

# THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

and The Tampa Times

## FLAVOR

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### A taste of THE STEW



By JEFF HOUCK  
The Tampa Tribune

**HAPPY NAPA:** The California winemakers who visited Tampa and St. Petersburg late last week for the Napa Valley Vintners Association tour through town had lots of nice things to say about the reception the area showed them. During a trade tasting at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse in Tampa on Friday afternoon, several said that the warm welcome stood in contrast to blasé reaction they got earlier in the week in Miami.

"No one really cared that we were there," one winemaker told me.

It didn't hurt that the weather was perfect Friday night for the outdoor tasting at **Fazal Fazlin's** waterfront estate on Park Street in St. Petersburg. Several dined Thursday night at Cafe Ponte in Clearwater and raved about chef **Chris Ponte's** food.

"That meal stands up to anything I've had anywhere else," Rocca Family Vineyards winemaker **Mary Rocca** told me.

Many at the Fleming's tasting raved about Rocca's 2004 Cabernet, which earned a 93 rating from Wine Spectator magazine.