

#1. KRUPP BROTHERS 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY "PREMIERE NAPA VALLEY"

\$300.00 [#270630]

If a wine is going to be our Top Domestic Cabernet of the year, it truly and surely has to make us pause and take notice while we are tasting it. It should be **singular, complex**, and with an **abundance of flavors**. Here before you is that wine, and it is **profound** Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon!

Brothers Jan and Bart Krupp planted the Stagecoach Vineyard high atop the Vaca Mountains that lie on the eastern side of the Napa Valley. Their keen eyes and dedication to great farming made Stagecoach a highly-regarded vineyard source for brands such as Paul Hobbs, Pahlmeyer, and others. They took cuttings from their cherished M5 block, and planted the same parent material on a portion of the vineyard that is a little rockier, sits at higher elevation, and is more impacted from the cooling influences of the San Pablo Bay. The result was a 100% Cabernet Sauvignon that has all the intensity of M5, yet with slightly more velvety tannins, and more floral aromatics! They then bottled just 10 cases of this wine for the prestigious Premiere Napa Valley Auction, and Hi-Time acquired all 10 cases. **That's it... just 10 cases of this wine were bottled for the world!**

Made by Julien Fayard, who has worked at the esteemed First Grown Château Lafite Rothschild, Château Smith Haut Lafitte, and alongside Philippe Melka as Director of Winemaking at Atelier Melka, this Cabernet Sauvignon is opaque ruby in color with heavy staining on the tears; the wine opens with aromas of black currants, cassis, black cherry, vanilla, baking spices, sweet herbs, blackberries, and a dusting of cocoa. Full-bodied, rich, and powerful, the fruit flavors just keep on coming, where they are joined by tobacco, five-spice powder, and grippy but well-integrated tannins. The finish on this just keeps pumping on and on!



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Nov. Wine of the Month

ANGELINE VINEYARDS 2021
PINOT NOIR CALIFORNIA \$9.95 [200710]



When searching for a wine of the month this time of year, we're always mindful of **food and wine pairing** as the holiday table can be a bit challenging to pair wine with (turkey, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, yams, etc.). Our aim every month is to find the **best wine around the \$10-12 price point** to highlight for the month. We look at many factors, from weather to holidays, and, naturally, in November, we want a wine that will be able to take on the **Thanksgiving** meal. And this Angeline 2021 California Pinot Noir is the *deus ex machina* we want and need for the rainbow of textures and flavors a traditional turkey feast showcases. **Talk about a lovely, fresh Pinot!**

The nose starts with **cherry and cranberry fruits** leading to hints of wood spice, midnight garden, cola nut and cacao. The fruit's definitely the star but **the supporting cast adds lovely depth**. In the mouth, the fruits still take the limelight as **cherries and raspberries** meld with a streak of darker fruits, **blueberry and black raspberry**, as light baking spices, sassafras and just a hint of licorice shine in the wings. What

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 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
 Blayne Hirst - Internet / Merchandising Specialist
 Katie Kottelanne - Floor Manager
 Fernando Ruvalcaba - Spirits
 Ryan Bolton - Spirits Specialist, Mixologist
 Mckenzie Johnston - Sales, Shipping
 Nick Hanson - Beer Desk
 Jimmy Burger - Shipping Consultant - x258
 Parker Joyce - Sales
 Grace Romero - Sales, Baskets
 Malik Agzour - Spirits Specialist, Wine
 Zoe Stiles - Cheese Buyer
 Natalie Garcia - Internet
 Michelle Murray - Miniature Buyer, Cigar Sales
 Tyler Johnston - Spirits Specialist
 Adrian Ruelaz - Spirits Specialist, Floor Manager
 Travis Mayfield - Spirits Specialist, Mixologist
 Lauren Hanson - Internet Sales

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Sean Patrick [Floor Manager] -x253
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 Mikey Veyette

Tobin Sharp - Creative Director - x212

WINE STAFF

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Nov. Wine of the Month 2

PIKE ROAD 2021 PINOT NOIR WILLAMETTE VALLEY \$17.95 [251150]

This month, we are **ecstatic** to bring to you another affordable Pinot Noir from the highly-anticipated 2021 vintage in Oregon, and this wine **over-delivers in spades!**

Pike Road is the sister label for Elk Cove, one our most beloved producers in Oregon's **Willamette Valley**. The Pike Road Pinot Noir is comprised of fruit sourced from Elk Cove's trusted vineyard partners in the Willamette Valley, plus fruit from their own Estate Vineyards. By integrating fruit from multiple AVAs, soils, elevations, and growers, Pike Road gains in complexity and keeps a competitive price point that allows everyone to enjoy great wine from the Willamette Valley. **Pike Road is committed to preserving family farms** through their longtime partnerships with growers from around the valley.



The 2021 vintage was an exceptional year in Oregon, and has been highly anticipated. Low yields resulted in concentrated flavors, and moderate heat from July through September brought even ripening to the small, loose clusters, so the Pinot Noirs have intense color and flavors bursting out of the glass. This is a vintage where the "daily drivers" of the region make sensational wines, and are truly versatile. **This wine will pair with the Thanksgiving turkey, salmon, pork, sandwiches, and just about anything you want to throw on the grill!**

Aged for 10 months in French oak barrels, this 2021 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir showcases a beautiful ruby red color with aromas of black currant layered with cinnamon, clove spice, and rose petal. The palate has bright, fresh flavors of cherry, raspberry, rhubarb, with hints of bitter dark chocolate, and mushroom. Finishes warm, silky, and long!

Nov. Wine of the Month

ANGELINE VINEYARDS 2021 PINOT NOIR CALIFORNIA \$9.95 [200710]

really makes this wine ideal for November, setting aside that it's delicious, is **the structure this wine contains**. **Zippy acidity** and **broad, forward tannins** will help this wine cut through the rich, flavorful foods many of us will enjoy at the end of the month.

The most profound contributing factor to the outstanding quality of Angeline's 2021 California Pinot Noir, and the integrity to its varietal, is the **diversity of its sourcing**. Because it is not relegated to a single county or growing region, the winemakers have the opportunity to source from **the best Pinot Noir regions throughout the state**. From the warmer regions of the Central Coast, to the foggy cool valleys of California's Northern Coast, each individual lot promotes the intense **berry and spice flavors quintessential to Pinot Noir**. We love when we find a wine that so perfectly fits the bill for the month and **Angeline's 2021 Pinot Noir is the one!**

Top Cab Under \$20!!

VALRAVN 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON SONOMA COUNTY \$19.98 [295680]

Last fall, the team at Valravn crafted a \$20 Pinot Noir that completely blew us away, and judging by the way our customers bought this wine by the case, it seems they agreed. Not ones to rest on their laurels, the Valravn team has done it again, but this time, **it is their Cabernet Sauvignon that is rocking our world!**

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. Not only that, but Valravn works directly with the vineyard crews, so they oversee everything from farming, to picking, to bottling. Their Cabernet Sauvignon is an exploration of Sonoma County's most favored regions, including Knights Valley, Dry Creek Valley, Moon Mountain, and Sonoma Valley.

The wine is aged for 18 months in French oak (both new and used), and these barrels come from the same coopers used by Cabernet producers who charge 3-4 times the price of this wine! Dark ruby in color with a purple hue, this wine displays lovely notes of black cherry, black currants, plum sauce, blackberry, kirsch, green peppercorns, olive tapenade, vanilla, clove, and a hint of scorched earth. Ripe and juicy on the palate, this wine still retains that classic-feel that is textbook Sonoma County Cabernet, so it doesn't go "jammy." The wine ends with fine-grained tannins, so this versatile Cab will drink well on its own, along with more hearty dishes like a rib-eye steak or a meat paella.



WINE BAR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE!

2022 NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

NOVEMBER 2022 WINE BAR

Thurs. **11/17** - Chillable Italian Reds \$25
 Fri. **11/18** - Thanksgiving Wines \$35
 Sat. **11/19** - Ducru Beaucaillou with Brand Ambassador \$50

Thurs. **11/24** Happy Thanksgiving! (Closed)
 Fri. **11/25** - Burgundy \$50
 Sat. **11/26** - Domestic Cabernet Sauv. \$50

[WINE BAR PAGE ON HITIMEWINE.NET](#)



FEATURED WINE TASTINGS

Our featured wine tastings are Thursday through Saturday and range in price from \$20 to \$150 depending on the wines being poured. At these tastings we pour between 8 and 12 wines.

Please have a seat for the featured event! We are moving away from the crowded, standing room only days of pre-pandemic times. Wine bar patrons need to have an available seat or go on the waiting list until a seat in opens up.

We are accepting reservations through YELP. On Thursday and Friday we will have 2 seatings: 4:30 and 6:30pm. Saturdays we will have 3 seating: 2:00, 4:30 and 6:30pm.

Click [HERE](#) to make reservations for an event.

2022 DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

DECEMBER 2022 WINE BAR

Thurs. **12/1** - Top Wines "South America" \$40
 Fri. **12/2** - Top Wines "French Whites" \$45
 Sat. **12/3** - Top Wines "Italy" \$70

Thurs. **12/8** - Top Wines "Germany & Austria" \$25
 Fri. **12/9** - Top Wines "USA Whites/Reds" \$40
 Sat. **12/10** - Top Wines "French Reds" \$60

Thurs. **12/15** - Top Wines "Spain" \$40
 Fri. **12/16** - Top Wines "USA Cabs" \$80
 Sat. **12/17** - 12 Champagnes of Christmas \$100

Thurs. **12/22** - Premier Cru Burgundy \$75
 Fri. **12/23** Best of Top Wines \$55
 Sat. **12/24** Christmas Eve - Closed

Thurs. **12/29** - Top Wines "Eastern Europe & Other Exotic Imports" \$25
 Fri. **12/30** - Champagne "Tête de Cuvée" \$150
 Sat. **12/31** New Year's Eve - Closed

While not required, **YELP** reservations are recommended (especially during the holidays and for some of the more popular tastings). Reservation seating has priority. [LINK](#) to Yelp!

DECEMBER 2022 WINE OF THE MONTH



NEKEAS
VEGA SINDOIA 2019
EL CHAPARRAL OLD
VINES GARNACHA
 NORMALLY \$15.98
SALE \$12.98 [382520]
DOP NAVARRA

Our December Wine of the Month is from one of our favorite importers, **Jorge Ordoñez**, and is a 100% Garnacha (Grenache) wine that highlights **how much flavor and terroir you can get from Spain at a way-better-than-normal price!** This usually retails around the \$16 mark

so stock up during the holidays with our special, limited time pricing! The grapes for El Chaparral come from proprietary vineyards planted in the Valley of **Valdizarbe**, one of Navarra's most historical viticultural areas in Northern Spain. The vines were planted between 1890 and 1960.

We first tried this wine back in October and realized its potential then but weren't sure where it would fit in our holiday planning. Well, **the stars aligned** and we were able to get special pricing so it could become **our featured wine for December**. The **stellar quality** was already there (**all the buyers loved it!**) so we were ecstatic to be able to feature this in this space for this season.

