Coury clones. The Pinot Noirs produced from this vineyard have aromas of cedar, tobacco, earth and dark cherry. These are long-lived wines with natural acidity, smooth silky tannins, with complex flavors of dark red fruit, smoked meat and oak spice. There is something special about these wines. They are allowed to ripen slowly over an extended season.

John's talents focus around a delicate touch in the vineyard and a profound understanding of what it takes to grow some of the most difficult grapes in the world. He believes winemaking happens in the vineyard. He harmonizes the richness and bright minerality of his fruit with a classical non-intervention approach. Vibrant complex and a delight to experience, J. Albin's wine reflect the rare insight, skill, and passion of this gifted Pacific Northwest winemaker.

At right above, the Laurel Vineyard and son Andrew on the tractor

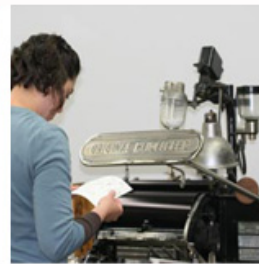
John Albin, a northwest native, has wanted to make wine in the northwest since he was a young boy. He stayed focused and followed his dream, in Washington State and now in Oregon. After graduating from UC Davis in 1978 , John Albin took a job with Associated Vintners (now Columbia Winery) in Washington and consulted for other Washington wineries.



At the same time, he and his wife, Lynn, searched Oregon for the ideal spot to plant their vineyard. In 1981, they purchased the Laurel Vineyard and the first block was planted. A total of 17 acres are now in production The Laurel Vineyard is located in the northeast corner of Yamhill County, Oregon, in the Chehalem Mountains AVA, overlooking the town of Laurel. The vineyard slopes south and southeast. The vines are planted on their own roots and trellised on a Geneva Double Curtain..

Until 2000, John sold all of his fruit to other Oregon wineries- King Estate among them. After a series of jobs at King Estate through out the 1990's, John became Director of Viticulture and Winemaking. He manages the 450 acres organic estate vineyard at King Estate, works with over 40 contract vineyards, and oversees all winemaking. He is responsible for all wine production at Oregon's largest winery.

What a contrast from King Estate is John's tiny J. Albin Winery! vJohn may make highly regarded wine for Oregon's King Estate Winery but we think his personal vision of Pinot noir is even better.



Big Table Farm Syrah 06 White Hawk Vineyard \$45

Despite the fact that Brian and Clare are now in Oregon, the fruit for this wine is from California (Brian does get homesick from time to time). Their dear friend Maggie Harrison carefully tends the Syrah block of White Hawk Vineyard in Santa Barbara County and she offered Big Table Farm the opportunity to purchase some of this premium fruit.

The fruit was picked in late October to FYBs (little yellow bins that protect the fruit, but are loathed by all who have to deal with them - hence the 'f' in FYB) and brought to Oregon in a refrigerated truck. The grapes were hand sorted and cold soaked for five days to pick up flavor from the skins before fermenting. The grapes were then fermented in two lots – one completely destemmed, and the other 75% whole cluster. The resulting wine aged in 40% new French oak and was bottled after 14 months in barrel.



Robert Parker of The Wine Advocate had kind words to say about the 2006 Big Table Farm Syrah:

“Dense purple, with the nose exhibiting blackberry and acacia flower notes, this 2006 Syrah has good acidity, medium to full body, and beautiful purity and length. Amazingly, this wine was made in two lots - one with 75% whole clusters and the second lot completely destemmed. The wine is superb, drinks well already, but should age nicely for another 5-6 years. Brian Marcy makes this wine, which comes from the White Hawk Vineyard in Santa Barbara County. - The Wine Advocate” – 90 points*

Clare says that they restrain themselves (with mixed success) from drinking the 06 Syrah now, and believe it will really begin to express itself fully this fall. 175 cases of the 2006 Big Table Farm Syrah were produced.

