



October 4, 2010

**Kick-Ass Selection**



**2007 Continuum (Napa Valley):**

**Graphite & fig did it for me, but w/complexity like this you can find 20 other things to float yer boat \$140.00**

Last week, I joined Philly's First Lady of Wine, Marnie Old, at Osteria for dinner with Continuum Estate's H. Stuart Harrison (who, interestingly, was also Opus One's first employee) and Carissa Mondavi (you will have heard of her granddad). I know that sounds all NY-Times-name-dropping but hear me out, okay?



During dinner, we sampled the '07 Continuum which, aside from sharing the same name as one of the most kick-ass pieces of jazz bass proficiency ever conceived, also happens to kick ass in its own right. The oddest thing about this endeavor is that Tim Mondavi launched it only a few years ago, at what should have been the worst possible time for anything new and expensive. That is, of course, a blip on the radar when it comes to the viewpoint of the Mondavi family, who seem to start every venture with the belief that it will last 100+ years.

Now in its third vintage, Continuum wine is extraordinarily good, seamlessly merging the focused power of Pritchard Hill fruit with the more lush, velvety and "open" components from fruit on the Valley floor – and with a healthy dose (18%) of Petit Verdot that is, somehow, not at all obnoxious. I'm kind of amazed that they got it right so quickly, even with fruit that good and several generations of Napa winemaking DNA at their disposal. Pricey, for sure, but worth every penny of it and I hope I get to taste some of this ten or twelve years from now.

Joe Roberts



**CONTINUUM**