Our notes: The nose is filled with red fruits (peppered plums, cherries and strawberries, oh my!), hillside scrub brush and wildflowers, white pepper and light minerality. The red fruits are reiterated on the palate with red berries and plum and kept balanced by **outstanding structure:** firm tannins and bright acidity. Savory elements grow in the mid-palate and finish, as scrub oak, brown spices and more minerality lead to hints of citrus and sea salt, all amidst the plums and berries.

Winery notes: Expression of the most Atlantic Garnacha in Spain. Vivid garnet color. Juicy and spicy on the palate with red fruit and black and white pepper flavors. Accents of coffee and minerality. Elegant, fine, and delicate, but supported by firm tannins.

JAMES SUCKLING 93 POINTS - "Aromas of blueberries, currants and violets with hints of minty chocolate and crushed stones. Sleek and polished with a seamless texture and layers of fine-grained tannins. Firm and succulent, with a long, mineral finish. Drink or hold."

#2. AD VIVUM 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY “SLEEPING LADY” \$174.95 [200140]



When one of the most prominent wine critics wrote “*don’t miss it*” in their tasting notes for this wine, it made us take notice. But when you learn the winemaker’s background, then will come as no surprise as to why this wine is amazing! Chris Phelps has been one of the most beloved winemakers in the Napa Valley for almost 40 years! After working at Château Petrus, Chris made the wines at Dominus Estate from 1984-1996, then at Caymus from 1996-2003! Now, being a winemaker at any of these estates would surely be the highlight for anybody, but Chris made wine at all three! He is passionate about bringing elegance and balance to the wines with which he is privileged to work.

The Sleeping Lady vineyard is the southernmost vineyard in the Yountville AVA, in a location that enjoys ample cooling from the nearby San Pablo Bay, which promotes gradual ripening. This vineyard has been a source for Fait-Main, Alpha Omega, Julien Fayard, and others, but Ad Vivum gets the most prized blocks. These rows are found along the vineyard’s uppermost western perimeter along the Mayacamas Mountains.

Earning an impressive **97 points from Antonio Galloni**, the critic writes: “The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Sleeping Lady Vineyard is every bit as impressive from bottle as it was from barrel. A big, statuesque wine, the 2018 impresses with its energy and vibrancy, both of which are great signs for the future. Today, the 2018 is a bit reticent, but the pedigree is there. Blackberry, mocha, gravel, spice, menthol and lavender begin to emerge, but only gradually. The 2018 is a magical wine from Chris Phelps. Don’t miss it.”

#3. DUNN 2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON HOWELL MOUNTAIN \$145.99 [217410]

Randy Dunn’s wines are perennially legends in the making, and some of the longest-lived Cabernet Sauvignons in the world! Just ask anybody who has managed to hang on to the Dunn Cabernets from the 1980s, as those wines are quite drinkable, but have the potential to age for several more decades. After making highly-acclaimed wines for others, Randy and his wife Lori bought a 14-acre parcel in Angwin with about 5 acres of Cabernet vines on it. After buying adjoining properties, Randy and his family now farm 42 acres on Howell Mountain. This area makes some of the most iconic wines in the Valley, as the temperatures are more moderate than the valley floor, and the small berries make for intensely-flavored and structured wines. The Dunn Cabernets, with their iconic red wax capsule, are staples in the cellar of any collector or wine aficionado.



“The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain is sure to make Dunn fans happy. Powerful and ample, it marries the natural intensity of the year

with the savoriness that makes Howell Mountain Cabernets so distinctive. Dark blue/purplish fruit, graphite, spice, leather, dried herbs and lavender imbue the 2017 with striking intensity and character. I can’t wait to see how it ages. The 2017 is a positively stunning edition of the Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon.” -**Antonio Galloni 97 Points!**

#4. BEAULIEU VINEYARDS 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY “GEORGES DE LATOUR” \$117.99 [203120]



“The 2018 Georges de Latour is the best young vintage of the flagship wine I have ever tasted”; these are the words of world-renowned wine critic Antonio Galloni. Let that sink in for a moment... a man who has had the fortune to taste the best wines produced in the world, and to taste vintages at an estate going back decades (even more than a century in some cases), wrote these words. If this doesn’t make you take interest in the Georges de Latour, then check your pulse!

Winemaker Trevor Durling grew up on Sonoma County, and has worked stints at Sonoma-Cutrer, Gloria Ferrer, and Provenance wineries. However, it was his integral contributions to the Hewitt Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2010, a wine that earned Wine Spectator’s 2013 #4 Wine of the Year, that caught the eye of Beaulieu Vineyards. Now, Trevor presides as **only the fifth chief winemaker in the winery’s 120-year history.**

This beautiful wine has earned **98 points from Antonio Galloni**, and he states: “The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Georges de Latour Private Reserve is fabulous. Inky, rich and explosive, the 2018 is a fine addition to the lineage of one of Napa Valley’s most historic wines. Inky red fruit, chocolate, leather and licorice all open in the glass. Aeration brings out floral top notes, raspberry, and a hint of blood orange. There is plenty of depth, but the tannins are finer than they were a few years ago. Shorter time on the skins and a reduction in barrel fermentations really allow the pedigree of these Rutherford sites to come through. The 2018 is sensational.”

#5. LERNER PROJECT 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY “PROJECT 18” \$99.95 [237520]

It takes a combination of talents and passions to make a great wine. What ends up in the glass is never a solo effort. At Lerner Project, the team is small, but they share a huge passion for translating the authentic characteristics of vine, soil, and climate - the terroir of Napa Valley - into wines that bear the Lerner Project label. Stu and Karen Lerner, along with winemaker Russell Bevan, accomplish this with mutual dedication and patience, one bottle at a time.

Lerner’s Project 18 bottling is a barrel selection of Cabernet Sauvignon from the Tench Vineyard in Oakville,



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blended with Cabernet Franc and Merlot from the Sugarloaf Vineyard in Napa. The goal with this pedigreed fruit is simple; to make the best under \$100 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon that money can buy... and we think they're a frontrunner! "The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Project 18 offers classic Napa Valley cassis and darker, almost blue fruits to go with full-bodied aromas and flavors of graphite, tobacco, leaf, and crushed stone. It's deep, rich, and concentrated, with great tannins." -**Jeb Dunnuck 96 Points!**

#6. SINEGAL 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY \$79.95 [277690]

In the heart of the Napa Valley lies a property that, in just a few short years, has made many of the valley's "blue chip" Cabernet Sauvignon producers stop and take notice. That property... is Sinegal! Located in St Helena, just west of Highway 29, the Sinegal estate is on some of the most coveted land in the valley. Their neighbors include Dana Estates, and the famed Beckstoffer Dr. Crane and Beckstoffer Las Piedras vineyards (as a reference, these three properties each have 100-point wines tied to them). Sinegal's grapes develop highly-complex flavors, dazzling aromatics, and wonderful texture. But yields are small, so the resulting wines are brimming with concentration!

At the winemaking helm is Ryan Knoth. Ryan has had the pleasure of working under the expert tutelage of David Abreu, Michel Rolland, Jim Barbour, and Philippe Melka. Any up-and-coming winemaker would jump at the chance to work with any one of these superstars, but Ryan got to work with them all! "The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon is every bit as magnificent as it was last year. A heady, statuesque wine, the 2019 captures all the pedigree of the vintage. Inky red cherry fruit, mocha, licorice and spice race across the palate. The 2019 is bright, deep and powerful, with exceptional balance and tons of class. **It's a stunning wine, to say the least.** The move towards a slightly less pushed style, with less overt oak signatures, has paid off big time. This is a fabulous showing." -**Antonio Galloni 98 Points!**



earned **95 points from Antonio Galloni!** "The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Chris's Cuvee captures all of the intensity of this Calistoga site. Black fruit, leather, licorice, smoke, grilled herbs and chocolate all build in the glass. Ample and resonant, with tremendous richness the 2018 is positively stellar. Give the firm yet well-integrated tannins a bit of time to soften."

#8. PINE RIDGE 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY \$49.95 [211621]

Cabernet Sauvignon is synonymous with Napa Valley and has always been at the core of the winemaking program at Pine Ridge Vineyards. The winery lies in the Stags Leap District, tucked beneath a ridge of pines, with a full view of the rugged palisades that speak to the dramatic geologic origins of their property, and its world-famous Cabernet Sauvignon soils. In addition, **Pine Ridge is Certified Sustainable in the vineyards, as well as their cellar practices.**

The 2019 Pine Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon is the best rendition of this wine in half a decade! A combination of estate fruit from Stags Leap, Oakville, Rutherford, and grapes from select Napa Valley growers, this wine is full-bodied, rich, opulent, yet structured enough to pair with a rib-eye steak! Handfuls of muddled ripe blueberries and freshly sharpened graphite bound out of the glass. Mouth-watering acidity, balanced by finely integrated tannins, is enveloped by flavors of cinnamon spiced plum with vanilla accents. On the finish, aromatics of French press coffee, mixed berries and coconut slowly recede into the distance.



#7. KENEFICK RANCH 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON CALISTOGA "CHRIS' CUVEE" \$64.95 [235120]

The Kenefick Family's ranch is one of the Crown Jewels of Napa Valley's Calistoga AVA. Dr. Thomas Kenefick fell in love with wine country some 25 years ago and subsequently bought a 125-acre property at the foothills of the Palisade Mountains in Calistoga. Initially, he nursed the vineyard to health and sold grapes to several notable Napa Valley producers including Arietta, Buccella, Etude, Lewis, Phelps, T-Vine and Plumjack's new Cade winery. In 2002 he started bottling wine under his own label. The property is located off Picket Road, **next to other noteworthy vineyards such as Hundred Acre, Kelly Fleming, and Eisele Estate.** Now under the helm of his children Chris and Caitlin Kenefick, the second generation has not skipped a beat, and the wines are going from strength to strength!

The Chris' Cuvée has become a favorite among our wine staff, and this wine is a blend of the best Cabernet Sauvignon blocks on the property, complemented by small amounts of Malbec and Petit Verdot. This perennial overachiever has



#9. CROSSBARN 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON SONOMA COUNTY \$39.95 [213990]

Paul Hobbs is a juggernaut in the wine world. It doesn't seem to matter where he makes wine, or with what grape; anything he makes is simply fantastic! The Crossbarn lineup of wines is the second label to his eponymous Paul Hobbs wines from Napa and Sonoma, yet it comes close to its "bigger brother." In fact, **this wine was called "a hidden gem" by critic Antonio Galloni!** Produced using hand-harvested fruit from carefully selected vineyards in prime areas in Sonoma County, the wine is complemented with small amounts of Cabernet Franc and Merlot, then aged for 18 months in French oak. "The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley) is absolutely gorgeous. Nearly half of the fruit is Paul Hobbs's new estate vineyard in Alexander Valley plus Rancho Salina on Moon Mountain. Elegant, polished and refined, the 2018 is a very beautiful wine. Sweet red cherry, crushed flowers, spice and mint add lovely shades of aromatic nuance. The Sonoma Valley Cabernet is a hidden gem in Paul Hobbs' range." -**Antonio Galloni 91 points!**



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#10. BECKMEN 2019 CABERNET

SAUVIGNON SANTA YNEZ VALLEY \$29.99 [214500]

Along with Richard Sanford, Steve Beckmen has been one of the leaders of organic and biodynamic grape farming in the Santa Ynez Valley... and he has quite the bevy of high scores to show he's doing things right! The Beckmen family's Cabernet comes predominantly from the estate surrounding their winery in Los Olivos, as the gravelly, well-drained soil and warm climate is a perfect match for Cabernet Sauvignon. Planted on the hilltops and slopes of the property where vines struggle the most, the resulting grapes have greater complexity and more intense flavors due to the minimal amount of topsoil. The vineyard is also planted with higher density to moderate the amount of fruit each vine has to ripen. Beckmen also buys a small amount of fruit from like-minded growers in Santa Ynez, and we feel this adds to the complexity of the wine.

