



# American Wine Society

- a non-profit corporation

## Rochester Chapter AWS Tasting Notes Paso Robles Wines February 16, 2008

### Business Meeting:

Barbara-Ann Mattle and Ed Maier welcomed the group and went over the tasting calendar for the coming year. There is still an opening for the June 21st tasting, which is tentatively titled “Odd & Unusual Varietals.” Since there is still no chair or committee in place, Fred Fant suggested that the tasting be changed to follow the AWS National Tasting of Rieslings. If anyone is interested in chairing this committee or has a suggestion and a committee for another topic, please contact Barbara-Ann and Ed at [mattlemaier@netacc.net](mailto:mattlemaier@netacc.net).

### Paso Robles Wine Tasting:

Committee Chair Fred Fant welcomed a group of almost 50 attendees and turned the introduction of Paso Robles over to Tom Hatch, who presented a brief overview of the Paso Robles area, its history, and its wines.

Paso Robles, located on the Central Coast, is one of the fastest-growing wine regions of California. In 2000, there were 50 bonded wineries, and in just 8 years the number has more than tripled to 170! But if you visit the area, you can still see its farming roots and feel its “cow-town” atmosphere. In fact, people often say that Paso Robles has gone from Cowboys to Cabernets!

The Franciscans were the first winemakers in Paso Robles, planting over 1,000 vines in 1797, but it was not until 1882 that Andrew York started the first commercial wine venture in the area, which is still in existence operating as York Mountain Winery.

Zinfandel has had a strong influence in the region. In 1960, other varietals began to be introduced in larger quantities, including, cabernets, chardonnays, and pinots. The AVA was established in 1983 and includes 614,000 acres. Since 1989, there has been an explosion of Rhône varietals.

Paso Robles is made of many microclimates and today is the center of “appellation angst” as a petition is discussed that would divide the one appellation into two appellations, with counters proposing maintaining the one appellation with 11 sub-AVAs. For more information on this topic, visit <http://wine.appellationamerica.com/wine-review/386/Paso-Robles-AVA-Division.html>

Below are the data from the Paso Robles tasting. The different colored rows highlight the tasting pairings.

Tasting Order	Wine	Price	Voting Results
<b>Opener</b>	Robert Hall Rose de Paso	\$17.27 with tax	
1	Tobin James Merlot 2005	\$16.50 with shipping	Fourth Place
2	Midnight Cellars Merlot 2005	\$24.62 with shipping	
3	Tobin James Rock-n-Roll Syrah 2005	\$18.15 with shipping	Third Place
4	Justin Syrah 2003	\$23.75 with tax	Fifth Place
5	Liberty School Cabernet Sauvignon 2005	\$14.00 with tax	
6	Robert Hall Cabernet 2002	\$22.67 with tax	
7	L'Aventure Optimus 2003	\$43.18 with tax	
8	Justin Isosceles 2004	\$54.95 with tax	Second Place
9.	Opolo Mountain Zinfandel 2005	\$28	First Place
10.	Wild Horse Zinfandel 2004	\$19.34 with tax	