

Food+Wine

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Upcoming reviews

Friday in Eye: Vino Locale in Palo Alto and a Quick Bite at Casablanca's Cafe in San Jose.

Sunday in LifeStyle: Sent Sovi in Saratoga.

WHAT'S UP IN THE WORLD OF WINE: This might very well be the most stylishly dressed bottle around. And in this case, the fancy duds also serve a purpose. The **Champagne Veuve Clicquot Ice Jacket** is a form-fitting yellow "jacket" with fancy leather trim for a bottle of champagne. The jacket is actually an insulated cooler bag that is secured with a neck zipper. Slip a pre-chilled 750-milliliter bottle of sparkling wine inside it, and the bubbly should stay cool for at least two hours. It's reusable, too. The Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label NV Brut wrapped in the ice jacket (\$54.99) is making its way into fine wine stores. The ice jacket alone is available for \$10 at www.eclicquot.com. Click on "product index."

Waddle into **Wattle**

Creek's new tasting room in Ghirardelli Square at 900 North Point St. in San Francisco. The Alexander Valley winery opened the tasting room so that wine lovers don't have to trek all the way to its Sonoma County site to taste its full array of wines, which include sauvignon blanc, viognier, chardonnay, shiraz and cabernet sauvignon. There also will be special small-lot wines that will be available only in the tasting room or to wine club members.

A tasting of non-reserve wines is \$7. For an additional \$7, customers also can enjoy two Vintage Select wines. The tasting fee can be applied to all tasting room purchases. The winery, owned by native Australians Chris and Kristine Williams, takes its name from that country's indigenous wattle tree, whose distinctive yellow blossom is Australia's national flower. Its image graces every bottle of wine. The tasting room is open daily. For more information, call (415) 359-1206.

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