With a 93-point score from Antonio Galloni, this is a score that's attached to many Napa or Sonoma wines that sell for 2 or 3 times this price! "The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley) captures all the intensity of Cabernet from this part of Santa Barbara County in a cooler vintage that yielded wines built more on savory intensity rather than volume. Elegant and nuanced, the 2019 delivers the goods. A rush of red/purplish fruit, dried herbs, rose petal and mint builds into the persistent finish."



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.

SAKE OF THE YEAR

FOR THE WARRIOR AKABU "GOKUJO NO KIRE" JUNMAI DAIGINJO ULTRA PREMIUM SAKE 720ML \$139.98 [365588]



Our Sake of the Year for 2022 is Akabu Gokujo No Kire Junmai Daiginjo, a special brew that has blown everyone away. "Gokujo No Kire" means "best of the best cut." It comes from the brewery, Akabu Shuzo, located in Japan's northern prefecture of Iwate. This is a sake made of a special rice grain Yuinoka, whittled away to 35% of its original size, brewed slowly in the coldest months of January and February.

Pressing is done at temperatures of -2 degrees, bottled right away and stored at sub-zero freezing temperatures. The aim of this intense polishing is to get at the heart of the rice grain, otherwise known as "shinpaku".

The nose is elegant and demure. On the palate the drinker is greeted with notes of dried pineapple, fresh pear and Fuji apple. This is a sleek sake with good concentration and focus, followed by a broad midpalate feel, and lingering dry finish. Enjoy this with a variety of white fish and even uni, and also don't be afraid to experiment with different dishes like risotto, making this a harmonious combination. We feel quite confident to say that if you do not like this sake, then maybe sake isn't for you!

BANSHU IKKON JUNMAI GINJO CHOKARA SAKE 720ML \$31.98 [365692]

This Sake can be likened to a punk rock star.. it comes in with a **BANG!** ...makes a grand entrance, and then leaves in a flash. The rice used in the making of this sake is locally grown "Grade A" Yamada Nishiki rice from Hyogo Prefecture, and milled to 55% of its original size. This exceptionally exciting sake is brimming with aromas of orange peel, light mint and underripe plantain. It is a bright sake with a light touch, lean structure moving into notes of ruby red grapefruit and tingly dry finish. This is a highly enjoyable sake for the serious sake drinker to put in their regular rotation.

The 12 Champagnes of Christmas

CHAMPAGNE DOYARD 2008 EXTRA BRUT MILLÉSIME “LES LUMIÈRES”

\$329.99 [[376539](#)]

In this, our 27th edition of the Twelve Champagnes of Christmas, we have been able to lasso three stellar cuvées from the justly vaunted 2008 vintage. Foremost among these is Doyards’s “Les Lumières.” We taste a lot of great wines but this 2008 is simply next level in the fascinating way it subtly transforms its flavor profile in the glass. In this age of mono-varietal and mono-parcel Champagnes this gem illustrates the astonishing synergistic complexity that a Chardonnay-Pinot Noir alliance can achieve. The following rave of critic William Kelley is very apt: **WINE ADVOCATE 98 POINTS** “... the 2008 Extra-Brut Grand Cru Les Lumières is a striking Champagne, unwinding in the glass with scents of pear, citrus oil, freshly baked bread, mandarin orange, almonds and buttery pastry. Full-bodied, deep and multidimensional, it’s layered and muscular, with an immensely concentrated core of fruit, racy acids and a long, resonant finish. As I’ve written before, this cuvée is a blend of first-press juice: two-thirds Chardonnay from Mesnil-sur-Oger and one-third Pinot Noir from prime holdings in Aÿ.”



DOM PERIGNON 2012 BRUT

\$239.99 [[378476](#)]

We take pride in packing this “best of the year” list with new discoveries and under the radar gems. So why, you may ask, would we include the world’s most iconic Champagne on this roster? Well, the reason is that we believe that this 2012 edition has all the concentration and verve to emerge as **the best D.P. release of this century** and thus we feel duty-bound to urge our customers to cellar a few bottles of this epic Champagne and watch it blossom over the years. **JOHN GILMAN 98 POINTS** - “[It]...is a brilliant wine in the making and seems likely to ultimately be judged one of the greatest vintages here in the last quarter century. According to Chef de Cave Vincent Chaperon, the wine is close to its ideal *cépages* of fifty percent each of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in 2012. The wine is quite a powerful vintage of Dom Pérignon, but with all of the customary elegance



and structural chassis of the greatest vintages here and it remains a young wine, brimming with energy and superb depth. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a classic blend of lime, green apple, menthol, stony minerality, discreet botanical tones, gentle smokiness and a topnote of citrus peel... I love how the perfect ripeness of the 2012 vintage is seamlessly interwoven here with a superb girdle of acidity, great minerality and excellent purity, which will end up producing a legendary vintage of this wine. It is certainly approachable out of the blocks, but I would opt to tuck bottles away for at least eight to ten more years before starting to drink the 2012, as there is so much left here to still unfold.”

DRAPPIER EXTRA BRUT BLANC DE BLANCS “QUATTOR” \$109.98



This limited production project from Michel Drappier is an exquisite example of the wonderful fragrances and flavors that some of the overlooked, arcane grapes of Champagne are able to produce. “Quattor” cuvée, from the number four in Latin is a brilliantly balanced, equal-parts blend of Chardonnay with three legacy Champagne grapes: Arbane, Petite Meslier and Blanc Vari. **WINE ADVOCATE 93 POINTS** - “[It] opens in the glass with an attractive bouquet of honeycomb, crisp yellow orchard fruit, dried white flowers, marzipan and toasted walnuts. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, broad and crisply fleshy, with a

deep core of fruit, an elegant pinpoint mousse and tangy balancing acids, concluding with a long, nutty finish. This is a terrific rendition of this rare bottling, and it’s more than a mere curio; indeed, it’s well worth seeking out.” -William Kelley

VILMART & CIE. 2016 BRUT “GRAND CELLIER D’OR” \$97.99



Vilmart is headquartered in the Montagne de Reims hamlet of Rilly-la-Montagne where most of the vineyards have a northerly exposure. However, proprietor Laurent Champs is privileged to own vines in a special south-facing *lieu-dit*, Blanche Voies, planted with 65-year-old ungrafted Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines. The fruit from Blanche Voies is the source for this “Grand Cellier d’Or” cuvée as well as for the firm’s famous “Coeur de Cuvée” bottling. 2016 was an especially successful vintage for Blanche Voies as this critical rave attests: **WINE SPECTATOR 96 POINTS** - “Gorgeous aromas and flavors of nectarine, chopped almond, dried white cherry, ground cardamom and ginger, lime blossoms, graphite and espresso crema are immediately present on the mouthwatering palate of this elegant Champagne. Buoyed by bright, well-integrated acidity, the flavors glide along on the fine, creamy mousse, underscored by a racy streak of salinity that drives the clean-cut finish. Shows beautiful harmony and expression. Disgorged October 2020.”

PIERRE MONCUIT 2008 EXTRA BRUT MILLÉSIME BLANC DE BLANCS GRAND CRU \$74.98



“The Moncuit family makes consistently outstanding Champagnes but doesn’t seem to get much attention, and that’s really a shame...” - Antonio Galloni. Well, we are more than happy to help raise the visibility

The 12 Champagnes of Christmas

of this deserving producer especially when they have priced their 2008 Grand Cru Blanc de Blancs so attractively. **VINOUS WINE MEDIA 94 POINTS** - "Moncuit's Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Millésime shows a different facet of its personality in this version, with lower dosage vis-à-vis the Brut version. Here the flavors are brighter and more sculpted throughout. Hints of toastiness, almond and tangerine oil add an exotic flair that makes the Extra Brut absolutely beguiling. Lower dosage seems to exalt the minerality and bright acids of the year, while pushing the fruit a bit into the background..." - Antonio Galloni

LOUIS ROEDERER 2014 BRUT MILLÉSIME \$75.98 [321840]

It is useful to remember that all of Roederer's vintage tier Champagnes are produced exclusively from the firm's own vineyards which they cultivate with the mindset of a fastidious grower-producer. In recent years, *chef de cave* Jean-Baptiste Lécaillon has increased his vintage brut's Pinot Noir component to 70%. At a recent trade tasting we flipped over this 2014 and felt it gave the firm's Cristal *tête de cuvée* a run for the money. **WINE ADVOCATE 95 POINTS**

- "Roederer's 2014 Brut Vintage is beautiful, offering up aromas of pear, mirabelle plum, red berries, warm biscuits and smoke. Full-bodied, layered and elegantly muscular, it's seamless and complete, with terrific mid-palate depth and amplitude. Framed by bright acids and enlivened by a pinpoint mousse, it concludes with a penetrating finish. The blend is 70% Pinot Noir, emphasizing Verzy, and pressure is a touch higher than in its more ethereal Blanc de Blancs counterpart. As I wrote of its 2013 predecessor, this is a wine that puts many prestige cuvées to shame." Enough said.

PASCAL DOQUET 2008 EXTRA BRUT BLANC DE BLANCS "COEUR DE TERROIR" VERTUS 1ER CRU \$79.98 [377706]



Pascal Doquet's trifecta of low yield organic viticulture, top-drawer vineyard *terroir*, and deft winemaking *savoir faire* has created an ardent European fan base for his wares. Gratefully this popularity hasn't resulted in the crazy cult wine pricing that many other top Champagne growers now demand. We expected a lot from this 2008 Doquet bottling and it exceeded our expectations as this is clearly Pascal's best ever version of "Coeur de Terroir." This blanc de blancs is drawn from Doquet's five best mid-slope, old vine parcels in Vertus. It was vinified in neutral oak barrels, aged no less than eleven years *sur latte* and finished with a minimal 3.5 grams/liter dosage. As we have said before, "fresh, explosive and radiant" were the first words that crossed our minds when we initially sipped this 2008. If you fancy *terroir*-driven Champagnes brimming with character we strongly advise you to snag this brisk-selling 2008 before it is gone for good.

