

# TOP NORTH AMERICAN CABS OF 2021



## #1. PULIDO-WALKER 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY "MELANSON" \$225.00 [249400]

While on our annual winter trip to the Napa Valley a few years back, we were invited to the "kick off" for a new winery named Pulido-Walker; they produced what was the single best wine we had on our entire trip! **Mark Pulido** and **Donna Walker** are dedicated to the perfection of every element needed to craft exceptional single-vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon. Their winemaker who helps them in this venture is the highly sought-after **Thomas Brown**, who also crafts the high scoring wines at Schrader, Maybach, and Outpost. **Thomas has received numerous 100-point scores, from both Wine Advocate and Wine Spectator!** This bottling comes from the Melanson Vineyard, a property nestled between boulders clinging stubbornly to the steep slopes of Pritchard Hill, east of Oakville, and in proximity to some of the most notable vineyards in the Napa Valley, such as Ovid, David Arthur, Continuum and Chappellet. Now, **this majestic bottling has earned the perfect 100 point score from esteemed wine critic Jeb Dunnuck!** His tasting notes read: "Pure Napa Valley genius, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Melanson Vineyard comes from a vineyard on Pritchard Hill, just across from Colgin, and is all Cabernet brought up in around 80% new French

oak. Stunningly pure notes of blackcurrants, blueberries, iron, crushed rock, and an almost meaty, bloody quality emerge from the glass, and this beauty is full-bodied, with a multi-dimensional, layered mouthfeel, loads of tannins, and a great, great finish. This flawless, heavenly Cabernet is going to benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and cruise for 20-30 years in cold cellars."

## #2. GROTH 2016 CABERNET SAUVIGNON OAKVILLE RESERVE \$129.99 [#227350]

Groth has been synonymous with stellar Napa Valley Cabernet for over three decades, and has received many accolades over that time. In fact, **Groth's 1985 Reserve Cabernet was the first American wine to receive 100 points from critic Robert Parker!**

Never one to rest on their laurels, Groth made the tough decision to replant a large portion of their vineyard that produced their reserve Cabernet to ensure future success. Now, that portion of the vineyard is back, and Groth's Reserve Cabernet is once again earning lofty scores and high praise. This 2016 bottling was a late release last year, and once we secured enough of it, we instantly knew it was going to be featured on our own "Top Wine" list. In that time, **Wine Spectator gave this 96 points, and made it their #4 Wine of the Year for 2019!** "This delivers a very tightly

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## Nov. Wine of the Month

COLLIER CREEK 2019 "RED WAGON" PINOT NOIR \$9.95 [212360]



The Collier Creek wines are part of the Peltier Winery and were created to honor the Lodi Appellation, its fruit and to remind us that farming matters, the future matters, and **good wine can be affordable and sustainable.** While not as well known as the "big two" appellations of Napa and Sonoma, Lodi has become renown for their different varietals (particularly Old Vine Zins), and was named "**2015 Wine Region of the Year**" by **Wine Enthusiast** magazine.

Peltier starts with proprietors Rodney and Gayla Schatz. Shortly after Rodney graduated from Cal Poly SLO and married his wife and co-proprietor, Gayla, the pair bought their first piece of land: 40 acres of Old Vine Zinfandel in the heart of the Lodi Appellation, where the winery sits today. It was a logical progression, in time, to move from grape growing prowess to **producing award-winning wines.** They now farm over 1,000 acres of estate grown grapes in Lodi, and with wines like this "Red Wagon" Pinot Noir, and as good as it is for such a reasonable

### HI-TIME STAFF

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Chuck Hanson - Wine Buyer/Dept. Mgr. - x216  
Keith Hanson - Liquor Manager - x227  
Matt Link - Floor Manager / Beer Mgr. - x228  
Tracy Hanson - Chocolatier - x223  
Josh Hoover - Operations Manager  
Sean Kinney - IT Manager / Webmaster  
Mike Hirst - Maintenance  
Charles Hirst - Internet Sales - x254  
Kendall White - Internet / Special Events - x268  
Jordan Hanson - Liquor Buyer, specialty beverages  
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Katie Kottelanne - Floor Manager  
Fernando Ruvalcaba - Floor Manager, Spirits  
Ryan Bolton - Spirits Specialist, Mixologist  
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Nick Hanson - Beer Desk  
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Natalie Garcia - Internet  
Michelle Murray - Minis, Sales  
Tyler Johnston - Spirits Specialist  
Adrian Ruelaz - Spirits Specialist  
Travis Mayfield - Spirits Specialist, Mixologist

### SMOKE SHACK

Sean Patrick [Floor Manager] - x253  
Tim McAlevy - x225

Tobin Sharp - Creative Director - x212

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Jim Duane - Sales Coordinator, Champagne - x255  
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Gary Faust - French Wine Buyer x216  
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Todd Johnston - Champagne, Imports - x268  
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Veronica Castro - Buyer: Germany, Imports - x262  
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Michael De France - Imports, America, Wine Club  
Sean McReynolds - Imports, America  
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## Nov. Wine of the Month

COLLIER CREEK 2019 "RED WAGON"  
PINOT NOIR \$9.95 [212360]

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price, the future of Peltier, Collier Creek and Lodi looks bright indeed!

"Red Wagon" is chock full of forward cherry scents, bolstered by notes of raspberry, spice, and black tea. The palate continues the cherry parade adding other beautifully ripe berry notes such as raspberry. The ripeness is tempered by forward acidity making this an ideal holiday wine with the variety of foods it can pair with (Thanksgiving, natch). The cherry theme continues on the mid-palate adding a touch of herbal, cola nut, krieb lmbic, and more mixed berries that lead to a bright, fruit-filled finish.

## Nov. Wine of the Month 2

VALRAVN 2019 PINOT NOIR  
SONOMA COUNTY  
\$19.95 [295670]

Fantastic Pinot Noir is hard to come by and at the \$20 price point, it's a downright challenge. However, we're up to the challenge, and we feel that **this is one of the best sub \$20 Pinot Noirs we've found in years!** Valravn is not a new name in our store. We've been carrying their balanced, flavorful Zinfandel for several years-- but after tasting this newly-released Pinot Noir from them, our wine staff couldn't wait for the wine to arrive, as they all wanted bottles for themselves!

After working in Sonoma County for 10 years, the team at Valravn established a dynamic network of friends and colleagues that include land owners, growers and winemakers. Through these connections, they have been fortunate to get **exclusive access to fantastic vineyards**, the backbone to any quality wine. Their Pinot is an exploration of Sonoma County, anchored in the Russian River Valley. Vineyards span as far north as Annapolis, east as Sonoma Mountain, west as Freestone and south as Petaluma Gap. The wine spent 12 months aging in 20% new French oak and this gorgeous Pinot Noir displays lush dark cherry, ripe strawberry and hints of rose petals that dominate the ultra-fragrant nose. The palate shows the weight of the Russian River component, with rich fruit compote and hints of cedar spice, while the Sebastopol fruit shows beautiful elegance and mineral cut. An extraordinarily well-rounded wine with something for everyone!



## Dec. Wine of the Month

BROADSIDE 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON  
\$12.95 [206000] PASO ROBLES

Paso Robles continues to garner attention as **one of the hottest AVAs (American Viticultural Areas) in California--** and for good reason. They are making phenomenal wines of differing varieties in a range of styles and prices with **quality standing out as the hallmark.** Our Wine of the Month for December is a great example.

Sourced from sustainably farmed, **SIP certified** vineyards in San Luis Obispo County, the 2019 Broadside is comprised of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 6% Malbec. The vast majority of this wine hails from Blocks 42 and 40 up in the **Truesdale Vineyard**, grown alongside grapes used by other world-class wineries. The Merlot and Malbec come from the famed **Santa Margarita Ranch** on the southern border of Paso Robles. The wines spent 18 months in almost 40% new French and American oak as the depth of the base wine was dense enough to handle the added wood. The culmination of all of this is **a seriously good wine at a steal of a price!**

The nose introduces with a blend of red and dark fruits, blackberry and strawberry, with a touch of herbals, mint and candle wax. Wood and spice notes flourish in the background. The dark fruits continue upon tasting with **blackberry and black raspberry and plum** leading to secondary notions of dark chocolate, cigar box and a hint of citrus, wood spice and dark florals. Broad waves of tannins and light acidity lend plenty of structure to this princely Paso pour and **we were smitten upon tasting!** Enjoy with all kinds of foods from your favorite charcuterie selections, barbecued meats (**from burgers to brisket**) or holiday fare.



## THE SMOKE SHACK

Amazing Cigars!  
Pipes, tobacco &  
accessories, too!

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focused, almost piercing beam of cassis, raspberry coulis and bitter cherry fruit, scored with singed alder and iron notes. Incense and tobacco details chime in on the finish. Long and refined, with the fruit leaving a sweet and mouthwatering echo. Best from 2022 through 2038.”

### #3. KELLY FLEMING 2016 CABERNET SAUVIGNON CALISTOGA ESTATE \$164.95 [234030]

While in the restaurant industry, Kelly Fleming visited the Napa Valley for 20 years and fell in love with the area; anybody who's been to the valley can understand why. She purchased property in 1998 in a small, yet highly-envied area of Calistoga called Picket Road. The resident wineries of the area include Kenefick Ranch, Hundred Acre and Eisele estate... so you get the amazing quality of grapes that grow in the area.

**Kelly's 12 acres of grapes are farmed organically and meticulously.** Her winemaker is Rebecca George, who had previously worked at Schramsberg, Williams Selyem and Marcassin. When Rebecca came to Kelly Fleming, she worked alongside Celia Welch (winemaker for Scarecrow), got to know the wine's "sense of place" and Rebecca now makes one of the most gorgeous



Cabernets from Napa's Calistoga region.

This gem has earned an incredible **97+ points from Antonio Galloni** and the nose of this wine is ripe with dark fruit characters, exuding black cherry, crème de cassis and black mission fig. Just below the surface, layers of black tea, orange peel, clove and sandalwood emerge to engage the senses. The palate pulls no punches – it is concentrated and powerful, dark and serious. Loads of dark chocolate and black plum flavors, along with hints of olive and spice, add character and charm to the wine's full-bodied appeal and silky entry. The tannins are firm yet chiseled, pointing towards even greater integration and evolution over the next 10-20 years.

### #4. THE SETTING 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ALEXANDER VALLEY \$84.95 [268560]

Let us introduce you to one of (if not **THE**) hottest new winery to come out of Alexander Valley in the past decade! The Setting's Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon comes from the stunning old-vine vineyard of SJ Ranch at the top of Chalk Hill Road. Sitting directly next to Verite, in the most southeast corner of Alexander Valley, this cooler hillside site creates wines of balanced intensity. Chalky volcanic soils with little organic material and polished rocks make up the majority of the soil profile, with a gravel soil bed that weaves though half of the vineyard.

This shift to gravel creates added stress in the vines resulting in enhanced concentration in the fruit. Winemaker and co-proprietor Jesse Katz has spent over 19 harvests at several world-renowned wineries, such as Petrus, Screaming Eagle, Vina Cobos and others. Yup...you read those right! Our buyer tasted this Cabernet at a recent trade event and he was absolutely floored with the intensity, quality and balance of this wine. In fact, the critics think so too, as **this wine recently earned 97 points from Wine**

**Advocate!** "Deep garnet-black in color, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley has an extraordinary perfume of cassis laced with an array of classic Cabernet scents: cured meats, pencil shavings, violet, lilac, bay leaves and exotic spices. The palate is pure and lifted, with ripe, dusty tannins and bursts of freshness that highlight its perfume and perfectly ripe fruits, finishing very long and very layered."



### #5. MT. BRAVE 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON MOUNT VEEDER \$99.95 [244550]

Mt. Brave makes its second appearance on our top wine list in just a few short years; for those of you who've enjoyed these wines, **you understand why.** This wine is made by Chris Carpenter, who is

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the absolute master at taming the sometimes massive tannins that come from mountain-grown Cabernets. Chris has **several 100-point scores to his credit** and makes Lokoya, Cardinale, La Jota and others. In fact, the grapes used for Mt. Brave come from the same vineyard used to make the 100-points wines for Lokoya's Mount Veeder Cabernet! "Lots of cassis and black raspberry fruits as well as classic Mount Veeder notes of lavender, violets, bouquet garni and rocky, mineral-like notes emerge from the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon. A deep, full-bodied mountain Cabernet Sauvignon, it has a plush, layered texture, beautiful tannins, a deep, concentrated mid-palate and a great finish. Another head-turning wine from this label, it's a candidate for the best Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon out there at the price point."

**-Jeb Dunnuck 97 points!**



## **#6. PARADIGM 2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON OAKVILLE ESTATE \$75.00 [249120]**

Marilyn and Ren Harris founded Paradigm Vineyards in 1976. Since that time, they have grown fruit for many of Napa Valley's most outstanding wineries. They began bottling small quantities of estate wine in 1991. Throughout their ownership of Paradigm, Ren and Marilyn have been tireless advocates for the Oakville appellation, eco-friendly farming and environmental stewardship. The lovely and talented **Heidi Petterson Barrett** has been the winemaker since Paradigm's first vintage. While she has made wine for other notable Oakville properties such as **Dalle Valle and Screaming Eagle**, Paradigm has always been the hidden gem for wine geeks in the know. Made in a full-bodied yet balanced style, this wine includes small amounts of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot for increased complexity. The aromas are enticing and open, showing ripe

## **Caves at Vineyard 29**



fruit, complexity and layers of refined French Oak. This is a very expressive, complete wine that will age beautifully. Mouthcoating flavors of black cherry, currant, and blackberry followed by chewy tannins lead to an overall palate feel that is delicious. With perfect balance and ripeness, this is a stellar vintage!



## **#7. VINEYARD 29 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY "CRU" \$64.95 [271110]**

Proprietors Chuck and Anne McMinn have turned Vineyard 29 into one of Napa Valley's **brightest stars**. Located just north of St. Helena, the vines are at an enviable spot in the valley, where the sloping base of the Mayacamas Mountains give some of the best spots to grow Cabernet Sauvignon. Here at Vineyard 29, attention to detail is paramount and their impressive team of winemaker Keith Emerson and viticulturalist Dave Abreu ensure that only the best grapes make their way into the winery. In addition to their two estate wines, they also produce the **Cru Cabernet Sauvignon**, a

wine whose backbone comes from their estate grapes, complemented with fruit from both their neighbors and like-minded growers in Oakville.

This is a full-bodied and thrilling Cab that just earned **94 points from Jeb Dunnuck!** "Plums, Asian spices, tobacco and lead pencil notes emerge from the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Cru, which hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a beautifully polished, elegant texture and outstanding length. This is another gorgeous

2018 displaying notable purity, balance and length as well as richness. It can be drunk any time over the coming 15+ years."



## **#8. TURNBULL 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY \$48.95 [269080]**

Turnbull has been rooted in the culture and history of the Napa Valley, making wine of exceptional quality since 1979. Operating their small, family business from the original estate winery in Oakville, they pay tribute to their heritage while staying rooted in the present. It starts with their estate-

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## Turnbull Vineyards



grown fruit, which they carefully tend to from the ground up through to the winery. Turnbull wines are crafted with integrity and without compromise. This particular bottling comes from four of their estate vineyards in Oakville and Calistoga and received the same care and strict standards as their more elusive bottlings. A blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot, 2% Merlot and 1% Malbec, notes of dusted blackberries, plum and cherry lead to a back-drift of toast and fleeting tobacco. Supple creamy tannins widen the dark fruit midpalate, lending to a lifted and layered finish. This wine widens and rises in amplitude and velocity with elegance and balance, showcasing the incredible beauty of the 2019 vintage.

**#9. STAR LANE 2017  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON  
HAPPY CANYON OF SANTA  
BARBARA COUNTY  
"STAR LANE"  
\$41.99 [274740]**

Star Lane is a beautiful property located in Happy Canyon, on the eastern edge of Santa Ynez Valley. Officially recognized in 2009, Happy Canyon AVA is unique from other AVAs within Santa Barbara County in terms of soil compositions and microclimates. It has the soils reminiscent of Bordeaux, warm-to-hot daytime temps, but exceedingly cool nights and vineyard elevations ranging from 750 – 1,500



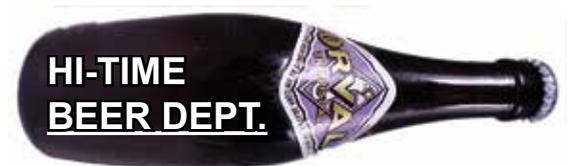
feet; a perfect recipe for Cabernet Sauvignon! Aged for 22 months in French oak, this gem earned **94+ points from respected critic Jeb Dunnuck**: "Beautiful cassis, cedarwood, graphite, and hints of violets emerge from the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Star Lane Vineyard. This medium to full-bodied beauty has a classy, elegant profile, ripe tannins, and a great finish. A brilliant Cabernet from Santa Barbara with real class, it's going to evolve for two decades."



**#10. BAND OF VINTNERS 2018  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON  
NAPA VALLEY \$24.98 [212590]**

Band of Vintners is the outcome of seven wine industry friends (winemakers, sommeliers, salespeople) who regularly get together to taste wine and talk shop. The collective "insider knowledge" of where the best fruit can be sourced, where the deals can be found, was contagious, and the outcome surprised even us. In fact, we believe this wine makes a strong case for one of the best QPRs in the Napa Valley and is something we're proud to share with

our friends, family, neighbors and (of course) our customers. This wine is a symphony of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon combining sustainably-farmed grapes from a variety of high-quality growers from Coombsville, Mt. Veeder and Calistoga at a price that is music to everyone's ear. In fact, this might leave you asking, "How did they get this into a bottle at this price?" We're not sure how, but we're glad that it's here, as this has become one of our favorites to take home at night. This Cabernet has recently earned a **92-point score from Wine Advocate**, and the review reads: "Medium ruby-purple, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon is very pretty on the nose, super floral with notes of blackcurrant bud, violet, bitter chocolate, cedar and classy new oak spices plus loads of red berry sparks. The palate is medium-bodied, lifted, floral and fresh, with a gently chalky texture and long, uplifted finish."



From West Coast stylee brews to classic Belgians, Holiday Releases, monster IPAs and everything in between, we've got beer for you! (Kegs, too!)

## TERMS OF SALE

**ALL PRICES ARE NET** • Most wine, liquor and nonalcoholic prices are pre-discounted. Some wines may get a further case discount. There is not a "mixed case" discount. Wines listed are subject to prior sale and availability and are limited to existing inventory, i.e., there is no guarantee that an item listed will necessarily be in stock.

**PRICE CHANGES / PRICING ERRORS** • All prices are subject to change without notice. We are not responsible for typographical errors or tariffs and reserve the right to change incorrect pricing. Please check with your salesperson to insure correct pricing.

**LIMITATIONS** • We reserve the right to limit quantities; no rain checks.

**RETURNS** • Technically, it is illegal for retailers to take wine back which is not spoiled. We do take returns on wines which are obviously corked or flawed (within recent 5 vintages, an industry standard). This is done, however, at our discretion. In these cases, store credit will be given towards additional purchases. If you feel your wine is flawed, it needs to be returned as soon as possible for evaluation. We do not honor returns on wines which have been improperly stored, mistreated or have been out of the store longer than 60 days. We also reserve the right to be the final arbiter of what constitutes a flawed wine.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Prices listed in current newsletter are for that month (or listed months) only.

# The 12 Champagnes of *Christmas*



## LOUIS ROEDERER

### 2008 BRUT "CRISTAL" \$289.95 [374227]

We are more than a little proud to have secured enough stock of this once-in-a-generation edition of Cristal to include it on our annual Christmas list. Tyson Stelzer, in his **Champagne Guide**, writes: "Cristal 2008 is the ultimate and absolute embodiment of [*chef de cave*] Jean-Baptiste Lecaillon's fanatical work in the winery and most of all in the vineyards-- a magnificent, towering monument to the lofty chalk aspiration that defines Cristal. Many have declared 2008 to be the greatest Cristal of the modern era, not the least Lecaillon himself." **JAMES SUCKLING 100 POINTS**- "Disgorged October 2016 and will be the first Cristal to be released ten years from harvest when it is offered in 2018. 35 parcels used from a possible 45 in this vintage. The assemblage is 60% pinot noir and 40% chardonnay. This is so fresh and tense and mineral with extremely exuberant chardonnay notes on the nose of white peach, lemon and yellow grapefruit, and hints of almost brambly *sous-bois* aromas. The yeast characters are also super fresh and there are subtle woody notes with a hint of vanilla bean and light spices. The palate is super long, and very pure, powerful and focused. It drives deep and taut. Pinot noir is a strong core and the chardonnay sits at the edge offering lemon and white nectarine sorbet flavors. Staggeringly

concentrated, yet the balance makes it seem airy and light. Acidity is perfectly positioned, and the power is intense and long. This is an ultra-precise Cristal, finishing with a mere suggestion of savoriness and warmth to come. Impressive on release, this will be at its best drinking from 2025."



## PIPER-HEIDSIECK 2008 BRUT "RARE"

### \$169.98 [321909]

Renowned cellar master Régis Camus, awarded the title of "Sparkling Winemaker of the Year" eight times by the International Wine Challenge jury, retired from Piper-Heidsieck in 2018 after a tenure of 22 years. The good news is that Régis remains the 'mind behind' for the House's *tête de cuvée* Brut Rare Champagne. Produced only in the most exceptional vintages, only 11 vintages of Rare have been created in the last four decades. This 2008 rivals the sublime 1998 (produced only in magnums) as the best "Rare" ever as this rave review suggests.

**WINE SPECTATOR 97 POINTS** - "Like a stallion out of the gate, this shows an initial explosion of power, in the form of mouthwatering flavors and fine texture, before quickly settling into an elegant gait. The racy acidity is seamlessly knit, buoying the lacy mousse and flavors of cassis, toasted brioche and tangerine, with accents of candied ginger, hazelnut and *fleur de sel* lingering on the long, creamy finish."



Diebolt Family

## DIEBOLT-VALLIOIS 2013 BRUT BLANC DE BLANCS \$49.95 [322026]

One of the most iconic and highly respected vigneron in the Côte des Blancs, Jacques Diebolt has been making Champagne in the Grand Cru village of Cramant since 1959. The quality of Diebolt's wines undoubtedly stems from the family's magnificent collection of vineyards which are located in some of the most favored sectors of Cramant, as well as additional important holdings in Chouilly, Cuis, Le Mesnil-sur-Oger. Made during the best years, this edition reflects the keen balance and kinetic character of the classically cool 2013 growing season. It showcases a rich depth of pippin apple and key lime fruit flavors fused to a racy undercarriage reminiscent of brine and crushed oyster shells. Youthfully taut and bracing, this is a textbook aperitif Champagne that should unwind nicely with cellaring over the next few years. We would be remiss if we didn't point out that one would expect to pay seventy dollars plus for vintage Champagne of this caliber.



