

Week of 03-11-08

### Red Bag Clues:

“You spend your time in the mountains, shunning the limelight and fame given to those whose skill sometimes does not approach your own, content with your life. Those close to your home know you well, and need no other guide to vinous pleasure. Your sturdiness and ability to survive hides a soft heart that waits patiently to be discovered.”

Varietal Character by Jeffrey Pinhey

### Grape?

Produces perfumed, medium-bodied reds and light roses, as well as some rich, dark, full character red wines.

Relative of Syrah.

Technically the name is followed by Scuro or Dunkel - Meaning dark.

An Umpqua Valley winery is growing this grape currently.

### Region?

One of the few regions in this country that does not touch the sea.

Famous for apples and wine.

Most common region for this grape.

Became an autonomous region in 1948.

Regional heritage combines Italian and Austrian ancestry.

Cured and smoked meats are quite popular here. Speck being one of the main ones.

Famous for the winter resort Madonna di Campiglio.

### Producer?

A nearby lake gives the wines a distinctive round, soft quality.

The estate is also well known for its extensive apple orchards, whose scent mingles with the vineyards.

Oldest vines planted, 1918.

Bought by Archduke Rainer of Austria in 1851. Later inherited by the Counts von Kuenburg through Prince Henry of Campofranco.

This particular vineyard site was built from the earth of a famous vineyard that was moved to build a shopping mall.

### Year?

25-50% loses were recorded due to hail and rain. 20 Days of sun saved a potentially disastrous harvest. Picking finished the week beginning 21 October.

Answer – Castel Sallegg **Lagrein** 2002 Alto Adige  
*lah GRYNE*

## **Castel Sallegg Lagrein Dunkel Riserva 2002, Alto Adige**

**This Lagrein is the product of a story you could not make up: Count von Kuenburg was driving through a zona famous for producing some of the best Lagreins in the Alto Adige when he noticed a famous vineyard site being torn up to build a shopping center. Where most people would just bitch about “there goes the neighborhood”, our friend Georg got on his cell phone, found out who owned the land and contracted to have dump trucks come and haul away 300 truckloads of soil and even the rocks underneath and take it to HIS estate. Starting from bedrock, he constructed a new hillside from scratch with not just this outstanding raw material but also perfect exposure to the sun and the results are fantastic. Deeeep, dark and lovely with intense plum, smoke and even coffee notes, this wine is living proof of the dedication of one man to his wines. Bravo Bello!**