MARIE COURTIN (2018) EXTRA BRUT "RÉSONNANCE" \$59.98 [377951]

If you crave soulful Black Grape Champagne you need to check out this riveting offering from Dominique Moreau, yet another rising star from Champagne's southern Aube district. Named after



her grandmother, Dominique Moreau established her estate in 2005 in the village of Polisot located not far from the River Seine. From the outset Dominique's vision was to create a series of single-vineyard, single-vintage and single varietal

Champagnes from old-vine, Biodynamically-farmed grapes that are meticulously elaborated *sans dosage*. The Aube's warmish climate, which is particularly suited to Pinot Noir, combined with the region's Kimmeridgian limestone sub soils gives Moreau's Champagnes a chiseled, Chablisian freshness that is so appealing. These contrasting supportive elements are well described in this review by Antonio Galloni: **VINOUS WINE MEDIA 92 POINTS** - "The 2018 Extra Brut Resonance is bright, articulate and focused. This is an especially nervy expression of Pinot Noir. Bright acids and veins of salinity lend energy to this sculpted, taut Pinot Noir. Citrus peel, crushed rocks, mint jasmine and white pepper lend energy. No dosage. Disgorged: April, 2021."

JEAN VESSELLE BRUT "OEIL DE PERDRIX" \$49.98 [377045]



This unique rosé (the winery views it as a Blancs de Noirs) is fashioned with a very brief Pinot Noir skin maceration, a technique that yields a pale "eye of the partridge" color that is reminiscent of the hue of early twentieth century Champagnes. This Vesselle is much more than a historic homage; it is rather a wonderfully versatile gastronomic Champagne that combines the signature power of Bouzy with the fine elegance of contemporary Champagnes. Quite frothy in the glass with effusive aromas of red berries, mint and white flowers. It's medium-bodied with a nice texture that is balanced by racy acidity that drives waves of citrus, cherry and red apple flavors which are followed by appealing woody and chalk inflections in the finish. We strongly suggest that you compare this long-time staff favorite to any of the 'Big Name' brut rosé Champagnes and see if it doesn't become your new "go to."

The 12 Champagnes of Christmas

MICHEL TURGY BRUT BLANC DE BLANCS RÉSERVE SÉLECTION GRAND CRU \$45.98 [374108]

Working outside the limelight that shines on his trendier Côte de Blancs neighbors, Jean-Michel Turgy quietly fashions distinctive Chardonnay Champagnes based on the traditions and passions of his ancestry, which dates back more than 130 years. This 100% Chardonnay bottling is a special North Berkeley Imports blend that includes an extra dollop (30%) of Reserve wines, adding additional richness and nuance to the ensemble. Fashioned from mature (20–60-year-old) Chardonnay estate vines grown in the famed Le-Mesnil-sur-Oger Grand Cru, Turgy's "Réserve Sélection" offers up copious Chardonnay fruit seamlessly fused with classic Le Mesnil chalk tones. Though finished with a minimal 3 grams/liter dosage, this remains a very user-friendly and wallet-friendly Champagne that is sure to delight the Champagne geek and novice alike.



LAURENT-PERRIER 2012 BRUT MILLÉSIME \$74.95 [379727]

A great follow-up to Laurent-Perrier's top-rated and top-selling 2008, L.P.'s 2012 is a formidable 50/50 Chardonnay and Pinot Noir blend drawn entirely from Grand Cru rated vineyards. 2012 was a very high quality, low volume year for Laurent Perrier and this bottling reflects well the concentration and energy of the vintage. **JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS** - "Elegant array of lemons, slate, biscuits, oyster shells, croissants and brioche. Precise and focused on the palate, with sharp acidity and tight, fine bubbles. Pure and youthful for now." 50% chardonnay and 50% pinot noir. Dosage 8g/L." Comes packed in a handsome gift box for last minute Holiday gift-giving.



DIEBOLT-VALLOIS BRUT ROSÉ \$44.98 [325742]

As many of you know the Diebolt-Vallois House is renowned for producing classically elegant, long-lived Chardonnay-based Champagnes. What is less well know is that they make also make a small quantity of an utterly charming Rosé that happens to be priced way under the market. A mix of 2016 and 2017, this bubbly is dominated by Chardonnay (60%) blended with 30% Pinot Noir juice and completed with 10% Pinot Noir Coteaux Champenois sourced from Deleavenne Pére & Fils in Bouzy. The ultra-fine tannins of the Bouzy Rouge contribute beguiling Bouzy Pinot Noir florals and berry flavors without impinging on the fine minerality of the Côte de Blancs Chardonnay core. A marriage made in heaven to be sure.

QUINTA DO NOVAL 2019 VINTAGE PORT 750ML \$69.98 [345834]
WINE ADVOCATE - 97 POINTS - The 2019 Vintage Port is a field blend aged for 18 months in old wood vats. It was bottled May 4, 2021, and has 100 grams of residual sugar. It was in bottle only a bit more than two months when tasted, but it seems quite brilliant, even so. Very concentrated, it adds controlled power and coats the palate. Tasted with some other 2019s, this certainly stood out for both concentration and power. It touches all the bases in terms of expressive fruit and structure, finishing dry and seriously. It seemed balanced enough to drink young, but that would be a mistake. For one thing, it steadily tightened as it aired out. It also increasingly showed gorgeous eucalyptus-laced aromatics. Two days later, it was notably more astringent. Four days later, it was very firm on the finish and better overall. In fact, that was a far better showing than on day one. This is plainly built for the long haul. I would expect nothing less from a fine Noval Vintage Port. It became more focused and precise as well. This needs the rest of this decade, at least, in the cellar to show better. Then it will develop well for decades and hold indefinitely.

Frankly, it won't show everything it has in even 10 years, where I have the "start drinking" window, so if you have a lot more patience, that would be useful. It will be more interesting around 2035-2040. This is a powerful beauty, well justifying Noval's tendency to declare most every year. Mark Squires.

Additional scores for Quinta Do Noval 2019 Port:

DECANTER – 97 POINTS
WINE SPECTATOR – 96 POINTS
VINOUS – 96 POINTS
JEB DUNNUCK – 96 POINTS





DOMAINE DAMIEN MARTIN 2021 MÂCON VERZÉ
\$19.95 [356373]

Well defined citrus and stone fruit aromas, with hints of acacia, honeysuckle, verbena and apple. Combines vivacity, roundness, fruitiness, and aromatic richness.

Serve as an aperitif or with oysters, seafood, charcuterie, goat cheese, Gruyere cheese.

VINCENT PINARD 2020 SANCERRE \$29.99
[352046] A STAFF FAVORITE AND BEST SELLER

The 2020 Sancerre Flores is fine, elegant and floral. Textured and light in body, there's a delightful tension through the soft core; a light citrusy note accompanies a savory leesy character alongside apricot and nectarine. On the medium length, the Sauvignon note of boxwood peeps out reminding you of the variety.

LOUIS MICHEL 2019 CHABLIS
VAILLONS \$37.95 [352663]

WINE ADVOCATE 92 POINTS - "Bursting with aromas of peach, pear, white flowers, fresh bread, beeswax and hay, the 2019 Chablis 1er Cru Vaillons is medium to full-bodied, layered and concentrated, with racy acids and a penetrating, saline finish."



HENRI BOILLOT 2019 BOURGOGNE BLANC
\$37.99 [353232]

DECANTER 91 POINTS - "A marvelous entry point to the range, this has expressive aromas of ripe apple and fresh white flowers, with just a hint of spice. On the palate, the wine is fresh and surprisingly lively. Produced mostly with grapes from Auxey-Duresses and St-Romain, slowly pressed in a vertical press and fermented in cask (5% new), with most of its lees. Drinking Window 2021 - 2029."



VACHERON 2020
SANCERRE LES ROMAINS
\$68.95 [353396]

WINE ENTHUSIAST 94 POINTS - "This wine shows richness and intensity, balancing acidity with ripe white and apricot fruits. The wine is delicious now but will be even better from 2023."

JULES DESJOURNEYS
2016 POUILLY-FUISSÉ

LES VIGNES DE LA CÔTE \$69.95 [352652]

WINE ADVOCATE 95 POINTS: "The 2016 Pouilly-Fuissé Vignes de la Côte, is a fabulous wine that will be worth every effort to track down. Unfurling in the glass with notes of honeycomb, crisp yellow orchard fruits, waxy lemon rind, nutmeg and subtle touches of praline and sesame, it's full-bodied, ample and enveloping, with stunningly satiny texture, a deep, multidimensional core and a bright line of acidity that defines the long and penetrating finish."



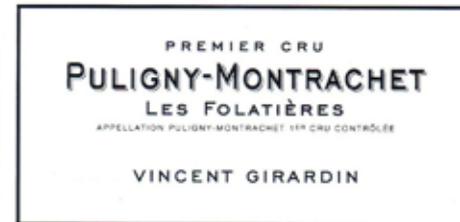
VINCENT GIRARDIN 2017
PULIGNY-MONTRACHET
VIEILLES VIGNES
\$69.99 [354275]

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."

GUIGAL 2020 LA DORIANE CONDRIEU
\$88.99 [333331]

JEB DUNNUCK 99 POINTS - "Just about pure perfection and one of the finest Condrieu to pass my lips, the 2020 Condrieu La Doriane offers an insane bouquet of grilled pineapple, charcoal, crushed stone, acacia flowers, and white peach. It picks up an incredibly sense of salinity on the palate and is full-bodied, has blockbuster concentration, remarkable purity and focus, and a great finish. I like this beast/beauty today, but it will keep for a decade."



VINCENT GIRARDIN 2017
PULIGNY-MONTRACHET
LES FOLATIÈRES \$119.99 [354276]

WINE ADVOCATE 93 POINTS - "The 2017 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatières bursts with aromas of citrus oil, mandarin and crisp yellow apples mingled with warm brioche, wheat toast and struck flint. Medium to full-bodied, satiny and textural, it's racy and precise, with a crisp core of fruit and a long, penetrating finish."



CELLIER AUX MOINES 2019
CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET
LES CHAUMÉES
\$139.99 [355741]

JAMES SUCKLING 96 POINTS "Deep and complex, with tons of lemon-curd character, but also notes of sliced pear, caramelized lemon and flint. Impressive concentration yet also beautiful balance with minerality that builds and builds on the very long finish. From biodynamically grown grapes. Drink or hold."

LE PLATEAU DES CHÊNES 2017 LIRAC \$15.95 [324113]

WINE ADVOCATE 91 POINTS - "A super example of the appellation, the 2017 Lirac is full-bodied, concentrated and velvety on the palate, offering up notes of raspberries, cherries and dark chocolate. Offering plenty of richness, texture, flavor and length, it should drink well for up to decade"



DOMAINE DAMIEN MARTIN 2020 BOURGOGNE ROUGE \$19.95 [356372]

Tasting Notes: Well-defined aromas of wild strawberry, black cherry, and raspberry on the nose. Round and rich on the palate, with intense fruit and silky tannins leading to a long finish.

Serve With: Excellent with charcuterie, grilled salmon, herb-rubbed rotisserie chicken, wild mushroom risotto, and a wide range of cheeses.

