

the drunken cyclist



I have three passions: wine, cycling, travel, family, and math.



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My Brother-in-Law is a Hooligan

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A funny thing happened this past Fall: my brother-in-law (he is actually married to my wife's cousin, but in their family they are practically siblings and "cousin-in-law" sounds ridiculous) realized that I write about wine. I guess he knew that I had a wine blog, but I am pretty sure that he did not read it, or take it all that seriously.

Why?

Well, he has worked in the wine industry for a while, but we never really "talked shop." That observation might not be all that revelatory, but once you figure in that when we see each other there are a bunch of kids running around screaming and punching each other in the head, well, I doubt he wants to sit around and talk about work. We both married into a Korean family and if he is at all like me, my biggest concern during family gatherings is to prove that this white guy can indeed use chopsticks.

Don't get me wrong, I shoulder at least half the blame here as well as I could have approached him and asked what he thought about the three-tier system to break the ice, but we all know that is a complete dork move when bulgogi, kalbi, and kimchee are waiting to be inhaled.

This past November, I was **ranked as the 42nd most influential wine blogger in the world** by a wine retailer in England and it was my brother-no-wait-cousin-in-law who was the first to let me know. (By the way, for some reason, I am now #41, thus I am no longer Paul Konerko but Jason Giambi—not sure how I feel about that.)

Well, I was recently out in California, and at the latest Korean BBQ-fest, he brought over a ton of wine from his relatively new employer, the Wine Hooligans, for me to try.

I should (will?) write an entire post (or three with considerably more research) about Wine Hooligans, but in brief (really brief), the Hooligans currently comprises five brands and four winemakers, brought together by the "Head Hooligan" Dennis Carroll.

One of those brands, Broadside, was new to me, but hopefully this will not be my only exposure as it seems to deliver on the Quality/Price scale.

2013 Broadside Cabernet Sauvignon Margarita Vineyard:

Retail \$25. 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot. Tight initially but eventually some dark fruit comes through. Primarily cassis and black raspberry. On the palate a bit thin initially but with time? This really shows well. Juicy with some depth.
Very Good to Outstanding. 89-91 Points.

2013 Broadside Cabernet Sauvignon Paso Robles:

Retail \$18. Another pleasant surprise: tight red berry aromas with a touch of smoke and white pepper. On the palate, plenty of fruit up front, but not strictly a one trick Cab: some depth and an adequate finish. Not quite the wine that the Margarita is, but this is a solid effort nonetheless.
Very Good. 87-89 Points.

2013 Broadside Wild Ferment Chardonnay Central Coast:

Retail \$20. Pineapple, lemon, and a hint of vanilla. On the palate, this is really quite pleasant. It has something for everyone: pretty good fruit, a bit of weight, plenty of acidity, some creaminess and vanilla, and a lingering finish. The "Wild Ferment" is described as "whole-cluster pressed before its fermentation by native micro-ora." Gotta love the micro-ora.
Very Good to Outstanding. 89-91 Points.

