

SELECTION.

It's time again for our annual *Imbibe Top 100 Wines* catalog. This edition includes the most over-achieving wines we have tasted this last year - because there is no challenge in telling you about a great wine that retails at \$75 or \$100. Even more, we wonder what good there is in telling you about a wine that has been sold out for months, like most of the wines you'll find on The Wine Spectator's 2009 Top 100 List. Published in November, you'd be lucky to purchase 10% of the wines on that list anywhere in the nation now.

As in previous years, we've tasted well over three thousand wines throughout 2009. Less than 3% of them make it to the shelves of Imbibe; and only 5% of those selections make this list.

Use this list as a guide for your buying decisions. You may disagree with our selections; but as we have said before, we'll be here to debate the merits of any product on the list - and we'll stand behind our recommendations. Other outstanding wines we tasted this last year are not on this list because they are produced in such limited quantity that we cannot ensure that they will be available over the next months. We don't think these are the only wines that are excellent values - our suppliers present new wines to us every week - but we've covered a lot of bases here. And if you can't find a wine here that is interesting to you, we'll take that as a challenge. Let us know what you're looking for, and we'll turn it into a quest. We thrive on talking about wine. We're grateful for the following that this list garners around the country since we began publishing a Top 100 back in 2003, and we're proud that we deliver wines that consistently outperform their price point - often before the mainstream press and retailers discover them. We hope you enjoy the treasures you find on this year's list.

SEQUUM

FOUR SOIL MELANGE



CABERNET SAUVIGNON

NAPA VALLEY

SEQUUM: A VERTICAL SEQUENCE OF RELATED SOIL LAYERS

VINTAGE	SEQUENCE			
2006	BRESSA	CORTINA	AIKEN	BALE
ALC. 14.9% BY VOL.				

David, Tamera and the Imbibe Team

2006 SEQUUM CABERNET SAUVIGNON FOUR SOIL MELANGE NAPA VALLEY

\$39.99

I first tasted the wines of Sequum back in 2005 and I knew then that this was one very special producer. Back in those days, I would get three six-packs of Paul's wine. Over the years I have been lucky enough to get much more. (Thanks Paul!) Owner Paul Skinner is the proprietor of Terra Spase, a consulting service that offers advice on what grapes to plant where. Sequum (pronounced SEE-kwam) is the geological term for a vertical sequence of soil layers. His past and present client list reads like a who's who of California's most sought after labels. Pride, Bryant Family, Marcassin, Caymus, Colgin, Araujo, Kistler, Harlan Estate, Staglin, Peter Michael and Sloan, among others, all trust Paul's knowledge. Paul's cab is a blend of grapes from four distinct soils: Ailen, Bale, Bressa and Contina. He says most growers don't have access to these four types of soils. The resulting wine is bold and opulent with savory flavors and ample tannins. #1

This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon has aromas of ripe blackberry, kirsch and raspberry; flavors of lush dried cherry and forest floor notes. This bottle has fruit from the same vineyards that Caymus purchases from for their Special Select bottling. We sold over sixty cases of his 2005 Cabernet last year and we like the 2006 even more. This is without question the best Cabernet in our store under seventy-five bucks. Sequum also produces a Zinfandel that made our list as well. Look for both these wines, they won't last long.

~David