The label for the Syrah is printed by letterpress label printer /Inge/ Bruggeman. Inge hand printed each sheet and then hand cut the labels. The labels are then hand glued and applied to each bottle. You will notice the labels are much thicker than most and have a wonderful texture due to the printing process used. These labels are also more fragile than most so each bottle is then carefully wrapped in tissue. The art was drawn by Clare. You can count on the label art of every Big Table Farm being as unique as each vintage of wine.

Soos Creek Cabernet Sauvignon Champoux Vineyard 06 \$36

From the same vineyard that makes Quilceda Creek Cab and Andrew Will Sorella comes this indie-sensational Champoux Cab. Delivering lipsmacking, balanced, age-worthy Cab for \$36 isn't easy, but Soos Creek nails it. The 2006 Soos Creek Champoux Cabernet rocks.

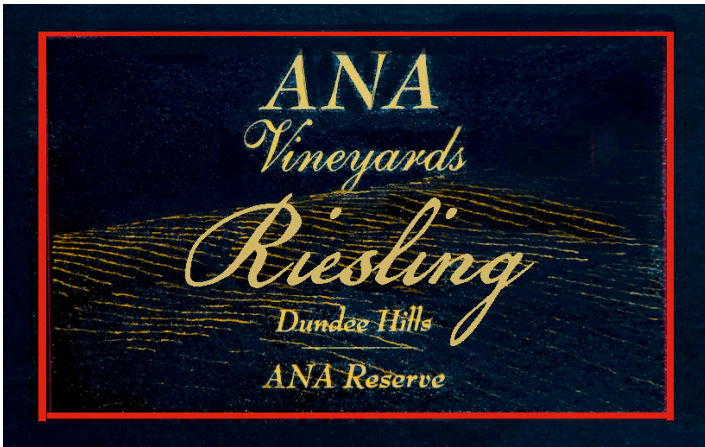
To us, the hallmark of Champoux Cabernet is the big, beautiful black cherry core. Soos Creek's Cab adds sweet blueberry and blackberry with vanilla mocha and dried herbs. Supple and totally delicious.



The blend this year is 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Cab Franc, both from Champoux Vineyard. The Champoux Vineyard is the primary source used by Quilceda Creek Vintners to produce their 100 point Cabs in 2002, 2003 and 2005. Total production of Soos Creek is about 800 cases in a good year.

A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon from blocks planted in 1982, 1991 and 2002. It also contains 13% Cabernet Franc.

“I consider Cabernet to be our state's best red grape and Champoux to be the best Cabernet vineyard in the state. It has the distinctive Champoux Vineyard flavors and character with a nice balance between the fruit, tannin and acid. It is not as dominated by Cab as the 2005 vintage but more in the style of a Bordeaux blend. I think it is the most elegant wine we've made from this vineyard and is ready to drink now but past vintages have demonstrated that it will age for 15+ years.” - the winemaker



Ana Vineyard Riesling 07 \$22

In 2001, vineyard manager Andy Humphrey purchased the oldest portion of the Weber Vineyard, a Red Hills of Dundee site with 28+ year old vines. He renamed it Ana Vineyard. Andy possesses a deep understanding of vineyard physiology and works to optimize the growing conditions to produce excellent fruit. The beautifully focused Ana wines are currently made by friend and winemaker Mike 2007

The 2007 Ana Vineyard Dry Riesling is made from the older Riesling vines of Ana Vineyard (formerly called Adria, and before that, Weber Vineyard). Rich and complex, with a slight tinge of residual sugar, this Riesling combines both delicate floral, and mineral notes with citrus and peach fruit flavors. The complex nose shows honeysuckle, nectarine, yellow plum, kiwi, lime zest and slate.

Vineyard source: Ana Vineyard planted to Riesling in 1975 on Jory soils, located on southern slopes in the Red Hills of Dundee at an elevation of 450 feet, own-rooted and dry-farmed.



Zerba "Wild Z" Red 05 \$18

Rich aromas of currant, plums and black cherries with hints of smoke and spice. Black cherry, plum and even strawberry flavors linger on the long finish. Balanced acidity and smooth tannins make this a very versatile, food-friendly wine.