CHÂTEAU LA PRADE 2015 CÔTES DE FRANCS \$19.95 [353348]

JAMES SUCKLING 92 POINTS - "A soft and juicy wine with plums, chocolate and some violets. Medium to full body and a round and caressing tannin texture. Flavorful finish. Drink in 2020 but already gorgeous."



CHANRION 2020 CÔTE DE BROUILLY

\$24.99
[304504]

JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS

- "Great forest-berry aromas pour from the glass, bridging effortlessly the gap between the traditional brightness and perfume of this appellation and the ripeness that the new climatic situation brings to Beaujolais. Excellent concentration and wonderfully mineral freshness that gives this so much energy at the long finish. Drink or hold."



CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE 2015 SAINT-ÉMILION GRAND CRU

\$39.95 [351078]

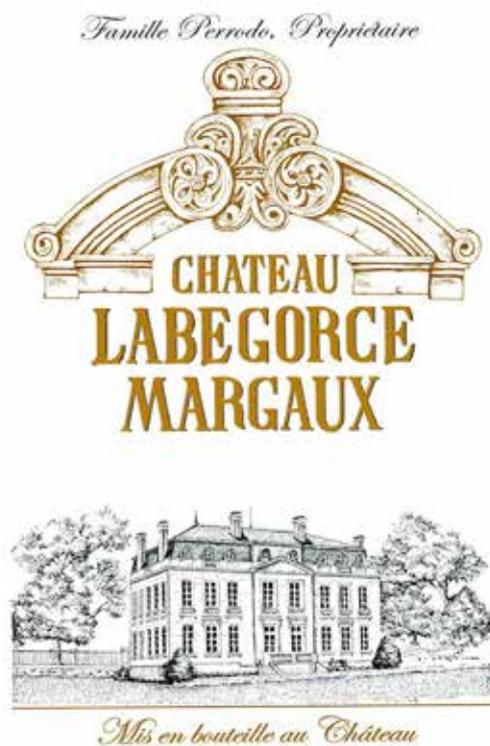
JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS - "A vivid and bright red with plum and spice plus hints of cedar and sandalwood. Medium to full body, silky tannins and a flavorful finish. The plush tannins to this give it weight and opulence. Needs a year or two to soften."



CHÂTEAU LABEGORCE 2016 MARGAUX

\$49.95 [355212]

JEB DUNNUCK 94 POINTS - "From an estate on the uptick and showing beautifully on two separate occasions, the 2016 Château Labégorce is a head-turner of a Margaux that's based on 52% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that was brought up in 45% new oak, with the balance in once-used barrels. Sexy notes of blackcurrants, black raspberries, crushed flowers, sandalwood, and incense all flow to a medium to full-bodied, fabulously textured Margaux that carries ripe tannins, loads of fruit and richness, and a great finish. Since arriving in 2009, Marjolaine de Coninck has resurrected this estate and the wines now play with the top in the appellation."



CELLIER AUX MOINES 2019 GIVRY CLOS CELLIER

\$49.99 [353324]

JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS - "The stunning nose of ripe black cherry announces what this concentrated, fresh red Burgundy is all about. So much energy, plus a firm yet fine tannin structure and long, mineral finish make a serious statement for this underrated appellation. From biodynamically grown grapes."



WINE ADVOCATE 93 POINTS

- "The 2019 Givry 1er Cru Clos du Cellier Aux Moines unwinds in the glass with aromas of wild berries, petals, orange rind and loamy soil, complemented by deep spice tones. Medium to full-bodied, layered and lively, it's nicely concentrated, with powdery tannins and bright acids. Combining some of the substance of the 2018 with the charm and elegance of the 2017, this is the finest Clos du Cellier Aux Moines the domaine has produced to date."



RAYMOND USSEGLIO 2019 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE CUVÉE IMPERIALE \$67.95 [351565]

JAMES SUCKLING 96 POINTS - "Deep, spicy and fragrant, this is a very concentrated and elegant Châteauneuf-du-Pape with remarkably fine tannins and floral delicacy alongside its earthy primacy. Mainly produced from grenache vines planted in 1901 and 1902. From Demeter-certified biodynamically grown grapes."



The Top Red Wines from France



LES PAGODES DE COS 2009

SAINT-ESTÈPHE \$84.95 [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/barrigue 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.”

CLOS DES PAPES 2019 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

\$109.99 [350236]

JEB DUNNUCK 98 POINTS - “Tasted out of bottle, the 2019 Châteauneuf-Du-Pape is a stunning example of this estate as well as the vintage. Gorgeous kirsch,



COS D'ESTOURNEL 2009 SAINT-ESTÈPHE \$379.95 [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.”

flowery incense, spice box, and garrigue-like notes define the nose, and it hits the palate with classic Clos des Papes elegance and finesse backed up by a great mid-palate, fabulous concentration, and a monster of a finish. Don’t miss this beauty. It can be enjoyed today with incredible pleasure or cellared for two decades.”

SMITH HAUT LAFITTE 2010 PESSAC LEOGNAN

\$199.99 [353227]

ROBERT PARKER 98+ POINTS - “This is an extraordinary performance once again from the Cathiard family, the proprietors of Smith-Haut-Lafitte. They think the 2010 is even better than the 2009. (I disagree, but only slightly.) This wine has laser-like definition in its an remarkable nose of a subtle charcoal fire interwoven with spring flowers, creme de cassis, blueberry liqueur and spicy wood.”

DECANTER 98 POINTS - “An incredible wine; this just tingles through the palate from beginning to end. Rich body and a silky, polished texture. Clear pencil lead, black olive, cassis, rosemary. Firm tannic hold suggests there are decades ahead, with a fresh uplift to the finish. A classic example of how Pessac-Léognan can deliver perfect tightrope balance in its best wines. Made from 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc with 1% Petit Verdot



The Top Red Wines From North America

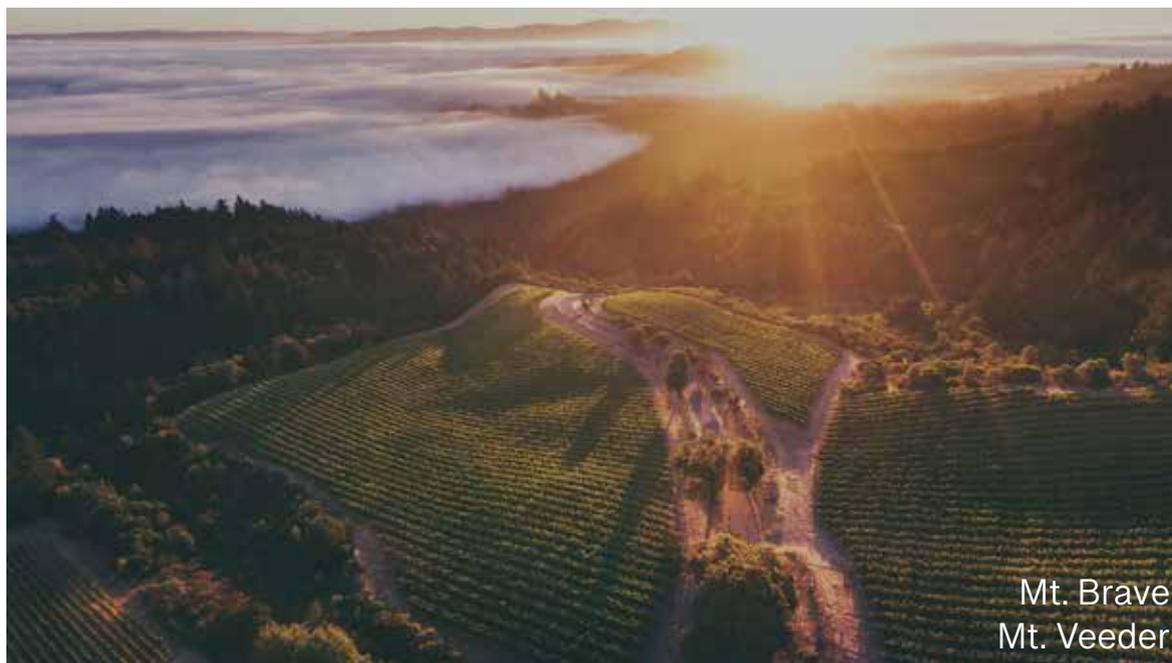


#1. FAILLA 2019 PINOT NOIR FORT ROSS-SEAVIEW ESTATE \$84.95 [220600]

Ehren Jordan (pictured above) excels at something that an exceptionally small amount of winemakers can claim; he can not only produce huge, ripe, rich red wines, but also elegant and complex Chards and Pinot Noirs that show precision and finesse. Yes, while Ehren was working at **Turley Cellars** making big bold reds from warm climates, he would also work on his Failla line of wines, which originate from cool, heavily maritime-influenced vineyards along California's coast. The winemaking is done in Napa, but their estate vineyard comes from the Fort Ross-Seaview AVA, a region characterized by minimum elevations of 920 feet, (keeping them just above the fog line), and distances near to the ocean, keeping temperatures lower than average

Planted in 1997, Failla's Estate Vineyard is **organically dry-farmed** and sits just 2.5 miles east of the Pacific Ocean, near Hirsch Vineyards, Marcassin, Flowers, and Peter Michael. The wine sees only native yeasts throughout the fermentation process before aging for 11 months in 20% new French oak. "The 2019 Pinot Noir Estate is fabulous. A wine of uncommon depth and textural intensity, the Estate dazzles right out of the gate. Black cherry, plum, lavender, spice and licorice infuse the 2019 with myriad shades of sepia-toned complexity. The 2019 might very well be one of the best versions of this wine."

-Antonio Galloni 97 Points!



Mt. Brave
Mt. Veeder

#2. MT. BRAVE 2018 CABERNET FRANC MT. VEEDER \$89.95 [244560]

Mt. Brave has been on our Top Cab list in the past, but this year, it's their Cabernet Franc that has garnered the limelight! This wine is made by Chris Carpenter, who is 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 Sauvignon!**

The high altitude keeps midday temperatures cooler than those in the valley below, while the position above the fog line gives grapes longer daily exposure to sunlight. This regularly extends the growing season into November, and the increased hang-time results in peak ripeness and full varietal complexity. This year, the Cabernet Franc received a whopping **97 points from Jeb Dunnuck**, and his review states: "Another beautiful wine in this lineup is the 2018 Cabernet Franc, which is 100% varietal and spent 22 months

in 80% new French oak. Its deep purple hue is followed by a rich, full-bodied, incredibly layered 2018 offering beautiful cassis and mulberry fruit, notes of tobacco, dried flowers, and chocolate, ultra-fine tannins, no hard edges, and a great finish. This remarkable 2018 should be snatched up by readers, as it represents a smoking value!"

