

January 12, 2017

**• Emanuel Tres Inspirito, Santa Barbara County 2012 ($25): Chris Keller's fertile mind produced this unlikely red wine blend: equal parts cinsault and grenache with half as much carignane. There's both red and dark berry fruit on the nose with an underpinning of savory and spice in the background. Red cherry and raspberry seem juicy and pliant on the palate at first but then the flavors seamlessly segue to black cherry and damson plum on mid-palate, revealing a deeper and darker concentration. It's a wine that kind of sneaks up on you and then wows you with its versatility at the table. From Santa Maria tri-tip to bacon-wrapped bleu cheese-stuffed dates, this is the ticket.**

***Wine expert Dennis Schaefer's column appears every other week in the Food section. Email him at******food@newspress.com.***