

DINE IN THE DARK • BATS! • MOON GARDEN

M I L W A U K E E
HOME
& FINE LIVING

OCTOBER 2009

**THE
EXPERIMENTAL
HOUSE**

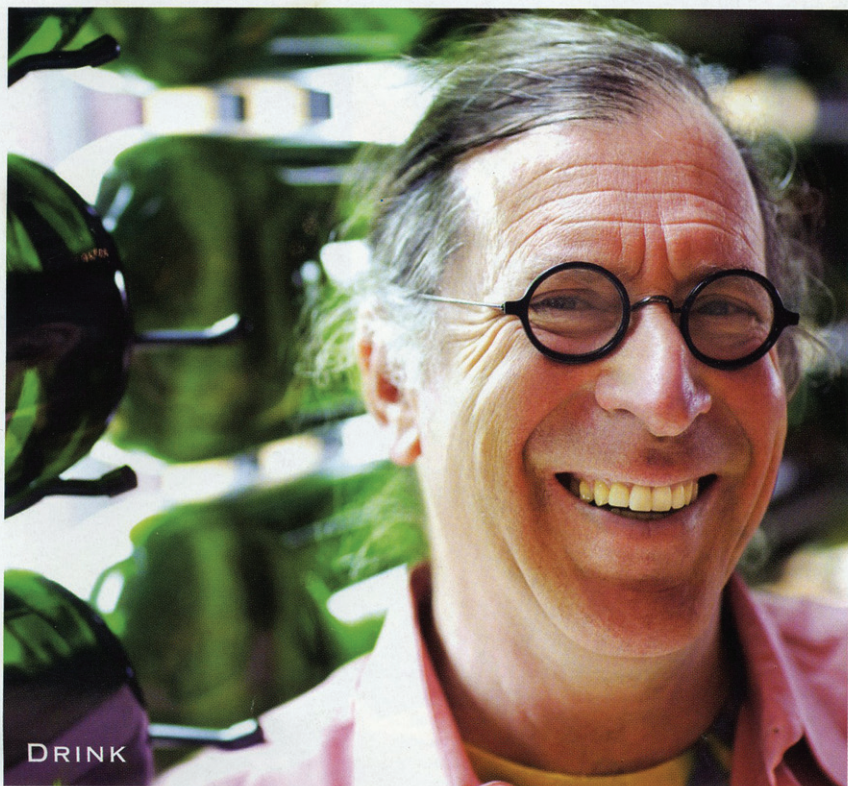
INSIDE:

We Proudly Present
Wine & Dine Wisconsin!

milwaukee-home.com \$3.95



7 31544 30604 3



The 2008 Ca' del Solo Estate Vineyards Albarino is a heady blend of 75% albarino, 21% loureiro, and 4% treixadura grapes. Available at Vino 100 in Wauwatosa for \$21.

Guided by Voices

The Earth Speaks and Bonny Doon Listens

A DECADE AGO, I RETURNED FROM A TRIP to Spain with a new favorite white wine varietal: Albarino. Made from the Albarino grape widely grown in the Rias Baixas in the Galicia region in Northwestern Spain, the wine is refreshingly crisp and mineral, with flavors of citrus rind, a slight effervescence and a subtle tang of brine. It was unlike any wine I'd had before, and as soon as my feet hit U.S. soil, I made my way to my local wine pusher to stock up.

And was bitterly disappointed.

I couldn't find a bottle of Albarino anywhere. In frustration, I wrote a cheeky letter to Bonny Doon, an innovative winery known for championing undeservedly obscure varietals (with a cheerfully mad founder who was rather notorious for getting carried away by wine flights of fancy) and demanded that they make me an Albarino wine. I was not

unreasonable. I offered to wait while they made it. Though I did politely suggest that they hurry, as I was thirsty.

To my surprise, Bonny Doon "President-for-Life" Randall Graham wrote me back. He said he didn't make an Albarino, but he shared my enthusiasm for them and suggested I seek out a certain importer who made one that he said I would enjoy. So I did, and he was right. But I remained disappointed that Bonny Doon didn't produce one. It just seemed like a natural fit for them. Why *didn't* they make an Albarino?

Well, now they have. Years after I beligerently badgered Randall Graham, he has released his very own Bonny Doon Vineyard Albarino using grapes from their Ca' del Solo vineyard in Monterey County. Though I give him no points for promptness, I will admit that this wine was worth the wait.

In recent years, Graham has refocused his company with a fresh emphasis on producing Demeter-certified biodynamic wines, and his Albarino is a product of that new resolve.

If the 2008 is any proof of the merits of that organic/mystic philosophy, I'm a believer; this is a marvelous Albarino with a lot going on in the glass. And talk about *terroir*; if you're tired of wines that all seem to be trying too hard to be just like each other, this is a wine with a distinctly individual — yet accessible — identity. The vines in the Ca' del Solo Vineyard have reached deep into the soil of Monterey and found a voice there. The earth speaks through this wine. Light scents of sage and flowers drift out of the glass. Grapefruit, apricot and lime flavors — and a hint of bay leaves — are rounded out by a mouth-filling minerality. And — as befitting a wine with a savor of the sea about it — it's a dynamite choice for pairing with seafood. But don't take my word for it; Bonny Doon Vineyard will be on hand to pour it at Wine & Dine Wisconsin October 10th and 11th so you can taste it for yourself. You're going to love it. Bring your checkbook.

— ROBERT BUNDY