

TASTE



Perfect PINOTS

The prized wines of Kosta Browne star at Atlantis Steakhouse dinner



The Dungeness crab tower is being paired with the Kosta Browne Russian River Valley chardonnay. PHOTOS BY SEN SAELEE, DAVID DORN AND BOB CONTRERAS/PROVIDED TO RGJ MEDIA; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL VAN BLANKENSHIP/USA TODAY NETWORK; AND GETTY IMAGES

Johnathan Wright Reno Gazette Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Folks sometimes say of this pinot noir or that pinot noir that it's a cab drinker's pinot, as if to endow the pinot with the authority of cabernet sauvignon, as if to reassure folks partial to big, thick, juicy cuts of cab the pinot noir at hand is not faint, elusive, a will-o'-the-wisp. • Kosta Browne pinot is not that pinot. It's not for folks who need reassurance, people who'd rather be drinking cab. • "It's a pinot for people who love pinot, who are pinotphiles," said Christian O'Kuinghtons, cellar master of the Atlantis casino, as he prepared the other afternoon for the Sept. 29 dinner at Atlantis Steakhouse starring Kosta Browne wines. See WINES, Page 2C

EATING NEWS AND NOTES

Helping folks in need during 'Hunger Action Month'

September is Hunger Action Month. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada is joining with food banks across the U.S. with outreach activities to raise money and food donations to feed the hungry in their regions.

According to Feeding America, 20 percent of Nevadans will experience food insecurity during 2020. Among the Food Bank outreach:

- Sept. 10 is Hunger Action Day, with folks asked to post on social media about why they are wearing orange to raise awareness of hunger (@food-bank-nn, #fighthunger, #hungeraction-month);
- Portraits for Produce campaign for at least 2,020 people to donate at least \$20 so the Food Bank can purchase

340,000 pounds of fresh produce (<https://fbnn.org/portraits-forproduce/>);

- The 10th annual Run on Tuna takes place all month to collect and distribute more than 10,000 cans of tuna (contact despaccede@aol.com or 775-225-0814 to donate);

- From 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 24, Nevada State Bank, 500 E. Prater Way, Sparks, is hosting a drive-through donation of non-perishable food items; and

- Volunteer at the Food Bank with coronavirus precautions (<https://fbnn.org/get-involved/volunteer>).

For all Hunger Action Month activities and details, visit <https://fbnn.org/ham>.

A loaded hot dog at Simon's Café & Lounge

At Simon's Café & Lounge, a longtime spot at 6135 Lakeside Drive, the Dodger dog from the appetizer menu is worth a try. Dutch Simon, late founder of the restaurant, was a Los Angeles Dodgers fan, so he named the hot dog after the team.

The 8-inch beef dog arrives on a big toasted bun topped with cheese, tomatoes, onions and relish. A heap of french fries rides sidecar. Cost: \$7.95. Phone: 775-829-8777.

Register soon for these food and drink classes

The Educational Programs Inspiring

the Community division of Truckee Meadows Community College is presenting food and drink classes in September, with all class locations and required advance registration at <https://epic.tmc.edu>:

- "Italian Cooking" runs 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 22 and 29 and covers preparing and sampling Italian staples, with wine pairings.

- Cost: \$89. Register by Sept. 15; and
- "Basque Cider and Wine Tasting" runs 1:30 to 4 p.m. Sept. 26 and covers Basque history, cooking, and sampling of wines, cheese and ciders.

- Cost: \$49 plus \$20 materials fee. Register by Sept. 18.

— Johnathan L. Wright, RGJ

Wines

Continued from Page 1C

Wine Spectator named the winery's 2009 Sonoma Coast pinot noir its Wine of the Year in 2011, Kosta Browne's fourth appearance among the magazine's annual list of top 100 wines.

Perhaps not surprising, such accomplished wines are hard to obtain. The Sonoma County winery allocates only 15 percent of its production for stores and on-premise customers; the rest is reserved for the winery's membership list, O'Kuinghtons said.

"It's only because we have access to Kosta Browne," he added, "that we are able to do this dinner."

Creamy meets creamy, umami meets umami

The meal begins with a tower built from Dungeness crab, apple pear relish and triple cream brie mousse.

The pairing, the Russian River Valley chardonnay, "is not buttery at all, but it does have that creaminess about it, those tropical nuances," O'Kuinghtons said. "As it warms up in the glass, it releases new layers of texture."

Rillettes, a preparation similar to confit, are fashioned using sustainable, highly regarded Ora King salmon.

"It has that extra fat content to it, and it lends itself really well to making rillettes," said David Holman, assistant executive chef of the Atlantis, whose team designed the menu.

The partner pour, the famed Sonoma Coast pinot noir, "enhances the umami of the smoked salmon. The salmon will stand on the minerality of this pinot," O'Kuinghtons said.

Duck spring rolls, made from scratch with napa cabbage, pickled slaw and Chinese five-spice barbecue sauce, "are fun to mix it up," Holman said. "People want something new."

Alongside, the Russian River Valley pinot is "extremely aromatic, so it goes well with the five-spice sauce and the pickled slaw," O'Kuinghtons said. "You can push pinot to be an Asian food complement."

For the biggest dish, the biggest wine

Gap's Crown Vineyard pinot touches down next, with "aromas of tobacco, pencil shavings, spice but not peppery. It's very austere," O'Kuinghtons said. Holman worked with Darren Stanley,

Duck spring rolls are being paired with the Kosta Browne Russian River Valley pinot noir.



Left: Pepper-seared venison loin is being paired with the Kosta Browne Santa Rita Hills pinot noir. PHOTOS BY SEN SAELEE, DAVID DORN AND BOB CONTRERAS/PROVIDED TO RGJ MEDIA

Bottom: The Sept. 29 dinner at Atlantis Steakhouse features a chardonnay and four pinots noirs from Kosta Browne, one of whose pinots was named the Wine Spectator's Wine of the Year in 2011.

Kosta Browne Wine Dinner

When: Beginning 6 p.m. Sept. 29

Where: Atlantis Steakhouse in the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, 3800 S. Virginia St.

Featuring: Six courses with pours from Kosta Browne, one of America's finest producers of pinots noirs

Cost: \$195 inclusive

Reservations (21 and older): 775-824-4411

chef of Atlantis Steakhouse, on the matching course, a veal tenderloin lavishly crusted with panko and truffles. Pink peppercorn sauce adds a bit of fruitiness to the pairing with the lean wine.

"The usual black peppercorn sauce I didn't think would work as well with the wine," Holman said.

Up next, seared venison loin is fattened with bacon, cooked over coals and accompanied by rich Cambozola risotto.

"The venison loin is very big in flavor, so we needed a pinot noir with tremendous levels of acidity and fruitfulness," O'Kuinghtons said.



The solution? Santa Rita Hills pinot noir, from California's Central Coast. "It's our biggest dish, our biggest pinot," O'Kuinghtons said.

The Kosta Browne dinner finishes with a rethinking of opera cake, a French grande dame layering strata of

buttercream and sponge cake soaked in coffee syrup.

Kayline Johnson, executive pastry chef of the Atlantis, is introducing another layer: apricot marmalade.

"These are awesome classical flavors," she said — "with a twist."

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