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Sommelier's pick: The Calling Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir

By Dale Robertson | March 28, 2016

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Photo: Gary Fountain, For The Chronicle

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A 2013 The Calling, Pinot Noir Russian River Valley. The Calling is a wine company co-owned by CBS' Jim Nantz. This is the wine of choice for Scott Sulma, sommelier at Vallone's.,(For the Chronicle/Gary ... [more](#)

Who: Scott Sulma, general manager and partner with Vallone Restaurant Group

What: 2013 The Calling Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir

Why: Sulma has long been a fan of pinot noir made from Dutton Ranch grapes in the Russian River Valley, so when he found out about this wine from Jim Nantz and Peter Deutsch he was eager to pick it up. Although grapes from other vineyard sites flesh out the blend, more Dutton Ranch fruit goes into The Calling than any other wine these days, according to Deutsch. Says Sulma: "It has always been one of my favorite vineyard sites in California, with such great history and acclaim. He adds that he was "blown away by the value in the bottle. Bright, fresh and modern, the wine charms and surprises our guests with its exceptional quality at such a great price point. It's easy to drink, being full of fruit with a light acidity, and the tannins are just present enough to keep the wine in perfect balance." Food pairings recommended by Sulma include the Roman-style pizzas at Ciao Bello (5161 San Felipe) and the Provini veal chop with imported mushrooms at Vallone's, 947 Gessner. (Note: The wine just received a gold medal at the Texsom International Wine Awards competition in Dallas. Also, the Chronicle's tasting panel gave it and two other Calling wines, the Dutton Ranch Chardonnay and the Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, unanimous recommendations.)

Price: \$64 for a bottle at both restaurants

Dale Robertson



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CBS sportscaster Nantz found 'calling' in wine venture



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