

FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1927



PEDRONCELLI

THIS WEEK'S BLIND TASTING: Cabernets and cab-based blends

TOP PICK: Pedroncelli, 2015 Wisdom, Dry Creek Valley Estate Vineyard, Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.3% alcohol, \$36. ★★★★★: *This cab is a great Valentine's Day pick because it marries well with bittersweet chocolate with its whisper of mocha and generous berry fruit. It's well-integrated with flavors and aromas of boysenberry, toast and herbs. Beyond that it has great bones — structure. It's a steal for this caliber of cab.*



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WINE OF THE WEEK » PEG MELNIK

Pedroncelli's Cab perfect for romance on budget

If you're dating an unabashed romantic who doubles as a wine lover, here's a tip. Pass on the roses and choose a palatetested duo — bittersweet chocolate and a delectable bottle of wine.

Our Valentine's Day picks include a striking lineup, with most bottlings a tasty match with bittersweet chocolate. Wine lovers fancy this serious chocolate because it's less sweet, complex and intense.

Our wine-of-the-week winner is the Pedroncelli 2015 Wisdom, Dry Creek Valley Estate Vineyard, Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon at \$36. While other bottlings scored higher, the Pedroncelli earned wine-of-the-week status because it's a steal for the caliber of cab, and we wanted to feature a tasty pick for romantics on a budget.

The Pedroncelli marries well with bittersweet chocolate with its whisper of mocha and generous berry fruit. It's well integrated with flavors and aromas of boysenberry, toast and herbs. Beyond that it has great bones — structure.

Montse Reece is the winemaker behind Pedroncelli, and she said the style is determined by the ripeness of the grapes at harvest. "This cab showcases the Dry Creek Valley terroir, or as I call it, personality," Reece said. "The house style is a touch of Old World blended with a Dry Creek Valley twist of fruit and spice."

The grapes for this cab were farmed on the same piece of property — a 5-acre spread — for more than 50 years that was dedicated to

cabernet sauvignon from the start. It was replanted 12 years ago, with the addition of 1 acre of malbec, which is also included in this vintage.

"Cabernet requires focus," Reece explained. "Knowing our house style, which is a touch old world with balanced fruit and acidity, fits exactly with my taste."

Becoming a winemaker, Reece said, was a natural fit.

"I'm originally from Catalonia, Spain," she said. "I grew up in a culture where wine is part of daily life, and that's where I learned to appreciate it."

Reece was raised with the viticultural areas of Priorat, Penedes and Montsant nearby. The winemaker studied at Tarragona's Rovira i Virgili University, which offered its first degree in enology when she graduated from high school.

"My father knew my interest in biology, and he encouraged me to consider winemaking because he said 'you have a good taste for wine and good brains for the rest.' I signed up and found he was right. Winemaking was the right choice for me."

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CABERNET SAUVIGNON | WISDOM | v.2015 DRY CREEK VALLEY ESTATE VINEYARD



PEDRONCELLI WINERY

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