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Down on the Farm

Childhood memories of the family farm provided the inspiration for **CrossBarn**, Paul Hobbs's portfolio of four wines sourced

PHOTO: DEBORAH PARKER WONG



Greg Irmini, assistant winemaker for Paul Hobbs' CrossBarn label, and Inez Justine Aznar dig into the regional Southern fare of Arkansas from Bluestem's American Road Trip menu.

from some of his favorite sites in the Sonoma Coast and Napa Valley. Assistant winemaker **Greg Irmini**, who has been making the CrossBarn wines for five years, poured new releases during a roundtable-style dinner at San Francisco's Bluestem Brasserie. Irmini has introduced a rosé of Pinot Noir (\$18) to the lineup—a 12.5 ABV citrus-tinged, strawberries and cream wine sporting a round acidity and coppery shade reminiscent of rosés made in Provence. Current releases include a 2012 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay (\$25), a whole-cluster 2011 Anderson Valley Pinot Noir (\$30) and a chocolately, focused Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (\$45), a percentage of which hails from the Beckstoffer To Kalon vineyard. With Hobbs recent acquisition of a 60-acre site in nearby Coombsville, we anticipate a CrossBarn

wine from that sub-AVA in the near future. —D. P. W.