



The International Wine & Food Society
East Bay Branch

**Wines
of the
East Bay Branch
of the
International Wine and Food Society's
2011
Holiday Dinner**
The Duck Club, Lafayette, CA

Gloria Ferrer Sonoma Brut

Tasting Notes

Delicate pear and floral notes backed by toasty almond. On the palate, one finds lively citrus, toast and apple flavors overlaid with persistent effervescence, a creamy mid-palate and toasty finish.

Winemaking Notes

The Sonoma Brut has been carefully crafted entirely from hand-harvested Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes. Over forty different selections of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are planted on our 340-acre estate in the Sonoma Carneros district. It is this viticultural diversity that allows us to consistently produce cuvées with complexity and clear fruit expression. The Brut is dominated by Pinot Noir, a stylistic decision enabling the complex aromatic and palate profile that this red-skinned grape contributes to Brut cuvées.

Blend: 91.2% Pinot Noir 8.8% Chardonnay



90 POINTS

"A wonderfully drinkable sparkling wine that appeals immediately for its balanced texture and rich flavors."

- Wine Enthusiast, December 15, 2010

88 POINTS

"This bubbly bursts with fresh apple and citrus fruit and lively, spicy lemon, tart pear and anise flavors."

- Wine Spectator, December 31, 2010 - January 15, 2011

Awards

2011 Gold Medals

Winemaker Challenge International Wine Competition - Best of Show Sparkling Wine

Floria State Fair

Grand Harvest Awards

Monterey Wine Competition

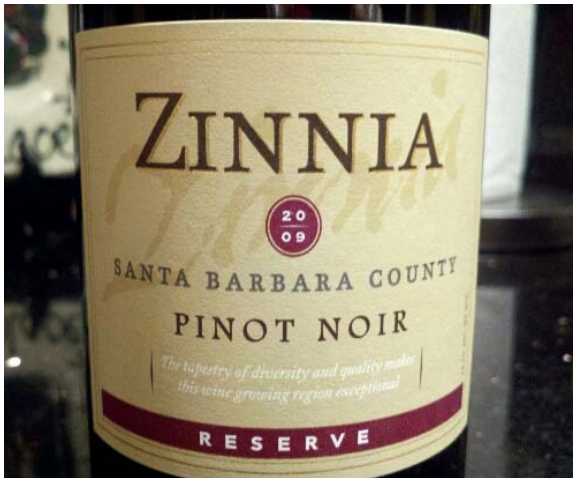
[View more Sonoma Brut reviews](#)

A tremendously versatile wine that is equally delicious with shellfish, crab, roasted chicken or sushi. Seasoning affinities include lemon grass, fennel and white pepper. Look to hard aged and triple crème cheeses with Meyer lemon compote for the cheese course.



2007 Chalone "Estate Grown" Chalone Pinot Noir

Opulent currant and black cherry aromas are accentuated by a light earthiness, like a pine forest after rain. The same fruit elements in the powerful flavors mingle with smokey oak and vanilla notes, and build to a long, sweet finish. Big, harmonious, complex and graceful, this is delicious Pinot Noir with a promising future. Try it with moderately spicy Thai or Cajun dishes, smoked salmon and don't forget mild cheese.



“The [2009 Zinnia Pinot Noir](#) from Santa Barbara County is brimming with wonderful ripe strawberry and blueberry flavors. This one just wraps up the palate with a stunning amount of true varietal character. It is a must buy.” Wilfred Wong

[BevMo’s Wilfred Wong: Top Ten Wines of 2011](#)

#4. 2010 Zinnia Santa Barbara County Reserve Pinot Noir



This Pinot Noir is the result of a partnership between Testarossa Winery and BevMo. While Wilfred might be a tiny bit biased on the scoring of this wine given the fact that he had quite a hand in its making, he made a point of telling us that this wine is actually a favorite of many of the wine specialists in the BevMo stores.





Beringer 'Private Reserve' Chardonnay 2009

Wine Spectator 93

WS TOP 100 2011 Rank 40

"A very classy wine that combines rich, layered, complex fruit with a sense of delicacy and finesse. Full-bodied, but not heavy, offering detailed fig, melon, apple and spice. What's most impressive is the texture and length, with flavors continuing to develop. Drink now through 2015. 12,500 cases made."