#3. ZENA CROWN 2018 PINOT NOIR EOLA-AMITY HILLS "SLOPE" \$74.95 [273500]

By the late 1960s, the potential to produce life-changing Pinot Noir had lured a handful of winemakers to the remote Willamette Valley in Oregon. Emboldened by their early successes, vintners from California to the Côte d'Or took notice, and a wave of interest and investment ensued in the following years. One of the best sites, positioned on a southwest-facing slope of weathered volcanic soils, clustered amidst the most historic vineyards of the Eola-Amity Hills, is Zena Crown Vineyard. Since its third leaf, Zena Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir has been subject to multiple interpretations; it became a sought-after



The Top Red Wines from North America

single-vineyard designate for top producers like Beaux Frères, Soter, and Penner-Ash. With the 2013 harvest, however, Zena Crown emerged as a true Oregon domaine. As Winemaker Shane Moore adapts to its rhythms and natural oscillations, he seeks to explore and manifest the singular voice of this special plot of land, in accordance with the remote and rugged beauty of the Eola-Amity Hills. The "Slope" portion of the Zena Crown vineyard shifts to face primarily south, encouraging perfect ripeness and maximum phenolic development.

The 2017 rendition of this wine earned 95 points from *Wine Spectator*, and it made the publication's "Top 100" list. Well, we're pleased to say that this 2018 has actually earned 1 point higher, receiving **96 points from *Wine Spectator***! "A wine of presence and personality, with dynamic black raspberry and guava flavors that take on stony mineral and dusky spice accents as this gathers richness and tension toward broad-shouldered tannins. Best from 2022 through 2032."

#4. PEAKE RANCH 2018 SYRAH STA. RITA HILLS "JOHN SEBASTIANO" \$59.95 [249660]



Want to know what our buyer's favorite wine is to pair with tri-tip? It's this wine right here! Peake Ranch is a boutique, family-run winery owned by John and Gillian Wagner, and 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. In addition to the property which houses the winery, they also get fruit from their John Sebastiano Vineyard (pictured above/right) on the opposite side of the Sta. Rita Hills appellation. John Sebastiano Vineyard is located on the eastern edge of the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. The raised elevation of

this vineyard exposes this spot to an extra dose of the winds that the appellation is famous for. Cool nights and constant wind make for grapes that show great concentration and lend themselves to the magic of their gifted winemaker Wynne Solomon, yielding extraordinary wines.

"The nose of black, blue, and red fruits, white pepper, bacon fat, and spring flowers on the 2018 Syrah John Sebastiano Vineyard is incredible and both a hedonistic and intellectual turn-on in every sense. Medium to full-bodied and multi-



John Sebastiano Vineyard
Peake Ranch

dimensional on the palate, with ultra-fine tannins, incredible purity, and a great, great finish, it's a Côte-Rôtie lookalike that knocks it out of the park. **It's going to be a candidate for the Syrah of the vintage.** -Jeb Dunnuck 95-97 Points!

#5. L'ECOLE 2019 PROPRIETARY RED WALLA WALLA VALLEY "FERGUSON" \$56.99 [236610]

Founded in 1983, L'Ecole No. 41 was the third winery established in the Walla Walla Valley, and focuses on producing ultra-premium, distinctive wines that reflect the unmistakable typicity of Washington State, and the unique terroir of their Walla Walla Valley vineyards. Today **they are at the forefront of sustainable farming in the Walla Walla Valley.** Their Ferguson Vineyard (named in honor of their founders Jean and Baker Ferguson) is planted on a stunning, high elevation site planted on a ridge of ancient lava flows overlooking a panoramic view of the Walla Walla Valley. At the highest elevation, the soil

depth is only 2 to 3 feet, such that the vine roots penetrate deep into the basalt providing a complex array of rich minerals. This ridge-line vineyard site is windy, putting stress on shoot development and contributing to thicker berry skins, and the Ferguson Vineyard is certified sustainable and Salmon Safe.

A true Bordeaux-inspired blend, this is comprised of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 6% Malbec, and 6% Petit Verdot, aged for 22 months in 50% new French oak. This magnificent wine was rated at **95 points from respected critic Jeb Dunnuck**, and his review reads: "A brilliant wine, the 2019 Estate Ferguson Vineyard is seamless, elegant, and gorgeous. Red and black currants, tobacco, cedarwood, and background oak all emerge on the nose, and this beauty is medium to full-bodied, has ultra-fine tannins, wonderful balance, and a great finish. It already offers pleasure yet will benefit from 3-5 years in the cellar and keep for two decades."

Ferguson Vineyard
L'Ecole No. 41



The Top Red Wines From North America



#6. CAPIAUX 2019 PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY "CHIMERA" \$34.95 [217400]

When Sean Capiaux (pictured top right) is not making the mouth-watering Cabernets at O'Shaughnessy Estate in the Howell Mountain area of Napa Valley, he's working on his own eponymous wines. Sean started his own label back in 1994, and specializes in small lots of vineyard designated Pinot Noir that express the unique location from which they came. Having previously worked at Peter Michael, Sean knows what makes a great vineyard, and subsequently a great wine. He works with vineyards such as Pisoni, Widdoes, and Gaps Crown; properties that aren't afraid to drop crop for low yields that result in only high-quality grapes. Sean's winemaking style is a blend of classic and contemporary, utilizing cutting edge fermentation equipment paired with natural hands-on winemaking, and an emphasis on balance. All the wines are naturally fermented and unfinned and unfiltered to preserve their innate flavors and aromas.

"The 2019 Pinot Noir Chimera Vineyard, Capiaux's largest-production bottling, is delicious this vintage and a great value. Medium ruby, it's intensely scented of raspberry liqueur, blood orange, licorice, iron and earth. The full-bodied palate is plush, silky and open with generous, spicy fruits and a very long finish. It was aged 11 months in 10% new French oak. 1,500 cases produced." -**Robert Parker's Wine Advocate 94 Points!**



#7. TURLEY 2020 PINOT NOIR CALIFORNIA "JUVENILE" \$30.00 [270690]



The Turley Zinfandels are among the hardest to secure in California, and we are **thrilled** to have received enough to place this on our top wine list! Though the vast majority of the Turley wines are single vineyard designates, Juvenile is actually composed of a variety of young vines that have been replanted in several of their most heralded old vine sites. The vines that make up Juvenile range in age from about 6-25 years, and they pull from 18 of their best vineyards across California, including Hayne, Ueberroth, Pesenti, Salvador, Vineyard 101, Fredericks and Kirschenmann. The new vines are tagged when replanted, so as not to mix the brand new vine with its much older neighbors, then pick these young

vines separately and make a distinct wine. The Juvenile bottling shows plenty of satiating spiced plum, blood orange, and stone fruits, with grippy tannins and well-balanced acidity. Eminently drinkable now, with classic Juvenile texture, this wine is sure to go fast!



The 2021 vintage in Austria is outstanding, blending crystal-clear wines from perfect grapes with good extract, and crisp acidity. A glorious autumn brought balanced, elegant white wines with a profound fruitiness and zesty structure, as well as exciting, powerful reds – and this was the case for all of Austria's wine-growing regions.

As **Michael Moosbrugger** from Schloss Gobelsburg said, "This is an astonishing vintage. I have been doing this for more than 25 years and this is a vintage I have not seen before, with such a balance between sugar and acid." **Keep an eye out for more 2021 Austrian wines** as they arrive. At the printing of this newsletter, we are still awaiting our fall shipment from producers like Alzinger, Brundlmayer, Nikolaihof, Ott, and later on, F.X. Pichler.

SCHLOSSKELLEREI GOBELSBURG 2021 KAMPTAL GRÜNER VELTLINER ORGANIC 750ML \$15.98 [362642]

Our wine staff was unanimously impressed by this dancing, lively dry white -- pale yellow in color, light-bodied, and brimming with energy. It is zippy and snappy with notes of green apple, pear, kiwi, lemon, and a hint of flint. It ends softly yet dry, with a taut finish, beckoning you for more. The wine is mild at 12.5% alcohol, and lifts your spirits without bringing you down. This Grüner Veltliner **over-delivers** in terms of value and elegance, while being just a little bit playful.

The Top White Wines from North America



#1. DUMOL 2019 CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY "CHLOE" \$69.95 [220090]

To say we are **ecstatic** about carrying the wines from DuMOL would be a **severe understatement!** This estate has been working tirelessly for over two decades to bring consumers their best expressions of wine from the Russian River Valley, and they have succeeded like few others have! Partner, Winemaker, and viticulturalist **Andy Smith** has worked with some of the best in the industry, including **Ted Lemon** (Littorai) and **Paul Hobbs**.

DuMol's Chloe Chardonnay showcases the warmer central Russian River Valley district. The soils here are clay-dominant and amplify the wine's deep flavor and broad, layered texture. Older vines make more complex wines, and while other wineries replant their vineyards after 20 years or so, the vines for this wine are 32 years old! Aged for 12 months in 35% new French oak, we think this might be the best bottling of Chloe yet released. This magnificent wine earned a **98-point score from esteemed critic Jeb Dunnuck**, and his review reads: "The 2019 Chardonnay Chloe comes from the Russian River, yet it shows an almost Sonoma Coast-like vibrancy and minerality. Deep stone fruits, brioche, honeysuckle, and flower oil notes all define the nose, and it's beautifully balanced, medium to full-bodied, and incredibly textured, with a drop-dead gorgeous finish. This is another incredible Chardonnay from this estate that ranks with the creme de la creme of the vintage."

Hartford Family Winery



#2. HARTFORD COURT 2018 CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY "FOUR HEARTS" \$42.95 [228880]



The Hartford Family's success is quite enviable in Sonoma County. Not only are they one of the most cherished families in this world-class wine growing region, but their wines get the same scores often reserved for wines that charge 3-4 times what the Hartford's ask. **Don, Jennifer, and their children Hailey and MacLean make up their family of four; hence the name of the Four Hearts bottling.** This Chardonnay is almost exclusively from Tom Dehlinger's Vineyard on Laguna Ridge in the Russian River Valley. The vineyard is planted to heirloom clones of Chardonnay and is one of the oldest plantings of Chardonnay in the Russian River - over 40 years old.

Aged for 10 months in 42% new French oak, this is Hartford's most popular single-vineyard Chardonnay they produce! "More brioche, honeysuckle, pineapple, and caramelized citrus notes all emerge from the 2018 Chardonnay Four Hearts Vineyards, which is beautifully balanced, medium to full-bodied, and textured on the palate. It shows the more supple, easygoing style of the vintage for Chardonnay yet still has beautiful freshness, good concentration, and a great finish."
-Jeb Dunnuck 95 Points!



#3. PAUL LATO 2021 SAUVIGNON BLANC SANTA YNEZ VALLEY "O SOLE MIO" \$39.95 [244800]

If you do not yet know the name Paul Lato, and you haven't heard us talking about him in our store, then it's time to listen up! We are telling you right now that Paul Lato is producing some of the most exciting Pinot Noirs, Chardonnays, and Syrahs coming out of California's Central Coast! After working as a Sommelier in Toronto, Paul decided to change gears and work in winemaking. Before he even had established his name in the wine world, esteemed critic **Robert Parker** tasted the wines and suggested that Paul hurry up and come up with a label, because Paul had true talent. Paul only works with premier vineyards; he tastes wines from other producers who use fruit from a potential vineyard, and if that wine excites him, then he tries to get the best fruit from the property.

