

Week of 03-03-09

Red Bag Clues:

Grape?

This grape has history dating back to 6000BC.

Croatian born.

Prone to bunch rot and uneven ripening.

ZAP promotes this grape.

Its rooted can be traced to the grape known as “the red grape of Kastela”.

Region?

10% of the vineyards are planted with this grape in this region.

This grape has thrived in this region since the 1850s.

It did not gain popularity until the 1980s in this region.

More then 250 wineries in this one county.

30 miles from a hilly city.

Russian colonist originally planted grapes in this area.

Followed by the Spanish who laid the foundation for the wine industry.

From two distinct areas within the area – One was once known for its walnuts and prunes

the others color spectrum is defined by commercial flower growers.

Moderate temperature swings and light rainfall make this a perfect area to grow many grapes.

Producer?

The original owner of the winery was from Camas, WA.

Chef has known this wine maker for a number of years.

This winery was featured at one of the 94 Stewart Wine Dinners.

Year?

Lower then expected yields this year due to early downpours which caused a lot of botrytis. And followed by a heat wave in July. There were a lot of issues getting the wine to ferment also.

A winemaker describes this year as, “peaks, valleys, then peaks”.

Vineyard care efforts paid off for many wine makers.

Some of the best wines since 2004.

Answer – ???

Rodney Strong 2006 Knotty Vines Zinfandel Sonoma County