## PIERRE GIMONNET & FILS 2014 BRUT GRANDS TERROIRS DE CHARDONNAY SPECIAL CLUB \$99.98 [378663]

Didier Gimonnet's family owns an enviable estate comprised of seventy acres, almost all located in the Côte des Blancs. In a region afflicted by plantings of young vines, over 80% of Didier's are more than 30 years old. This precious patrimony is best displayed in their prestigious Special Club

"12 Champagnes" Pages 6-7-8

# The 12 Champagnes of *Christmas*

cuvée. It is based (60%) on the Cramant Grand Cru and includes their 100+ year-old vines in the *lieux-dits* of “Le Fond du Bateau” and “Buissons”. The rest of the assemblage is 30% Chouilly “Mont Aigu”(planted in 1951), and 10% drawn from Cuis. This 2014 Special Club is a particularly attractive expression that combines the ripeness of the 2012 with some of the racy crunchiness that marked the 2013 vintage. William Kelly’s assessment in the **Wine Advocate** last March runs as follows: “Disgorged in May 2019 with four grams per liter dosage, Gimonet’s 2014... has turned out beautifully, wafting from the glass with aromas of citrus oil, crisp orchard fruit, white flowers and fresh yogurt that are still quite youthfully reserved. Medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, with racy acids and an elegant pinpoint mousse, it’s seamless and complete. Still tightly wound after its recent disgorgement, it will reward patience. **94+ Points.**”

## RENE GEOFFROY 2013 BRUT “VOLUPTÉ” 1ER CRU \$72.98 [321878]

For us “Volupté” is always the swankiest of the Geoffroy cuvées. Now made from 100% Chardonnay, “Volupté” comes from two chalky, southeast facing hillside parcels; Les Chenes and Tourne Midi (which is particularly steep and bereft of top soil) in the warm Cumieres cru. The Les Chenes component is aged in neutral oak while the Tourne Midi is staged in enamel tanks before blending. The assemblage is then bottle-aged on the yeast for seven years. Straw-gold, with gentle, persistent bubbles, this 2013 presents a fascinating nose of white flowers, lychee and papaya. Vey dry but generous on the palate with touches of lemon curd, coconut and brioche, while the tangy finish reveals ginger and wet stone inflections. A soaring expression of the Cumieres *terroir* at a remarkably down-to-earth price.



## MARION-BOSSER 2012 BRUT 1ER CRU \$77.98 [376559]

This super-limited (70 case) edition is a 50/50 blend of Grand Cru Chardonnay (Oger, Le Mesnil-sur-Oger and Cramant) and Premier Cru Pinot Noir from Hautvillers and Cumieres. Hand-harvested, this 2012 sees 33% of the base wine undergoing malolactic fermentation followed by extended “Sur Latte” aging for 84 months. Beautifully evolved aromas of baked bread and roasted almond aromas distinguish the bouquet while the palate displays a long, luxuriant interplay of honeyed stone fruit, citrus and limestone elements. This gem epitomizes an import facet of our *raison d’être*—namely finding overlooked artisanal Champagne producers that wildly overdeliver at their price point. In this case we have uncovered a vintage Champagne crafted by a boutique mother-daughter operation (situated in Dom Perignon’s village of Hautvillers) that exudes a lofty luxury Champagne taste experience at less than half the tariff one would expect.



Paul Pertois in 1955. Not surprisingly, the brothers see themselves as stewards of their vinous inheritance and practice eco-responsible viticulture to promote plant vitality and the microbiological life of their soils. This cuvée was matured primarily (75%) in stainless steel tanks and 25% in oak barrels for ten months. After blending, bottling took place in July of 2013 and then the cuvée was aged on yeast 81 months and finished with a minimal dosage of 1.5 g/l. The result is a remarkable juxtaposition of old-vine power with the finesse that accrues from long-term bottle aging on the yeast. The fresh bouquet exudes citrus blossoms, lychee and pineapple along with hints of wet stones and anise. On the palate the attack is energetic with laser-focused peach and tangerine impressions permeated with a bracing minerality that emerges in the long, juicy finish. A “rock-licker’s” delight that will soar with all manner of shellfish.

## LARMANDIER-BERNIER 2018 EXTRA BRUT ROSÉ DE SAIGNÉE 1ER CRU \$79.99 [377907]

One certainly doesn’t expect to find one of Champagne’s most important and profound rosés to be crafted entirely from grapes grown in the Côte des Blancs which, of course, is a **fabled bastion of Chardonnay**.

This improbable masterpiece was created by Pierre Larmandier of Vertus. It was fashioned from a unique, old-vine, east-facing Pinot Noir vineyard co-planted with 15% Pinot Gris. After hand sorting and crushing, the juice macerates on the skins for two or three days to give the wine its rich color (rather than being blended with a bit of red still wine further on down the road).

It’s fermented in a combination of stainless steel tanks and concrete eggs and finished with a light dosage of three grams per liter.

Last spring critic **William Kelley** inked the following praise: **WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS** “The... (2018 base) will soon be disgorged, and readers will be able to identify it by its deeper, unusually saturated hue without looking at the small print. Bursting with aromas of pear, plums, orange rind and sweet berries, it’s medium to full-



## PERTOIS-LEBRUN 2012 EXTRA BRUT “LE FOND DU BATEAU” GRAND CRU \$74.95 [321902]

We introduced the rising star duo of Antoine and Clément Bouret in last year’s Christmas list by featuring their beguiling Brut “L’Extreverte.” This year we are showcasing “Le Fond Bateau,” the first of Pertois-Lebrun’s mono-parcel “Les Fideles” expressions where the identity and *terroir* of the family’s most exalted plots are to be revealed. Located in the Grand Cru of Chouilly (right on the border with Cramant) the three-and-a-half-acre Le Fond Bateau



vineyard was planted by the brother’s grandfather

# The 12 Champagnes of *Christmas*

bodied, round and enveloping, with a ripe core of fruit and the most phenolic presence I've tasted in this perennially superb cuvée. That makes this 2018 base a more vinous, gastronomic wine, which will offer interesting possibilities at the table."

## CHARTOGNE-TAILLET BRUT "SAINTE ANNE" \$49.95 [374657]

One of the Montagne de Reims's brightest young stars is **Alexandre Chartogne** who is headquartered in the once overlooked village of Merfy situated about four miles north of Reims. Alexandre once worked with famed Champagne cult vigneron **Anselme Selosse** (his "wine father") and he applies many of Selosse's methods in his vineyards and cellar: an emphasis on healthy soils, reduced yields and a very hands-off approach to wine making.



In recent years he has gained fame himself, especially for his single parcel bottlings. These limited-production gems are unfortunately divvied out to the trade with eye droppers. More plentiful and much more affordable is Chartogne's nifty "Sainte Anne" cuvée which he blends as an expression of the whole village of Merfy. This latest iteration is a mix of 40% Chardonnay, 40% Pinot Noir and 10% Meunier with 50% drawn from the 2018 harvest and the rest from reserve stocks. Pale straw color with a fine bead, the nascent nose opens slowly to reveal inviting red apple, peach and baguette scents. In recent years Alexandre has upped the use of oak to 80% in the élevage which has contributed an additional layer of flavor as well as a sense of *gravitas*.

On the palate the wine is medium-bodied, with focused orchard fruits, key lime and roasted almond notions lifted by bright acidity and topped off with a haunting minerality. A wonderful bottle that will only get better with a little more cellar rest. Honestly, we can't think of a better Champagne for under fifty dollars.

## PAUL BARA 2014 BRUT ROSÉ SPECIAL CLUB \$119.95 [378249]

This highly regarded grower-producer sustainably farms 27 acres of vines all located in the **Grand Cru village of Bouzy**. Bouzy's famed warmth is a blessing and curse. If not handled properly, the fizz from its slopes can be dull and heavy.

The Bara production team has deftly kept this overt vinosity in check principally through timely harvesting, fermenting in steel and enamel tanks and by strictly avoiding malolactic fermentation.

This Special Club rosé perfectly illustrates this **precise balance of fruit intensity and finesse**. It's a blend of 70% Pinot Noir, 12% being still red wine, with 30% Chardonnay all from selected older-vine parcels. Visually, a medium-deep salmon-pink robe with a steady bead leads to a rose-like perfume followed by red berry elements (raspberries and black cherries) that spill over to the vivacious, almost weightless palate where notions of baking spices, blood orange and savory minerals rise in the lacy finish. **Simply superb and easily one of best rosé champagnes available regardless of price.**



## GOUTORBE 2008 BRUT SPECIAL CLUB \$89.98 [375220]

This one of those "**Why is this Champagne still available?**" head scratchers and makes it an obvious call for inclusion on this roster. **It is rare, indeed, to find a Champagne farmer with the patience to yeast-age a Champagne in**

**bottle for more than a decade, especially one from a such a highly sought-after vintage like 2008.** This grower *tête de cuvée* is fashioned entirely from old vines situated on the steepest south-facing slopes of the Aÿ Grand Cru. It sports a pale gold hue and offers up a complex, fully developed bouquet of Queen Anne cherries, candied apples and assorted bakery smells. This is a prodigious Champagne that displays a toned opulence featuring a broad core of dark and savory Pinot fruit (tempered by the inclusion of 30% Chardonnay), melded with ripe citrus and sumptuous brioche flavors. Hardly cheap, but a great value nonetheless.

## DAVID LÉCLAPART 2017 BRUT NATURE "L'AMATEUR" \$75.95 [325726]

The Léclaparts have been vigneron in the Montagne de Reims for generations. David took over the parental business in 1998 and soon after **he had the attention of Champagne freaks and Michelin-starred restaurants around the globe**. By the way, this fame combined with minuscule production means that Léclapart Champagnes are *virtually impossible to procure*.

David biodynamically farms seven and a half acres in Trepail (two miles north of Ambonny) divided into 22 plots. His meticulously-tended vines seem to burst with energy and health and this vitality is reflected in his naturally crafted Champagnes. This "Amateur" is 100% Chardonnay blended from six parcels that illustrate all the various aspects of Trepail. Only natural yeasts are used for alcoholic fermentation which takes place in enameled-steel tanks. No fining, no filtration, no dosage. Due to space considerations, the wines are released very young and this 2017 is really a Champagne of Christmas Future. For the impatient, we recommend careful decanting, which reveals incisive, crystalline notes of green apple, kiwi and lime enveloped with taut acidity and the chalk soil undertones for which the Trepail cru is noted. **A fabulous aperitif Champagne and a great introduction to Léclapart, one of Champagne's natural wonders.**



**#1. LOUIS MICHEL 2019 CHABLIS LE CLOS**  
\$79.95 [351138]

**WINE ADVOCATE 95 POINTS** - "The 2019 Chablis Grand Cru Les Clos is the king of the cellar this year. Mingling notes of crisp orchard fruit and citrus zest with hints of iodine, white flowers, anise and fresh bread, it's full-bodied, layered and muscular, with a deep and multidimensional core, bright girdling acids and a long, penetrating finish."



**#2. VINCENT GIRARDIN 2017 MEURSAULT LES CHARMES**  
\$99.99 [334115]

**WINE ADVOCATE 93+ POINTS** - "The 2017 Meursault 1er Cru Les Charmes Dessus was showing even better in bottle, unwinding in the glass with notes of pear, citrus zest, wheat toast, nutmeg and anise. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated and textural, there's more substance and structure here than I perceived, with plenty of racy acidity too. Long and saline, this is a serious Charmes. Germain told me that 80% of this cuvée is produced from the domaine's holdings, with the balance coming from a parcel they farm and harvest."



**#3. VINCENT GIRARDIN 2017 PULIGNY VIEILLES VIGNES**  
\$64.99 [354275]

**JEB DUNNUCK 91 POINTS** - "The 2017 Puligny-Montrachet Les Vieilles Vignes is a more steely, racy effort that has plenty of white currant and stone fruits as well as notes of honeysuckle, white flowers, and green almonds. With good mid-palate density, medium-bodied richness, and bright yet nicely integrated acidity, it's an outstanding, balanced, beautiful Village wine to enjoy over the coming decade."



**#4. VACHERON 2019 SANCERRE LES ROMAINS**  
\$57.95 [353396]

**WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS:** "From 20- to 50-year-old vines in a south/southwest-facing vineyard, the 2019 Sancerre Les Romains offers a pure yet intense and iodine-scented bouquet of shells and oysters along with algae aromas. Full-bodied, rich and powerful on the palate, this is an elegant, refined, balanced and refreshingly mineral Les Romains with a long, juicy, pretty aromatic, seriously structured and persistent salty finish with stimulating grip. Impressive, as always. Tasted in February 2021."

**#5. CHÂTEAU FUISSÉ 2018 POUILLY-FUISSÉ TÊTE DE CUVÉE\*\***  
\$39.98 [333606]

**DECANTER 97 POINTS** - "Brimming with ripe yellow plums and nectarines with candied lemon/lime citrus and honeysuckle; delightfully pure and harmonious with a warming creamy oak consistency and a lovely deft finish. Long and luxurious. \*Platinum Award Decanter World Wine Awards 2020\*\*"

\*\* Prior to the 2017 vintage, this wine was called 'TÊTE DE CRU'



**#6. LOUIS MICHEL 2019 CHABLIS MONTÉE DE TONNERRE**  
\$34.99 [350893]

**WINE ADVOCATE 92+ POINTS** - "The 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Montée de Tonnerre opens in the glass with notes of pear, green apple, wet stones, iodine and fresh pastry. Medium to full-bodied, satiny and layered, it's taut and concentrated, with bright acids and a long, saline finish. It's derived from holdings in Chapelot."

"Intense and tensile wines are the calling card here, pure and unadorned in style and consistently high in quality. Indeed, I sometimes think that Louis Michel is the most underrated of Chablis's larger domaines. As the reviews reflect, the 2019s have turned out nicely, with a touch more flesh and fruit than usual but retaining good freshness."

**#7. HIPPOLYTE REVERDY 2020 SANCERRE**  
\$28.99 [315005]

**A STAFF FAVORITE AND BEST SELLER**

There is perhaps no better match for a dozen oysters than this minerally Sancerre from one of the best producers in the region. The wine displays textbook Loire Valley Sauvignon Blanc hallmarks, with bright acidity, smoke, citrus, and grassiness. **It is insanely addictive and so so good with shellfish!** Hippolyte Reverdy's family has been making wine in the charming village of Verdigny, a commune of Sancerre in the eastern Loire, for many generations- perhaps as far back as 1600.



**#8. LOUIS MICHEL 2019 CHABLIS**  
\$22.99 [354768]

**WINE ADVOCATE 90 POINTS** - "Bursting with notes of peach, crisp orchard fruit, fresh bread and pastry, the 2019 Chablis Village is medium to full-bodied, satiny and precise, with a fleshy core of fruit, lively acids and a mineral finish."

**#9. GUIGAL 2019 CÔTES DU RHÔNE BLANC**  
\$13.95 [353281]

**JEB DUNNUCK 90 POINTS** - "Always a winner, especially when you consider the volume produced, the 2019 Côtes du Rhône Blanc reveals a vivid gold hue as well as beautiful notes of crushed citrus, honeyed peach, and white flowers to go with a medium-bodied, crisp, clean style on the palate. With good acidity and a dry finish, it's going to shine on the dinner table and keep nicely for 2-3 years. It's a smoking value."



**#1. COS D'ESTOURNEL 2009**

**SAINT-ESTÈPHE \$389.99 [350496]**

**ROBERT PARKER 100 POINTS:** "One of the greatest young wines I have ever tasted, the monumental 2009 Cos d'Estournel has lived up to its pre-bottling potential. A remarkable effort from winemaking guru Jean-Guillaume Prats and owner Michel Reybier, this blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot (33%) and a touch of Cabernet Franc (2%) was cropped at 33 hectoliters per hectare. It boasts an inky/black/purple color along with an extraordinary bouquet of white flowers interwoven with blackberry and blueberry liqueur, incense, charcoal and graphite. The wine hits the palate with extraordinary purity, balance and intensity as well as perfect equilibrium, and a seamless integration of tannin, acidity, wood and alcohol. An iconic wine as well as a remarkable achievement, it is the greatest Cos d'Estournel ever produced. It is approachable enough at present that one could appreciate it with several hours of decanting, but it will not hit its prime for a decade, and should age effortlessly for a half century."



**#2 . PONTET-CANET**

**2009 PAUILLAC**

**\$299.95 [333845]**

**ROBERT PARKER 100 POINTS** - "An amazing wine in every sense, this classic, full-bodied Pauillac is the quintessential Pontet-Canet from proprietor Alfred

Tesseron, who continues to reduce yields and farms his vineyards biodynamically-- a rarity in Bordeaux. Black as a moonless night, the 2009 Pontet-Canet offers up notes of incense, graphite, smoke, licorice, creme de cassis and blackberries. A wine of irrefutable purity, laser-like precision, colossal weight and richness, and sensational freshness, this is a *tour de force* in winemaking that is capable of lasting 50 or more years. The tannins are elevated, but they are sweet and beautifully integrated as are the acidity, wood and alcohol (which must be in excess of 14%). This vineyard, which is situated on the high plateau of Pauillac adjacent to Mouton Rothschild, appears to have done everything perfectly in 2009. This cuvée should shut down in the cellar and re-open in a decade or more."

**#3. LÉOVILLE BARTON**

**2003 SAINT-JULIEN**

**\$199.99 [345921]**

**WINE SPECTATOR**

**98 POINTS** - "Intense blackberry and cherry, with hints of currant. Toasted oak and sweet tobacco too. Roses and other flowers, such as lilacs. Full-bodied, with masses of tannins yet incredibly long and seductive."

**\*#3 Top Wines of 2006, Collectibles\***



**#4. LES PAGODES DE**

**COS 2009 SAINT-ESTÈPHE**

**\$89.99 [351664]**

**ROBERT PARKER 94**

**POINTS** - "The brilliant 2009

Les Pagodes de Cos actually has more Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend than the grand vin (69% versus 65%) in addition to mostly Merlot and a small quantity of Petit Verdot. As powerful as the Cos in terms of alcoholic clout (14.5%), the full-bodied, round, generous Les Pagodes de Cos exhibits lots of creme de cassis and floral notes intermixed with hints of wood/barrique and spice. Juicy, succulent and remarkably fresh and well-delineated, it merits considerable attention from consumers. It should drink well for 15-20 years. Oddly enough, the second wine is superior to many vintages of Cos in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s!"

**JEB DUNNUCK 94 POINTS** - "The 2009 Pagodes De Cos is a blockbuster that I wish I had more of in the cellar. A blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest mostly Merlot (there's a small amount of Petit Verdot) brought up in roughly



50% new French oak, its deep purple/plum color is followed by a smorgasbord of black raspberry and kirsch-like fruits, spice box, dried flowers, and licorice. With a huge mid-palate, sweet, sweet tannin, beautiful purity of fruit, and a great finish, it's an incredibly sexy, satisfying second wine that will keep for another 10-15 years."

**#5. CHATEAU FONPLEGADE 2016**

**SAINT-ÉMILION \$64.99 [351551]**

**ROBERT PARKER 96+ POINTS:** "Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2016 Fonplegade opens with a very savory nose of smoked meats, tapenade, sautéed herbs and beef drippings over a core of plum preserves, chocolate-covered cherries and cedar chest plus wafts of violets and cigars. Medium to full-bodied, the palate possesses both intensity and elegance, with the black fruit layers superbly framed by firm, fine-grained tannins and wonderful freshness, finishing long and mineral laced."





**#6. CELLIER AUX MOINES  
2017 GIVRY**

**CLOS CELLIER \$39.99 [353324]**

**DECANTER 96 POINTS** - "The 2017 vintage for red Burgundy was Janus-like. Some wines are charming and forward. Others, like this one, have the requisite substance, structure, and balance for the long haul. This was the first year the domaine was almost fully biodynamic, and, that perhaps, explains the wine's brilliance. Immediately expressive, the 2017 grabs your attention. Aromas leap from the glass. On the palate, it combines firm mineral qualities with a Bing cherry-like fruitiness in a suave and elegant package. Fractionally less ripe compared to the 2015, its minerality shines. A hint of bitterness in the finish adds to its appeal. Supple, yet firm, tannins provide perfect support."

**#7. CHÂTEAU  
FOMBRAUGE 2015  
SAINT-ÉMILION  
\$39.95 [351078]**

**JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS** - "A vivid and bright red with plum and spice plus hints of cedar and sandalwood. Medium to full body, silky tannins and a flavorful finish. The plush tannins to this give it weight and opulence. Needs a year or two to soften."



Jean-Marc Burgaud • Beaujolais

**#8. TARDIEU LAURENT 2018 GIGONDAS  
VIEILLES VIGNES \$36.95 [354698]**

**JEB DUNNUCK 94-96 POINTS:** "A big step up, the 2018 Gigondas Vieilles Vignes is a remarkable effort offering gorgeous black raspberries, garrigue, spice, and floral aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, pure, and balanced, with beautiful depth of fruit, it's up with the top wines in the vintage. This cuvée is 90% Grenache and the balance Syrah and Mourvèdre, fermented with lots of stems, and aged in once- and twice-used barrels followed by a year in foudre."

**#9. BEAURENARD 2017  
RASTEAU  
LES ARGILES BLEUES  
\$34.95 [353886]**

**JEB DUNNUCK 93 POINTS** "Even better, the 2017 Rasteau Les Argiles Bleues (80/20 Grenache and Syrah) just screams Rasteau with its ripe, chocolaty dark fruit and scorched earth aromas and flavors. It's rich, has tons of minerality, medium to full body, and a great finish. It's capable of lasting for over a decade."

**WINE ADVOCATE 92 POINTS** - "Could the 2017 Rasteau Argiles Bleues be even better than the excellent 2016? It's certainly a big step up from the regular 2017 bottling. Ripe notes of cola, plum and dried spices lead into a full-bodied, expansive palate that's rich and velvety in texture, finishing long and layered. It should drink well for at least 6-7 years."



**#10. JEAN-MARC BURGAUD 2020 MORGON  
CÔTE DU PY \$24.95 [345398]**

**WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS** - "The 2020 Morgon Côte du Py is one of the region's most dependable classics, unfurling in the glass with notes of cassis, sweet berry fruit, spices and rose petals. Medium to full-bodied, ample and layered, with lively acids, powdery tannins and a seamless, complete profile, it concludes with a long, mouthwatering finish."