The 2019 vintage of this wine was the most exciting domestic Sauvignon Blanc our buyer had tasted all of last year! Several key members

The Top White Wines from North America

of the wine staff thought that was somewhat of a wild statement, but when they tasted the wine, they could not argue the fact that this Sauvignon Blanc was a **knockout!** The 2021 has just been released, and it is every bit as good. Coming from Alecia Moore's Two Wolves vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley, the



Paul Lato

vineyard is organically farmed, and produces grapes of intense flavor and purity. This beauty earned **95 points from Jeb Dunnuck**, and his review reads: "I love Paul's Sauvignon Blanc, and his 2021 O Sole Mio Sauvignon Blanc Two Wolves Vineyard is a winner, offering a clean, crisp bouquet of white grapefruit, crushed citrus, white flowers, and honeyed minerality. Beautifully balanced, medium-bodied, and textured, with bright, vibrant acidity, it's a brilliant effort that will be about as versatile as they come on the dinner table. I would drink bottles over the coming couple of years while the fruit is vibrant and fresh, yet I certainly wouldn't be surprised to see this have an interesting evolution over the coming decade."

#4. STONESTREET 2018 CHARDONNAY ALEXANDER VALLEY ESTATE \$35.99 [266510]



This is not the first time that Stonestreet Chardonnay has been on our Top North American White wine list, but for those of you who have tasted their glorious elixirs in the past, you can see why it's on our list once again! Stonestreet's vineyards stand on the western ridge of



the Mayacamas Mountains, towering over the Alexander Valley below. High elevations, volcanically derived soils and cooling maritime breezes give winemaker Lisa Valtenebergs a unique location from which to pursue the quest of mountain winegrowing, and she makes Chardonnays of exceptional concentration, purity and depth. Of the 5,100 acres that make up the Estate, only 900 are planted to grapes (235 individual vineyard blocks) while the remaining land retains its natural biodiversity and abounds with streambeds and ancient oaks, providing a habitat to cougars, owls and black bears.

Earning 93 points from respected critic Antonio Galloni, Stonestreet's Estate Chardonnay was 100% barrel fermented and aged for 10 months in 32% new French oak, and shows a balance between weight and precision like no other wine at the price can. The 2018 exhibits notes of caramel, baked apple, vanilla, butter, brioche, tropical fruits, and a touch of minerality. This full-bodied, rich, and opulent Chardonnay has been one of our favorite "go to" wines for years, and after one sip, you'll see why!



#5. SANS LIÈGE 2021 PROPRIETARY WHITE CENTRAL COAST "COTES DU COAST" \$23.95 [257770]



For those who love the white wines from the Rhône Valley, we have found a gem of a wine for you, and it might be the best value out of California! After several years learning from and working for some of the Central Coast's most sought-after producers, owner and winemaker **Curt Schalchlin** decided to go his own way. He rapidly made a name for himself within the "Cal-Rhône Community" as one of the hot new producers of Syrahs, Grenaches, Viognier, and blends, and he's now regarded as one of the stars of the Central Coast.

Curt's Cotes du Coast bottling is his take on the white wine blends of the Rhône Valley, but is not constrained by their regional requirements. The fruit he gets is some of the best in the Central Coast, including Bien Nacido, Alta Colina, White Hawk; **vineyards you typically see producing wines 2-3 times**

this price! This bottling is comprised of 45% Viognier, 30% Marsanne, 17% Roussanne, 4% Grenache Blanc, and 4% Clairette, fermented in a combination of new French oak, used French oak, and stainless steel barrels. This opulent and complex wine just received **92 points from Jeb Dunnuck**, he says this wine "...is another winner from this estate. Ripe peach, tangerine, honeyed flowers, and a touch of minerality all define the aromatics, and it's medium-bodied, with a balanced, elegant mouthfeel and a great finish. It has a good mix of richness and freshness."



Alta Colina



Bien Nacido

#1. VALDICAVA 2016 “MADONNA DEL PIANO” RISERVA BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO \$264.98 [301350]

Our top Italian wine of the year is the **flagship Brunello** from the well-loved **Valdicava winery** in a **lauded vintage**. It's easy to declare this a **collectible wine**. This *riserva* is a selection of top vines from the **Madonna del Piano vineyard**, and aged an extra year before release. With a **prime site in the Montosoli area** north of Montalcino proper, the family originally sold their fruit to wineries of the area, including the legendary Biondi-Santi. Bottling under their own label since 1977, the family winery reached its current style and quality level under the guidance of **3rd generation owner, Vincenzo Abbruzzese**. While this will evolve for decades, a **long decant and a flavor-rich meal** centered around slow braised meat in an herbal tomato sauce will make it really sing!



JAMES SUCKLING 99 POINTS - “This is **heavenly on the nose** with **fresh flowers** such as **violet** and **cherries** with undertones of freshly shaved **sandalwood**. It's full-bodied with **very fine tannins** that are **focused and intense** with a **polished** nature. This is a **complete wine** that **impresses at every level**. Give it at least five to six years to come together and resolve the tannin structure...”

WINE SPECTATOR 98 POINTS - “**Expressive yet complex**, this red is already revealing tertiary **hints of truffle, fading roses and spice**. Features **cherry, raspberry, iron, eucalyptus and anise** flavors allied to a **firm, compact structure**. Balanced and long, with **fresh fruit, spice and mineral accents** lingering on the **endless finish**. Best from 2025 through 2045.”



San Giusto A Rentennano

#2. SAN GIUSTO A RENTENNANO 2018 PERCARLO \$144.98 [302585]

This **Sangiovese** from the charming hill country of Chianti Classico comes from San Giusto a Rentennano's **best fruit** (all **organically farmed**). Owned by the same family **since 1914**, this relatively small, but **benchmark**, estate puts a lot into the quality and character of their wine: they **harvest vineyards twice** to get ideal ripeness, and perform **long fermentations** that last over a month to develop complexity. The **2018 vintage was great for San Giusto**, allowing the grapes a **long ripening period** from the consistent warmth of Summer to the cool finishing touches of Autumn. This made for a **powerful and full-bodied Sangiovese** that still carries the **finesse in mouthfeel and perfume** that characterize a great Chianti Classico. This should evolve beautifully over the coming years for those who like to age their wine.

ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 97 POINTS - “The 2018 Percarlo is another **fabulous wine** in this range from San Giusto. **Ample and creamy**, the 2018 dazzles with its **total sense of finesse**. In 2018, Percarlo is **silky, gracious and super-refined**. **Time in the glass** brings out attractive **floral and spice overtones** that **lend brightness**. It shows remarkably well for a wine that was bottled only recently. The 2018 was aged in a combination of 30HL casks and 500-liter tonneaux.”

#3. BRIGALDARA 2016 “CASE VECIE” AMARONE \$124.98 [306660]



This is a **great choice for celebrating the holiday season** with friends and family: it's a **robust, warming wine** for sipping on crisp evenings **at the end of dinner**, whether on its own or accompanied by a cheese plate. Founded in 1928, **Brigaldara** is **among the great producers of Amarone**, which is made by drying late-harvested grapes **very slowly**. Since there is less water in the grapes when they are ultimately crushed together, the resulting wine is **concentrated in flavor and texture**, and **warmingly high in alcohol**. What makes this particular Amarone from Brigaldara outstanding owes much to the ideal high altitude of their **organically farmed Casa Vecie** vineyard, which in 2016 allowed for a long, slow growing season. These conditions led to a wonderfully **complex spectrum of flavors**, while preserving a **balancing undercurrent of acidity** that gives it all life. **While intense in ripe fruit flavors**, this Amarone is **true to its role as a dry wine**. We suggest taking your time once this is in the glass, as **it will evolve with new aromas** to discover!

ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 96+ POINTS - “The 2016 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Case Vecie seduces with a **beguiling and lifted** mix of **crushed stone, dusty rose** and **bright**

cherry. This is **dark and velvety, moody in feel** yet **seductive** and **pliant**, simply **harmonious**, mixing **salty minerals** and **ripe rich red fruits** and **spices, hints of mocha** and inner **violet florals**. There's simply **so much going on** here. The 2016 tapers off **incredibly long** and **structured**. It's still easy to like today with **floral rose** and **violet tones**, along with a bitter twang of **balsamic spice**. A **simply stunning** Case Vecie."

#4. UCCELLIERA 2016 BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO \$89.98 [303510]

Uccelliera's Brunellos are **among the best in any given vintage**. Proprietor Andrea Cortonesi came from a family of sharecroppers, but he had the choice to leave farming behind. Instead, **he dedicated himself to excelling at it**, though wisely chose the soon-to-be lucrative area of winemaking in Montalcino! By 1986 he was able to buy an old farm called **l'uccelliera (the aviary)** and the surrounding land. This happened to be on the slope below the town of **Castelnuovo dell'Abate**, an area known to be great for making high-quality Brunellos that are **particularly rich and robust in style**. The estate **practices organic farming** and employs a combination of traditional and modern winemaking techniques, including **long fermentations** that **begin spontaneously**, and aging in a mixture of Slavonian and French oak of various sizes.

Andrea has not lost his humility, knowing that he is only one of many who have, and will, pass through this estate. To honor this, he keeps a plot of the old olive trees that predate him next to the farm, even though it would be more valuable planted with vines.

JAMES SUCKLING 97 POINTS – "This is **really beautiful** with complex **black cherry, berry, walnut** and **dark chocolate**. **Some mushroom** and **smoke**. It's tight and reserved with **polished tannins** and wonderful **balance and finesse**. Persistent and intense. Drink after 2025."



WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS – "The Uccelliera 2016 Brunello di Montalcino opens to **dark fruit** and **wild cherry** with warmer tones of **cured tobacco, spice and potting soil**. It shows the **extra density, darkness** and **richness** that comes so beautifully to fruit grown on the sun-drenched southern side of Castelnuovo dell'Abate in the southern half of the appellation. What Uccelliera delivers so carefully, vintage after vintage, is a truly **exceptional sense of mouthfeel** with textural richness and lingering creaminess. It is also one of the wines that consistently shows a sense of place. This is a **touchstone estate** for this specific Montalcino microclimate."

#5. SETTE PONTI 2016 VIGNA DELL'IMPERO 1935 \$69.98 [306884]

In the same family since the 1950s, Antonio Moretti Cuseri released the first wines under their own *Sette Ponti* label (Seven Bridges, named for the bridges over the famous Arno river between Florence and Arezzo) in 1998. The family has made Sette Ponti into a modern powerhouse, with best-selling wines such as *Crognolo* and *Oreno*. The very limited **Vigna dell'Impero** bottling is named for the oldest vineyard on the property, consisting of **organically farmed Sangiovese** **planted in 1935**, making this arguably their most "traditional" wine.



WINE SPECTATOR 95 POINTS - "This is all about **purity, finesse** and **energy**. A **line of cherry** and **raspberry** flavors runs through this red, with **grace notes** of **leather, tobacco, graphite** and **underbrush**. Reined-in and firm, yet balanced, with a **lingering aftertaste** of **cherry, mineral** and **spice**. Best from 2021 through 2045. 5,000 cases made, 50 cases imported."



