

# Ben Weinberg's review of 2007 Napa Station Sauvignon Blanc

## Weinberg's Wine Notes #48 - Wine Charity

We're in tough times for many people - financial markets melting, homes under water both literally and figuratively. All of us will be tightening our collective belts for some time to come. Which is why I find it so remarkable that so many people are ready and willing to contribute to worthy causes. It seems that the less people have, the more they want to give. And that's very heartwarming.

The reason I'm saying all of this is that on Saturday night, May 9th, 2009, from 6-8 p.m. is Maya & Leah's Night, a charity wine tasting and silent auction, 100 percent of the proceeds to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver and the Children's Hospital Brain Tumor Research fund. Only \$10 for two glasses of wine, and \$15 for four glasses, making this the most economical wine tasting I've ever heard of.



Leah on the left, Maya on the right

My niece Maya was stricken with brain cancer very early in life and was positively diagnosed with pilomyxoid astrocytoma, a grade two brain tumor, three weeks before her third birthday. Her twin sister Leah has been unbelievably supportive, at Maya's side every step of the way, and thus also deserves to be honored, as well.

Maya's now six years old, and I'm pleased to say that she no longer has cancer, although the medicines/poisons she had to take have affected her in other ways that we are only beginning to understand. But at least she'll probably be around to deal with those problems. Many children and their families don't have that luxury. Cancer is a terrible scourge, especially when it afflicts such little ones, and hopefully we'll collect a lot of money this weekend, both for more research and to help families stay together during trying times.

As I said earlier, one of the greatest gifts I've ever received has been the support of so many in this endeavor. Because my friends have been so unbelievably generous, we'll be pouring some delicious wines at the event, starting with d'Arenberg's fragrant and soft Stump Jump White Wine. This is so pretty, full of Granny Smith apples and spring flowers. It finishes clean and bright, a remarkable achievement at this price point.

We'll have plenty of d'Arenberg's well-built, luxurious Stump Jump Red Wine, with red and black plums and baking spices that meld throughout the long, juicy finish, and we'll also empty some bottles of the light-bodied but intense Sauvignon Blanc from Napa Station Winery, its sour apple, lemon-lime and fresh herb notes blending with juicy acidity on the palate.

Of course these wines, while delicious, aren't really that rare or unusual. That's why I'm so pleased to be able to tell you that Kelly Peterson-Holmes of Switchback Ridge Winery in Napa Valley has donated her family's wine for the tasting including their supple, absolutely charming Merlot, brimming with black plums, dark chocolate and ripe berry fruit that ends deep and dark.

We've also got the primal, inky Switchback Ridge Petite Sirah, purple with blueberry and blackberry flavors, as well as mushrooms and Indian spices on the long, dusky finish. And while I'm at it, if you arrive early don't forget to ask for a glass of the dense, multilayered Switchback Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon, pleasingly plump, with hints of cassis, forest floor, and spring flowers. We don't have a lot of the Cabernet, but whatever we have we'll pour!

There will be a well-stocked silent auction (that ends at 8 P.M.), at which we'll offer multiple large-format bottles of wine, including a magnum of 2004 Paolo Scavino Bric del Fiasc Barolo, a magnum of 2002 Chassagne Montrachet Rouge from Burgundy (donated by legendary Denver restaurateur Cliff Young), and a six-bottle lot of Cakebread wine complete with VIP winery tour for four. Enjoy the live band, and don't forget to also bid on the yoga lessons, wine refrigerators, golf equipment, Rockies tickets and a whole bunch of other fun stuff.

But the highlight will certainly be a beautiful vase, hand painted by Maya & Leah themselves, with each of their hand prints close enough together so that you can see them at the same time. One of my dreams is to include such a vase in each year's auction going forward, so that everyone involved can see how my nieces continue to grow and prosper in a world that a few years ago seemed so cold and empty.

Finally, a couple of folks have recently taken the time to tell me that I should recommend more value-priced wines. I'll certainly try to do so in the future, but for now, if you want to sample some top-notch juice at bargain-basement prices, come to Maya & Leah's Night, Saturday night May 9th, 2009 from 6-8 p.m. at Bistro Al Vino, 15352 E. Ida Drive #E, Centennial, CO 80015, tel: 303-300-3166. If you'd still like to donate, please email me at [benweinberg@unfilteredunfined.com](mailto:benweinberg@unfilteredunfined.com).

#### Recommended:

##### White

D'Arenberg Stump Jump White 2007 (Adelaide, Australia) \$11

Napa Station Sauvignon Blanc 2007 (Napa Valley, California) \$16

##### Red

D'Arenberg Stump Jump Red 2007 (South Australia, Australia) \$11

Switchback Ridge Merlot 2006 (Napa Valley, California) \$65 Switchback Ridge Petite Sirah 2006 (Napa Valley, California) \$65

Switchback Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 (Napa Valley, California) \$85