

Dining and Spirits

With Robert W. Tolf



Cork & Olive customers check out the merchandise before buying.

Uncorking a Niche

Another confirmation of the increasing importance of Florida as a leading wine-consuming state is the popularity of Tampa-based Estate Wine Group's growing chain of Cork & Olive retail stores and its home and catered events offerings. Wine-selling giants regularly schedule wine tastings, and leading wineries are, of course, ready to sponsor vintner dinners with the winemaker present. But Cork & Olive found a new niche, providing the wines in their neighborhood retail shops — reasonably priced wines typically from modest, family-owned vineyards — and having available an all-day, everyday user-friendly table of wines to taste. "Try Before You Buy" is their sales motto as is "Trust Your Taste," working customers through the selection process for home consumption or business tastings, where Cork & Olive can help with the catering, providing all the necessary glassware, spill buckets and wine guides to discuss

Cork & Olive Locations

Brandon*

801 Providence Road

Clearwater

2534 N. McMullen Booth Rd. 727/791-8343

Lakeland

1486 Town Center Drive 863/682-8980

Largo

861 West Bay Drive 727/581-7392

St. Petersburg

944 4th St. N., Suite 500 727/823-8016

Tampa

1110 S. Dale Mabry Hwy. 813/251-9098

10019 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Suite 700*

13998 W. Hillsborough Road*

Valrico

3468 Lithia Pinecrest Rd. 813/661-8999

Wesley Chapel

1269 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. 813/907-9900

*Under construction

Wine & Spirits

Tacama Gran Tinto 2004

RED
\$10
Peru

Outstanding full-bodied standard table red from Peru's Ica Valley, home to one of the oldest vineyards in the New World, producing wines as early as 1540 and blending harmoniously French varietals Malbec, Tannat and Petit Verdot.

Durbanville Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2005

WHITE
\$13
South Africa

Cool Atlantic mists extend the maturation of this intensely fruit forward South African wine with hints of grassiness, gooseberries and figs making it a good friend for light summer eating.

Don Julio Anejo Tequila

TEQUILA
\$57
Mexico

With overabundant harvests of agave, prices are friendlier to the budget, but you'll still pay dearly for top-of-the-line, suitable for sipping and savoring in the best tradition of fine cognac.