**#11. FAIVELEY 2019  
BOURGOGNE ROUGE  
\$24.95 [354208]**

"A beautiful ruby color. This wine has pleasant, fresh, red-fruit aromas on the nose, which we find again on the palate. It has rich and very ripe substance, with fine round tannins. It's a very well-structured and wonderfully pleasing wine."



**#12. PLATEAU DES CHÊNES  
2016 LIRAC \$14.95 [324113]**

**JEB DUNNUCK 92 POINTS:** "A wine that always seems to deliver, the 2016 Lirac Plateau des Chênes boasts a medium ruby color to go with terrific notes of red fruits (strawberries, cherries), flowers, ample spice, and subtle minerality. Possessing medium to full-bodied richness, a silky, elegant mouthfeel, and beautiful balance, it's a no-brainer purchase from this estate that's going to drink nicely for at least 5-7 years."

**DECANTER 92 POINTS:** "A concentrated Lirac packed full of juicy fruit. It's intense, shot through with ripe tannins and all remarkably harmonious considering its slightly over-sized frame. Long on the palate, really persistent. No doubt a smart buy."

# Red Wines



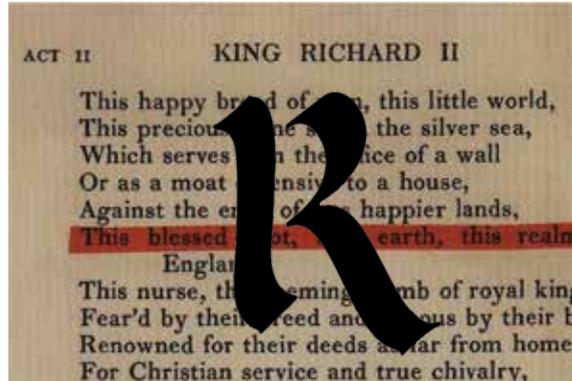
Mt. Harlan

**#1. CALERA 2017 PINOT NOIR MT. HARLAN  
"JENSEN" \$99.95 [207990]**



Josh Jensen was enamored with classic French wines and, in particular, Burgundy. He traveled the wine regions of France and was lucky enough to work harvest at Domaine de la Romanée-Conti in 1970, as well as Domaine Dujac in 1971. The cellar master at DRC often had English-speaking visitors, so Josh was asked to frequently join them and taste all the wines...wow! Josh realized that limestone was key to the best Burgundies and when he came back to the US, he sought out cool-climate areas that emulated the soils of Burgundy and that search landed him inland of Monterey. Here, he made the world take note of his desire, and when the wines were released to

the public, nobody could deny that Josh had succeeded! While Calera makes several different bottlings of Pinot Noir, none are more sought-after than the Jensen bottling. Named after Josh's father, this certified organic vineyard produces the most age worthy wines from the property, and typically received the highest scores. For the 2017 vintage, this wine flirts with perfection, and earned a stellar 99-point score from Jeb Dunnuck! "My favorite in the lineup, the 2017 Pinot Noir Jensen Vineyard is stunning in every way. Gorgeous black raspberry fruits, lots of floral, scorched earth, and sappy herb aromatics, medium to full-bodied richness, flawless balance, and a great finish all make for one of the most captivating Pinot Noirs in the vintage. It's brilliant today yet should easily evolve for 15 years or more."



**#2. REALM 2019 PROPRIETARY RED  
NAPA VALLEY "THE BARD"  
\$149.95 [253280]**

Over the past decade, owner Scott Becker and winemaker Benoit Touquette have made Realm Cellars one of the **hottest brands** in the Napa Valley. Earning scores comparable to the true cult wines of the valley (Screaming Eagle, Harlan, Scarecrow, etc.), the duo focuses on the best vineyards Napa has to offer. Production remains small, and when you factor in their retail prices *vis-à-vis* the scores they receive, you can see why collectors snatch up these wines then they appear on retail shelves! The Bard is Realm's flagship wine; a blend built around Cabernet Sauvignon, this bottling is comprised of fruit from Beckstoffer To Kalon in Oakville, Houyi on Pritchard Hill, Farella in Coombsville and other stellar properties. This wine punches above its weight class, and is guaranteed to sell out! "The 2019 The Bard checks in at 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot, and it's another dense, rich, powerful wine from this team that readers are going to absolutely love. Coming from throughout the valley (it's always a great representation of the vintage), it offers up a brilliant nose of crème de cassis, ripe plums, graphite, scorched earth, and chocolate. About as seamless as they come on the palate, it's full-bodied and has a thrilling texture, building tannins, and a gorgeous finish. It's one of those wines where I feel like I'm overusing adjectives, but it's warranted." **-JEB DUNNUCK 99 POINTS!**

**#3. THE HILT 2018  
PINOT NOIR  
STA. RITA HILLS "BENTROCK"  
\$89.95 [268280]**



Welcome to what is **the best Pinot Noir from this producer we have ever tasted!** The Hilt is based in the cool, wind-swept Sta. Rita Hills appellation of Santa Barbara County, and focuses on top notch Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs. It's also worth mentioning that the property is owned by **Stan Kroenke**, who also owns Screaming Eagle in Napa Valley. While these two properties share the same owner and the same dedication to world-class wines, they are completely separate entities, with their own winemakers, vineyard managers, and

winemaking facilities. Their Bentrock Vineyard is situated over 500 feet above sea level and the vines flow gently down the hillsides, gathering ample sunlight yet ripening slowly because of altitude and moderate cooling breezes. The combination of clay, shale and diatomaceous earth in the soils bring complexity and nuance to the wines. Critic **ANTONIO GALLONI called this wine "magical" and rated it 96 POINTS!** His review reads: "The 2018 Pinot Noir Bentrock is a magical wine. Deep and pliant, with striking energy, the Bentrock is wonderfully complete from the very first taste. It is at once taut and yet not at all austere, with tremendous depth and density, and magnificent balance. Chalk, blood orange, mint, rose petal and sweet red berry fruit are some of the many notes that build into a finish marked by crystalline purity." **Only 240 cases were produced!**



# Red Wines

## #4. DENNER 2018 PROPRIETARY RED PASO ROBLES "DIRT WORSHIPPER"

\$79.95 [214760]



There are some wines from Paso Robles that are dang near impossible to get. These are small-production, high-scoring wines that only the lucky seem to find. Well... Denner's "Dirt Worshipper" Syrah is one of those wines! Planted in 1999, Denner Vineyards is a winegrowing estate on the far western border of the Paso Robles AVA. Their 156 acres press up against the Santa Lucia Range, giving the site great diversity of elevation, aspect and soil; the vineyards are planted in an East/West corridor where the marine layer can reach the inland valleys. As a result, they

receive large diurnal temperature swings without high moisture pressure, creating a near perfect growing climate. The 108 acres under vine are comprised of 19 different varieties in 26 unique blocks. Each block is farmed with painstaking attention to detail, allowing only for the best possible grapes to reach the winery. **Aron Nevarez**, their vineyard manager, is committed to environmentally friendly farming practices, using only sustainable inputs and minimal irrigation. Winemaker **Anthony Yount** has fashioned a wine that combines ripe, rich, intense fruit flavors with the peppery spice that Syrah is known for and his wine delivers in spades! "The 2018 Dirt Worshipper Syrah, blended with a 1% splash each of Roussanne and Viognier, is a stunning Syrah, with an opaque ruby-purple color and a powerhouse nose that's fierce and wild: iron, black licorice, tar, chargrill and coffee emerge along with sparks of white pepper and intense cassis-like fruit. The palate is incredible, exploding with flavor but grounded with round, plush tannins and loads of juicy uplift that carries the long finish. It evolved over many days after the cork was popped, which suggests it will age gracefully in the cellar over the next 15+ years."

**-WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS!**



Ron Melville

## #5. MELVILLE 2018 PINOT NOIR STA. RITA HILLS "SANDY'S"

\$49.99 [241060]

In the wind-swept, rolling hills of western Santa Barbara County, you will find one of the best cool-climate growing regions on earth. And in this area, you will find one of the more consistent Pinot Noir producers in California! **Ron Melville** and his family have been farming high quality grapes for over 30 years. After finding success in Sonoma County, Ron's desire to grow cold-climate Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Syrah brought Melville Vineyards to the Sta. Rita Hills. The Sta. Rita Hills AVA is unique, as it is one of the few grape growing regions in California whose valley runs west to east. In doing so, the cooling air from the Pacific Ocean is able to rush through the area, keeping the daily temperatures low and providing a long growing season that maximizes flavors. The soils at Melville are a mix of sand and clay, giving Pinot Noir beautiful aromatics combined with ripe, but not overpowering fruit. In addition, Melville plants their vines at a denser spacing than most. In doing so, root systems must compete with each other, inhibiting rigorous growth, naturally lowering yields and furthering the development of flavor and concentration. **Farming at Melville is sustainable at a minimum, but often done organically.** The Sandy's block is named in honor of Ron Melville's sister and was deliberately planted on the extremely sandy northwest section of their east vineyard. When we taste through the single-vineyard offerings from Melville, the Sandy's bottling always stands out to us for its wonderful fruit profile, perfumed aromatics and long finish--and this has become our favorite bottling from them! "Seeing 50% stems, the 2018 Pinot Noir Sandy's offers a more rounded, complex style as well as beautiful spiced cherry, incense,

orange blossom, and foresty, almost pine tree-like nuances. It's medium to full-bodied, with a wonderful texture, present tannins, and a great finish. It's capable of evolving for over a decade."  
**-JEB DUNNUCK 95 POINTS!**

## #6. JAFFURS 2017 SYRAH SANTA MARIA VALLEY "BIEN NACIDO"

\$39.95 [246250]

Jaffurs Wine Cellars is dedicated to producing great Rhône varietal wines with a New World independence. Founder Craig Jaffurs produced his first professional wines during the 1994 harvest and the winery continues to carefully make wine in extremely small lots, with total



production hovering around 5,000 cases annually for all wines combined! Jaffurs works closely with their growers in the Santa Ynez, Ballard Canyon, Santa Rita Hills, Los Alamos and Santa Maria regions. **Jaffurs limits vineyard yields and requires that optimal farming practices are observed.** Jaffurs purchases premium wine grapes from only from the very best vineyards in Santa Barbara County. **Bien Nacido** is one of the truly great vineyards in the county for Syrah, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Located in the Santa Maria Valley, the *terroir* is a combination of rocky soils, cool climate, abundant sunshine and maritime influences. This property has also been a source for other noteworthy producers such as Sine Qua Non, Ojai and Paul Lato, just to name a few. This beauty has earned an impressive **97 POINTS FROM JEB DUNNUCK** and is an incredible value! "The 2017 Syrah Bien Nacido Vineyard (there's 3% Viognier in the blend) sports a deep purple hue to go with ultra-classic aromas of blackberries, ground pepper, crushed violets, and bouquet garni as well as marine-like salty, gamey notes. It's awesome on the palate as well - full-bodied, seamless, flawlessly balanced, and offering just about everything you could want from Central Coast Syrah. It's going to evolve nicely for 10-12 years, although there's no need to delay gratification."

# Red Wines



Lytton Springs

**#7. RIDGE 2018 PROPRIETARY RED SONOMA COUNTY  
"LYTTON SPRINGS" \$37.99 [254585]**

Anybody who enjoys California Zinfandels surely knows the wines of **Ridge**. Their Pagani Ranch and Lytton Springs offerings typically earn some of the highest scores *year-in and year out* from the critics, not to mention their Monte Bello Cab-Blend that tends to earn 100 points! **The 2018s are some of the best Zins to come out of the state in over a decade**, and when our buyer went through the Ridge lineup earlier this year, he had to pause when he got to this wine. This was, in a word, **stunning!** Coming from plantings that are well over 100 years old, and inter-planted with Petite Sirah, Carignane and Mataro, the Lytton Springs bottling is one of the few true blend offerings that Ridge sends into the open market, so that makes this fairly unique for them. The 2018 was a bit tight when released, but after we tasted this in October, we felt the wine was showing wonderfully, and it was a shoe-in for our Top Wine list! "The 2018 Lytton Springs is a blend of 72% Zinfandel, 18% Petite Sirah, 8% Carignane and 2% Mataro. The nose is lush and open, with aromas of aniseed, red and blue berries, blood orange and earth plus touches of tobacco leaf and dried flowers. The medium-bodied palate combines intense, powerful flavors with a more ethereal, silty structure and it finishes with loads of juicy layers. It's stunning straight from the bottle but will have more to give with time in the cellar."

**-ANTONIO GALLONI 96 POINTS!**



**#8. BREWER-CLIFTON 2018 PINOT NOIR  
STA. RITA HILLS \$34.95 [206190]**

There is an alluring charm to the entire Central Coast wine producing region, but it was Santa Rita Hills that Called to Greg Brewer and Steve Clifton. Besides the beauty of the land, the climate and the soil compositions, there was a freshness in the air as the cool Pacific Ocean breeze filtered through the canyons and subsequent vineyards planted. For many years the two farmed the land and made outstanding wine, even earning praise from top critic **Robert Parker Jr.:** "Two brilliant young winemakers, Greg Brewer and Steve Clifton, are symbolic of both the present and future of California high quality wine production."

While the winery has been sold, Greg Brewer remains on board as head winemaker ensuring the vision both himself and Steve had along with the quality of the wine doesn't change for many years to come! Earning **95 POINTS FROM JEB DUNNUCK**, this wine shows that Greg Brewer continues to over-deliver on the quality of wines for the money charged. "Spiced cherries, strawberries, sappy flowers, and hints of gamey, foresty notes all emerge from the 2018 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills, and it's medium-bodied, elegant, and seamless on the palate. This stunning value should be snatched up by readers."



## HI-TIME'S WINE CLUB!

*Curated by Michael De France*

Hi-Time's **WINE CLUB** has 6 different options to choose from:

- 2 red wines (Gold & Platinum levels),
- 1 white & 1 red (Gold & Platinum levels),
- 2 white wines or 1 Champagne.

See the full details online!



[www.hitimewine.net/wine-club/](http://www.hitimewine.net/wine-club/)

# White Wines

**#1. PEAKE RANCH 2018 CHARDONNAY  
SANTA MARIA VALLEY "SIERRA MADRE"  
\$49.95 [249770]**

Anybody who has been in our store asking for California Chardonnay recommendations has surely heard us mention the wines of Peake Ranch. This winery is a boutique, family-run winery owned by **John and Gillian Wagner**. Like all of us who have visited Santa Barbara County, the couple fell in love with the beautiful countryside and the friendliness of the people. They bring a humbleness and sense of humility, which is honestly quite refreshing, and they are earning scores that **flirt with perfection**; a feat that other more established wineries have not yet been able to accomplish!



In addition to their own property, they also get fruit from the famed Sierra Madre Vineyard, one of the most prestigious vineyards in the Santa Maria Valley! Not only does this area benefit from cool summers, but Peake Ranch's portion of the vineyard comes from a south-facing hillside comprised of sandy, well-drained soil. This combines both weight, richness, and freshness, producing highly complex wines. **JEB DUNNUCK has scored this wine at a whopping 98 POINTS**, and states "These are incredible wines, and as I've written in the past, readers need to get on this estate's bandwagon!" That's some high praise! He describes the wine by writing: "The 2018 Chardonnay Sierra Madre Vineyard comes from a great site outside of Santa Maria and spent 18 months in 45% new French oak barrels. It's a slightly more reductive, salty Chardonnay with a vivid bouquet of nectarines, white peach, crushed stone and white flowers. Beautiful on the palate, it's tight and medium to full-bodied, with beautifully integrated acidity and a great finish. This is a wine that blossoms with time in the glass and has that rare mix of freshness and richness as well as length. It ranks with the finest Chardonnay in California and will keep for 4-6 years, if not longer."

**#2. 00 WINES 2018 CHARDONNAY  
WILLAMETTE VALLEY "VGW"  
\$74.95 [200036]**

While Pinot Noir has long been the main focus in Oregon's Willamette Valley, Chardonnay is their new rising star. Chardonnay is not new to the region, but **the combination of finally isolating the proper clones and matching them to their ideal soils has sparked a new love affair with this Burgundian grape.**



Heck, even **Dominique Lafon**, one of the most respected producers in Burgundy has called Willamette Valley Chardonnay **"...the best in the New World."** And one of the producers making the most thrilling Chardonnays out of the region is **00 (Double Zero) Wines!** 00 sources Chardonnay grapes from some of the Willamette Valley's most notable and selective growers. This wine is made in the "Black Chardonnay" method; a process where the grape juice is exposed to a substantial amount of oxygen prior to fermentation, with no sulfites added, which turns the juice a dark brown or black color. However, once the juice is fermented, the wine turns a brilliant gold color, and it resists oxidation while in the bottle. This method is being used in Burgundy and California, and pays in spades when done correctly. The VGW bottling quite literally stands for Very Good White, and that's exactly what this is; a VERY good white wine, and it's bottled with minimal pre-bottling sulfites! This is a Chardonnay that can stand toe-to-toe with some of the best made in Burgundy and throughout the world.

"The 2018 Chardonnay VGW has very pretty aromas of crushed apples, roasted almonds and hay with touches of dried white flowers and savory green herbs in the background. In the mouth, it's delicately styled and incredibly silky in texture, fleshing out to savory fruits and enlivened by seamless acidity on the long, lifted finish."

**-WINE ADVOCATE 92 POINTS!**



**#3. DRAGONETTE 2019 SAUVIGNON BLANC  
HAPPY CANYON OF SANTA BARBARA  
"VOGELZANG" \$54.95 [215960]**

The boys at Dragonette bonded over a bottle of **Didier Dagueneau** and searched throughout Santa Barbara's Santa Ynez Valley to find vineyards that could best exemplify the enticing characteristics of this grape. They found those vineyards and now their Sauvignon Blancs have become **some of our favorites in the entire store!** Happy Canyon, with its unique soils and climate - warm to hot summer days and cool to cold evenings - is ideal for promoting full phenolic ripeness while still retaining critical acidity. The **organically-farmed** Vogelzang is situated on a gently sloping bed of well-drained, gravelly loam soil with serpentinite and Dragonette controls all farming practice, from pruning to canopy management to yield control. Dragonette always does what's needed to help produce the best wines. Only 275 cases were produced, and **JEB DUNNUCK honored this with 97 POINTS**, making it one of the highest scoring Sauvignon Blancs produced in California! "The 2019 Sauvignon Blanc Vogelzang Vineyard might be the best of the trio and just blew me away. More subtle and reserved, its thrilling notes of crushed limes, lemons, sappy flowers, and minerality give way to a medium to full-bodied, deep, layered, multi-dimensional Sauvignon Blanc with tremendous mid-palate depth, bright acidity, and laser-like precision. You could put this in a blind lineup of top Bordeaux Blanc and it would stand toe to toe. Hats off to the team at Dragonette for a commitment to fashioning incredible, age-worthy Sauvignon Blanc that's as good as anything out there!"

# White Wines

## #4. ALTA COLINA 2018 PROPRIETARY WHITE PASO ROBLES “MODEL CITIZEN”

\$37.95 [201120]



Bob Tillman

Bob Tillman searched for several years for the site where he could plant a truly world-class vineyard. After the family moved to the Central Coast of California and tasted the wines coming out of Paso Robles, they knew they found the right region! In 2003, Bob found this beautiful hilltop property on Adelaida Road that would become Alta Colina. All the grapes on this property are organically farmed and the fruit is so amazing that other Central Coast

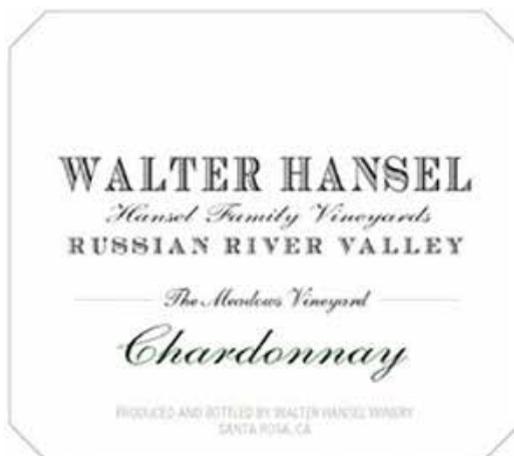
producers such as **McPrice Myers**, **Sans Liege**, and **Paydirt** get fruit from **Alta Colina**. Roussanne is one of the main grapes for the white wines from Châteauneuf-du-Pape and the west side of Paso Robles contains just the right soils, sun and rainfall to fashion Roussanne that will rival those from France. “All Roussanne, the 2018 Roussanne Model Citizen is less aromatic (which is expected) with more stone fruits, spice, white flowers, and obvious minerality, medium-bodied richness, good mid-palate concentration, and a pure, layered, complex style that will unquestionably stand up to the Roussannes coming out of the Southern Rhône. It’s a beauty. Drink it over the coming 4-6 years. I wouldn’t be surprised to see it keep even longer.” -**JEB DUNNUCK 94 POINTS!**

## #5. WALTER HANSEL 2019 CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY “MEADOWS”

\$27.95 [228350]

To put it bluntly, if you enjoy balanced, flavorful and complex Chardonnays, then **Walter Hansel Winery should be on your radar... plain and simple!** Winemaker Stephen Hansel crafts masterpieces year-in and year-out from his family’s 75+ acres in Russian River Valley, and his wines often remind us of premier cru Burgundy. The Russian River Valley is regarded as one of the best regions in the world for growing top notch Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. For that reason, it is not uncommon for prices to exceed \$75-\$100 for a bottle from some producers... but not this producer. Stephen Hansel knows that if wineries

keep charging elevated prices, then people start to look elsewhere. **Even esteemed wine critic Antonio Galloni has written that “these are some of the most fairly-priced wines readers will find anywhere in the world.”** So here we have somebody who makes wines from one of the best regions in the world, doesn’t make the wines in large quantities, gets high scores from the critics, and charges reasonable prices?? Folks, if this doesn’t get your attention, then check your pulse, because **Walter Hansel Winery has been one of our favorite Sonoma County producers for over a decade, and this full-bodied Chardonnay is virtually guaranteed to rock your world!** Earning an impressive **94-POINT SCORE** from **ANTONIO GALLONI**, his review reads: “The 2019 Chardonnay The Meadows is creamy and ample in the glass, but shows the fresh, vibrant style that defines the vintage at Hansel. Lemon confit, spice, dried flowers and chamomile all take shape in the glass. Dry-farmed Chardonnay, all Hanzell clone, on the lowest-lying blocks of the property, yielded a Chardonnay with thick skins and notable intensity.”