Robert Parker 93

"The 2009 Chardonnay Private Reserve, which comes primarily from Napa's Gamble Ranch site, is a bigger, richer, more nutty-styled Chardonnay revealing tropical fruit, butter, brioche and hazelnut characteristics. They backed off the oak in this cuvee, which results in more fruit, interest and personality."

Stephen Tazer 91

"Bright, pale, green-tinged yellow. Precise aromas of stone fruits and wild herbs lifted by floral and rocky nuances.

Broad, rich and nicely dry, with a hint of leesy complexity to the stone fruit flavors. Captivating minerality gives finesse to this attractive, plump wine."

Vintage and Vineyards

The 2009 growing season was marked by a mild season overall. Light spring rains gave way to a serene, warm summer. Overall yields were on the smaller side, making for intense varietal characteristics and flavor development immediately evident at harvest. Beringer's northernmost Chardonnay vineyard and the primary source of the 2009 Private Reserve Chardonnay, Gamble Ranch, is located near the town of Yountville where daytime temperatures slowly climb as the cooling morning fog recedes south to San Pablo Bay. This significant diurnal shift allows the grapes to maintain their acidity, which is essential to balancing the ripe, rich flavors they develop during warm afternoons. Grapes for the 2009 Private Reserve Chardonnay were harvested between September 4th and September 30th.

Winemaking

Each Chardonnay lot was kept separate throughout the aging process. After sending the fruit directly to press, winemaker Laurie Hook fermented the juice in French oak barrels (76% new) to enhance the natural richness in the wine. Weekly lees stirring enhanced the toasty notes, and integrated the oak flavors for an overall balance. All of the wines were put through malolactic fermentation to encourage a lush creaminess. After 9 months aging, Laurie chose the most expressive lots and blended them to create a richly layered wine with aromas of crème brulee and rich citrus and fruit flavors.

Laurie's Tasting Notes

Aromas of butterscotch, lemon curd, and toasted almonds evolve into rich tropical flavors. The rich, luscious mouthfeel is elegantly balanced by bright citrus notes.

1996 Château Poujeaux

Wine Spectator: “Bubbling over with blackberry, cherry and spice, with a hint of coconut. Full-bodied and chewy, yet refined and well manicured. A silky texture that goes on and on. Big and tannic wine. A super effort from Poujeaux. Best after 2001. 90 points

Château Poujeaux is a fine Cru Bourgeois estate located in [Moulis](#), one of the two lesser communes of the Médoc where no classed growth properties are to be found. The commune of Poujeaux is where the best properties in Moulis are located, and many would regard Château Poujeaux and [Château Chasse-Spleen](#) as the leaders in this small locality.



The history of Château Poujeaux can be traced back to the 16th Century when what was then called La Salle de Poujeaux was under the ownership of Gaston De L'Isle, who also owned [Château Latour](#) and was responsible for the construction of the impressive, turreted [Château de la Rivière](#). Over the years that followed there were several new owners, including Marquis François-Etienne de Brassier, who also owned [Château Beychevelle](#). In 1806 it was purchased by M Castaing; the Castaing family were in tenure at the time of the [1855 classification](#), and like many other properties - such as [Chasse-Spleen](#) again - Poujeaux was not ranked among the classed growths. With the passing of the estate to the next generation Poujeaux was divided among three siblings, and was not reunited until the 20th Century when it came into

the hands of the Theil family.

François Theil purchased one third of the original estate in 1921, and his son Jean Theil was successful in bringing the three portions together once more. In 1932 the property was highly ranked in the [Cru Bourgeois classification](#), and this remained the case with the ill-fated 2003 revision in which Poujeaux was designated a Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel, an exalted but short lived ranking which lasted only until the whole classification was annulled in late 2007, following a successful legal challenge. The Theil family remained in charge during this administrative fumbling, but in the same year the classification met its end there were rumours that they were ready to sell. In February 2008 the deal was finalised, and Poujeaux came into the ownership of Philippe Cuvelier, a Parisian businessman who had already experienced viticultural success since acquiring

[Clos Fourtet](#), in St Emilion, in 2001. And so Jean Theil's sons François, Jean-Pierre and Philippe, who as heads of the *Société Anonyme Jean Theil* had overseen an expansion in area under vine, investment in new temperature-controlled cellar equipment and the acquisition of numerous new oak barrels, handed the reins over to Cuvelier's son Mathieu.

