



## Dunn with Wine | A Bottle of Wine Begs to Be Shared

Dan Dunn | September 2016



Oregon's Willamette Valley is filthy with great dirt, from some of the deepest deposits of fertile alluvial soil on the planet to fine and nutrient rich loess to volcanic Jory that imbues the region's Pinot Noir with its signature spiciness. Soil, I should point out, is key to the process known as growing stuff, which in turn is one of the main components of winemaking. Indeed, in the absence of grown stuff—in this case, grapes— wine tends to lack structure and complexity.

Willamette is home to some of the top winemakers in the U.S., among them Tony Soter of Soter Vineyards. His delightful North Valley Pinot Noir kicks off this month's batch of reviews...



### **Peterson Bradford Mountain Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2012, Dry Creek Valley (\$40)**

Peterson has been producing quality wines in the Dry Creek Valley for a quarter century, and proudly embraces the philosophy of "zero manipulation," which they've described as using the gentlest winemaking techniques possible to maximize flavors, aromatics and the original essence of the wine.

This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (80%), Merlot (10%), Cabernet Franc (7%) and Petit Verdot (3%) is a big wine that makes a great companion for savory prime rib — it's got

nice minerality tinged with spiciness and mocha. Let it rest a few years and it'll really deliver.

**Mazzocco Reserve Smith Orchard Zinfandel 2013, Dry Creek Valley (\$52)**



Mazzocco is known for its sumptuous Zinfandels, made from fruit grown at some of the most picturesque mountain vineyards in all of Sonoma County. Indeed, winemaker Antoine Favero is likely to appear on most oenophiles' short lists of the most skilled Zinfandel producers in California (including mine).

The 2013 Smith Orchard Zin is a dignified, terroir-driven, bold red with notes of dusty flowers, licorice and coffee.

<http://californiawineryadvisor.com/dunn-with-wine-a-bottle-of-wine-begs-to-be-shared/>