## SAKE FOR THE COLLECTOR

# FOO FIGHTERS!



### TATENOKAWA FOO FIGHTERS “HANSHO AO” (MIDNIGHT BLUE ) JUNMAI DAIGINJO SAKE 720ML

\$49.98 [365635]

To commemorate the release of The Foo Fighters album, ‘Medicine At Midnight’, collaborated with Japanese sake producer TATENOKAWA that produces top quality Junmai Daiginjo sake has collaborated with the Foo Fighters. Please enjoy ‘HANSHO (Midnight Blue)’ while listening to their fantastic new album. Brewed with the “pop side” of Foo Fighters in mind, Hansho Ao uses 100-percent locally sourced Dewasansan rice from Yamagata Prefecture, polished to 50 percent, making this a Daiginjo. On the palate it has a gorgeous aroma with a gentle mouthfeel and light sweetness. Tatenokawa describes this sake as a combination that will “heal your daily fatigue and permeate your entire body,” which sounds like the same effects you’d get after listening to the band’s music. This is measured on the Sake Meter Value as a “-1”, so it is a tad off-dry. Serve chilled and sip as an aperitif, or with lighter fare, including sashimi, classic sushi, grilled fish, or salads, or spicier fare.

### TATENOKAWA FOO FIGHTERS “HANSHO GIN” (MIDNIGHT SILVER) JUNMAI DAIGINJO SAKE 720ML

\$49.98 [365636]

HANSHO GIN (SILVER) a sake made in collaboration with The Foo Fighters and Japanese Sake producer Tatenokawa, produces this limited-edition sake inspired by the band’s rock aspects. It has, a well-structured mouthfeel and is light and clean on the palate. This Daiginjo is made with 50 percent polished Omachi rice (a beautifully aromatic rice variety) sourced from Yamagata Prefecture. According to Tatenokawa, this version displays an excellent depth and sharp aftertaste with a firm body to provide you with “vitality for tomorrow”. This sake offers flavors of lemongrass, pineapple, marjoram and black cherry, with a clean and swift finish. Serve chilled to room temperature with rich foods, cream sauces, burrata with olive oil and salted tomatoes, fried dishes and more.



## #1. CIACCI PICCOLOMINI D'ARAGON PIANROSSO 2015 RISERVA BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO \$169.98 [301123]

Brunello lovers know the Ciacci Piccolomini name well, and its biggest followers will know the Pianrosso vineyard bottling as being an outstanding Brunello each vintage! But the **pinnacle of their lineup**, the “**Santa Caterina d’Oro**” **Riserva**, comes from a special selection from that famous vineyard, aged for an additional year. What puts this squarely into our top spot is that the latest edition comes from the **exceptional 2015 vintage**, which has delivered **some of the most wonderful expressions of Brunello in recent history!**

The wines from Ciacci Piccolomini are particularly known for delivering **flavor-rich complexity, full-body vinosity and finely textured tannins**, but delivered **with elegance intact**. They also have a great story behind them! While the noble Ciacci-Piccolomini d’Aragona family set the stage for making great Brunellos, things really took off when the countess Elda Ciacci, having no heirs, left everything to her estate manager, Giuseppe



Bianchini. Having farmed the land himself over the years, he knew the Pianrosso vineyard to be exceptional enough for its own bottlings. He was right!

### JAMES SUCKLING 100 POINTS

“The **opulence of fruit and complexity of earth, meat, mushroom and cedar** is breathtaking. It’s full-bodied, **deep and powerful** with so much intensity and depth. **Chewy and layered, it goes on for minutes.**”

### WINE ADVOCATE 97+ POINTS

“The 2015 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva Vigna di Pianrosso Santa Caterina d’Oro is a fine and delicate wine that cleverly delivers the **intensity of the vintage** but without the **heaviness or the ripeness**. This wine holds back, just enough, to affirm its **poised balance** in terms of fruit richness, texture and tannic structure. It shows symmetry throughout. **Dark cherry fruit, cassis, plum, lavender and campfire ash** set the tone. The mouthfeel is **thickly woven and generous.**”

### WINE SPECTATOR 97 POINTS

“There’s a bright edge to this red, harnessing the cherry, strawberry, rosehip, **mineral and tobacco** flavors that build on the palate to a **long finish**. Displays **terrific energy and balance**, with an aftertaste that echoes both fruit and savory elements.”

## #2. FONTODI 2015 FLACCIANELLO \$150.00 [302677]

Look at a short list of top wineries in Chianti and you’ll **inevitably** find Fontodi on it. They take an approach that gives the traditions of the region a polish, appealing to a wide range of wine lovers without losing the distinctiveness of their vineyards in the Conca d’Oro (‘Golden Shell’) amphitheater of Panzano. Their flagship wine, **Flaccianello**, is the greatest example of this. In 1981 they introduced this 100% Sangiovese wine from the heart of the Chianti region, even though they would not be able to call it a Chianti, just a generic “**Tuscan table wine**” (hence the phrase “**super-Tuscan**”)! In contrast to the giant, mostly neutral barrels of



yore they use smaller French oak, which provides a **polish** and greater sense of **richness**, as well as a characteristic **background char accent**. **Dark-fruited and opulent** from the **epic, sunny 2015 vintage**, they still managed to let Sangiovese’s **vibrant energy and herbal/earthy accents** shine through. This is just at the starting point of its drinking window, and will only get more interesting over the coming years!

### ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 99 POINTS

“The 2015 Flaccianello della Pieve is even more stratospheric than it was last year. **Rich and ample** on the palate, Flaccianello captures all of the best qualities of this **radiant vintage**. The blend of sites, all in higher altitude spots near the center of town, yields a gorgeous, riveting wine of the very highest level. **Dense and brooding**, with **magnificent energy** as well as **nuance**, the 2015 Flaccianello is **positively stunning.**”

### WINE ADVOCATE 98 POINTS

“This retrospective gave me the opportunity to taste the **excellent** 2015 vintage side by side with the highly anticipated 2016 vintage. These two years are famously in a tight race across Tuscany for supremacy. I’m ready to tip my hat at 2016. In comparison, the 2015 Flaccianello della Pieve is slightly **broader in the shoulders** and heavier in the gait. There is more meat on these bones, and the **2015 vintage presented vintners with near-perfect growing conditions** in which one textbook part of the vegetative cycle

transitioned directly to the next. The wine is dark, **exuberant** and **profound**, and the quality of the **tannins is superb, fine and firm**. One difference with the 2016 vintage is that the **2015 is a tad more accessible** and ready. You can wait and cellar it for thirty years, or **pop the cork** sooner if you don't have the patience to wait."

### #3. FONTODI 2018 "VIGNA DEL SORBO" GRAN SELEZIONE CHIANTI CLASSICO

**\$94.98 [301511]**

**ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 98 POINTS**



"The 2018 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Vigna del Sorbo is quite possibly the most **elegant, refined version** of this wine I have ever tasted. It does not offer the immediacy or impact of either the 2015 or 2016, but, instead, impresses with its **elegance, persistence** and **total class**. Bright floral and spice notes add perfume to a core of red-toned fruit. The 2018 represents another move towards greater finesse at Fontodi. It spent a year in French oak barrel and a second year in cask."

Fontodi is located in the heart of Chianti Classico precisely in the valley which lies south of the town of Panzano and is called the "Conca d'Oro" (the golden shell) because

of its **amphitheatre shape**. A genuine and characteristic "**Terroir**," famous for centuries for its tradition of quality wine cultivation, thanks to a unique combination of **high altitude**, calcar clayschist soil, lots of light, and a fantastic **micro-climate** – warm and dry with a marked difference in day and night-time temperatures."



### #4. DAMILANO 2016 "CANNUBI" BAROLO

**\$74.98 [305070]**

The story of the Damilano estate goes back to **1890** when the great-grandfather of the current owners, Giuseppe Borgogno,

started bottling his own wine from around the town of Barolo itself. Their sources from the Cannubi vineyard quickly became the jewel of the estate, though this vineyard's renown goes back further, as there's a **historic bottle labeled "Cannubi 1752"** (rather than "Barolo"). The Damilano Cannubi Barolo is so true **to this site and wonderful 2016 vintage**, showing a deeper garnet hue and a warmer, more open-knit and mouth-filling character compared with neighboring sites. Opening gradually with air, a little patience ultimately reveals well-meshed flavors of ripe-skinned dark cherries and red plum with dark cocoa and drying flowers, accompanied by balsam herbal threads like camphor or mint and fresh, woody savory or thyme woven in. **Broad and juicy across the palate** with a touch of an umami counterpoint to the fruit, Nebbiolo's famous tannic structure appears out of the midpalate as a building grip that provides for a '**chewy**' finish, while the **fruit-enrobed acidity keeps things mouthwatering**. Though **very approachable now** with a hearty meal, there is a concentrated core that makes this a good one to tuck into your wine fridge for 3-5 years for a softer mouth-feel and even more flavor complexity."

**JAMES SUCKLING 98 POINTS**

"The **fruit feels so comfortable here**, in the ripe-red zone; it ranges from cherry kernel to chocolate-coated red plums to glazed cherries. Integrated hints of bark and sandalwood. Full-bodied with strapping tannins and muscular, imposing structure and power. Notwithstanding, everything is in **striking balance and delivered with remarkable precision and grit**. Drink from 2026."

**WINE ADVOCATE 97 POINTS**

"... shows **depth and a profound nature**. This is the DNA of the Cannubi cru, maybe the most celebrated in the appellation with mildly compact, well-draining sandy soils... These conditions contribute to the **dark concentration** and the **firm textural support** found here. These assets are particularly apparent in this classic vintage. Dark fruit and dried cherry cede to earthy truffle and licorice. Of these various single-vineyard expressions, the tight tannins on this Cannubi definitely suggest a long drinking window. This wine is my favorite in this flight from Damilano, and this vintage of 40,000 bottles is **distinguished by its sheer excellence**."

### #5. TENUTA SETTE PONTI 2019 ORENO

**\$74.95 [301969]**



Tenuta Sette Ponti has a great history-- of passion, devotion but above all a love for their vineyards and traditions. Their philosophy is based on quality research, **antique knowledge**, centuries-old customs, **respect of the earth** and its balance with the most articulate knowledge of agriculture and wine production. These values work together to create a composite story of refined harmony which is timeless, telling the story as an old tale, as those the elderly used to tell to the young, in front of the fireplace during cold winter nights. "**Wine is made in the vineyard**," is the antique saying of their forefathers. And its with this spirit that they create wines

like the red Oreno.

**JAMES SUCKLING 99 POINTS**

"**Wow. Fantastic aromas of blackberries, currants, minerals, violets and graphite**. Full-bodied with **firm, silky tannins** that are incredibly **polished and intense**, yet ever so refined and integrated in the wine. **It goes on for minutes**. The is **one of the best modern-day Orenos** so far."

### #6. IL POGGIONE 2016 BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO \$69.98 [ ]

Tenuta Il Poggione is one of Montalcino's major wineries: it covers a surface area of 600 hectares, of which 125 hectares are planted with vines, 70 with **olive groves and the rest are arable and woodland**. The estate's guiding principle is to pay meticulous attention to the vineyards, because the secret of producing great red wines lies in tending the vines. **Diversified agriculture** is also essential to Il Poggione, so that **vines are alternated with a variety of crops and wild animals are allowed to live in harmony with**



**nature.** Along with constant efforts to preserve the typical characteristics yet improve the quality of its wines through research and selection, Il Poggione has also drastically reduced the quantity of grapes it produces. By practicing the green harvest, regularly monitoring the condition of the vineyards and constantly checking the need for soil nutrients, an excellent product is achieved even in less favorable years. On the Poggione estate, the grapes are harvested entirely by hand and the wine is made by the traditional method, though modern, state-of-the-art equipment is used. Total control of the vinification process is guaranteed, thanks to the new cellar built in the center of the estate in 2004 and the introduction of extremely advanced technology, but as tradition is important, the company keeps the large French oak barrels used for aging the great Il Poggione red wines five meters below ground.



## ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 97 POINTS

“I’m not sure how Il Poggione manages to remain one of the largest producers of Brunello, maintaining such a high level of quality and turning out some of the best wines of the vintage year after year - but they do. The 2016 Brunello di Montalcino is yet another **stunning** example. Depths of **mineral-encased black cherries, sage, allspice, licorice, tobacco** and **crushed violets lift** up from the glass. It’s **seamlessly silky**, even as the palate is peppered with tart red and black berries, nervous acids and savory exotic spices. This shows the density and weight of the vintage in a youthfully monolithic stance, yet with all the necessary components to maintain perfect balance. The 2016 Il Poggione seems to fold in upon itself through the finish, which is dark, mysterious and structured, with only hints of black tea and licorice to tempt the imagination. **It’s a classic in the making.**”

## WINE SPECTATOR 96 POINTS

“This Brunello leads with **black cherry, black currant and violet** aromas, augmented by flavors of **iron, tobacco and spice**. Dusty tannins emerge on the **lingering finish**, while the sweet fruit persists. Should be compelling in a decade. Best from 2025 through 2047.” 3,000 cases imported.

Top Italy: Pages 17-20

## #7. TALENTI 2016 BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO \$49.98 [306221]

This exceptional family-run winery offers **wonderful value** even as overall Brunello prices have been going up. Although they’ve been around since 1980, **Talenti** is still a **relatively under-the-radar estate**, and if you’re not familiar with them, their 2016 classic Brunello is **the perfect opportunity to see why they deserve more attention!** This didn’t happen out of the blue: with his high standards, late founder, Pierluigi Talenti, helped make the now-famous *Il Poggione* estate one of the biggest producers of high-quality Brunello until he finally got his namesake winery! In addition to the outstanding winemaking team at Talenti, the quality and character in their Brunello comes from having a variety of vineyards in **prime sites of southern Montalcino**, namely around *Sant’Angelo in Colle* and outside of *Castelnuovo dell’Abate* where other Brunello greats Lisini and Ciacci Piccolomini

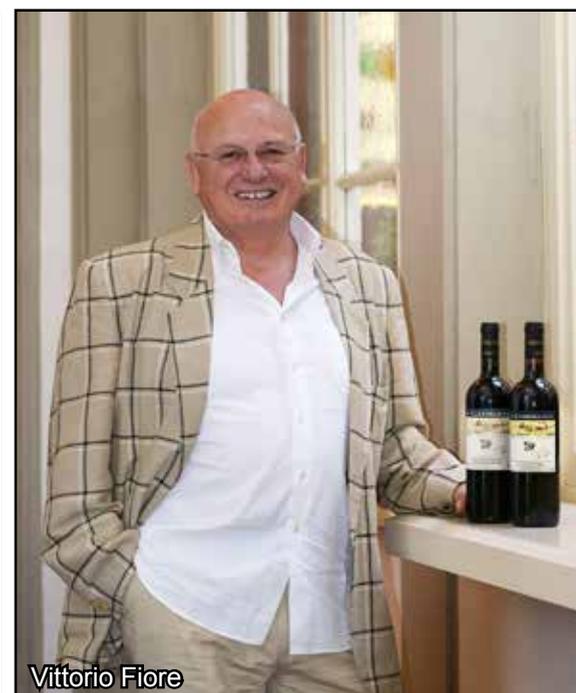
d’Aragona made their names. Talenti took advantage of the **winemaker’s dream vintage** in 2016 to make an exceptional Brunello with **ripe but well-defined flavors** and a **firm structure** of well-balanced acidity and noble tannin that will allow for a **graceful aging over the coming years**. You can also decant it for a couple hours and enjoy with a hearty, flavor-rich meal (it will absolutely *resonate* with tomato-based braises or a thick-cut porterhouse).

## WINE ENTHUSIAST 97 POINTS

“Focused and **loaded with finesse**, this opens with enticing aromas of **menthol, graphite, rose and forest floor**. **Full bodied** and delicious, the linear, **energized palate** features **ripe Marasca cherry, licorice, mint and vanilla** before a **coffee-bean finish**. Firm, **polished tannins** and **fresh acidity** provide support.”

## WINE SPECTATOR 95 POINTS

“This is **supple and round**, evoking macerated cherry, plum and licorice flavors, **framed by accents of iron**, tea and **wild herbs**. **Solidly built**, with a dense matrix of tannins enforcing the finish. Shows fine overall balance.”



Vittorio Fiore

## #8. POGGIO SCALETTE 2016 IL CARBONAIONE \$44.95 [301911]

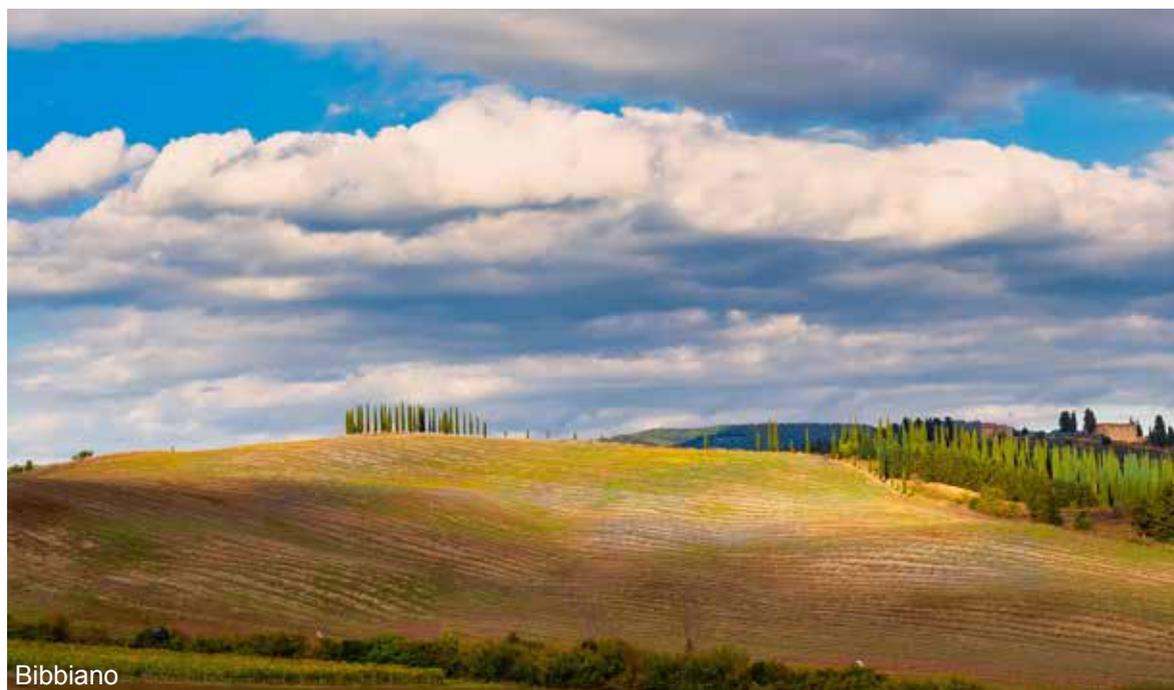
Poggio Scalette takes its name from the landscape, which is characterized by dry, stone walls supporting terraces on which the vineyards and olive groves are planted. From a distance the impression is of a series of stairs climbing the slopes of Greve. After the death of its previous owner, Poggio Scalette remained abandoned for years until **Vittorio Fiore, one of Italy’s most famed winemakers**, discovered the property in 1991 with his wife, Adriana. In 1996, 42 additional acres of land became available, enabling them to expand. It was discovered that the **plot of land known as Il Carbonaione** was the **first area to be replanted after World War I (1914-1918)**, which means these vines, more than **90 years old**, are a **rare example of the original clone of the famous Sangiovese di**

**Lamole variety** in the Chianti Classico area.

## ANTONIO GALLONI 96 POINTS

“The 2018 Il Carbonaione is one of the **most elegant** editions of this **flagship** wine I can remember tasting. Il Carbonaione is usually a rich, bombastic wine, but the 2018 is **sleek, gracious and remarkably refined**. The fruit was picked a week later than originally planned because of a family emergency. That results in an **exotic Carbonaione that is beguiling** but not at all heavy. I can’t wait to see how it ages.”





Bibbiano

## JAMES SUCKLING 97 POINTS

“What a **crazy nose** of pure fruit, featuring pressed violets, lavender, dark plums, cherry compote, orange rind, lemon zest, boysenberries, vanilla, Thai basil and bay leaf. The fruit is so overt and **generous, yet presented in an unimaginably sleek way**, the firm tannins keeping it compact and silky throughout, while the tangy acidity cuts right through to the **long, structured finish**. Drink in 2023.”

100% Sangiovese

## #9. BIBBIANO 2016 “VIGNA DEL CAPANNINO” GRAN SELEZIONE CHIANTI CLASSICO

\$36.98 [305065]

Going back to **1865**, Bibbiano is among the **oldest Chianti Classico estates** that’s **still owned by the same family**. It’s run today by brothers Tommaso and Federico Marzi who have embraced the traditions of the region throughout its modernization. They were able to return to **completely organic farming** by the late **1980s, cancelled their experimentation with new French oak and only use native grape varieties**. This wine is all about the noble Sangiovese.

While they certainly make use of the wine world’s advancements in understanding from the vineyard to the cellar, they are proud of the idea that the way **they make wines today would be appreciated** by their **ancestors**. They age in a **mix of concrete and large oak, mostly previously used**, which adds woody balsam



and baking spice accents to the beguiling perfume of herbal, earthy fruit for which Sangiovese is known. Particularly in a vintage like 2016, the full-bodied style of their Sangiovese comes well-structured with a firm, **mouth-filling texture** and vibrant, fresh flavors (rather than being blousy and pruny). Such powerful Chianti Classicos benefit from some extra bottle age, **but you can always decant for an hour and enjoy with some hearty food!**

## WINE SPECTATOR 95 POINTS

“This red starts out **smooth**, displaying ripe black cherry and plum flavors, along with earth, iron and woody elements. **Gains power** as [it] builds on the palate, ending in an extended aftertaste of **loam, iron and wild herb accents.**”

## #10. ROCCA DI MONTEGROSSI 2018 CHIANTI CLASSICO

\$19.98 [301255]

The history of the Ricasoli-Firidolfi family in Tuscany is a **rich tapestry of kings and statesmen**, its fabric woven together with the vine. For more than **37 generations**, this **ancient family** has cultivated grapes and crafted wines in Monti in Chianti, the “**very best area**” of Chianti Classico, according to Antonio Galloni.

The **family’s roots** in Tuscany began with a man named Geremia back in **1141**, when the name “Chianti” had yet to be spoken and Tuscany was the scene of many a battle between warring families. The “rocca” of

Montegrossi was a strategic post, high up on a plateau, providing shelter for traveling dignitaries.

For centuries the family guarded the “rocca” and cultivated vines on its sunny slopes. Yet it was in the nineteenth century when Baron Bettino Ricasoli—the “Iron Baron” and future prime minister of a united Italy—created the original “formula” for Chianti Classico’s blend of grapes.

The “Iron Baron” was winemaker Marco Ricasoli-Firidolfi’s great-great-great grandfather. Today on the very same land where his forefathers grew grapes, Marco **crafts peerless Chianti Classico wines** according to the traditions and **wisdom of countless generations**.

## ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 93 POINTS

“The 2018 Chianti Classico opens with a **burst** of sweet red berry fruit, spice and wild flowers. **Exuberant and racy**, the 2018 is endowed with **tremendous energy** and tons of personality. Time in the glass brings out the wine’s inner sweetness and radiance, with a closing flourish of red flowers. **This is a fabulous wine for the money**. Don’t miss it.”



ICEA Certified Organic

## #1. SENORIO DE SAN VICENTE 2017 RIOJA \$59.95 [383524]

Coming from the proprietors of the historic **Sierra Cantabria estate**, this is their **single-site 'chateau' wine**, named after their relatively newer winery in the foothills of the Cantabria mountains of Rioja Alta. It's a perfect example of a **"modernly styled" Rioja**, modeled more after today's Bordeaux or Napa Valley than the Spanish style that dominated for at least a century (like the Sierra Cantabria Gran Reserva).

*The fruit and floral perfume have more intensity* here, less obstructed by the long aging of yore, and the tannic structure is **more youthfully and firm**. Using mostly French, rather than American, oak yields a wine with **more cedar and spice character** than the sweeter vanilla and coconut that can characterize classic Rioja. While the palate features a **bright black fruit intensity**, it is **elegantly weighted**, complemented well by the **slightly toasty cedar** and **fresh minty herbal** accents. The **growing tannic grip** from the new oak barrels emerges from the soft midpalate in an elegant fashion as well, that rides along with a **wonderful stony mineral current** that supports the fruit

You can enjoy this wine now by decanting for an hour or so at 60-65F, and pair with a New York strip steak! While the overall experience is in line with today's structured red wines from around the world, this is no generic "international" wine, and no Bordeaux copy. It still **speaks of Rioja the place**, and the **distinctive type of Tempranillo (Peluda)** that forms its foundations.

**JEB DUNNUCK 96 POINTS** - "Coming from a single vineyard planted in 1975 on limestone and clay soils, the 2017 San Vicente is 100% Tempranillo Peludo and was aged 20 months in new barrels, 90% French and 10% American. This rich, powerful red boasts a deep purple color as well as a **decadent bouquet of red and black currants, blackberries, Asian spice, cedarwood, vanilla, and candied violet nuances**. It's rich and powerful, yet also **balanced and elegant**. Showing more structure with time in the glass, this full-bodied Rioja will



benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for 30 years or more. **It's a beautiful wine."**

## #2. CLOS ERASMUS 2018 LAUREL PRIORAT \$49.98 [350152]

Daphne Glorian took a big risk in 1988 when she spent her savings on a collection of vineyards in the sunny Mediterranean area of Priorat, with its steep, terraced hills covered with crumbly, black slate soils. While it had an old winemaking tradition, it was a backwater in the world of fine wine. It paid off, as her flagship wine, **Clos Erasmus**, is now one of Spain's finest wines and sells for \$200. Fortunately for us she makes a 2<sup>nd</sup> bottling, called **Laurel**, that's sourced from the same **organically farmed** vineyards. Rather than a value version of Clos Erasmus, it's meant to be its own wine: a **more supple and youthfully expressive take on the powerful Priorat style**. Part of that difference comes from the 18-month aging process that involves a modern combination of large and small oak barrels, concrete, and clay amphorae, which creates a **unique layering of textures and flavor sensations**.

*Laurel* is a **Grenache-driven** wine, which greatly contributes to the **mouth-filling body and softness**, with the added complexities of the **15% Syrah and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon**. The aromas and flavors are led by a potent *melange* of **vibrant ripe raspberry and blackberry cordial, purple flowers**, with a classic Grenache thread of **orange peel**. Supporting this is a swirling array of **herbal accents** like the *garrigue* of Rhône wines, an **electric, saline-like minerality**, and an unobtrusive influence from the French oak that contributes to a **licorice note**. The **concentration and warmth of alcohol** is given levity by the **bright lift and supple, velvet-textured mouthfeel**, making it a wine that admirably **combines depth and drinkability**. We suggest aerating it for a bit to let everything come into place, and serving it at a cool 60-65F.

**WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS** - "The second wine here and one that is easier to drink, the 2018 Laurel was produced with fruit from the younger vines, a couple of barrels that are **declassified**



from Clos Erasmus... It's a **bright translucent ruby color** and has a perfumed and delicate nose with notes of **orange peel and flowers**; this is the most **elegant and ethereal vintage of Laurel** as far as I can remember, with **red rather than black fruit** and a kind of cranberry quality. The palate is medium-bodied, **textured and fluid**, with subtleness, balance and **very fine tannins**. The **oak is perfectly integrated**, and the wine is easy to drink, **approachable and very pleasurable right now**. It's a fresh vintage with **energy and finesse**, quite different from previous vintages. I love it.

## #3. DOMAINES LUPIER 2015 "LA DAMA" GARNACHA \$49.98 [387584]



When we were tasted on **Domaine Lupier's 2015 "La Dama" Garnacha** from Spain, we were blown away. **It's an exceptional wine for fans of the classical style**, maintaining a balance between elegance and power common to the finest wines in the world. We think the glowing review from **The Wine Advocate's Luis Gutierrez** is spot on.

In light of the many good quality, modernly styled wines for the price that Spain makes, **this is a perfect example of what's quietly going on behind the big names**. With their long history of copious vine-growing, there are still tucked away plots of old, thick scraggly vines that can make wines that rise above the rest. This is what people like Elisa Ucar and Enrique Basarte, proprietors of **Domaine Lupier**, seek out in order to make **exceptional, small-production wines**. Their "discovery" for this project was a collection

of plots near the village of San Martin de Unx, in the **Navarra wine region** south of Pamplona.

Elisa and Enrique's winemaking philosophy is in line with a great number of the top winemakers around the world: If vineyards are truly great, then you're able to intervene less in what nature has provided in order to make wines of great character and quality. For Domaine Lupier, this includes relying on those **old vines** to farm **organically and biodynamically** without irrigation (dry farming), and fermenting with the **native yeasts**.

This is a must-try for classic red wine lovers!

**WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS** - "The **elegance, finesse and nuance** of the 2015 La Dama is simply irresistible. It's ethereal, perfumed, elegant and complex (*rose petals, orange peel, wild herbs...*), even if it's extremely young. It's bright ruby, with **great purity and detail**, transparent and full of energy. It is **harmonious and nicely textured**, with chalky tannins and a stony sensation. It's more powerful than it feels and has the stuffing and balance to develop nicely in bottle. This is **truly sensational**, full of **mineral energy**."

"... pure Garnacha from old head-pruned and dry-farmed vines from different plots in the village of San Martin de Unx on limestone-rich soils. The vines are worked **organically and biodynamically**, and the fermentation and work in the vineyard is with the natural yeasts and with as little intervention as possible..." - Luis Gutierrez, Wine Advocate

**#4. HACIENDA MONASTERIO 2018**  
\$49.98 [381229]

The Hacienda Monasterio winery is in a storied part of the Ribera del Duero wine region, near Pesquera and Valbuena, and managed by the **Danish winemaking superstar behind Dominio Pingus, Peter Sisseck**. This is the project that came first, though, and he made good use of his Bordeaux training to make **modern expressions from this old winemaking region**. He hired Duero native Carlos De La Fuente to make the wines, an appropriate choice for those who



consider a region's people and culture as being part of *terroir*. While the wines are crafted and polished, like the Bordeaux that inspired them, **Hacienda Monasterio farms organically and ferments with local yeast**, which is believed to allow an expression of the place from which they come. Unlike Bordeaux, the local **Tempranillo** in the driver's seat brings more **soft red fruits like strawberry and red plum** along with the **darker qualities** from the Bordeaux varieties **Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Malbec**. Classic old-world **herbal and mineral threads** bring character and rein in the fruit. We recommend decanting and give time for the wine to open up, and as always for a well-structured wine like this, pair with some delicious, hearty Spanish-inspired dishes.

**WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS** - "The 2018 Hacienda Monasterio, the wine that was previously labeled as Crianza, is a blend of 80% Tinto Fino, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot and 2% Malbec... it matured for 18 months in French oak barrels, 25% new. This wine **represents the character of the property**, including all the grapes. It's still a little young, with a **creamy twist, a little biscuity... juicy and with tannins but with balance**. This is a vintage that has **great balance and freshness**, but right now it's a little too oaky for me—but it **should develop nicely in bottle**. They are now in the process of replacing the Merlot with Malbec, because they think Malbec can work well in the Ribera del Duero."



**#5. BODEGAS MORCA**  
2018 "MORCA"  
GARNACHA  
\$39.95 [383520]

Spanish Garnachas are reliable for full-bodied wines that are loaded with ripe fruit and relatively soft textures, all at a great value. This one is a prime example: it's the namesake wine from **Bodegas Morca**, part of the **Juan Gil family estates** that, aside from their famous Juan Gil labels, is responsible for **El Nido** and **Clio**, Atalaya and Honoro Vera. The Morca comes from older Garnacha vines that grow like little bushes in the Campo de Borja, an inland wine hotspot in Northeastern Spain.

Although it's aged in flavorful new French oak for just under 2 years, the **quality of old-vine fruit is the main star here, concentrated but with not without finesse**. Sourced from the lower slopes of the local mountains, there's plenty of sunlight and daytime warmth here to yield wines with a maxed-out 16% abv! But there's also a healthy drop in temperature at night, which explains the balancing freshness and aromatic lift that keeps this wine from collapsing under its large weight. This is no product of industrial winemaking: the Bodegas Morca winery is **solar-powered**, and the land is in a **sustainably healthy state** since they **don't use herbicides or pesticides**, use limited irrigation only in spots that are suffering, and **harvest by hand** rather than by tractor.

**VINOUS 94 POINTS** - "Deep, lurid violet. **Ripe dark berries, cherry cola, vanilla and pungent flowers** on the **deeply perfumed nose**. **Smooth, broad** and sweet on entry, then **tighter in the midpalate**, offering impressively **concentrated cherry and blackberry** flavors and **hints of vanilla, licorice and spicecake**. A **smoky nuance** builds with air and carries through a **very long, gently tannic finish** that repeats the floral and licorice notes." Vegan friendly.



**#6. SIERRA CANTABRIA**  
2010 GRAN RESERVA  
\$39.95 [383215]

Sierra Cantabria is one of the historically important estates of Rioja Alavesa; while the Eguren family started bottling their wine under this name in 1957, they had been growing wine grapes there since 1870 to sell to the booming wineries of Rioja. Their Gran Reserva is arguably the most classic representation of the region in their lineup (in contrast to their *Senorio de San Vicente* bottling). The greater use of American oak here brings in the classically **prominent vanilla and coconut character**, complementing

the **extended aging bouquet of soft, mellowed out earthy red fruit and tobacco**. Coming from the **outstanding 2010 vintage**, this Rioja has a lot of class, is aged to perfection for eminent drinkability, and is fairly priced!

**ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 93 POINTS** - "Bright ruby-red. **Highly perfumed red fruit, floral** and **spice** aromas are complemented by **subtle vanilla and coconut accents**. Smooth, focused and gently sweet, offering **raspberry, cherry-vanilla** and **candied rose** flavors and an **earthier hint of tobacco**. **Fine-grained tannins** lend shape to a long, **energetic finish** that strongly repeats the red fruit note. Raised in a 50/50 mix of French and American oak barrels, 25% of them new."

**#7. EDETÀRIA SELECCIÓ VINYES VELLES**  
**2018 GARNACHA BLANC \$26.95 [383754]**

This **Garnacha Blanca** is a **delightful fuller-bodied white** with a lot of **flavor and depth for the price**. It comes from the **Edetaria** estate in the gorgeous southern Catalanian region of **Terra Alta (highland)**, which encompasses foothills and valleys on the inland side of the small mountain range that separates them from the Mediterranean Sea. The climate here is perfect for **richly flavored but vibrant Garnachas**, and even better, Edetaria uses **organically farmed 60-year-old vines** for this wine, which can create wines of additional depth and complexity. They ferment and age the wine for 8 months in medium-sized French oak, which complements the fruit beautifully with **spice notes** and a touch of **soft roundness** in the texture to balance the **vibrant, mineral acidity**. There's a distinctive 'hydrocarbon' note, as the winery describes it, which appears in many great Rieslings, and is related to the **appetizing saline and**



**smoked almond notes** in James Suckling's description. Following the **ripe yellow fruits** like apple, pineapple and lemon, the **finish has a delicate nectarine skin note**. Try a bottle and taste the dramatic Terra Alta landscape in liquid form!

**JAMES SUCKLING 93 POINTS** - - "Dried apple, grilled pineapple, salted lemon, smoked almond, clove and chamomile on the nose. It's **full-bodied** with **bright acidity** and a concentrated, flavorful palate. **Layered and intense** with a **spicy finish**. Drink now."

**WINE SPECTATOR 91 POINTS** - "A fleshy white, with an expressive profile, layering pineapple, beeswax, almond and honeysuckle notes, bound by a vibrant, supple acidity. Undertones of wet stone and heather echo on throughout the mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2025. 500 cases made, 275 cases imported."

**#8. REMELLURI 2016 LINDES DE**  
**REMELLURI VINEDOS DE SAN VICENTE**  
**\$27.99 [383629]**

The estate's origins date back to the **tenth century** when Count Erramel, a Basque warrior and aristocrat from Álava, founded a small village on the site (uri in Basque); hence the name Erramel Uri evolved to Remelluri. The **first wines** were made here in the **fourteenth century** when **Hieronymite monks** tended the monastery atop nearby Sierra de Toloño mountains and founded a sanctuary and farm on the site. The **earliest written evidence of wine production** dates from the Laguardia village tax records from **1596**, noting **Remelluri's** contribution. The monks later abandoned the area, but local hermits continued to maintain the shrine while the Real Divisa, a local community organization,



maintained the farms to accommodate the needs of pilgrims who came to pray at the sanctuary. The estate was eventually split up and sold in the nineteenth century, as were many properties throughout Spain belonging to religious orders.

The **modern winery** was established in **1967** when Jaime Rodríguez Salís, father of siblings Telmo and Amaia Rodríguez, purchased the vineyards at the heart of the former estate and began to make wine from the **ancient, abandoned site**. Jaime and his wife Amaia were entrepreneurial, non-conformist intellectuals from Irún, where Jaime was a writer and archeologist and Amaia, a writer and artist. The family was always forward-thinking, with incredible respect for culture, creativity, and craftsmanship. Since then, Remelluri has been devoted to **restoring the original, historic vineyards** to their fullest potential. **Remelluri** became the **first single-vineyard Rioja** of the modern era with its release of the **1971** vintage.

**Telmo Rodríguez (Famed Winemaker)** and **Amaia Rodríguez Hernandorena (viticulturist)**, returned to the property and took over the project from their father in 2009. Their return to their family winery marked the beginning of a new era at Remelluri; both a renewal of purpose and a commitment to the process of uncovering and revealing the truth of Remelluri. Telmo's winemaking partner in all of his projects, the prolific Pablo Eguzkiza (trained at Château Petrus), has helped implement numerous changes in the vineyards and winery that can now be seen in recent vintages of Remelluri.

**JAMES SUCKLING 95 POINTS** - "Lots of **ripeness** with blackberry, fresh-mushroom, bark and moss undertones. Full-bodied with powerful tannins, yet they have a **pretty fruit coating** and end with complexity and candidness. **Old-vine character**."

**WINE ADVOCATE 93 POINTS** - "It's interesting to compare the 2016 Lindes de Remelluri Viñedos de San Vicente de la Sonsierra with the wine from the same year but from the external suppliers from Labastida, as the two wines are produced in the same way after a **natural fermentation** in small vats and oak casks and matured in a combination of barriques of different origins and aged for 13 months. The grapes from **San Vicente** usually achieve more ripeness, which is the case in this 2016. It's a little less precise and focused than the Labastida, especially on the nose. There is a little more rusticity on the palate, with some dusty tannins. Again, I think it **represents the character of the village**."





Mas d'En Caçador Vineyard

## #9. CELLER CAL PLA 2017 BLACK SLATE PORRERA PRIORAT \$19.98 [381825]



**Wow!** One of our favorite Spanish wines, **one that overloads the price-to-quality ratio with its bang-for-the-buck nature, is back!** We just secured an allocation of the 2017 Black Slate Porrera, an amazing red wine and perhaps the **most coveted of the reasonably-priced bottlings from Priorat.** Black Slate Porrera offers a rich, hedonistic expression of mouth-coating deliciousness with exceptionally smooth and polished tannins. The lush dark fruit envelops the palate while somehow maintaining incredible balance.

**“Tasting like it cost three times the price” - Jeb Dunnuck**

The nose is loaded with **ripe, dark red fruits enriched by a layer of floral perfume**, balsa wood, incense and a touch of mineral earth. A very inviting, attractive nose. In the mouth, bright red and ripe dark fruits and mixed berries dominate, perfectly lush; the sweetness of fruit flavors are balanced by **silky** tannins and a **touch of acidity**, keeping the wine uplifted. Notes of mixed herbals, stony soil and forest floor add complexity; the **fruit, however, is the star of the show** as ripe sweet strawberry, red plum and blackberry flavors lead to an **elongated, glorious finish.**

**JEB DUNNUCK 95 POINTS** - “Plums, blueberries, licorice, violets, candied rose, and a beautiful spice character all emerge from the 2017 Black Slate Porrera, and it’s incredibly complex and nuanced aromatically. This carries to a medium to full-bodied, powerful red with incredible finesse, elegant, silky tannins, and a gorgeous finish. **It’s another heavenly wine selling for way**

**below what it’s worth.”**

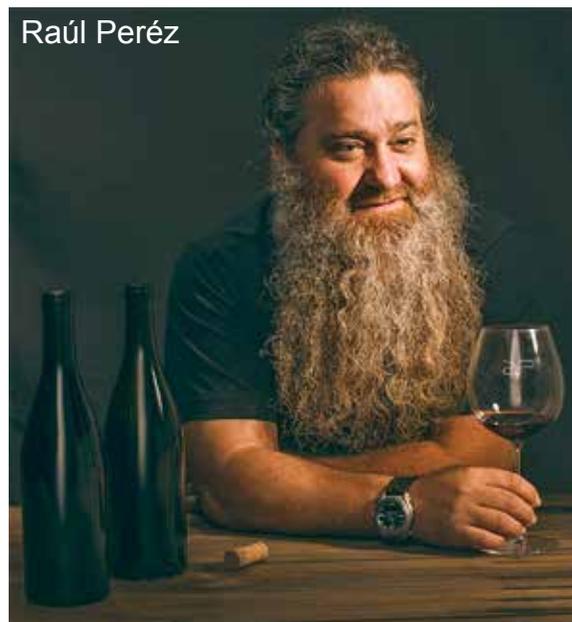
## #10. BODEGAS Y VINEDOS RAÚL PERÉZ 2018 SAINT JACQUES ULTREIA BIERZO TINTO \$17.98 [383458] Grapes: mostly Mencia, with Bastardo & Garnacha Tintorera

For those who love **“terroir wines,” Raúl Pérez** is one of those people to follow no matter what they make. He has a seemingly innate winemaking talent and an intimate working knowledge of his vineyards near his hometown of Valtuille de Abajo in the Bierzo region of Northwestern Spain. We’re particularly excited to sell some of his latest releases from the 2018 vintage, which Raul thinks was the **best** in at **least a decade**, if not in his 25 years of making wine there! This is reflected in some great reviews from **The Wine Advocate**, which you can check out below.



Mr. Perez’s winemaking philosophy is at the same time **traditional and innovative**, involving harvesting from old, mixed-variety vineyards in which he **practices organic farming**, and with **native yeast** fermentations that proceed leisurely. Depending on the wine, aging takes place in a mix of **concrete, amphorae, and mostly older barrels** that provide slow oxygenation without covering those carefully developed flavors. Raul also **minimizes the use of sulfites**, a risky choice in winemaking, but for him it’s a requirement. **None of the wines are filtered or fined.**

**WINE ADVOCATE 93+ POINTS** - “The truly impressive 2018 Ultraia Saint Jacques **transcends its price category.** They destemmed more grapes because they fermented it in the oak vats they bought from Vega Sicilia to use in the new winery, where it macerated for two months and then matured in used barrels for nine to 10 months. The secret is to use very good grapes from very good vineyards. The wine is **clean, precise and fresh, and the oak is super-subtle, almost unnoticeable.** The palate reflects a **fluid wine of pleasure**, a red of thirst. This is the wine where they have invested more, and 2018 has to be the finest vintage to date. They did 150,000 bottles of this in the outstanding 2018 vintage. It was bottled in October/November 2019.”



Raúl Pérez

## #1. EL ENEMIGO 2016 "GRAN ENEMIGO" GUALTALLARY SINGLE VINEYARD CABERNET FRANC \$99.98 [382241]

Cabernet Franc is enjoying a renaissance in quality with passionate winemakers moving it out of the "supporting role" and into the limelight. There is much to celebrate, as a great Cabernet Franc can offer plenty of **power**, but with a greater **finesse** in the aromas and **elegance** in texture compared to most Cabernet Sauvignon.

Cheval Blanc in St. Emilion used to stand alone as the flag-bearer of what great Cabernet Franc could be, but, **Alejandro Vigil and Adrianna Catena are obsessively proving that Argentina's Cabernet Francs will take on the world.** Adrianna is the daughter of Nicolas Catena Zapata, founder of the famous eponymous Argentine winery for which Alejandro has thrived as winemaking director. Cabernet Franc is a personal passion for them, and with their own **El Enemigo** label, also known as Bodega Aleanna, they have been making world class wines from the variety. In fact, they make six wines based on it. Clearly, Alejandro and Adrianna are accomplishing what they set out to do.

Our featured wine, the latest release of their single-vineyard **Gualtallary Gran Enemigo**, is emerging as their benchmark wine in their Cabernet Franc-based lineup. As the review from **Robert Parker's Wine Advocate** below shows, it's another victory for the El Enemigo team and for classic wine lovers. We recommend a decanter, some good friends and time to see this one unfold in the glass! With proper cellaring, this will also evolve gracefully over the next ten years.

**WINE ADVOCATE 99 POINTS** - "The nose of the 2016 Gran Enemigo Gualtallary Single Vineyard transported me back to the classical wines from the Bordeaux of yesteryear, with austerity and with **no room for sweetness or creamy texture. This is about chalk and umami, salty and tasty**, with the clout and wilderness of Gualtallary; its **electric freshness and fine**



**tannins**; the expression of Cabernet Franc in the poor, stony and limestone-rich soils from the high-altitude vineyards; and the **intensity this altitude provides**, as there is a strong impact from the light in the grapes. But the one thing that I liked the most about this 2016 was its balance and the way it **feels light but has tremendous concentration and power**, light on its feet with masses of inner strength. It's nuanced and complex, even if it's terribly young. With **time in the glass**, it developed notes of orange peel that spoke of freshness, and the palate is sharp and direct, with symmetry and precision. **This is approachable now but should live forever in bottle.** 2,500 bottles produced."

