

GIVE LOTSA THANKS

For wine and time

Zoom. There went summer, then autumn. Time flies by, like the wind.

Wind? Nah, too slow. Sometimes I used to ask students how we could calculate the speed of time. The brightest lit up, thinking. Some whipped out their smartphones. An exercise in arithmetic followed: Earth is sorta spherical, about 24,000 around miles at the equator, makes a complete rotation in 24 hours, so the day goes by at 1,000 mph. Wind? Pah: never been a 1,000 mph wind. But that's not all.

Earth revolves around the sun at about 67,000 mph. That's how fast a season, a year, a life goes by. One Google source asks provocatively, "So you think you're sitting still?"

No wonder, then, that days, weeks, months, whole years disappear — and we're not getting into the speed of the galaxy itself or the expansion of the universe. I'm not Sheldon Cooper and this isn't *The Big Bang Theory*.

Suddenly, though, it's time again to give thanks, to feast with fam 'n' friends, eat roasted bird, drink, make merry. We're going to need a little wine.

Let's start light and bright, with a delightful aperitif, rather rare Italian unblended (but main grape in Soave), wearing the gold label of a "Small Vineyards Discovery" (importers famous for scouring the Mediterranean, seeking mindful growers and small producers of high-quality wines). Near Verona, they found **Monte Tondo Garganega Frizzante 2015** (\$10), spritzzy-sparkling and delicate — flavors of lemon, almond, whiff of lime. Serve chilled (but not freezing) — and try not to shake the bottle before pulling the cork. Thank Lisa at Sundance for clues to this charmer.

Call us tradition-bound, but we really like serving roast turkey at a holiday feast and, after years of testing and testing (filthy work), we've decided that we like to drink a well-made gewürztra-

miner (don't worry about pronunciation — just say *guh-vertz*, you'll get help) with our "boid." Among some very good wines, this year we chose **Brooks 2015 Gewürztraminer** (\$14) from the Columbia Gorge; it's got that distinctive grapefruit hint, just a whisper of sweetness to round off the acidity — yum!

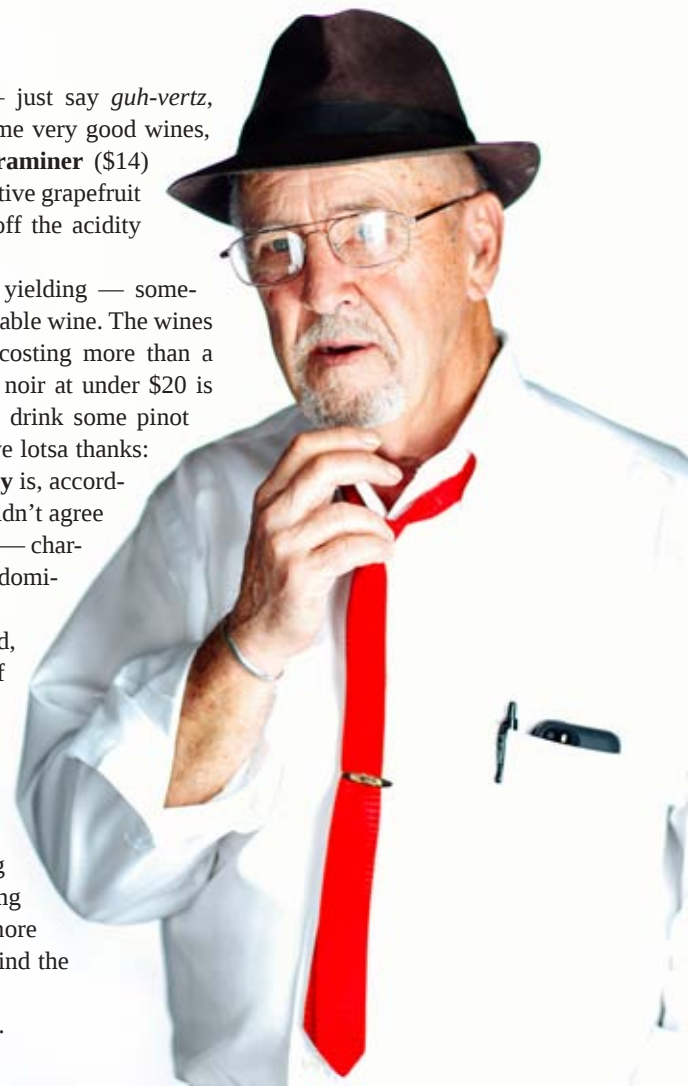
Pinot noir is a notoriously fussy grape, yielding — sometimes, and arguably — the world's most desirable wine. The wines are also notoriously expensive, the "best" costing more than a thousand bucks a bottle. Hence, good pinot noir at under \$20 is unusual, a glad event. And anytime we can drink some pinot from one of Oregon's best producers, we give lotsa thanks:

Broadley 2015 Pinot Noir Willamette Valley is, according to Morgan Broadley, a "nice value." Couldn't agree more, and at \$18 it'll make your turkey smile — characteristic pinot noir flavors (black cherry dominates), evenly balanced, smooth drinking.

Uncle Artie likes his wines deeply red, boldly flavored. Pour him a glass of **Cottonwood 2009 Syrah** (\$18), an Oregon winery getting tasty grapes from Yakima Valley; their wine is richly colored, spicy, delish.

Make note: Thanksgiving weekend is when many Oregon wineries open (including some open *only* then), often with special tasting events, music, food, hoopla. Go online for more info, then hit the road, designated driver behind the wheel, rolling to your faves.

Thanks — for everything, especially time.





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