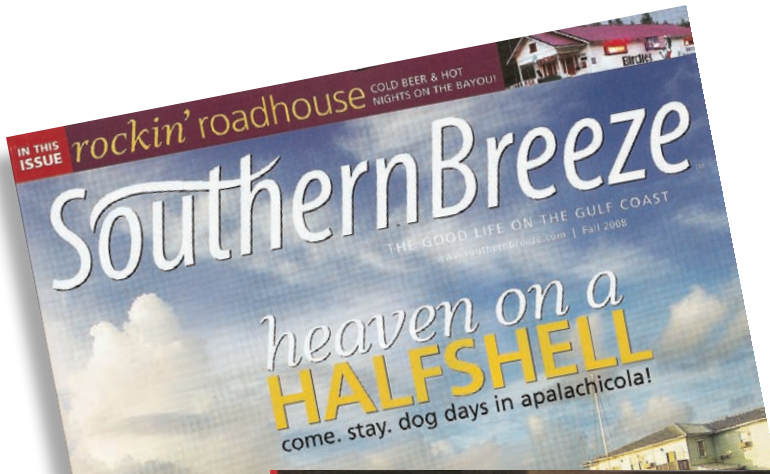




HAPPY CAMPER

"getting to where life is good"



The tradition of tailgating is as old as football. The first collegiate game was held between Rutgers and Princeton in 1869. Back then fans rode to the games in a horse and buggy and took picnic baskets filled with the pregame meal. Southerners soon followed with their own tradition of serving wild fish, wild game, cured hams, and homemade biscuits paired with a jug of tea or lemonade. During the 1970s the tradition really kicked off in the back of wood paneled station wagons. Times have changed.

From motor home enthusiasts with full kitchens to college students with a SUV and a grill, Southern tailgating today often involves cooking out and alcoholic beverages. So toast your team with wines that score. Pack Happy Camper's line-up of wines: Chardonnay, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon. And forget the corkscrew, these wines have screw cap closures. Pregame stats show that Chardonnay is typically the team favorite—the most popular varietal in the South and beyond. So double team the Camper wines with a 3-liter premium cask (bag in a box) of BoHo Vineyards Central Coast Chardonnay 2006 (\$24). And match all of these wines with pregame fare.

Happy Camper Chardonnay 2006 (\$8.99) offers notes of crisp apple and pear and will ease your pregame nerves. The BoHo Chardonnay displays flavors of pineapple, peach, apple, and melon with a creamy finish. This box is equivalent to four 750ml bottles. If your party can't drink it all, the eco-friendly box keeps wine fresh for several games—up to six weeks. Both Chardonnays are winners paired with roasted chicken. The Happy Camper Merlot 2006 (\$8.99) is a synthesis of blackberry, plum, spice, and supple tannins. Grill some pork tenderloins for pairing with this smooth wine. And the Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 (\$8.99) shows berry, underscored by earth and spice. Serve with cheeseburgers or roast beef and full-flavored cheese sandwiches.

The wines are also a good value—leaving you more cash for the gas that will get you to next week's game.

Jan Walsh is a freelance writer based in Vestavia Hills, Alabama.