## #2. CATENA 2017 NICOLÁS CATENA ZAPATA \$84.98 [350245]

**Four generations** of the Catena family have farmed the vineyards of Mendoza, ever since Italian founder Nicola Catena planted his **first Malbec vines in 1902.** Robert Parker's 2005 book about the 100 "**Greatest World Wine Estates**" featured only one winery from South America: **Catena Zapata.**

With its inaugural 1997 vintage, Nicolas Catena Zapata became the first luxury cuvée from Argentina to be exported around the world. The wine recreates the "**Original Bordeaux Blend**" of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, when Malbec dominated over Merlot and was in equal standing to Cabernet Sauvignon in the Medoc. **Prephyloxeric** Malbec and Cabernet massale selections of **ungrafted vines** gave rise to this wine, opening a window to the past from the mountain vineyards of Mendoza, Argentina.

### JAMES SUCKLING 97 POINTS

"Sweet tobacco, walnuts, blackberries and dried flowers on the nose. **Full body, yet ultra-fine tannins and a super long finish.** Superb finesse and polish. Drink after 2023, but already fabulous."

### RP95 ROBERT PARKER'S WINE ADVOCATE

The **approachable** 2017 Nicolás Catena Zapata has a little more Cabernet Franc in the blend, even if the majority is Cabernet Sauvignon and there is some Malbec. In 2017, they sourced Cabernet



Sauvignon from Altamira and Gualtallary, and it fermented together with the juice of the Cabernet Franc. It has a touch of ripeness in the nose but without excess; it's balsamic, with the Cabernet dominating the aromatics. The palate comes through as really balanced and perhaps a little lighter. It has **very fine tannins and a clean, focused finish.** "

## #3. RICCITELLI 2016 "VINO DE EL CEPILLO" MALBEC \$49.95 [383529]

Our South American specialists are loving the wine from Matias Riccitelli, **one of the stars of the modern Argentinian wine scene** who is injecting new energy and bucking the status quo. Our featured bottling is made from Malbec, but it's no mass produced supermarket style that might have been popular a decade or so ago! It comes from particularly cool spot called El Cepillo in the southern part of the Uco Valley, and it's a major factor in creating this **stylish and distinctive wine.** The Cepillo Malbec is **vibrant and pure**, mirroring the high-altitude sunlight and fresh Andes snowme that feeds the **old vines** that create **intense flavors in an elegant fashion.** Pour a glass and you'll be struck by the **super-saturated color and deep, clear aromas of fresh macerated blackberry and raspberry** imbued with **floral character**, and a very **subtle herbal undercurrent.** A **stony minerality** drives through the palate, and **fine - almost chalky - tannin** adds welcome texture. The **medium-full bodied fruit weight** is not cloying as it drives you through the **dry finish**, leaving the palate ready for more!

**WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS** - "Part of the new single-vineyard range, the 2016 Vino de El Cepillo Finca La Trinidad comes from a plot in the limit between El Cepillo and El Indio in the San Carlos department, a very cold place... and 2016 was a very cold year, too. So, the wine is **extremely floral**, with **very good aromatic intensity**, very **balanced and harmonious**, with very **fine tannins and great freshness.** 12,000 bottles produced. 2016 was the first vintage, and it was bottled in September 2017 after **one year in used barriques** to keep the typicity of the place."





Cuvelier Los Andes

**#4. CUVELIER LOS ANDES**  
2014 GRAND VIN \$39.98 [[382608](#)]

This is the **flagship wine** of the estate, founded by the **Cuvelier family** that owns **Chateau Léoville Poyferré** in Bordeaux. These are polished but characterful wines inspired by the **modern Bordeaux style** with the help of **super-consultant Michel Rolland**. In honor of that famous region, the wine is backed by Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot, but since Malbec is traditionally the most important variety in Argentina, that's what drives the wine. This is **full-bodied and texturally rich**, with ripe dark and red fruits backed by some cocoa, vanilla and baking spice notes from the French oak, with a **softened texture** and well-meshed, developing flavors like leather and truffle from the extended aging in bottle. This is a great choice this season for dishes with lamb and fresh mint sauce, or quail with truffle.



**JAMES SUCKLING 96 POINTS** - "This is a **generous and juicy red with gorgeous fruit**. Shows reserve and balance. A wonderful tangy, light orange peel and light foie gras. Full to medium body. **Fantastic finish**. Clear and meaningful. Drink now."

**#5. ALTOS LAS HORMIGAS 2018 ALTAMIRA**  
MALBEC \$39.98 [[383913](#)]

Altos Las Hormigas was started by a few Italian winemakers who saw the potential to make exceptional "wines of place" in Argentina, **the antithesis of the large production Malbecs** that were flooding the international market in the 1990s and 2000s. **They have been scoring big wins with this bottling** of Malbec from the *Altamira* region of the Uco Valley, an area that can get hot in the daytime during peak Summer. The saving grace is the Uco Valley's giant drop in nighttime temperatures, which helps keep grapes from over-ripening. The Altos Las Hormigas winemaking philosophy aims for **minimal intervention**, using **biodynamic practices** and adding **minimal sulfites** to protect the wine.



While the result indeed **doesn't feel over-polished or over-manipulated**, it does have a **naturally soft, sunny, and generously-fruited character** that will please a lot of palates! An underlying **broad, gentle mineral sensation** on the palate, the **absence of heavy oak flavors**, and the **restrained ripeness of the fruit** are all hallmarks that this is indeed a 'wine of place.' The **depth, balance, and brash youthful character** are wonderful now with 30 minutes in the glass; but you can 'cellar' a bottle for a few more years for it to really sing!

**WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS** - "...fermented in concrete with indigenous yeasts and matured in untoasted 3,500-liter French oak foudres for 18 months, resulted in 13.6% alcohol and good freshness despite not having very high acidity. The grapes were sourced from alluvial terraces at 1,200 meters in altitude. The terraces were created by the Tunuyán River, where there is **85% stones** and gravel covered by **limestone and some silt** and sand that provide red fruit freshness and a delicate and **elegant balance**. **It's floral and gentle...medium-bodied, with energy** and some lightness from plants that tend to yield well."

**#6. GARAGE WINE COMPANY 2017**  
**CARIGNAN TRUQUILEMU LOT 87**  
\$34.98 [[381422](#)]

This is **small scale winemaking at its best!** The Garage Wine Co. began as a hobby in Pilar and Derek Mossman's garage with the goal of making wines for friends and family. Everything was done by hand, primarily on the weekends while they continued to work their day jobs to provide for the family. Within a few years, the wines became better known as word of mouth created demand from strangers and eventually restaurants. The Chilean national newspaper ran an article on this coveted **urban myth, referring to the budding enterprise as "that Garage Wine Company."** With that story, demand increased and a brand was born.



The hallmark of these wines is their amazing purity, freshness and silky texture. The Mossmans achieve such high quality by emphasizing quality over quantity. They make tiny lots of 11-19 barrels of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Carignan field blends plowed by horse to this day. They truck their fruit in a trailer behind a trusty, worn red pickup and make their wines by hand. **Employing natural methods, only native yeasts are utilized for fermentation and the wines are aged in used oak barrels. The finished wines are then bottled in sterilized, recycled bottles. This is small scale winemaking at it's best! Practicing Organic.**

**WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS** - “The Cariñena/Carignan from Truquilemu is always more **aromatic**, and the 2017 Truquilemu Vineyard shows it. It is **floral** and expressive, but it also has a **meaty** touch and an **iron-like** twist. It has abundant, fine-grained and **chalky tannins** and is **nicely textured**. This comes from the vines from the Orellana family, from perhaps the freshest corner of the Maule Secano on the Coastal Range of mountains (much older and slower to cool than the Andes) where soils are granitic and subsoils have **cracked granite that allow roots to get deep into cracks**. The freshness here clearly transcends the warm and dry conditions of a very challenging year marked by crazy bushfires that burned the surroundings of many of their vineyards. The old vineyards always have some other varieties, and in this case, the Cariñena is complemented by small amounts of Mataró (Monastrell) and País. The wine has very healthy parameters, and I guess it’s going to develop nicely in bottle. 3,000 bottles were filled in January 2019 after the wine spent two winters in barrel.”



Pedro Parra

## #7. ZUCCARDI 2018 POLIGONOS SAN PABLO MALBEC \$26.98 [383251]

The Zuccardi family is making some of the best wines from Argentina, led by third generation Sebastian Zuccardi, one of the most **meticulous and ambitious winemakers** in Argentina. His progressive **terroir-transparent** wines from the Uco Valley have earned international renown. His estate has won #1 Best Vineyard in the World three years in a row. The Poligonos range focuses on the villages of the esteemed Uco Valley. This 100% Malbec is from San Pablo, the coldest subregion in the Uco Valley and one of the **highest elevations**. An **extreme area** which **lends to beautiful complexity and texture**.



**JAMES SUCKLING 96 POINTS** - “This is a **fantastic red** with intense black pepper and other spices to the blue fruit. Full body. Creamy, **polished and extremely intense. Fantastic finish. No wood. Only concrete.** Drink or hold.”

**WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS** - “The Polígonos del Valle de Uco is their village range where they show the village and variety. 2013 was the first vintage, and one of the first wines was the Malbec from San Pablo, which has come from their own vineyards there since 2016. I tasted the 2018 Polígonos San Pablo Malbec, which, as all the Malbec bottlings in this range, fermented and matured **exclusively in concrete. San Pablo is the coldest** of the regions they work with, and these are the last grapes to be picked. The place has a completely different logic than Gualtallary and Altamira, which see an early harvest. This is 13.5% alcohol, the lowest of the three. They **avoid over-ripeness** like the plague, and they don’t want under-ripeness either; so, the harvesting window in San Pablo is not that wide, but it’s late, and most varieties tend to ripen at more or less the same time. This is the most austere of the three, with even some citrus hints, with the varietal base of **violets and herbs**. But the main difference is in the texture; it’s **extremely fine-grained** here, precise, like cut with a laser. This is **great quality for the price** asked.”

## #8. BODEGAS ALEANNA 2017 EL ENEMIGO BONARDA \$24.98 [383918]

Bodega Aleanna is a partnership formed by historian **Adrianna Catena** (daughter of Nicolás Catena) and oenologist **Alejandro Vigil**. The winery produces wines from family vines that have become **iconic** among the new generation, such as the El Enemigo line. Particularly notable are their Cabernet Franc and Bonarda (the latter from eastern Mendoza), which are a couple of the most interesting wines on the market. A potent combination of experience and creative oenology.

**ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 94 POINTS** - “A Bonarda from El Mirador, Rivadavia, Mendoza, mixed with 15% Cabernet Franc and aged for 15 months in **hundred-year-old foudres** with low anhydrides by Alejandro Vigil. Bright purple in the glass. The **nose displays intense notes of cherry and raspberry** with a hint of sweet spices. In the mouth, the Franc brings **structure and tension** while the tannins are **refined and polished**. Flows with volume and a delicate acidity that compensates for the unripe portion of the grapes. A clear and expressive red full of easygoing, refreshing flavor. **An accomplished wine.**”

**WINE ENTHUSIAST 93 POINTS, EDITORS CHOICE** - “A sweet whiff of cotton candy and spun sugar introduces jammy aromas of floral berry fruits and licorice. On the palate, this blend of multiple Bonarda vineyards is lush and packed with fruit. Blackberry, cassis and plum flavors come with chocolaty subtleties and a chewy, creamy finish.”

## #9. PEDRO PARRA Y FAMILIA 2019 PENCOPOLITANO, ITATA \$21.98 [383649]

We thoroughly enjoyed tasting the wines from Pedro Parra y Familia. The passion put into these wines is as evident and convincing as the **terroir of Itata** and the amazing flavors and scents found within (the nose and tongue do not lie!). **These are some of the best we’ve tasted from Chile in some time.** If you are unfamiliar with Chilean viticulture these will be a splendid introduction; if you remember when Chilean wines first splashed onto the market decades ago, these bottles will showcase not only how far

their acumen has progressed but also how much potential and **world class quality can come out of their soil and into our glasses-- these are the real deal!**

“Pedro Parra y Familia was born in my head many years ago, but it was only after 15 years as a consultant, traveling and working all around, I felt mature enough to begin. The main idea was always the same: make pure terroir wines from **Granite soils**. Make wines I like to drink, and be free to select and create from several terroirs. But more important, the idea is to start something that I can share with my family, my wife Camila, and my kids Diego, Felipe and Colomba.”

- Pedro Parra

“After 18 years of terroir work all around the World, I felt mature enough to create my own wines, from what I consider the most incredible Chilean Terroir, Itata.”

- Pedro Parra

“I had the chance to work and dig in Barolo, Burgundy, Montalcino, Oregon, Sicily, Rioja, and worked with the best people.”

- Pedro Parra

“Pedro Parra y Familia is based on the South of Chile, mostly Bio-Bio, ITATA and Cauquenes appellations. Why? **Very simple; this area is in my experience the only place in Chile where I can produce the wines I like to drink:** a mix of fresh-acid fruit, with complex flavors of flowers, soil, underbrush and a **great granitic, mineral-driven mouthfeel.**”

The 2019 Pencopolitano is a blend from Itata and Cauquenes. The local environs are rife with cloudy weather and coastal mountain climates resting over red granitic slopes (**the soil dates back to the Paleozoic era, around 240 million years ago**).

**WINE ADVOCATE 93 POINTS** - “The red blend 2019 Pencopolitano was produced with 50% Cinsault and 50% País from old vines on granite and basalt soils. It fermented with 60% full clusters and was bottled at **12.5% alcohol after 10 months in oak and concrete vats**. This is perfumed and ethereal, going more in the direction of Imaginador, with more finesse and sharper than previous years and with more País, going for a much more serious wine. **The palate is vibrant and austere with pristine flavors.**”



Colomé • Salta, Argentina

**#10. COLOMÉ AMALAYA 2019 MALBEC, SALTA \$11.98 [380229]**



Staff and customers alike have been enamored with Bodegas Colomé from Salta, Argentina (owned by **Donald Hess**; also the ‘parent’ winery of Amalaya), sourced from the highest known altitude Malbec vineyards, averaging 7,500 to 8,000 feet. Founded in 1831, Bodegas Colomé is one of the oldest working wineries in Argentina. Colomé’s quote embodies this remote locale: “At the end of the world is the beginning of a new wine journey.”

Bodega Amalaya was born in 2010 in the high-altitude plains of the Calchaqui Valley in Salta. It is the vision of **Larissa and Christoph Ehrbar** (wine pioneer Donald Hess’s successors). They believed in

the unique ‘high-vibration’ qualities of Cafayate’s terroir and the ability to craft high-quality, fresh, vibrant and contemporary high-altitude wines. And this is a high-quality wine that’s **under 12 bucks** with a **97-point score from Decanter magazine**. Is this a holiday miracle? Maybe. Amalaya translates to ‘miracle’ in the local dialect in Salta, when farmers used to make offerings

in hopes for a miracle, a bountiful harvest.

With a rich nose filled with scents of **redcurrant, plum and citrus zest**, leading to notes of spice, mineral and rose petal, this Malbec makes an immediate impression-- and quite a good one at that. The palate is **lush** on the tongue with moderate tannins that offer **good grip**. The bright red fruits and berries are **reiterated from the nose**, with mixed red berries, raspberry and a touch of cranberry that are supported by secondary flavors of minerality, strawberry tea and cacao nibs. With a screw cap and striking blue label, this wine is perhaps **more serious than the everyday price tag suggests**; yet it maintains a lovely familiarity that’s **instantly inviting and welcoming**. 85% Malbec, 10% Tannat, 5% Petit Verdot.

**DECANTER 97 POINTS** - “Perfumed attractive nose with layers of spice, crunchy strawberries, ripe red plums and fresh violets. Vibrant on the palate with a lovely freshness in harmony with a dense chocolatey character, ending in an elegant spicy finish.”

# TOP WINES 2021 • CROATIA



Motovun, Croatia  
Photo: Ann Stephens

## WHITE WINE

**FAKIN WINES 2020 MALVAZIJA ISTARKA (ISTRIA REGION), CROATIA \$17.95 [372611]**

**DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS 2021 GOLD MEDAL & 95 POINTS:**

“Pristine aromas of pithy white lemon, pear and perfumed delicate white flowers. Very pure on the palate, this is lively and refreshing, very juicy.”

**SASHA DEJAYNES, Vinolust.com:**

“On the palate the wine is vivacious with a pleasingly round midpalate and mouthwatering acidity that balances richer notes of peach and plum.”

Fakin Winery is situated in the foothills of **Motovun**, Istra (Istria), the peninsula in north-west Croatia that used to belong to Italy. The winery is surrounded by lush sustainably farmed vineyards with altitudes ranging from 330 to 650 feet. The white soil, microclimate and hilly terrain give Fakin’s grapes their minerality, freshness and expressive characteristics. Malvazija



Istarka (Istriana) is the queen of white grapes in Istria if not all of Croatia. Fakin’s 2020 Malvazija displays aromas of white peaches and pears; on the palate the stone fruit flavors lead to the clean, crisp, very dry finish.

## RED WINES

**MILOS 2017 PLAVAC, PENINSULA PELJESAC, CROATIA \$21.95 [362382]**

Croatia’s best known red varietal, Plavac Mali (*Plah-vahts Mah-lee*), is a relative of Zinfandel that thrives on the Peljesac Peninsula. The Milos (*Mee-loash*) family has farmed and lived on their land near the village of Ston for over 500 years. Their vineyards are located on steep, rocky hillsides leading down to the Adriatic Sea. The winery is certified organic and transitioning to biodynamic. Fermentation (only the native yeasts are used) takes place in open-topped stainless



steel to start and then finishes in large Slavonian oak barrels, never new. The wine is aged first in the large old barrels then in the bottle until its ready to be released.

The 2017 Plavac has a very dark color. On the nose you find aromas of cherries, cranberries and plums with a hint of fine herbs and exotic spices. On the palate this elegant red offers flavors of dark fruits without a hint of jamminess. The dry finish is long and smooth. This would go well with lamb or beef dishes.

**ZLATAN 2015 PLAVAC MALI, SIBENIK, NORTH DALMATIA, CROATIA \$22.95 [372799]**

The Zlatan Winery was founded by Zlatan Plenkovic in 1991, the second winery established after the fall of Yugoslavian communism. The organically farmed grapes for this wine come from vineyards located in Sibenik in the North Dalmatia Wine Region of Croatia. This Plavac is purple in color and ruby at the rim. The nose features ripe cherry fruit along with some hints of wild herbs. On the palate, it is clean with straightforward dark cherry and black fruits. The finish is moderately long. The tannins are well integrated. This red will go well with a lamb burger or some pizza. This is a tasty wine with bottle age that is ready to enjoy now.



**GRAY WHALE GIN \$32.95 [113460]**



“Anise leads the mild aroma of this unusual gin made with ‘Californian botanicals,’ including Baja limes, fir tree, sea kelp, mint and almonds. The palate is slick and slightly viscous, with a lemony, faintly saline note that winds into a brisk, cooling finish that suggests an ocean breeze.”

**KARA NEWMAN  
Wine Enthusiast  
90 Points**

*Top Red from Slovenia*

**MOVIA 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON (BRDA-SLOVENIA) \$19.98 [372762]**

Movia has long been a standard-bearer for the wines of Slovenia and this remarkable Cabernet Sauvignon more than solidifies that position. Add to that the facts that the estate 1) is **organically farmed**, 2) uses **native yeasts** for fermentation, and 3) refuses any and all sulphur or additives and you have a natural wine lover's dream Cab.



The Movia estate consists of 22 hectares that straddle the growing regions of ZGP Brda in Slovenia and DOC Collio in Italy. It came into existence in 1700 and became part of the Kristancic family through a marriage in 1820. They are a historical breakthrough winery for all manner of top tier Slovenian wines and are fervent disciples and evangelizers for the purity and sincerity of Nature's influence on their wines.

This **100% Cabernet Sauvignon** is swoon-worthy with a full-bodied elegance that is firm, yet flexible. 30-year-old vines are the linchpin to the incredible depth and extended palate features of this wine. The alluring deep purpled garnet hue beckons. A fresh and beguiling nose of prominent black and blue fruit (plums, currants and blackberries) grabs your immediate attention. The first sip hijacks your palate with a seductive mosaic of black plum, crushed violet and inky blackberry accented with leather, underbrush and a hint of bramble. Just a touch of mineral and cool climate blueberry teases on the finish. Dedicated and textured tannins provide a taut and nimble structure... not too chewy with an undertone of black currant skins. Phenomenal juice for a pittance and it rolls in at a beautifully 'normal' **13%** alcohol. You CAN make a great sub-15% abv wine that will age gracefully and provide you with 5+ years of continued enjoyment. This wine just screams "Buy me! Drink me! Make me Yours!"

*Top Wine from Lebanon*

**CHATEAU MUSAR 2016 HOCHAR PERE ET FILS RED BLEND, BEKAA, LEBANON \$29.95 [362362]**

**SASHA DEJAYNES, Vinolust.com:**

"This elegant, bold wine is full of complexity and personality. A powerful nose of red fruits, plum skin, cherries and herbs with a distinct savory quality. Medium body with soft tannins, good acidity and deep concentration of fruit, with a long meaty finish."

Musar's Hochar Pere et Fils 2016 is sourced from a specially selected vineyard near the village of Aana in the Bekaa Valley. The vines were planted in the late 1940s on deep, gravelly soil over limestone 1000 meters above sea level. Hochar is composed of 50% Cinsault, 35% Grenache and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. The grapes were fermented in concrete vats using only the wild yeasts. The wine was aged in French oak for six months before being bottled.



Hochar Pere et Fils has been incorrectly described as the 'second' wine of Chateau Musar. Although it does bear some resemblance to the 'Grand Vin', since it is rich and spicy with good fruit and a mellow quality derived from lengthy oak and bottle ageing, it is a different blend of grape varieties from a different vineyard source. When young, the wines are robust and aromatic, with baked plum, warm earth, leather, thyme and dark chocolate characters. With age they become tawnier and spicier.

In 1930, at just 20-years-old, Gaston Hochar founded Chateau Musar, inspired by Lebanon's 6,000-year winemaking tradition and his travels in Bordeaux. Flanked by snow-covered mountains, and nestled at 3,000 feet above sea level, the serenely beautiful Bekaa Valley is blessed with 300 days of sunshine a year, fresh mountain breezes and an average temperature of 25°C (77°F; encompassing snowy winters and hot summers). Remote and unspoiled, the Musar vineyards were 'organic' by default before the term was coined.

