

Preston's Point-of-View...

Quincy Steele Tasting...September 2011

Every so often I'm invited to lunch when a winemaker comes to town to taste some wines. Michael Kerivan, the venerable gatekeeper at Harrah's Steakhouse in Reno for the past quarter century and I sat down with Quincy Steele, son of Jed and Bill Shaw, from Wirtz Beverage, to try some of the latest offerings.

My Notes:

The *Writer's Block* label has been around about a decade, something Jed and Quincy developed together. The *'10 Roussanne* was our first offering. Lake County grapes, a delicious, elegant wine with a floral nose, summer fruit and a little spice. Light mouth texture with a slight acidity that brings it to a light, dry finish. I like this wine.

The *'09 Steele Chardonnay* combines several appellations. Fruit from the central coast up to Mendocino County in California makes this a well balanced wine. The nose was had a light, toasty smell with apple spices. In the mouth, nice texture with tropical fruits and a medium citrus finish. One of their signature wines and always solid.

Writer's Block '09 Pinot Noir from Santa Barbara County has its own character. A bit darker than a typical burgundy with dark berry and slight earth aromas, some spice and molasses noticeable. The texture is medium bodied in your mouth and the flavors show cherry and nutmeg. It finishes with a slight tannin pop. Very drinkable.

Writer's Block '08 Syrah was my favorite. The grapes were from Lake County and the flavors started exploding from the first whiff. Spices, citrus, berries...a smoky richness. The mouth feel was velvet with a coffee-richness, a mineral dryness and a little pop of pepper at the finish...yes, a Shakespearean wine to be!

Steele '07 Pacini Vineyard Zinfandel from Mendocino County was chewy and full of flavors and spice. The mouth feel was solid and there was a hint of savory and a nice nip and chocolate finish. Bring on the BBQ!

'08 Steele Red Hills Cabernet Sauvignon are grapes from Lake County. The wine was fruit forward with some spice, a little tobacco perhaps and a good mouth feel. The French oak aging gives a rich quality and not overwhelming tannins. A respectable Cab...

Thanks Quincy and Bill....good wine with good friends. My regards to Jed...I remember the pony tail!