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What We Have Been Drinking—2/25/2019

What We Have Been Drinking—2/25/2019 | the drunken cyclist
 I have three passions: wine, cycling, travel, family, and math. Over the course of a week, I taste a bunch of wine, usually with friends, and almost always with my wife. Here are some of the wines we tasted over the past few weeks. These are wines that were not sent as samples—in most cases, I actually paid for these wines (although a few have been given as gifts). 2008 Amelle Zinfandel Buck Hill Sonoma County: Retail: \$25. It is getting down to the nitty-gritty on this wine: I bought a ton of it a while ago from the winemaker whom I consider a friend, but this was the first of my last three bottles. The winemaker is no longer making wine (long story) and I have no idea where



this fruit is now going (or if the vines are even still in the ground). It is just how I remembered it and why I fell in love with this wine: great fruit, impeccable balance, lengthy, killer (California term) finish. This one has a bit more spice to it than I remember, but all the better. Gorgeous. Excellent. 92-94 Points. 2011 Del Carlo Zinfandel Old Vine Teldeschi Vineyard, Dry Creek Valley, CA: Retail \$30. Made by Ray & Lori Teldeschi, fifth generation farmers in the Dry Creek Valley (who recently retired, I've heard)—Ray is one of the nicest people I've met in Dry Creek, and for several reasons (not the least of which were his sausage-like fingers) reminds me of my maternal grandfather (but Ray, by almost every account, is far nicer than my grandpa was). His wines? Some of the better values in the Valley, but also fairly difficult to obtain (there were only 290 bottles of this Zin produced). Great fruit, nice balance, really a lovely wine by any measure, but even better knowing that Ray is such a great guy. Excellent. 90-92 Points. NV Gardet Champagne Premier Cru Brut: 1.5 Liter. Retail \$100. 60% Pinot Noir, 40% Pinot Meunier. I got several magnums of this from Last Bottle over a year ago, but this is only the second we've opened. Some darker color in the glass suggesting a bit of age with lemon rind and a bit of

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(22) August 2015 (22) July 2015 (24) June 2015 (23) May 2015 (23) April 2015
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