There are now 52 hectares of vineyards at Château Poujeaux, it having increased in area by 10 hectares in recent years, on the Gunzian gravel that surrounds Grand Poujeaux and is found throughout the Médoc. The vines are 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Average vine age is 35 years, and they are planted at a density of 10000 vines/ha. Harvest is manual and fermentation is temperature-controlled with a maceration of up to 28 days. The wine then spends up to one year in oak, of which 50% is new each year. Clarification is by racking and an egg-white fining, but there is no filtration. The result is the *grand vin* **Château Poujeaux**, with about 30000 cases produced per year. There is also a second wine, **La Salle de Poujeaux**.

Château Poujeaux (Moulis) 1996: Showing a little early maturity, but still plenty of ruddy pigment here, and a good depth of colour too. A little reticent on the nose, quiet and withdrawn, but when it does speak its voice is one of earthy, macerated fruit, later delineating to give a more classic, stony profile. On the palate a firm structure, much more apparent than the fruit or flavour at the moment, although there are pleasurable notes of peppery, berry fruit. Grippy midpalate and finish. It has a meaty, slightly beefy style which will further improve in the cellar, and after a few hours it begins to show a little of the freshness, direction and poise that is so desirable. Overall a little reticent still, I suspect this needs 3-4 more years before it is *à point*. From a [1996 Cru Bourgeois](#) tasting. (April 2007)17+/20

K&L review: Poujeaux can definitely be considered one of the best and most consistent price-performers in Bordeaux. We tasted the '96 in a staff tasting a week after we finished our winter buying trip through France with a bottle of the highly-pointed 1995 vintage (92 from the Spectator). At this point we believe the '96 is showing better. It's dark, rich, well-balanced, and tasty. The wine will provide delicious drinking for several years. The legend of Poujeaux dates back to the 16th century, when it was started as an offshoot of Chateau Latour. Bordeaux historians retell the story of how Baron Elie de Rothschild mistook the 1953 Poujeaux for her own Lafite!

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http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9ntg7_webjaja-chateau-gressier-grand-pouj_lifestyle



2003 Fonseca Vintage Port

96 points, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

October 2005

...exhibits a nose of profound depth. Its sweet black mass of dark fruit and spice aromas leads to a character of immense depth, richness, and weight. Full-bodied, viscous, and almost impenetrable, this dense, backward port is powerful and exceptionally long in the finish. Possibly the most masculine Fonseca I've ever encountered, it coats the taster's palate with licorice, jammy black fruits, and notes of chocolate that last for over a minute...blockbuster...

97 points, Stephen Tanzer's IWC

February 2006

Saturated deep ruby. Brooding, reticent nose of cassis and kirsch; there's nothing cooked about this one! Then massive, sweet and superrich in the mouth; explodes with exotic ripeness. Intriguing note of graphite. This coats every nook and cranny of the palate and clings and builds on the back end in a way that no other wine of this vintage can match. Huge, sexy and wonderfully lush Fonseca, built for the long haul. As impressive as the best 2000s, and, along with the Quinta do Noval Nacional, is an early candidate for port of the 2003 vintage.

96 points, Wine Spectator

July 2006

Lots of grape and raisin on the nose. Full-bodied, chewy and lightly sweet. Serious concentration, with lots of grip on the finish. Just what to expect from a young Vintage Port. Best after 2012. 12,000 cases made.

About Fonseca

Renowned as one of the great Port producers, Fonseca's vintage wine is among the best in virtually every widely declared vintage. Fonseca vintage ports are renowned for their great fruit richness and voluptuousness, and, while powerful and mouthfilling, for their breed and balance. In the context of each vintage, they combine the tannic dimension and "grip" which give great port its longevity with the structure and complexity that are Fonseca's hallmark. Among the Douro's first growths, Fonseca Vintage Port is clearly the "Pétras" of Port.

<http://www.fonseca.pt/pdf/Classic/F2003.pdf>