

2006 DRY CHENIN BLANC

Clarksburg



Expand your horizon with 10 wild and wacky whites.

“Chenin Blanc was huge in the 1970s. As late as 1982, it was the second-most planted wine grape in the state (after French Colombard). Today, it’s 10th and still dropping.

But our parents’ generation were pleasure-seekers, and that’s evident from the 2006 Dry Creek Vineyard Clarksburg Chenin Blanc (\$11.50). This is an inexpensive wine, with lots of ripe yellow peach and some floral notes; **it’s the kind of wine on which your first reaction might be “wow.”** Like the Marques de Caceres, this is a favorite every year, though this year’s version tastes a tad sweeter on the finish than I remember. Or maybe the past was sweeter than I like to admit.”

Shopping list

- 2005 Chateau Benoit Willamette Vally Muller-Thurgau (\$10)
- 2005 Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Semillon (\$9)
- 2006 Colombelle Vin de Pays des Cotes de Gascogne (\$8)
- 2006 Craftsman Nezmely Cserszegi Fuzeres (\$9)
- 2006 Craftsman Nezmely Kira lyleanyka (\$9)
- 2006 Dry Creek Vineyard Clarksburg Dry Chenin Blanc (\$11.50)**
- 2006 Marques de Caceres Rioja (\$7.50)
- 2005 McNab Ridge Niemi Vineyard French Colombard (\$12)
- 2006 Simonsig Stellenbosch Chenin Blanc (\$11)
- 2005 Yard Dog South Eastern Australia (\$11)