

Wine of the week: Crossbarn, 2012 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay

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A wine for the millennials?

"We have a great team in the cellar -- a young team of rock stars -- and CrossBarn is produced with the millennial generation in mind," Megan Baccitich said. "It is high quality, yet it is accessible."

Baccitich is the winemaker behind our wine-of-the-week winner -- the CrossBarn, 2012 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay at \$25.

The chardonnay is rich, with a lush texture, yet it manages to be balanced. It has notes of melon, pear, toasty oak and toffee, with a lingering finish.

CrossBarn is produced for impatient palates.

"Our goal is produce good quality wines that are price-friendly and can be enjoyed now, rather than having to cellar the wines," said Baccitich, who is director of winemaking for both Sebastopol's CrossBarn label and Paul Hobbs Wines.

The CrossBarn is impressive for the price and benefits from being under the umbrella of Paul Hobbs wines.

"CrossBarn wines go beyond the vineyards sourced by Paul Hobbs Winery. However, the Paul Hobbs winemaking vision remains consistent," said Baccitich. "We work with only great vineyard sites from prime appellations, and the winemaking practices are meticulously clean, resulting in wines that are expressive of the unique characteristics of these great vineyards."

Baccitich has worked with vintner Paul Hobbs since 2006, and she said she's a good fit for making chardonnay.

"I love chardonnay, and I love what we can do with it in California," she said. "We have plenty of sunshine, and great cool-climate vineyards. We can make a big and voluptuous, Mersault-style chardonnay or a chablis-style . . . I love the challenge of making so many decisions that affect a wine's outcome, but doing so in a way that still allows the vineyard to speak."

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