

ATL Vino Wine Blog

Drinkin' Wine in the Peach State

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Wine for Dudes (Or for Women Who Want Their Dudes to Drink Wine)

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A year and a half ago, I said “I do” to the almost perfect man. Handsome? Check! Intelligent? Check! Caring? Check! Wine lover? Not so much. Beer on the other hand, well, my husband considers himself a connoisseur of all things Budweiser. But sadly, his level of wine appreciation is

about non-existent (and believe me, it’s not due to my lack of trying). Now, he’ll have a glass of wine every now and then if a social situation demands it. But, he’s not one to seek it out on his own. And if you meet my husband at a party, please don’t offer him a glass of white wine. He has informed me that, “men aren’t supposed to drink white wine.” Yep, this is what I’m dealing with people...

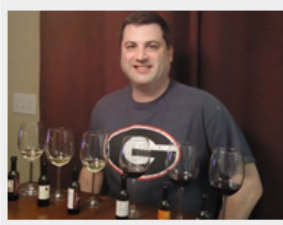


"Wine for Dudes" Sampler from TastingRoom.com

Now that I’ve painted a picture, you can clearly see the challenge that I face. I’ve racked my brain thinking of ways to convert my husband into a fellow wine lover-to share a common passion. I had almost given up hope until I was recently introduced to the website

[TastingRoom.com](#). Their concept is really cool; they offer many different themed sampler packs that each contain a collection of wine “mini

bottles” for you to try. Each mini bottle contains about the same amount of wine as a tasting sample at a wine shop. If you like the wine, you can go back to the site and order a regular sized bottle. In this particular case, I found a sampler packed titled [“Wine for Dudes”](#). The description of the sampler read: “This sampler will not only expand your palate, it will expose you to wines that we, as guys, might not necessarily try.” Given my situation, this certainly peaked my interest. It dawned on me that the reason he doesn’t care for wine could be that he just hasn’t tried a style of wine that suits his fancy. And seeing the six different types of wines offered in the sampler, I figured this would be a great way to expose him to several different styles of wine at once.



What a good sport...

When the "Wine for Dudes" pack arrived*, I set-up the samples in a true "tasting room" fashion; light bodied white wine first all the way through to the bolder, full bodied red. Being the good sport that he is, he agreed to A) taste each wine with an open mind (even the 3 white wines) and give me his honest opinion; and B) not use his Bud Light to cleanse his pallet in between sips. I thought the best approach would be to let him sample each

wine first while I wrote down his reactions to each. Then I would go through, sample each one and see if I could detect the styles that he preferred.



He got off to a rocky start with the first sample; this one he described as "watery and not much flavor" and followed up with the comment, "this must be for people who only care about getting a buzz." I actually found this one quite nice; light and crisp with tropical fruit flavors. But hey,

I guess it's not for everyone. And now I know he's not a fan of light bodied wines or Sauvignon Blancs. The second sample, however, proved much more successful! This one happened to be an oaky, buttery chardonnay that he described as "a white wine that I actually like!" Bingo! Now we're gettin' somewhere! He tasted through the remaining ones and even found a couple of reds that he liked. His favorite was the '08 Arise Red Blend from Blackbird Vineyards that he proclaimed as "flavorful from beginning to end" and "would go great with a steak". Progress my friends...progress.

So, what did I learn from my little experiment? Persistence is key. Just because someone may think they don't like wine, or even a certain type of wine, it could be that they just haven't found one that fits their taste. Insist that they keep on trying until they get it right. In my husband's case, he tried several kinds and I now have an idea of what he likes. The plan now is to buy a few of those bottles and cross my fingers that he'll set his Bud Light down long enough to have a few sips of wine with me. And just maybe, his appreciation of wine will grow from there. He's almost perfect...and now with a few pushes he's just a little bit closer. I'll get him there, one baby step at a time.

*The "Wine for Dudes" sampler pack was recieved as a gift from TastingRoom.com.