

In My Glass: 2008 Matthiasson White

By **Jon Bonné** on May 27, 2010 at 4:23 PM



My fondness for Steve Matthiasson's white wines is pretty well founded. Steve was one of our winemakers to watch last year and his 2008 white was in our **Top 100 Wines**. His take on whites is unique: a blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Tocai Friulano and Ribolla Gialla that merges the traditions of Friuli and Bordeaux.

How nice then to encounter his **2008 Napa Valley White Wine** by the glass (\$16; \$68/bottle), as it's always great to find a Top 100 poured that way. I happened upon it at Baker & Banker, where wine director Collin Casey has put together a fun assemblage of glass pours — including the Ah! Wines Bebame, a mix of Gamay and Cabernet Franc from the Sierra Foothills that was another Top 100 pick.

The Matthiasson uses 50 percent new oak, and it's still forward, though less evident than when I tasted it last fall. But the interplay of those four grapes, and two styles, is still captivating — the citrus and almondy aromas weaving together just so, the pinpoint acidity tying it all up nicely. It still has years of distance to go, but it's also great to find a way to check in on what I'd argue is one of the new benchmarks for California white wine.

Baker & Banker, 1701 Octavia St., San Francisco. (415) 351-2500 or bakerandbanker.com.

