



THE PAIRING Choose **Stone Edge Farm Cabernet Sauvignon 2010** (Sonoma Valley, \$85) for its cassis, black pepper, and intense but polished sweet tannins, or **Punch Vineyards 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$35; see page 107 for tasting notes).



WINE-BRAISED BEEF SHORT RIBS

SERVES 6 / 4½ HOURS

This classic braise, adapted from *Stone Edge Farm Cookbook* (\$60; stoneedgefarm.com), tastes even more flavorful made a day ahead, and chilling makes it easier to discard the fat. For the cooking wine, McReynolds believes that quality matters: "Certainly above \$5 a bottle but maybe not \$85," he jokes. He serves the ribs with steamed potatoes, carrots glazed in herb butter, watercress, and a rémoulade salad (see page 90).

6 beef short-rib pieces with bone, each 3 in. long (4 lbs. total)
2 tsp. kosher salt
1 tsp. pepper
1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
3 large onions, chopped
3 medium carrots, peeled and chopped
2 celery stalks, chopped
3 garlic cloves
3 tbsp. canned tomato paste
3 cups hearty red wine, such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, or Sangiovese

3 cups reduced-sodium chicken or beef broth, preferably homemade
10 thyme sprigs
3 bay leaves
Watercress sprigs

1. Preheat oven to 325°. Rub short ribs all over with salt and pepper. Heat a 6- to 8-qt. dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add oil and brown short ribs in 2 batches on all sides, turning as needed, 10 minutes per batch. Transfer short

ribs to a large plate and set aside.

- 2.** Reduce heat to medium and add onions, carrots, celery, and garlic to pot. Cook, stirring often, until vegetables are soft and lightly browned, about 25 minutes. Add tomato paste, wine, broth, thyme, and bay leaves and stir to release any brown bits. Bring to a boil and cook about 5 minutes to concentrate flavors. Return short ribs to pot and cover.
- 3.** Braise in oven until ribs are nearly tender when pierced with a fork, 1½ to 2 hours. Uncover and cook until a fork slides right into meat, 30 minutes more. With a slotted spoon, transfer ribs to a 9- by 13-in. baking dish. Set ribs aside.
- 4.** Strain juices from pot into a bowl, pressing vegetables to release liquid. Discard vegetables and return juices to pot.
- 5.** Increase oven to 400° and set rack in upper third. Bring juices to a boil over high heat, tip pot, and skim fat with a shallow spoon. Boil until sauce is reduced to about 2 cups, 20 to 25 minutes.
- 6.** Ladle about 1 cup sauce over ribs (save remaining sauce for other uses). Roast ribs, spooning sauce over them several times, until heated through and glazed, 15 to 25 minutes. Set meat on plates, spoon on sauce, and top with a little watercress.

MAKE AHEAD Through step 4, up to 1 day, chilled, with meat added to juices in pot. In step 5, lift fat from cold juices; then transfer meat to baking dish and reduce juices (no need to skim fat).