Variety: 38% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Syrah, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot, 3% Barbera.

•“Highly Recommended” by Oregon Wine Press, December 2007: “Oregon winemakers seem to be catching on to what Europeans have known for a long time. Sometimes, blends can be best. The enticing wiles of this wine come from a wildly eclectic combination of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Barbera. As a result, though no single varietal is clearly discernable, it scarcely matters when what comes out of the bottle evokes seductive flavors of black currant, dried cherry and cola, enrobed in soft, structured tannins. Zerba may be way out there in Milton-Freewater, but it certainly merits keeping close tabs on.”

Zerba Cellars is an Oregon winery located in the heart of the Walla Walla Valley. They produce big, food friendly wines that are popular and ready to drink.

The winery has three estate vineyards in the Walla Walla Valley. Each was planted to take advantage of the Walla Walla Valley's unique soil types and elevations. Cockburn Hills is located in the Southeast corner of the valley, in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. Dad's Vineyard is located in the "Touchet Beds", near the state line. Winesap Road is located in the rocky floodplain of the Walla Walla River. Each of these sites has unique soils, elevations and exposures.

Wine Club News

15% discount for members

The following wines are available to Wine Club members at **15% off**.
Some wines may be sold out - many are made in very small amounts.

February Club Wines

Pinot
J. Albin Winery Focus
J. Albin Laurel Vineyard 06 \$30

J. Albin Reserve 06 \$52

Big Reds
Big Table Farm Syrah 06
White Hawk Vineyard \$45

Soos Creek Cabernet Sauvignon
Champoux Vineyard 06 \$36

New Discoveries
Ana Vineyard Riesling 07 \$22

Zerba "Wild Z" Red 05 \$18

January Club Wines

Pinot
Daedalus Cellars
Maresh Vineyard 06 \$60

720 Cellars 06 \$25

Big Reds
O'Shea Scarborough
Proprietor's
Cabernet Sauvignon 06 \$42

Trust Cellars
Cabernet Sauvignon 06 \$39
Champoux Vineyard 06 \$36

New Discoveries
Three Fools Del Rio Red 07 \$22
Remy Wines
Three Wives Red 06 \$18

December Club Wines

Pinot
Arterberry Maresh
Maresh Vyd 06 \$75

Soter Mineral Springs Vyd 06 \$65

Crowley Entre Nous 06 \$28

Big Reds
Owen Roe Dubrul Cab 06 \$72

Fielding Hills Cab Franc 06 \$33

Fidelitas Champoux Cab 05 \$60

New Discoveries
Matello Willamette Valley 06 \$22

Purple Hands Red Wine 07 \$19

Celebration Gamay Noir 07 \$20

Cowhorn Viognier 07 \$21

Dessert
Chateau Ste Michelle
White Riesling
Late Harvest Ethos 06 \$43

October Club Wines

Pinot
Soter Beacon Hill 06 \$54

Territorial Stone's Throw 06 \$30

Big Reds
Mark Ryan Dead Horse 06 \$49

Fall Line Cab Sauv 06 \$32

New Discoveries
Et Fille Pinot noir Rose 07 \$16

Biggio Hamina Willamette Valley Pinot
noir 07 \$24

Dessert
Matello Riesling
Ribbon Ridge
Late Harvest 07 \$22.50

Pacific Rim Vin de Glaciere 06 \$18

Weather & Shipping

Consider weather when you order wine. When temperatures drop, we cellar your wine at no charge until shipping conditions improve.

Let us know if your order needs to reach its recipient on a certain day. We'll do our best to get your wine there on time.

For help with wine purchasing, shipping, and selection. 541-752-7418.

We're happy to schedule private tastings for you at Avalon, or with certain conditions, in your home. Contact us for more information at store@avalonwine.com 541-752-7418

15% CLUB MEMBER DISCOUNT

Reorders must be for 12 or more bottles of club wines, mixed case OK, to receive the 15% discount. A few wineries do not allow discounting.

