

LETTER TO A WINE SNOB

By Dana Robinson

My Dear Husband,

I have enjoyed watching you blossom from a wine novice into a quasi-sommelier who downloads wine documentaries, has accumulated a vast collection of aerators and decanters, and reads The Wine Bible before bed.

But we need to talk.

Lately, your enthusiasm for wine has become a little...obnoxious. I still love you with all my heart, but just as you've managed to accept my shortcomings, I ask that you learn to accept the faults you perceive in others—namely, their tastes and approaches to wine.

You often take issue with not only what people drink, but how they drink. You're reluctant to bring the "good" bottles to your friend's house for Thanksgiving because he drinks too fast. You don't like opening your prized red blends over dinner with me because I drink too slowly. If you see anyone drinking the white wines you loath at our neighborhood wine bar, you hang your head while repeating, "What a shame. What an absolute shame."

You have become a wine snob.

Yes, the subtle flavors and textures that we have been gifted from the Pinot Noir, Shiraz and Grenache grapes are an absolute delight. And yes, in order to coax the most enjoyment out of them, our drinks should be slowly swirled, then sipped, then swirled again. But it just isn't everyone's bag, baby. Some people may want to, well, just drink the wine, and quickly. And some people, like me, enjoy meandering over a single glass or two for the entire duration of a dinner party. There's no need to act as the pace car of the wine world.

I know that you are capable of being open-minded, even when it comes to wine. I've watched you delight in the taste of numerous bottles that our friends have brought back from Italy and Spain. And watching you discover new wineries and vintages on our trips to Santa Barbara is like watching a kid open presents on Christmas morning.

All I ask is that you open the door a bit wider to let in just a few more rays of light. It's OK for you (and anyone else who wants) to drink from a stemless wine glass. It's OK for people to prefer a glass of Pinot Grigio to a glass of Burgundy. And if someone brings a bottle of unvetted white wine to our next wine and cheese party—just try it—you might like it.

Love,

Your Wife