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Young Guns, Good Wines

By Frank Thorsberg

If Ryan Moreland's parents had a wheat field instead of a vineyard, he'd probably be making artisan bread from family grain.

But Ryan lives in St. Helena. His family has a small plot of sauvignon blanc. Naturally, he's got wine fever.

The 20-something has channeled his energy into winemaking. He has his own label, [Corvalle](#), with three wines currently for sale and a fourth due for release later this year.

Production is miniscule, but hopes are high.

I found something to like in all of Corvalle's offerings at a tasting last weekend. The event, held in a warehouse wine making space near the Napa airport, featured "millennial" winemakers (35 and under).



Ryan Moreland

I especially enjoyed the Corvalle 2010 sauvignon blanc, from a 1-acre vineyard in Rutherford, which is also home to iconic wineries like [Grgich Hills Estate](#), [Caymus](#) and [Cakebread Cellars](#). The neighborhood is a hotspot for big red wines, but this is a finely crafted sauvignon blanc (\$24) that tastes great on its own and would also hold up well with grilled chicken or fish.

Also likeable was the Corvalle 2010 Weka Ranch Vineyard chardonnay (\$21/bottle) from the Oak Knoll District and a pleasant rose' made from an unusual 50/50 mix of Carneros pinot noir and Rutherford cabernet sauvignon.