SUNDAY The Press Democrat

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2013

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SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA



PEG MELNIK

ress Democrat wine writer Peg Melnik scopes out restaurant wine lists around the North Bay, looking for good value and the occasional splurge. This week's picks (prices are retail; restaurant markup varies):

Round Hill, 2010 California Cabernet Sauvignon, 12.5 percent alcohol, \$8. An easy-drinking cab with great fruit. It's slightly sweet, with aromas and flavors of cherry, cinnamon and a hint of caramel. It's a steal for the price.

Enotria, 2011 Mendocino County Cortese, 13.5 percent, \$15. A lovely white with a lush, silky texture. Notes of lime, citrus and spice. Crisp acidity. Dry finish.

Bucklin, 2005 Old Hill Ranch Sonoma Valley Zinfandel, 15.8 percent, \$32. A tasty zin with aromas and flavors of rhubarb, cherry and cracked black pepper. Good acidity. Bright and lively.

Lang & Reed, 2009 Napa Valley Cab Franc, 14.5 percent, \$40. A spot-on cab franc with layered flavors. Gorgeous fruit — juicy. Good acidity. Notes of raspberry, blueberry and spice. Lingering finish.

Lasseter Family Winery, Paysage, 2009 Sonoma Valley Red Blend, 14.8 percent, \$40. An elegant red blend with a sleek texture and a great concentration of fruit. Focused. Nice length.

Want to share a current wine on your favorite restaurant's list? E-mail peg.melnik@ pressdemocrat.com or check out her Tasting Room blog at pressdemocrat.com.