FEATURED WINES

2004 Montemaggiore Dry Creek Valley 'Superiore'

One never knows when a life-changing moment may be lurking around the corner.

For the Ciolino family, that moment came during a trip to their ancestral home in Italy — specifically, a small mountain town named Montemaggiore in the southern sector of the country. Vincent Ciolino remembers it well. "We were captivated by the genuine quality of life there, where organically grown food and hand-crafted products abound," he says.

So he and wife Lise set about creating their own "Montemaggiore" in California's Sonoma County. "We live in harmony with the land, keep close family ties, and enjoy wonderful food and festivity," Ciolino says. And Lise makes wonderful wines, including the 2004 "Superiore," which is a 70:30 blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah.

"This wine carries the hallmarks of Montemaggiore," Lise says. "It's rich and mouth-filling yet elegant, with well-integrated oak and a long finish." It's a wine that may not change your life, but definitely will make it better.

TASTING NOTES

Grape Composition:

70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Syrah

Grape Source:

Dry Creek Valley in Sonoma County, California

Aromas and Flavors:

Licorice, Tar, Sage, Rosemary, Black Olive, Cherry & Cocoa

Aging Vessels:

French Oak Barrels for 24 Months

When to Drink:

Now Through 2014

Our Tasting Panel Score:

91 Points

This deep, dark, full-bodied wine offers notes of licorice, tar, sage, rosemary, black olive, black cherry, blackberry, cocoa and cedar.

FOOD PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: a thick steak, or a hearty stew.

WINE RE-ORDER #: 21570