Time Limit: The discount is available for the month of the club and the two months following. For example, the June and July club wines are available at the 15% discount through the end of October.

Quantities: Many of the wines we send are made in extremely small amounts, and we cannot guarantee that the wines will remain in stock for the full discount period.

Selection: Members of any club may purchase any of the club wines at the 15% discount.

We've reduced Club prices.

Reserve Pinot noir & Big Reds Club Month to Month was \$90 a month, NOW \$80.00 - an 11% price reduction
Get an annual subscription of \$850 (\$77.25 a month) and receive a free bottle of \$45+ Oregon Pinot noir

New Discoveries & Dessert Clubs Month to month was \$50 a month, NOW \$40.00 - a 10% price reduction
Get an annual subscription for \$420 (\$38.19 a month) and receive a free bottle of wine

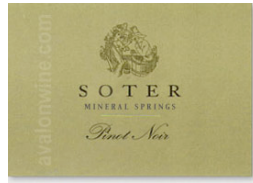
FEATURED WINES

Oregon Pinot noir



Dusky Goose

Dusky Goose
Rambouillet Vineyard Pinot noir 06
\$74.95



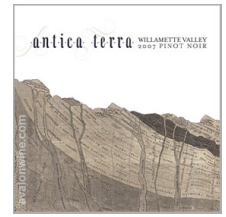
Soter Vineyard

Soter
Mineral Springs Vineyard
Pinot noir 06 \$64.95



Et Fille

Kalita 07 \$38
Palmer Creek 07 \$34
Maresh Vineyard 07 \$42



Antica Terra

Pinot noir 07 \$45.95

Botanica 07 \$75
in case pack only

Northwest Big Reds



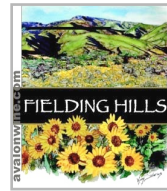
Owen Roe

JUST IN!
Owen Roe
Ex Umbris 07 \$23.95



Soos Creek

Champoux \$35.95
Ciel du Cheval 06 \$35.45
Artist Series #6 2006 \$31.45



Fielding Hills

Cabernet Sauvignon 06 \$40
Syrah 06 \$43 Merlot 06 \$39
Cabernet Franc 06 \$33
Tribute 06 \$34



Andrew Will

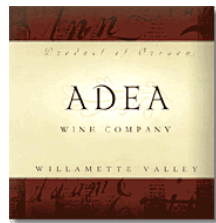
Sorella 06 \$75
Ciel du Cheval 06 \$60
Champoux 06 \$60

Value Wines Under \$30

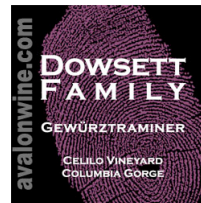
Ayres
Pinot noir
Willamette Valley 07 \$21.95
If there's a better value in
Oregon Pinot right now, show us!



Adea
Pinot noir 07 \$19.95
Little gem from Dean Fisher,
one of the first winemakers
in Ribbon Ridge



Dowsett Family
Gewurztraminer 07 \$20.95
Tiny personal winery for Chris Dowsett,
formerly at Latitude 46.
This guy really knows Gewurz!



Sweet Cheeks
Pinot noir 07 \$19.95
Lots of buzz about this new winery -
Wine Advocate likes Sweet Cheeks.



Avalon Favorites

Belle Pente
Classic Pinot noir
Belle Pente Vineyard 06 \$34.95
Murto Vineyard 06 \$34.95



Avalon's Italian Sampler
Oregon Direct Imports

Ca del Baio Asili 05 \$37
Ca del Baio Marcarini 05 \$37
Ca del Baio Valgrande 05 \$33
Adriano Barbaresco 05 \$27
Cavatappi Nebbiolo 02 \$27



Wine Spectator 93 Point
Washington Reds Sampler \$231.95

Cadence 06 \$45
Fielding Hills Cabernet 06 \$40
Fielding Hills merlot 06 \$39
Gorman "The Bully" 06 \$45
Buty Rediviva 05 \$50

