

Foodie



A Cedar Falls native, Troy Bond lives for the authentic food experience. Passionate about eating well and celebrating local food traditions, Troy is a card-carrying member of SlowFood. A roving foodie, Troy has worked in specialty foods retail across the country, managing Whole Foods Markets in Orlando and Seattle. His travels abroad—to Asia and Europe—are always food adventures. But his favorite meals are the ones he prepares at home, such as making Italian-style pizza from scratch. Troy has two children, Donovan, 4, and Siena, 2, who, much to his chagrin, subsist on a diet of chicken nuggets in the shape of dinosaurs.

\$40 wine for \$10

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I couldn't wait for the FedEx truck to arrive. For the first time in my life, I had ordered wine in the mail.

The wine was from **Cameron Hughes Estates**, but it's not a real vineyard. Cameron Hughes doesn't own a single grapevine, or an oak barrel, or a sad looking dog to sit on the porch of his wine country estate. He doesn't even have an estate.

Hughes is essentially a wine broker. He buys wine that would normally sell for \$25 to \$50 and up, and sells it for \$10 or \$12 a bottle.

His secret: he knows that high end winemakers produce more wine than they can sell. Hughes buys the excess juice, blends it so it's ready to drink today, swears he will never tell where he bought the juice and sells it in generic packages designating arbitrary lot numbers. My little baby was Lot 21. Six bottles of Sonoma County Zinfandel.

The CH Estate website (www.chwine.com) described Lot 21 this way:

"Gobs of boysenberry and blackberry flavors greet you up front. Chocolate covered raisins, dusty mocha and bittersweet chocolate envelops your mid-palate with a hint of licorice... This is an elegant monster of a Zin..."

He had me at the chocolate covered raisins.

There are only two places you can get CH Estate wine: from his online shop or at a high-volume Costco. Des Moines Costco isn't high-volume enough, apparently, because it's not there. I looked. Repeatedly. So I had to buy online.

I had it with a Niman Ranch pork chop and it was all that.

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