

# MONTGOMERY UNCORK'D

By: Karla Nash



There are a lot of good wine quotes out there and one of my personal favorites is this: "Men are like fine wine. They begin as grapes and it's up to women to stomp them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with". Unfortunately, no matter how much you stomp, crush, and press some grapes, the wine still stinks. Analogies can be so fun, can't they? That's why it's so important that any wine maker starts with a decent bunch of grapes. No matter where those grapes are grown, if they are good fruit, they'll make good wine. With the exception of the wine maker being a complete idiot. I hope in my last article I made that point. Texas has great wine. Not all or even the majority of it comes from Texas fruit but it's still fantastic wine, Texas made and Texas proud.

One of our most important goals at Cork This! Winery in Montgomery is to make customers feel

comfortable no matter what their knowledge level of wine happens to be. The reason this goal is so easy for me personally to accomplish is that five years ago, I knew very little about wine at all. Today, I learn as much about wine from making it... and making mistakes, as I do from my colleagues and my customers. "Learn something new every day" is a very true adage. As a wine maker and winery owner, I'm just as "disappointed" (a term my father liked to use with me) in a person that feels embarrassed about their lack of wine knowledge as I am in a person that drones on with all their wine experience. One of the best ways to learn more about wine is to go to a winery. At Cork This! we offer wine tastings Wednesday - Sunday. It's easy to try wines you know you are comfortable with but it's more fun, in my opinion, to push the envelope and discover different wines. I always tell people, you can't generalize in wine. You may say you don't like Merlot for example, but don't judge a book by its cover. Every wine is different. A certain varietal of grape does tend to have similarities, but it varies greatly by where the grape is grown

(climate), what soil it's grown in (i.e. Sonoma v Napa) and what the wine maker does with that grape once it's crushed and on its way to being wine. Do not be afraid! The point of a wine tasting is to explore new things. We'll be happy to help you.

Personally, I've always disliked Chardonnay. When I was younger in my wine knowledge and age, I'd go to some pretty nice parties and the server would offer me two choices: Merlot or Chardonnay (Party Etiquette 101 - dry red and dry white). I don't want to stereotype, but as a woman, I always chose Chardonnay. You have to push yourself to try wine that your brain may be saying you don't like. You may surprise yourself. Our new Chardonnay at Cork This! is made from grapes purchased and shipped from the Yakima Valley in Washington State. They grow some really nice grapes up there. I do not own my Chardonnay (Mostly because it brings back bad memories) and the end result is a clear crisp Chardonnay that I personally love. Ask my co-worker if I'm not working and taking a break with friends and a good ole Conroe made Southern Star beer in my hand, you may very well catch me with my own Chardonnay. It's affectionately called, "Staycation" because I hope to be on one someday.

Don't be afraid to try new things and even old things that you haven't tried in a while. Have a great October. We hope to see you at the Texas Red's Festival in Bryan, Texas on October 13th. Steaks, Grape Music all in downtown Bryan.....very cool festival! Cheers! ♦

*Karla Nash*

Karla Nash

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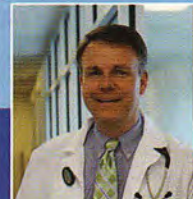
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