

As seen in...

## The Seattle Times

January 3, 2010

Wine Adviser

## Some bargain wines deliver, others not so much

Cheap wines from Wily Jack proved that no amount of clever promotion can hide mostly uninteresting products. On the other hand, bargains from Oak Grove show it's still possible to get a solid wine for less than 10 bucks.

Paul Gregutt Special to the Seattle Times

A FEW WEEKS ago, two unrelated packages of wine arrived for sampling. Because they were priced comparably — \$8 suggested retail — and included similar varietals, all from the broad California appellation, I thought it would be interesting to taste through them all together.

The Oak Grove wines had no story, no recipes, no branding iron, no marketing gimmick. This I took to be a positive sign. Perhaps money had been invested in such things as quality grapes. The packaging, though plain, was attractive...the whole lineup was presented with clear, useful information contained on a single sheet of paper.

Included were a merlot, a shiraz, a zinfandel, a cabernet sauvignon and a petite sirah. These were really solid wines, loaded with ripe, spicy fruit, yet with none of the sweet vanilla and tobacco flavors that infuse so many inexpensive red wines. *I can honestly recommend all of them, but were I to pick just a couple I'd point you to the shiraz and zinfandel*. All are from the 2008 vintage and distributed by Unique Wine Co.

