

Compass Vines

We got to see Chris Camarda at the event last Saturday, March 16, 2013 for the first time in quite a while. One of the true 'old timers' of the Seattle restaurant scene and the Washington wine industry. It was great catching up on the 'old days'. Back in 1989 when he first came out with Andrew Will wines, they were all varietal blends of various vineyards. Over the years, the flagship wines have switched to become non varietal blends with each bottling from a specific site. In 2003, he released his first wine from his hill top estate in Zillah, Two Blondes. It actually shares a driveway with Sheridan, and you all know how crazy I am for that fruit. This spot has yet to really get the eye of many of the national press folks, but to me, this is arguably the best spot in the western Yakima Valley, and thus the state and needs to be considered in the same light as Red Mountain and Walla Walla for world class Bordeaux style wine. Cab Franc really shines here and I would not hesitate to call it the best in the state. In fact, we still have a tiny amount of the ded reckoning 2007 Cab Franc that he made for us. At the tasting last Saturday, the 2009 Two Blondes was one of the wines that people were going nuts over. As is typical for these wines, they have elegance and grace, with exotic fruit profiles that are not seen in other parts of Washington. It could be the soil (nearly 1400 feet of gravel in spots), the elevation (around 1200 feet) or the weather (one of the driest vineyards in the state), but it all comes together in stunning and distinctive wines.