10.30.12

ORANGE WINES:

- Made by letting juice from white grapes sit on the skins for an extended period of time
- Grape skins contain flavor compounds, tannins and pigment
- These additional compounds contribute additional and more savory flavors, a more gripping texture and an orangey color to the wines
- Wines made in this style *may* have also been made, stored or aged in "alternative" manners (e.g. biodynamic viticulture; aged oxidatively, under *flor* or in amphora; without fining/filtering)
- Service recommendations: decant or serve in wider-bowled glasses at red-wine temperature; try with game and meats or richer, earthier vegetable dishes

1) Occhipinti SP 68 Bianco '11 - Sicily, Italy

- Grapes are local Albanello and Zibbibo (Muscat of Alexandria)
- Zibbibo gives this an intensely aromatic, honeyed element (though it's totally dry)
- Just a few days of skin contact followed by stainless steel aging to preserve freshness
- Made in southeast Sicily; named for the road SP68 that runs through the area
- Arianna Occhipinti is a young, female, biodynamic producer getting a lot of acclaim

2) Denavolo Catavela Vino Bianco '11 - Emilia-Romagna, Italy

- Grapes are local Ortrugo, Marsanne (lends richer, riper, nutty notes) and Malvasia (very floral aromatics)
- Biodynamically farmed vineyards in Emilia-Romagna
- The vineyard is on limestone soil at 1500 feet elevation
- All of Denavolo's wines are orange; this sees the least skin contact at only four days

3) Tenute Dettori Bianco '07 - Sardinia, Italy

- Grape is Vermentino, thought to have been first brought to Sardinia in 2500 BC
- Made in Badde Nigolosu on northwest coast of Sardinia
- Limestone soil… and wild asparagus grows in the vineyards!
- Two to four days of skin contact, followed by two to three years of aging in cement vats
- Biodynamic viticulture and natural winemaking, with minimal sulfur, no fining or filtering, and no oak barrels ever

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4) Donkey and Goat Stonecrusher '11 - El Dorado, California

- Grape is Roussanne, a rich, full-bodied white from the northern Rhône
- "Roussanne" is derived from *roux* or "russet" due to the reddish color of its ripe skins
- This is from El Dorado, in the high-elevation Sierra Foothills east of Sacramento
- Named Stonecrusher for the machines used to crush stones and extract gold; the vineyard is about five miles from Stony Hill, the site where gold was first found in 1848
- Nine days of skin contact, fermented in open-top vat, then aged in neutral oak barrels
- Donkey and Goat make extremely natural wines; no chemicals or additions *ever*

5) Scholium Project The Prince in His Caves '10 – Sonoma Mountain, California

- Grape is Sauvignon Blanc, which is naturally aromatic and high in acidity
- Vineyard is near the top of the eastern side of Sonoma Mountain
- "…kept in contact with the skins and seeds until we thought that their fiereceness has contributed enough to the wine…"
- Winemaker Abe Schoener is known for experimenting with odd varietals, appellations and winemaking techniques

6) Movia Lunar '08 - Primorje, Slovenia

- Grape is Ribolla Gialla, native to this area and Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy (just across the border; Movia's vines are technically in both countries)
- This area is a relative hotbed for orange wine production, home to some of the most well-known and sought-after producers for this style (Movia included)
- Winemaker Ales Kristancic is known for being an extreme iconoclast, and he practices extremely non-interventionist winemaking
- Named *Lunar* as Ales follows the moon cycle for its production
- Aged in custom-made barrels that allow the grapes to ferment, age and stabilize without any human intervention; only the free-run juice after seven months is bottled

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