

Hess Wines a Big Hit for UncorkedDenver.com Tasting at Strings

The Hess Collection portfolio is comprised of Hess Collection Mount Veeder Estate wines, Hess Napa Valley wines and Hess Select wines. Hess Collection wines from their Mount Veeder estate vineyards are an expression of the unique mountain climate they come from and are distinguished for their complexity, structure and elegance. Hess Napa Valley wines come from single vineyard sites, each of which was handpicked for its superior climate and location. All of the estate vineyards are sustainably farmed in accordance with Hess founder, Donald Hess' philosophy: "nurture the land, return what you take." Hess Select wines are benchmark wines from their respective regions in both quality and price, and are designed for immediate enjoyment.

Hess Collection Mount Veeder Wines:

Donald Hess was attracted to Mount Veeder for its elevation and unique mountain climate, which he believed would yield the best grapes to produce great wines. Mount Veeder is distinguished among Napa's mountain districts for having the highest elevation, coolest growing season and geologically diverse soils. Hess Collection Mount Veeder wines are an expression of the unique mountain climate they come from and are distinguished for their complexity, structure and elegance.

Wines in this collection include Cabernet Sauvignon, 19 Block Cuvée, Chardonnay and The Lion.

Hess Napa Valley Wines: Vineyards for Hess' Napa Valley wines were chosen for the quality of the soils, climate conditions and topography. Each site is sustainably farmed and planted to make wines that

express the uniqueness of the terroir.

Single vineyard wines in the collection are produced from the Allomi Vineyard and the Su'skol Vineyard.

The Allomi Vineyard is located on the eastern base of Howell Mountain in one of the more remote areas of Napa County. The combination of a long, warm growing season and well-drained soils creates optimal ripening conditions.

The site is named in honor of the original Spanish land grant to which the native Patwin people lent their name—Rancho Locoallomia. This area also was home to one of the first wheat mills in California, which earned it the nickname "Breadbasket of the Pacific," and also gave rise to a small whiskey industry.

From the Allomi Vineyard, Hess produces Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah and Sauvignon Blanc.

The Su'skol Vineyard benefits from its proximity to the San Francisco Bay. The vineyard is named for the native Su'skol people who used the site as a meeting place and valued the nearby sources of fish and game.

General Mariano Vallejo offered a portion of Rancho Nacional de Suscol to be used as a capitol for the newly formed state of California. Yet, its use as a capitol

Hess Collection Winemaker Dave Guffy discusses the evening's wines with the Strings waitstaff.



Dave Guffy chats with a couple of the Uncorked Denver members.





Summit Fine Wine Specialist William Davis, Strings Bar Manager Kris Lykins, Hess Collection SW Regional Manager Jason Stickley, Summit Sales Representative Nicole Milne, Hess Collection Winemaker Dave Guffy and Uncorked Denver Executive Director Stacey Gilbert

city was short-lived, thus preserving the open land.

Hess produces Chardonnay and Late Harvest Chardonnay from the Su'skol Vineyard.

To create Hess Select wines, Hess seeks out the regions best suited to growing fruit-forward wines true to their varietal character. The winery uses grapes from the estate vineyards and a select group of growers in Napa, Monterey, Lake and Mendocino Counties, with whom Hess has had long-term relationships. The winery adheres to the philosophy of sustainable farming and work exclusively with family-owned vineyards.

The Hess Select tier offers Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

Hess Winemaker Dave Guffy was in Denver to host an event at Strings with **UncorkedDenver.com**, the area's largest wine appreciation group. Over 100 guests sampled Hess Collection Mt. Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon, 19 Block Cuvée, Allomi Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc, and Su'skol Vineyard Chardonnay. Each was paired with an appetizer designed by the Strings chefs to complement the wine.

Hess Collection Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon, 2006 – Complex and alluring flavors of wild mountain blackberry, black cherry, currant and sweet molasses, accented by underlying flavors of graphite and cedar box. Hints of vanilla and toast are imparted by the new French oak barrels. The addition of Mount Veeder Malbec – with its distinguishing characteristics of dark chocolate and boysenberry – adds a heightened intensity to the fruit and lends texture to this wine, while softening and balancing the tannins

Strings owner Noel Cunningham welcomes Dave Guffy to the restaurant.



for a long elegant finish.

Hess Collection Mount Veeder 19 Block Cuvée, 2007 – Aromas of plum and black currant intermingled with caramel and molasses. The silky entry melts into an ultra-rich core of dark fruit. A supple finish is testament to this wine's immediate approachability.

Hess Allomi Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, 2008 – This wine is dark fruit driven and begins with aromas of boysenberries, black cherries, vanilla and sage. Ripe flavors of blackberry mix with hints of cedar and graphite, and a slight note of toasty oak. A rich mouth feel gives way to smooth tannins, leading to a lingering finish.

Hess Allomi Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc, 2009 – Aromas of guava, peach and citrus that fan out on a rich mid-



palate. Pronounced tropical flavors of kiwi, pineapple and grapefruit are balanced by a refreshing acidity.

Hess Collection Su'skol Napa Valley Chardonnay, 2008 – The 2008 Hess Collection Su'skol Napa Valley Chardonnay displays Asian pear and honeysuckle aromas with Clementine tangerine on the palate. The wine manages to capture the fruit in an impressive choreography of pleasing acidity and subtle oak by aging it for nine months in 20% new French oak barrels.

Hess Collection wines are available from Summit Distributing. For more information, please contact your Summit sales representative, or visit www.hesscollection.com.