

# A Divine Delight

By MONIQUE JOHNS PHOTOGRAPHY TIFFANY HIX



CHRISTINA BRANESKY >>

*THERE is nothing about wines that has to be snobby or pretentious. Wine is a serum, which has been harvested for centuries and is the muse for writers and thinkers. It can calm the mind, lift the spirit, and offer the warmth of youth. It's no wonder Christina Branesky built her wine bar and shop, Divine, on the concept that people are capable of good things and wine should be plentiful and shared. >>>>>>>>>*



"I love the conversation and good feeling you have when you're sitting around with friends drinking wine," said Christina. "[Divine] is just a very low-key, kicked back, casual, comfortable, and even safe kind of place."

It's tough to believe Christina is a mother to four children, ranging in age from 6 to 20 years. She admits wine contributes to her upbeat attitude and personality.

"It helps keep me preserved," she quipped. "I'd look like I was 100 [years old] if I didn't drink wine everyday." As it is, she hardly looks a day over 30.

Her love of wine began thirteen years ago on a date in downtown Boise. She recalls the upscale restaurant, Peter Schotts, which has since closed, and the first time she tried it. "I don't remember even if I loved it that night positively," said Christina. "I don't remember when I fell in love with wine. I slowly evolved into a wine lover."

Wine remained recreational until almost two years ago when she felt unchallenged and bored with her career in grocery sales. Although Christina had a degree in dental assisting, she couldn't stomach the blood, needles, nervousness, and pain involved in dentistry and therefore went to work for local Albertsons stores. She was there for nearly 20 years before taking the leap into entrepreneurship.

"In turning almost 40, I looked at my life and realized it's basically half over," she said. "I just didn't want to grow old and die never having done anything for myself."

Although Christina teetered on the fence for months as to whether opening a wine shop in Meridian would be wanted or needed, her fear didn't get the best of her.

She did her research and on the brink of saying, 'yes,' a friend sent her a quotation from Theodore Roosevelt. It read, "Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat."

Within weeks of reading the quote, the lease at Majestic Marketplace East was signed and Divine had the green light to set-up and open for business. It's been a year and four months since the grand opening.

At the heart of her business, Christina believes wines are a lot like people - that is, there are lots of different styles and varieties. Her clientele mimics this idea. She receives first-time wine drinkers and connoisseurs, young and old, and of course those that just like to be pampered and relax (So Posh Salon is just two doors down).

**CHRISTINA SAYS** "Almost everyone I know is ready for warmer weather, except for a few avid skiers, so here are some wines for the patio."

**Starry Night '06 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc** – Tropical fruit aromas and flavors. Compliments crab, oysters, fish, chicken, Asian food, and lighter pastas. \$15.

**Meditrina IV** – medium bodied with elegance and balance, soft red fruits, and a touch of spiciness. Pair it with anything off the grill. \$18.

**Pine Ridge Chenin** - Viognier – exhibits fragrant aroma of pear, lychee, and melon with a delicate touch of grapefruit, lime and mixed citrus. Pair with Asian or spicy foods, pastas with seafood and olive oil or light sauce. \$16

**Willamette Whole Cluster Pinot Noir** – a light styled wine bursting with ripe blueberry flavor. Serve lightly chilled with grilled veggies and meats. \$20

**Syratica** – Fruit forward and jammy. Easy to drink. Serve with or without food. \$15.75 **M**

### get to know them

Divine offers a full wine bar, wine by the bottle, free Wi-Fi, gift baskets, beer and light foods. Live music is held from 7 to 9 p.m. the first Saturday of the month. For more information or to book a private event, call Christina.

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2310 E. Overland Road, Suite #105  
in the Majestic Marketplace complex,  
east of the Majestic Theaters in  
Meridian.