*Top Wines from Greece*

**VOURVOUKELI 2018 MALAGOUSIA (WHITE), THRACE, GREECE \$17.95 [372342]**

Malagousia is a crisp, aromatic white wine variety. The Vourvoukeli 2018 is well rounded and full of freshness and minerality. On the nose and in the mouth you find wonderful aromas and flavors of peaches, nectarines, lime and a hint of basil. The finish is completely dry with good acidity. All Vourvoukeli wines are organically farmed. **Global Wine Awards Double Gold Medal.**



**OENOPS WINES APLA 2020 (DRY ROSÉ), DRAMA, GREECE \$15.98 [372513]**

This outstanding dry rosé is made from a blend of organically farmed 50% Xinomavro, 30% Limniona and 20% Mavroudi. On the nose you find notes of fine herbs and cherries. On the palate the fruit is rich with pink grapefruit and red currant notes but the wine is crisp and dry on the smooth, clean finish. The organically farmed grapes were fermented by their native yeasts in stainless steel or concrete tanks and the wine was aged on its lees for 4 to 6 months before bottling with low sulfur. Apla translates as 'simply' or 'naturally'. Serve this lovely dry rosé with the traditional Thanksgiving dinner. It will also go well with ham, salmon, turkey burgers and chicken.

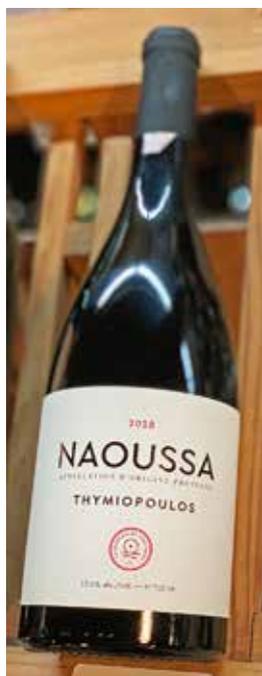




Fytia Vineyard

### *Top Wines from Greece*

#### **THYMIPOULOS 2018 XINOMAVRO (RED), NAOUSSA, GREECE \$19.98 [369012]**



The Thymiopoulos family has owned vineyards in Naoussa for several generations. After he graduated from The University of Athens oenology program, **Apostolos Thymiopoulos** returned to his family's vineyards and began producing wine for his own label, Thymiopoulos Vineyards. The first wine caught the attention of influential wine writers such as **Nico Manessis** and the UK's **Tom Stevenson**. The beauty of his wines comes from the fact that Apostolos is able to coax out Xinomavro's better qualities without high levels of acidity and tannin, making a wine that can be enjoyed now or cellared. This Xinomavro has a lovely purple red color. The nose proffers a complex bouquet of red currant, cherry, blackberry, plum, sun-dried tomato, black olive and vanilla. In the mouth this red is full-bodied with rounded tannins and balanced acidity. The finish is long.

The organically farmed grapes for the 2018 were sourced from both higher altitude vineyards around the village of Fytia and warmer, lower elevation vineyards adjacent to the village of Trilofos. The vines are 25 years old. The grapes are hand-picked, 75% destemmed and maceration lasts for 18 days. Fermentation begins with wild yeast under carefully monitored conditions. After completion of both alcoholic and malolactic fermentation the wine is stored in second-use 500-liter oak barrels where it ages for 12 months. It is then bottled unfiltered.



Xinomavro Grapes

## Top Ports



#### **DOW'S 2016 VINTAGE PORT 750ML**

**\$99.98 [374614]**

**JAMES SUCKLING - 96 POINTS** - "Aromas of blueberries, blackberries and dried flowers plus hints of slate follow through to a full body, very fine tannins and a driven and linear finish. Orange peel and dried fruit. Sleek and racy. Ready to try in 2024."

**WINE ADVOCATE - 93 POINTS** - "The 2016 Vintage Port, bottled in May for release in October 2018, is mostly a 48/31 blend of Touriga Franca and Touriga Nacional, with various other grapes and some very old vines for the rest. It comes in with 111 grams of residual sugar. This is a very elegant Dow's, but there is certainly both power and concentration lurking underneath. Adding fine fruit, it is expressive and sophisticated, a very refined offering that seems not quite as burly as in some years. It is still exceptionally appealing, but it was curiously understated when seen. Some bottle shock, perhaps? The fresh 2016 Vintage? This is an illustration of Charles Symington's philosophy, as relayed to me, that the "wines should be in harmony from the first day." I don't think this will be a great Dow's, but it is an enjoyable one. If it wakes up, it might be entitled to an uptick. For the moment, between the top blends in the Symington stable, I'd lean to Graham's as the best in this vintage. Both are easily outclassed by the single-plot wines. There were 5,480 cases produced."

This is also available in half bottle.

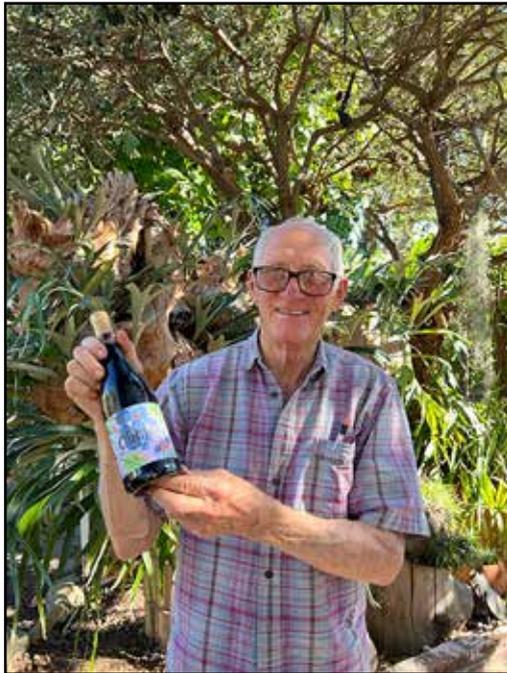
#### **DOW'S 2016 VINTAGE PORT**

**\*HALF BOTTLE\* 375ML \$54.98 [374615]**

#### **SANDEMAN APITIV RESERVE WHITE PORT 750ML \$17.98 [377865]**

This unique white port blew our minds this year. Sandeman Apitiv Reserve has a golden yellow color. Its aroma has good intensity, with hints of candied orange zest, floral notes, dry fruits and touches of balsamic resin. The wines aging in wood adds complexity, harmony and richness. On the palate, it has good balance and well-integrated acidity, with additional notes of dry fruit and an elegant, harmonious and persistent finish. Serve chilled. Once opened, consume within 8 weeks. 20% abv.

**DECANTER MAGAZINE 93 POINTS** "Bold, whisky-like aromas of cereal, spices, smoky citrus and dried fruits. Deep and sweet palate, with touches of olive oil, green fruits and sultana."



**CHRISTINA 2020 ZWEIFELT RED NATURAL WINE 750ML \$19.98 [306858]**  
NATURAL. BIODYNAMIC. UNFILTERED. UNFINED.

This soft, pure, bouncy red is bursting with cherry fruit, pomegranate and fresh garden herbs. Texture-wise, this is similar to a Pinot Noir, with silky tannins and good acid. One of the store founders at Hi-Time (Harold Hanson, above) tried the Christina Zweigelt, liked it (he said it has "...a lot going on..."), and thought this would go well with sausages and cheese. We think he is right on the money! Serve chilled.

Grapes: 100% Zweigelt.

Region: Carnuntum, Austria.

Soil: Loess and gravel.

Grapes are hand-harvested and destemmed to stainless steel tanks. The spontaneous fermentation is slow due to the cool temperatures in the old cellar. Malolactic fermentation in old big oak vats, where the wine rests for another 4 months. The wine is unfinned and unfiltered. 12% alcohol. The labels on the wines are a tribute to the beneficiary insects that inhabit the vineyards where they help manage the pests and build soil health and biodiversity.

**CHRISTINA 2020 GRÜNER VELTLINER NATURAL WINE 750ML \$18.98 [306861]**

Dry, unfinned and unfiltered, this natural wine made from Grüner Veltliner is a bit cloudy with a bright note of citrus, melon, guava, chamomile, jasmine and a touch of white pepper. Because it is not filtered, it has a beautiful texture, like peach skin. The complex finish has a delicate balance of fruit, mineral, and acid. Pair this with

river fish, cheese, prosciutto or jamon, and potatoes. The 2020 release is incredibly alive and invigorating. Native yeast, no filtering or fining.

Long before her eponymous wines were created, Christina Netzl and her family lived and farmed in the very same village since 1650. Having helped her family with running the mixed farm and vineyards since an early age, Christina knew she wanted to be a winemaker already at the tender age of five. Christina decided to turn the whole property organic in 2013 and started her own range of natural wines two years later. This comes to us from Jenny & Francois Selections, who have been procuring and importing natural wines since 2000.



**MEINKLANG 2020 PROSA NATURAL FRIZZANTE ROSÉ 750ML \$16.98 [333302]**



The lightly sparkling, slightly sweet Meinklang Prosa is so tantalizing and delicious, you'll have to control yourself from drinking it all in one sitting. Made from 100% Pinot Noir, this dark rosé is perceptibly sweet, but do not fear, it is absolutely fabulous. The ripe fruit, bright acidity and little spritz work perfectly together. It shows fresh **alpine strawberry, raspberry and bramble leaf**. The vines for Meinklang Prosa are grown on sandy loam soil, is hand harvested, undergoes spontaneous fermentation and is made via charmat method, showing its purity and freshness.

This quaffable rosé will pair perfectly with Thanksgiving turkey or ham. You'll want to buy two bottles because the first will disappear too quickly. The biodynamic farm is owned and operated by the Michliits family, on a multi-purpose farm where nothing goes to waste. **Serve chilled.** Certified biodynamic, Natural Wine, Demeter Certified.

**MEINKLANG 2019 BLAUFRÄNKISCH RED 750ML \$16.98 [333314]**  
NATURAL WINE, BIODYNAMIC, DEMETER CERTIFIED

**ERIC ASIMOV, THE NEW YORK TIMES** "Meinklang in eastern Austria near the Hungarian border, is a consistently excellent producer, and wine is just a part of what it does. The estate is a mixed environment, with animals, grains, fruits, and vegetables, farmed biodynamically with an eye toward protecting the soil. The vines benefit from this sort of enlightened approach, as do the vines. **This blaufränkisch feels alive in the glass and tastes of violets and plums.**

The grapes spend around 9 days on the skins with manual punch downs. The wine ages on its fine lees in large used barrels and stainless steel tanks." This is the most tannic and structured out of the Meinklang red wines. With that said, it is still juicy with ample fruit on the palate. Perhaps "playfully rough" is a good term to describe it. Enjoy the Meinklang Blaufränkisch with strong dishes like stewed beef.



**MORIC 2019 BLAUFRÄNKISCH BURGENLAND RED 750ML \$26.98 [303964]**  
NATURAL WINE, VEGAN  
[JAMESUCKLING.COM](http://JAMESUCKLING.COM) • 92 POINTS

"If you don't know Austrian reds from the blaufränkisch grape, then this modestly priced beauty is the place to start. I love the direct, floral appeal of the nose, from which a slew of spicy and black-tea notes slowly emerge. The best thing about this, though, is the interplay of wild berries, gentle tannins and elegant acidity on the palate. Drink or hold." Stuart Pigott.

Though it is just the "basic" quality wine from this producer, the cherry and floral aromas leap from this medium-bodied red. The aromas and the crispness at the finish make it reminiscent of top Beaujolais Cru. The business card of the Moric estate, the Blaufränkisch Burgenland, encapsulates the Moric style of finesse and varietal typicity. The idea behind this wine is to express not just the variety but also the origin of 8-50-year-old vines grown on limestone, primary rock and loam in the villages of Neckenmarkt and Lutzmannsburg. The Blaufränkisch Burgenland



F.X. Pichler Winery &amp; Vineyards

shows a beautiful translucent color, with a fine tannin structure and exceptional balance. The wine will improve with bottle age for at least five years but will show beautifully for many years beyond.

#### F.X. PICHLER 2019 GRÜNER VELTLINER SMARAGD RIED STEINERTAL 750ML

\$56.98 [322297] ORGANIC, VEGAN

**JAMES SUCKLING - 96 POINTS** “Super cool in every sense of the word, also thanks to the wonderful herbal complexity and very elegant balance. So bright, pure and precise, in spite of the considerable mineral power. Great aging potential. Drink or hold.” Stuart Pigott

#### F.X. PICHLER 2018 RIESLING BURGSTALL FEDERSPIEL

\$34.98 [322292] BIODYNAMIC

From the Wachau, we are happy to present you, one of Austria's top producers, F.X. Pichler, one of the icons of Austrian winemaking and viticulture. The 2018 Ried Burgstall Riesling Federspiel comes from wind-blown sand over pure gneiss and granite. It is super clear and fresh on the aromatic nose with its perfectly ripe white peach and apricot aromas. This voluminous wine is big and subtle at the same time. Salty, pure and fresh on the crunchy, nicely reductive palate, a precise dry Riesling with grip and tension and highly stimulating fruit, while maintaining mineral freshness. Gorgeous! It is ripe and fresh but not green or vegetal, just grippy and refreshingly racy. A little bird told us this is poured by-the-glass at The French Laundry. We do not doubt it. It is so versatile and food friendly.

#### BRÜNDLMAYER 2020 GRÜNER VELTLINER KAMPTAL TERRASSEN 750ML \$23.98 [307461] CERTIFIED ORGANIC

**JAMES SUCKLING - 93 POINTS** – “Almost German style, this dry riesling has a great balance of citrus and stone-fruit aromas, as well as some nice fresh-herb notes. Juicy and well-structured with plenty of minerality, this is a delightful and complex wine that's just beginning to give its best. Long finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold. Screw cap.” Stuart Pigott.



## Sake!

#### MINANOGAWA JUNMAI MUROKA “TSUKUBA 100” INABA SHUZO 720ML

\$28.98 [365677]

Prefecture: Ibaraki

Rice: Gohyakumangoku

Rice Polishing Ratio: 50%

Sake Meter Value: +1 (neutral to off-dry)



Extreme value alert! Everyone who loves Stella Muroka Junmai Daiginjo (\$85) should love Stella's “little sister,” Minanogawa. It drinks beautifully. This sake is luscious and mellow with a limpid, fruit-like sweetness and a fine lingering finish. It is fragrant with notes of ripe lychee, strawberry and banana on the palate. **This sake is polished to 50%, technically making it a Daiginjo, making this an excellent value.** It is also “muroka”, giving it extra texture. As the temperature rises gradually, the firm flavor opens even further, allowing one to feel the quality of the rice and water on one's palate.

Since the close of the Edo period, approximately 150 years ago, Inaba Shuzo has used their pristine underground well water to produce their sake. Nobuko Inaba is one of the few female head brewers in Japan. Inaba Shuzo's sake brewing philosophy is to make everything the best quality possible - even everyday, ordinary sake. In order to accomplish this, grounded by painstaking data-keeping, everything from the rice soaking to fermentation, koji rice making and pressing is accomplished with finesse by experience kurabito (brewery workers)... everything is hand-made, without the use of machinery. Serve chilled, and pair with Sushi, Sashimi, grilled meats and spicy fried foods.

#### STOCKING STUFFER ALERT!

**NINE BANDED SMALL BATCH  
WHISKEY \$9.99 [114878]  
AUSTIN TX (Regularly \$32.00)**

Who doesn't like a great deal around the holidays? This is a 3-year-old spirit carefully aged in charred American oak and blended with limestone-filtered water from the Texas Hill Country. Named after the state mammal of Texas, the armadillo, and also a nod to the Armadillo World Headquarters in Austin (legendary-- look it up!). Great last minute spirit to get you in the... well, spirit!



# Germany 2020

## Classic Wines in Unprecedented Times

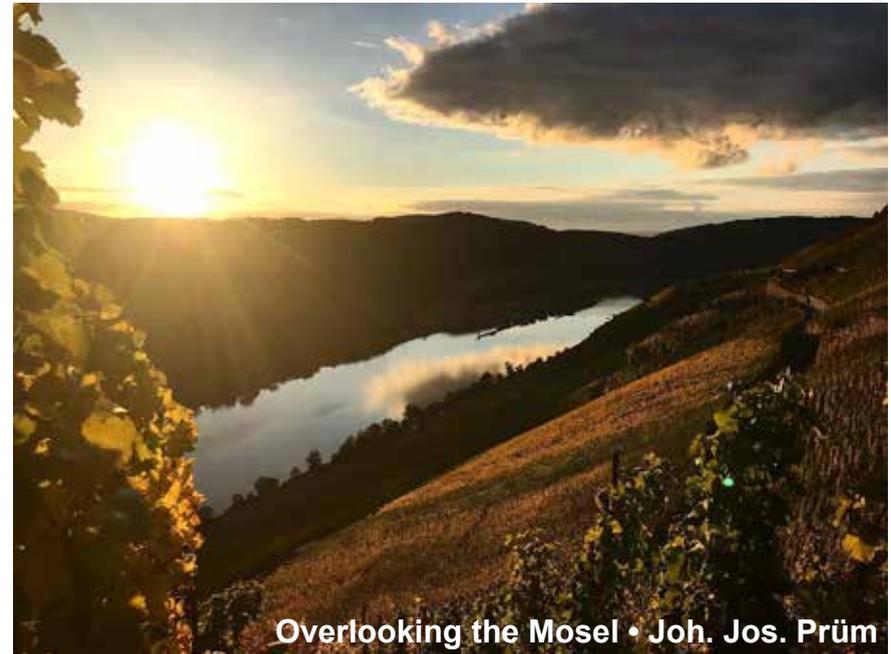
**First**, a word about the current year itself: It has been challenging in many aspects. The pandemic brought delays and shortages on all levels to the likes we've never seen; from production slow-downs in the vineyards to shipping delays and miles-long port back-ups. It's like being a guest at a wedding, the church is packed and everyone is waiting for BOTH the Bride and Groom to show up. The outcome though: late, but worth the wait.

In spite of the hot and dry year in 2020, **the wines from this vintage are remarkably light, clean, elegant and lacy**. There was little to no botrytis in 2020, making it a great year for dry wines (GGs included) and also wines from the Kabinett and Spätlese Prädikats are also showing superbly well. From what we are tasting and reading, it is reasonable to compare these wines to the 2004 and 2018 vintages.

To quote the independent German publication [Mosel Fine Wines](#): "2020 is all about filigreed ripeness with some stunning wines with a lightness and finesse not seen in a decade... The sweet spot of the vintage is Spätlese which can be as light as a feather and hugely deeply flavored. Kabinett wines can also be absolutely stunning, some of the finest in decades... Noble-sweet wines are rare but the finest are worth every effort to unearth them. Lovers of not overly heady dry and off-dry Riesling will find much to love in the 2020 offers. Overall, 2020 is a vintage to tank on if elegance, finesse and playfulness is your thing: There are true gems available!"

• Please take note in this listing, our offering of Willi Schaefer Riesling Spätlese Graacher Domprobst #10... a.k.a., our desert island wine (or maybe calling it a "dessert" island is more apropos); do not fear the sweet wines, folks; they are the gift that keeps on giving, in terms of both cellar longevity and they last for a considerably long time (if refrigerated) after being opened. Great with cheeses, desserts or just on its own to end the evening. Conversely, on the lighter side of Riesling, later this year, we will be receiving a wide but shallow smattering of Peter Lauer wines from the Mosel/Saar region (fans of the Falkenstein wines should pay special attention to this). The Lauer wines are spellbinding in terms of their focus, balance, precision and purity. They are well-recognized and deserving of cult status in Germany, though word in the US is still trickling out. **All offerings below are limited, so please act now to ensure your order.** Happy hunting and enjoy!

Reports on the 2020 Vintage from Stephan Reinhardt, (reviewer of German wines for The Wine Advocate) say: "I am surprised how many cool, precise, mineral and racy wines have come from an intrinsically warm and dry summer such as 2020, when many places only saw rain in August and then, after a very warm and dry September, not again until October, which led some regions, such as along the Mosel, to a highly selective harvest. At the end of September, many vine leaves there already had a yellow color due to the prolonged drought, but the must weights were still quite stingy...The 2020s produced not only another excellent series of Grosses Gewächs but, above all, wonderfully clear, precise, finely fruity and spicy Kabinett and Spätlese Rieslings, as well as some fine Auslese wines. Botrytis, on the other hand, was rare, even on the Mosel, Saar and Ruwer, so noble sweet wines are the exception rather than the rule."



Overlooking the Mosel • Joh. Jos. Prüm

**JOH. JOS. PRÜM 2020  
RIESLING KABINETT  
WEHLENER SONNENUHR  
(SWEET) \$48.98 [320490]**

This is an elegant Kabinett with flavors of fresh pear, lime, lychee and peach. It is lacy, filigreed and a tad creamy on the finish. The famous wine estate Joh. Jos Prüm (or JJ Prüm for short) was founded in 1911 in Wehlen, on the Mosel. It is one of the most revered white wine producers in Germany. Wehlener Sonnenuhr, JJ Prüm's most famous vineyard with the sundial (Sonnenuhr), has deep weathered gray slate soil, on a 70% slope with south-southwest exposure. 8% ABV. Tasted at Hi-Time on 11/2/21.



**WILLI SCHAEFER 2020  
RIESLING SPÄTLESE  
GRAACHER DOMPROBST  
#10 (SWEET) \$45.98 [324092]  
JAMESSUCKLING.COM - 97  
POINTS** "Mind-blowing nose of cassis and forest berries with white flowers and a hint of cedar. Staggering depth, packed into a very sleek silhouette, but the brilliant acidity and enormous wet-stone

freshness are even more astonishing, because they completely distract you from the natural grape sweetness for a long while. So enjoyable now, but with such a great future ahead of it. Drink or hold. "

**WINE ADVOCATE - 95 POINTS** “Willi Schaefer’s 2020 Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese #10 is deep, fine and complex on the still reductive yet clear, dense and elegant nose. Lush and piquant on the palate, this is a very fine and finely concentrated, intense and persistent Domprobst with sustainable juicy fruit and stimulating grip. This is a mouthful of great Mosel Spätlese from one of the region’s finest producers. 7.5% alcohol. Natural cork. Tasted in September 2021.”



The Haag Family  
(Schloss Lieser)

**SCHLOSS LIESER 2019 ESTATE RIESLING TROCKEN (DRY) \$18.98 [303967]**

**JOHN GILMAN - VIEW FROM THE CELLAR - 90 POINTS** “2019 SL Riesling Trocken AP #1 - Weingut Schloss Lieser (screwcap) The 2019 SL Estate Riesling Trocken from Thomas Haag is a beautifully refined wine on both the nose and palate. It comes in at 12.5 percent octane and offers up an expressive bouquet of lime, pink grapefruit, green apple, slate, a touch of petrol, wild yeasts and a topnote of dried flowers. On the palate the wine is bright, fullish, complex and very well-balanced, with a good core of fruit, fine mineral drive and cut, snappy acids

and impressive focus and grip on the long and complex finish. There is a slightly tensile aspect to the texture on the finish that is a result of the screwcap, so decant the wine thirty minutes before drinking. 2020-2040+.”



**SCHÄFER-FRÖHLICH 2020 PINOT BLANC (WEISSBURGUNDER) TROCKEN (DRY) \$22.98 [372074]**

**JAMES SUCKLING - 92 POINTS** “For a “basic” dry pinot blanc, this has a lot of snow-pea and green-apple aromas with bright, herbal touches. Medium-to full-bodied with plenty of ripeness and lively mineral acidity. Generous finish that makes this taste like it comes from a higher category. From organically grown grapes with Fair’n Green certification. Drink or hold. Screw cap.” -Stuart Pigott.



**SCHÄFER-FRÖHLICH 2020 RIESLING TROCKEN (DRY) \$26.98 [399967]**

**JAMES SUCKLING - 92 POINTS** “The effusive white-peach, sliced-pear and grapefruit aromas pull you into this very vibrant and energetic dry riesling. More stone fruit and fresh herbs on the palate. Very racy and exciting mineral finish. From organically grown grapes with Fair’n Green certification. Drink or hold. Screw cap.” -Stuart Pigott.



**ZILLIKEN 2020 RIESLING SAARBURG KABINETT (SWEET) \$22.98 [372080]**  
Arrives mid-December 2021

**JAMESSUCKLING.COM - 92 POINTS** “This takes off vertically from the launch pad and heads straight for outer space! So much mint and melon freshness, then comes a touch of bitter orange at the long, mouthwatering finish. Drink or hold.”

**MAXIMIN GRÜNHAUS (VON SCHUBERT) 2020 RIESLING TROCKEN (DRY) \$19.99 [372059]**

Arrives mid-December 2021  
**JAMES SUCKLING - 93 POINTS** “Spring has sprung in this glass! So effusive and yet so delicate, this is a dry riesling fairy tale that came true. Love the juicy fruit on the mid-palate as much as the long, very elegant finish. Drink or hold. Screw cap.”

**DÖNNHOFF 2020 RIESLING HÖLLENPFAD IM MÖHLENBERG GROSSES GEWÄCHS GG, TROCKEN (DRY) \$74.98 [304565]**

**JAMESSUCKLING.COM - 97 POINTS** “Very complex wild herb and berry nose with a touch of fresh pineapple. Concentrated and succulent, yet this remains so bright, the minerality building to a huge climax that is still so vibrant. Enormous aging potential. From organically grown grapes with Fair’n Green certification. Drink or hold.”



**Dönnhoff Wines**  
**Arriving in December**

**DÖNNHOFF 2020 RIESLING ESTATE 750ML (LIGHTLY SWEET) \$19.99 [328015]**

**JAMESSUCKLING.COM - 92 POINTS**  
**WINE ADVOCATE 92 POINTS** - “Sourced in Oberhausen and Niederhausen (so from weathered slate and volcanic stones), the Dönnhoff estate 2020 Riesling is pure and refreshingly mineral on the nose that shows clear, bright and spicy fruit with crunchy slate aromas. Virtually a classic Kabinett, this is a round, only gently sweet Riesling with clear lemon fruit, a silky texture and very elegant, ripe and piquant acidity. This is a gorgeously fruity and stimulating Riesling to start with after a long night if you don’t have fresh fruit on the table. “We have to be

careful that it doesn’t get too good for the price range,” says Helmut Dönnhoff, and he is right, because this is a Nahe classic or, as Dönnhoff puts it, “This is the light, pure optimism, a children’s choir. That is joie de vivre.” 10.5% alcohol. Tasted at the domain in July 2021.”



## Wilderness Trail Distillery

In the late '90s, Wilderness Trail Distillery co-owners Shane Baker and Pat Heist were in a rock band together but they quickly realized they needed to chase another dream. In 2006, their journey began with a passion for creating the finest whiskeys in the world. They began with Ferm Solutions, to help solve fermentation problems industrywide. After six years of solving problems for other people in the business, they decided to put their knowledge to work for themselves and created Wilderness Trail in 2012. Today, the distillery is the 14th largest in the United States and makes 215 barrels a day.

The distillery's location, nestled in the rolling hills surrounding historically bold Danville, Ky., makes it a beautiful place to welcome the many visitors traveling the Kentucky Bourbon Trail in search of unique spirits. Wilderness Trail employs many methods to make its spirits stand out and is enjoying much success since its first Bourbon release in 2018 as it now offers its products in 36 states and the United Kingdom.



**SINGLE BARREL**  
**BiB KSBW**  
**\$49.99 [117408]**  
**100 PROOF**

**SINGLE BARREL**  
**KS RYE**  
**107PROOF**  
**GREEN LABEL**  
**\$55.99 [117406]**

**6 YEAR BiB KSBW**  
**\$65.99 [117592]**  
**100 PROOF**

**BiB** - Bottled in Bond  
**KSBW** - Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey  
**KS** - Kentucky Straight

## BARRELL CRAFT SPIRITS

Barrell Craft Spirits, based in Louisville, Kentucky is an independent blender and bottler of unique, aged, cask-strength sourced whiskey and rum, recognized for its blending expertise. They select and blend products that explore different distillation methods, barrels and aging environments and bottle them at cask strength. Our extensive sourcing network affords us access to some of the most interesting and delicious spirits in the world- this gives us the ability to create some of the most unique and complex blends available on the market today.

### BARRELL BCS GRAY LABEL BOURBON \$209.99 [114767]

Barrell "BCS" Gray Label Bourbon, or "the 15 year" as it is affectionately called by its fans, cemented its place in bourbon history in 2018 when it was awarded the title of "Best American Whiskey" by whiskey authority Fred Minnick in Forbes Magazine. They have produced an extremely limited bottling of this bourbon every year since, with slight nuances in proof and flavor profile in each new annual release. This year's bottling is a blend of barrels from Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee, aged for a minimum of 15 years before their blending team, noting their extraordinary flavor profiles, singled them out from our stocks as components of this year's highly anticipated Gray Label Bourbon bottling. BCS Gray Label Bourbon 2021 is a perfect union of grain and barrel, with an opulent, oak-forward nose and a honey-brulee palate that reveals the lushness of the grain. Roasted banana, cola, peppermint, walnut and iced coffee lead the way to a bright and sweet finish with jammy notes of rhubarb and blackberry.

### BARRELL SEAGRASS RYE WHISKEY \$79.99 [118235]

Barrell Seagrass is the newest addition to the core portfolio from the blending team at Barrell Craft Spirits. Introduced in spring 2021, this blend of American and Canadian rye whiskeys has already generated considerable buzz, nabbing a coveted spot on **Robb Report's** prestigious "**Best of the Best 2021**" list and winning **Double Gold** and **Platinum** medals at the **2021 San Francisco World Spirits Competition** and **L.A. Spirits Awards**, respectively. Each component of this opulent, juicy whiskey was meticulously sourced and finished separately in Martinique Rhum Agricole casks, apricot brandy casks and Madeira barrels. A basket brimming with tropical and orchard fruits lies at its heart, with prominent tones of ripe apricot from the brandy casks. The tropical notes are kept in check by a broad array of herbaceous and spicy rye aromas and complemented by the delicate florals of grassy Martinique rum. With a splash of water, the oxidized Madeira notes emerge, candying the fruit and bringing out an earthiness to the palate.

### BARRELL DOVETAIL WHISKEY \$75.99 [117147]

Barrell Dovetail has been a mainstay in the Barrell Craft Spirits portfolio for three years now, and with good reason. Blended to highlight some of our favorite flavors, this whiskey- both sweet and savory, spicy and elegant- took almost a year to get right. We start with ten-year-old Indiana Whiskey barrels finished exclusively in French oak Cabernet Sauvignon barrels pulled from the cellars at Dunn Vineyards. Separately, we finish eleven-year-old Tennessee bourbon barrels in two groups: the first in rich, syrupy blackstrap molasses rum casks and the second in robust, tannic Late Bottled Vintage Port pipes. Once the cask finishing is complete, these three groups of barrels are blended together and bottled at cask strength. The result is a buttery and deep whiskey as unique as it is delicious, with notes of cocoa, molasses, nutmeg, chestnut honey and eucalyptus. Winner: Chairman's Trophy, 2020 Ultimate Spirits Challenge; Double Gold: 2020 New York International Spirits Competition; Gold: 2019 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.



## COPPERCRAFT STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY \$40.99 [119555]

Barrels of 4+ year old and 11+ year old sourced bourbons are blended to create a rich, smooth flavor. They use brandy blending and proofing techniques that take three months from barrel to bottle.

We poured this recently at a charity golf tournament and it was the **hit of the table**. Incredibly balanced and smooth, the sweet honeyed brown spice flavors and wood notes made for a beautiful sipping Bourbon. **97 Proof** but it's so smooth on the palate with no harsh tones whatsoever.



## JOHNNIE WALKER HIGH RYE BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY \$27.99 [119542]

A mastery of blending to create a bold, new offering. It tempts palates with a revolutionary taste profile that can only be born from the powerful blend of key Johnnie Walker Black Label tasting notes and rye whisky flavors.

Johnnie Walker High Rye Blended Scotch Whisky features a **unique mash bill of 60% rye** aged in American oak barrels, and includes notable single malts from distilleries such as **Cardhu**, an important part of the Johnnie Walker Black Label flavor. The result is a balance of sweet vanilla notes and the spiciness of rye that become revealed through subtle wisps of warm smoke.



## LALO BLANCO TEQUILA NOM-1468 LOS ALTOS DE JALISCO \$39.99 [118680]

LALO blanco represents the truest and purest spirit on Earth, with no barrels or additives, boldly presenting the taste of the finest agave from the Jalisco highlands. This is why they only make Tequila blanco, hand-picking the finest agave and using a traditional cooking process.

Each bottle of LALO is 100% pure. They distill only twice to maintain the integrity of their agave, and add **no flavors or additives**. With LALO, the ingredients are only agave, yeast and water to honor the complex essence of agave.



## HI-TIME "STORE PICK" SELECTIONS!

Here are a few of the single barrels and special selections our liquor staff have chosen. These are bottlings only available here and represent, to us, the absolute quality and uniqueness that the distilleries and companies create and bottle. More picks are in the store and online!



L to R

**MAL BIEN CIRO & JAVIER BARRANCA**  
HI-TIME BATCH 98.64PF MEZCLA  
5 MAGUEYES \$109.99 [119475]

**TEQUILA OCHO ANEJO SINGLE BARREL**  
TEQUILA 104pf \$99.99 [105135]

**YELLOWSTONE SINGLE BARREL SELECT**  
BOURBON 93PF BARREL #1805272  
HI-TIME PICK \$42.99 [116743]

**ARETTE GRAN CLASE EXTRA AÑEJO 100PF**  
TEQUILA 2 DIFFENT SINGLE BARRELS  
LI292185 #1 & #5 HI-TIME PICKS  
\$134.99 [163451]

**CODIGO 1530 REPOSADO TEQUILA**  
HI-TIME STORE PICK \$54.99 [109086]

**EL MAYOR AÑEJO TEQUILA MASTER'S**  
COLLECTION HI-TIME PICK  
SINGLE BARREL-N41 \$35.99 [118476]

**KOLOA KAUAI SINGLE BARREL RESERVE**  
117.4PF RUM \$69.99 [117911]

**BRUICHLADDICH ISLAY BARLEY 2012 PORT CHARLOTTE HEAVILY PEATED SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY \$65.99 [104666]**

This high provenance, heavily-peated single malt was distilled from Islay-grown barley in 2012. A total of eight Islay farms came together to harvest the 2011 crop for Port Charlotte over a tempestuous summer. Each farmer had worked with Bruichladdich before, in Hunter Jackson, Ian Torrance, Ian MacKerrel, Raymond Fletcher, Mark French, Alistair Torrance, Raymond Stewart with father and son team Donald and Andrew Jones. The community's commitment to Islay is embodied here, where local barley is raised, distilled, matured and bottled only on Islay.



Extreme weather conditions mean that Bruichladdich is one of only two Islay distillers to work with locally-grown grain. All of our whisky is slowly trickle distilled by hand, allowing the flavors of our raw ingredients to reach their full potential.

**Malty sweet, cereal, honey, clean and citrus fresh.** 100 Proof.

**BELUGA GOLD LINE NOBLE RUSSIAN VODKA \$75.99 [109622]**

Beluga Gold Line is a limited edition product. Needless to say, it is dedicated to the true connoisseurs of strong spirits. Unlike other Beluga varieties, in this series this trademark blend of artesian water and malt spirit passes through not three but five rounds of filtering. Each bottle comes with its own serial number and a cork stopped with sealing wax. To clean out the sealing wax, each bottle of Beluga Gold Line comes with an elegant hammer and brush, emphasizing 100% authenticity and individuality of this limited series vodka with an imposing attitude.



TEQUILA  
**KOMOS**

**KOMOS EXTRA ANEJO CERAMIC BOTTLE NOM-1110**

**\$339.99 [119633]**

Luxury tequila, refined. Tequila Komos combines the highest artistry in tequila-making with innovation inspired by Mediterranean wine-making techniques.

Aged for three years in a combination of French ex-white wine barrels and ex-Bourbon barrels, Komos Extra Añejo is **rich, luxurious, and ultra smooth.** Notes of vanilla, chocolate, and pecans seamlessly blend on the long, smooth finish. Drink it neat, on the rocks, or even in your most special classic cocktail.



**KOMOS REPOSADO ROSA CERAMIC BOTTLE**

**\$99.99 [119546]**

They rest their impeccable Blanco Tequila in the finest French oak red wine barrels for two months to create a Reposado unlike any other, with rich flavors and a creamy mouthfeel imparted by its time spent in these special barrels.

Big, round and plush on the palate, the fresh agave flavors are met with vanilla, butterscotch, and a dry dark chocolate note. **Blackberries, plums, and dark cherries** leap out of the glass. The finish is long, rich, and very smooth, leaving the impression of chocolate covered strawberries behind it. 80 proof.



**LOCK STOCK & BARREL 20 YEAR STRAIGHT RYE WHISKEY**

**\$269.99 [118492]**

The only US made 20-year old rye whiskey currently available on the market, the Lock, Stock & Barrel 20-Year is sourced from Alberta Distillers Ltd. barrels that were hand-selected by late spirits luminary, and third-generation distiller **Robert J. Cooper.** It's made from a rare mash bill of **100% rye grain in copper pot stills**, and a "robust cut" is then selected and aged in cold weather in newly charred - not toasted - American oak barrels. Because American whiskeys must be aged in new charred oak barrels to be labeled bourbon or rye, they run the risk of becoming over-oaked the longer they're aged.

Lock, Stock & Barrel 20-Year avoids this result due to the cold climate, 3.5 barrel char, and lack of toasting, providing a rich and robust, yet balanced, flavor.



**DENIZEN MERCHANT'S RESERVE 8 YEAR RUM**

**\$28.99 [105204]**

Denizen Merchant's Reserve is the first rum consisting of aged pot still rums from Jamaica and a rare component of strongly aromatic Rhum Grand Arome from Martinique, yielding a flavorful base spirit that will make cocktails shine. The rums in this blend have been fermented using the finest slow working yeasts, which extend the fermentation time and allows the high ester flavor components to fully develop. The blend is then aged 8 years in small once-used American oak bourbon barrels giving it an unparalleled level of smoothness to rival the world's best sipping rums.

**Tasting Notes-** Intensely aromatic and unapologetically funky, Denizen Merchant's Reserve is a deep amber colored molasses rum with a refined taste profile revealing bright fruity caramel flavors balanced by earthy notes that lead to a long smooth spicy finish.





**Italian Wine Basket**  
\$144.99 [802210]



**Ketel One Vodka Basket**  
\$74.99 [866955]



**Grgich Gourmet Wine Basket**  
\$149.99 [802424]

# Holiday Gift Baskets!

Available in-store or online...



**Patron Margarita Gift Basket**  
\$109.99 [810040]



**California Connoisseur Basket**  
\$199.99 [802075]



**Surf City Vodka Basket**  
\$59.99 [802005]



**Non-Alcoholic Gift Basket**  
\$99.99 [802390]



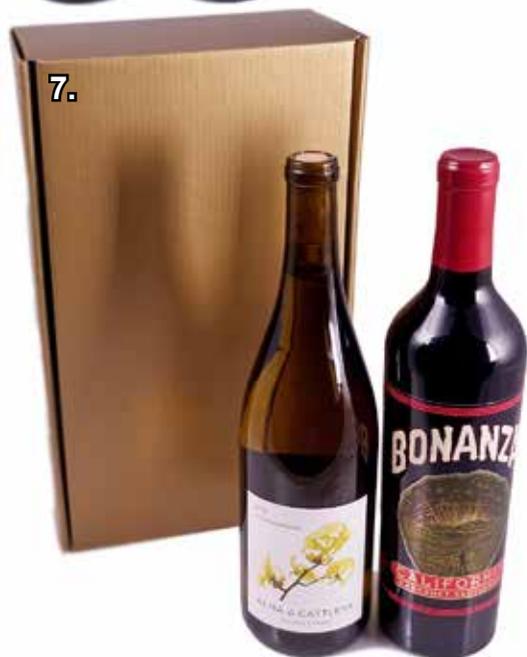
**California Lovers Basket**  
\$99.99 [802090]

Note: Food items in basket are subject to change depending on availability. Replacement items will be of equal or greater value than the original item.



## Holiday Favorites

# Gift Packs



Gift Packs with 'windows' are for in-store pickup and the 'solid' boxes are shipped.

1. 3 Cabs 3 Regions \$100.00 [[200215](#)] Napa, Sonoma, Paso Robles
2. Argentina 2-Bottle Gift Pack \$34.98 [[966372](#)]
3. Oregon & California Pinot Pack \$44.99 [[200226](#)]
4. Italian Red Gift Pack \$39.95 [[857291](#)]
5. Chardonnay/Cabernet Gift Pack \$29.95 [[200225](#)]
6. New Zealand Gift Pack \$49.98 [[371112](#)]
7. Cabernet/Chardonnay Gift Pack \$49.95 [[200223](#)]

# Holiday Gifts!

Baskets are available in-store or online...



**SILVER OAK GIFT BASKET**  
\$149.99 [802040]



**FOLEY JOHNSON  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON BASKET**  
\$89.99 [802623]



**FRENCH WINE BASKET**  
\$149.99 [802425]



**ANGELINE CHARDONNAY BASKET**  
\$49.99 [808790]



**JACK DANIEL'S SINGLE BARREL  
GIFT BASKET** \$89.99 [802391]



**CHARLES HEIDSIECK  
CHAMPAGNE BASKET**  
\$74.99 [802399]



**IMPORTED BEER GIFT BASKET**  
\$44.99 [805349]

**Note:** Food items in basket are subject to change depending on availability. Replacement items will be of equal or greater value than the original item.



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**R. L. SEALE'S 12 YEAR BARBADOS RUM**  
**\$43.99 [118226] 92 PROOF**

Distilled and Blended at the Foursquare Rum Distillery in Barbados. Aged a minimum of 12 Years on-site at the distillery, under a tropical climate. Bottled at 46% ABV (92 Proof). No added flavors or sugars. An authentic aged Barbados Rum.



This is such an important bottle that we are glad to have on our shelves. The **Exceptional Cask Selections** from Foursquare are **some of the best rums we have tasted** and the awards they have received reflects this. But, they are limited editions-- once they're gone, that's it. Unless you hunt them down in the wild. This bottling of R.L. Seale's 12 year Barbados rum, however, will be a great year-round sipper or mixer, one that reflects its origin point quite well.

The nose of treacle and sassafras, baking spices and incense lead to a palate full of flavor: brown sugar, toasted caramel, hints of baked plantain, mixed spice and spun sugar. Touches of cacao and tropical fruits extend the lengthy, glorious finish.

**ARETTE GRAN CLASE EXTRA AÑEJO 750M**  
**100PF NOM-1109 LI292185-**  
**#1 & #5 \$134.99 [163451]**

*2 Different Extra Añejo*  
*"Hi-Time Barrels"*

Arete was a famous horse that won the gold medal in the 1948 London Olympics in Equestrian Jumping. Ridden by General Humberto Mariles; together they became the only double gold medal winners in this discipline. Like Arete, Arette is crafted with passion and strength to make for a premium, podium-worthy Tequila. One of the best Tequilas on the market and one we recommend (and buy and drink ourselves!). Spicy, earthy, mineral-driven, agave-rich, delicious.



# Happy Holidays!

## Happy Holidays from Hi-Time!

It has certainly been a couple of interesting years that we've all been through. Please check our website and social media (@mrhitime on Instagram and Twitter) for news regarding our wine bar. We are hoping to reopen in early 2022. We wish all of you out there the best of holiday seasons!

## Smoke Shack



## PADRON 50

**\$49.99 [106393]**

**LIMITED!!**

Follow **Sean** on Instagram:  
**@seanspatrick**

This. It is what I wait for. As my amazing order of bone marrow and prosciutto arrives. This cigar. Splendidly falls in my lap. A wonderful man by the name of Steve gives me a torch. He clips my cigar with effort and patience. It is perfect. I give him a nod to show appreciation. I toast the foot and take a preliminary puff to ignite a small clear yellow blue flame. It is set. I am awaiting a wonderfully put together meal. And a cigar I have not had in years. So as I look down at my somewhat amazing IPA that I have chosen tonight. And a moderate meal I put together. I know. There is a 50th anniversary Padron at work. And I will buy it. I may regret the price. But I will know why I did it. Because I am cigars. Salud!



**NIKKA WHISKY FROM THE BARREL 102.8PF**  
**\$79.99 [113915]**

The complex formula is created by blending more than 100 different batches of malt and grain whiskies. After blending, the whisky is filled into used barrels around at 58.5% ABV and matured for another few months. This "marriage" process harmonizes all components in the formula, resulting in a mellow taste. Bottling is controlled at 51.4% ABV, almost equivalent to 90 British proof, that Nikka blenders determined through repeated experiments to achieve the ideal taste profile.



From West Coast *stylee* brews to classic Belgians, Holiday Releases, monster IPAs and everything in between, we've got beer for you! (Kegs, too!)

Follow **@hitimebeer** on Instagram to keep up with the latest releases!

<https://www.instagram.com/hitimebeer/>