#6. CERETTO 2016 BAROLO \$64.98 [306936]

The Ceretto family have been **producing wine in Piedmont since the 1930s**, and began buying their own vineyards in the 1960s. Today they've built up a small empire of four wineries making a forward-looking variety of wine styles. In the 2000s they embraced

the "**less is more**" philosophy of winemaking: they **reduced the use of new oak**, which can smother Nebbiolo's distinctive character; they use an **indigenous yeast** starter rather than commercial yeast; and they **organically farm** following the simple adage that healthy soils make better wines. The excellence doesn't stop there: they happen to have co-founded what became the only Michelin 3-star restaurant in Piedmont.

WINE ADVOCATE 95+ POINTS - "Ceretto offers a **tour de force** in the 2016 vintage with four excellent single-vineyard expressions... If you can't choose between those wines, you always have **this excellent fallback**. The classic 2016 Barolo offers **dark intensity** with **great aromatic detailing**. **Fruit** and some **floral notes** are followed by **ferrous [iron] notes** and a good amount of **powdered licorice**. The **aromas are delicate and fragile**; however, the wine **deftly hides its power within** the soft folds of its **slender, mid-weight mouthfeel**. This is a **perfect go-to Barolo** when you can't choose from all the excellent options in this **benchmark 2016 vintage**..."

#7. ROCCA DI MONTEGROSSI 2017 GEREMIA \$54.98 [302851]

While a benchmark estate for Chianti Classico, their "Geremia" Bordeaux blend of **organically farmed Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon** excels! Based on tastings, the particularly warm and dry 2017 vintage was clearly great for making an **expressive and approachable edition** of their super-Tuscan! Aged in Allier oak of various ages for 2 years and bottled unfiltered, this has **plenty of texture** from the ripe skins, and a surprisingly **mouthwatering acidity** that's tucked into the **powerful fruit**. This is a **great value from a top winery!**



ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 97 POINTS

"The 2017 Geremia is a **revelation**. It might be even better than the 2015 or 2016, which is saying a lot. **Soaring aromatics** make a strong first impression. In 2017, the fruit profile leans more into the **red fruit end of the spectrum**. The warm, dry year yielded a Geremia that is **unusually open**. I doubt too many of the estate's fans will have a problem with that given how long these wines usually take to open. Today, the 2017 Geremia is a **total pleasure bomb**. **Don't miss it.**"



#8. SALVATORE MOLETTIERI 2013 "CINQUE QUERCE" TAURASI \$39.98 [306844]

For those looking for something different, the **Taurasi** area in the southern region of Campania still offers **one of Italy's great wine values**. It's sometimes called the Barolo of the South, as the Aglianico variety is **boldly structured with firm tannins and racy acidity** that make it perfect for extended aging. Fortunately, the Salvatore Molettieri, founded in 1983 and still **very traditional**, has made this **pre-aged Taurasi** for all of us to enjoy now! The Cinque Querce (Five Oaks) vineyard **still has old pre-phyloxera vines**, which tend to contribute depth and finesse relative to younger vines. Taurasi develops a **complex, savory bouquet** that tends toward **darker red fruits and black fruits** along with **spices, herbs, tobacco, and worn leather**. If **old-world charm** is your thing, **get this while it's here!**

WINE SPECTATOR 94 POINTS; #75 "TOP 100" 2021 - "A sleek and racy red, with sculpted tannins providing **fine definition** for the **tightly knit flavors of cherry and black raspberry, Mediterranean scrub, star anise and graphite**. It's **full-bodied and dense**, with the **flavor range slowly unfurling** in the glass and on the palate."

#9. TOLAINI 2018 VALDISANTI \$29.95 [303645]

For fans of Tuscan reds that combine **clean, fruit-led flavors** with a **touch of the regional earthiness**, and a **vibrant, mid-weight drinkability**, the 2018 Valdisanti from the Tolaini estate should be on your list! This **Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc** mix is a **modern expression** of an ancient winemaking land, and a natural fit for proprietor Pierluigi Tolaini, who returned to his homeland in Tuscany after building a successful transportation and logistics business in North America.

The modern winemaking techniques make for a **softer mouthfeel** through the middle of the wine, coupled with some **woody tannin into the finish**. The **bold**



flavors like **black plum** and **raspberry** couple with well-meshed **cedar, cocoa, and vanilla** from the oak. They don't factory-farm here, with **organically treated** vineyards that are tended to by hand, not machine (healthier soils and vines mean better fruit!). Those efforts have paid off: once again, the 2018 vintage of the Valdisanti received a prestigious "**Tre Bicchieri**" award from the **Gambero Rosso** Italian wine guide!

WINE SPECTATOR 95 POINTS - "A **vibrant, lively red**, this boasts **cherry, raspberry** and **floral** aromas and flavors, accented by **toasty oak**. Deftly **balanced and persistent**, firming up nicely in the end, with **terrific length and freshness**. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 50% Cabernet Franc."

#10. CASTELLO LA LECCIA 2019 CHIANTI CLASSICO

\$19.98 [306841]

ORGANICALLY FARMED

Written historical sources mention Castello La Leccia as **early as 1077** and their history over the last millennia is quite interesting. In 2018, the baton was passed to the Swiss Sonderegger family who, with **the same passion and commitment of former times**, now manages Castello la Leccia.

Bottled at 14% abv, this 100% Sangiovese wine is a welcome addition to our **Top Italian Wines** list. The amazing history behind the wine is reflected in the absolute quality found within the bottle. Don't

let the history fool you, however, as the flavors and textures are **fresh and vibrant** as the times we live in now. The nose exudes scents of **dark red fruits and red berries**, from cherries to mulberry, persimmon to plum. **Spicy and mineral notes** add breadth to the fruits as a **floral rosebush perfume** adds to the harmonious palette.

The red fruits are primary upon tasting with cherry again in the lead as **cranberry, pomegranate and ripe plum** are aided by hints of **light spice and mineral**. Keeping everything taut and well-orchestrated, **the body in this wine is fantastic**. Broad tannins and appropriate acidity keep the fruits balanced and make this a **great food wine for fall!** Think lasagna, ragù sauces, roasted lamb, or braised veal shank.

WINE SPECTATOR 92 POINTS, RECOMMENDED VALUE - "This red is packed with ripe black cherry, blackberry, violet and tobacco flavors. Vibrant and balanced, with a lingering aftertaste of dark fruit, earth and spice notes. Drink now through 2035..."



#1. FERRER BOBET 2017 PRIORAT SELECCIÓ ESPECIAL VINYES VELLES \$99.98 [387110]

If you haven't had pure Carignan before, **this might spoil you!** Most wines from Spain's **Priorat** region (not far from Barcelona) rely on a combination of varieties to create a winery's style. For their flagship wine, Ferrer-Bobet chose **all Carignan** from **organically farmed 100+ year-old vines** that go deep into the crumbling slate soils on steep slopes for which the region is famous. The Selecció Especial was aged in **new French oak for 19 months**, providing **balsam spice** to the flavor profile, and enhancing the soft tannic structure of Carignan. **A bright core of dark raspberry and cranberry** join in with the variety's **spice and Syrah-like savory notes**.



This relatively new winery, whose first harvest was 2005, was created by friends Sergi Ferrer-Salat and Raül Bobet **to make wines they love** while showing respect for the region. The winery itself is built into the ground, with the bare minimum visible against the wild hills, and is **designed to allow gravity to do much of the work** in moving grapes, juice and wine. The wine is neither filtered nor fined.

WINE ADVOCATE 97 POINTS – “The top of the range, the 2017 Selecció Especial is pure Cariñena from centenary vines on a “coste” (slope) of llicorella slate in the village of Porrera... This is a **powerful Cariñena** with a **strong Priorat character**. The tannins are **fine-grained**, and the wine is **seamless and textured**, with a strong **mineral sensation** (again, a **texture**), finishing with a **salty twist**. This is **superb**, the finest vintage I have tasted of this wine...”

#2. BODEGAS MAURO 2018 VENDIMIA SELCCIONADA \$94.98 [382741]

Bodegas Mauro was founded by **Mariano Garcia**, the **head winemaker at Vega Sicilia from 1968 to 1998**, in 1978. The winery and vines are located in the village of **Tudela del Duero**, just outside the official lines of the Ribera del Duero DO. In 2001, his son Eduardo joined him on the production side after working at Cos d'Estournel and Ridge Vineyards. He started to change vineyard practices to organics, and they have slowly changed the élevage, introducing large foudres and **reducing the amount of new oak**. A

blend of **Tempranillo and a small amount of Syrah**, which is well-suited to warm stony calcareous clay, this is Ribera del Duero with a twist, like a super-Tuscan. That little addition of Syrah tempers the Tempranillo's tannins, creating a richer more accessible wine.

WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS

- “I also tasted the 2018 VS, from a cooler and rainier year than 2017 and with an absence of frost, delivering a healthier crop with **good natural concentration, finesse and harmony**. This wine is sourced from two vineyards, and the grapes were fermented by vineyard in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts and matured in **French oak barrels for 26 months**. This is very **young and primary**, with **harmonious tannins** but in need of time in bottle to deliver what's inside. As with the other 2018s, this has **complexity and depth**; the wine is **juicy**, and the tannins are not hard. There is great balance and **superb aging potential**.”



#3. TOMAS POSTIGO 2017 “5° AÑO” RIBERA DEL DUERO \$64.98 [387558]



This is one of those wines we'll recommend when someone wants an “**under the radar**” Spanish red. You won't find scores from critics, but this **small production wine** from a **celebrated winemaker** is an easy sell for those who love the comparable reds from Pago de Carraovejas and Vega Sicilia. In fact, **Tomas Postigo was the winemaker for the former** for 20 years before deciding to start his own winery, along with his sons, in 2009. The winemaking is modern, though not industrial, with a rigorous attention to detail from the vineyard to the cellar. The vineyards are **organically farmed**, the movement of grapes and wine is performed gently by gravity flow, and they don't even crush the grapes, allowing them to break under their own weight.

Unlike most wineries here, Tomas prefers an almost equal part mix of **Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot**, along with a dash of **Malbec**. The wine is aged for a year in small French oak barrels, then bottled, and isn't released

until the fifth year (hence the name “5° Año”). The result is **aromatically expressive for Ribera del Duero**, with **gently smoky cedar, spice**, and a **hint of leather** joining a mix of **sappy plum, blackcurrant, strawberry, cherry**, and even **fig**. There's a **rich mid-palate** with extract from the skins and oak creating a **slightly grippy, velvety texture**, and a **vein of acidity** that livens things up. The finish is **warming and long** with a touch of ripe fruit skins. This is an **expressive and generous** red that is still balanced, with the components **well-integrated** for a more seamless experience. *Trust us on this one!* Try it with braised beef ribs in a thick, flavor-rich wine sauce.

#4. LOPEZ DE HEREDIA 2010 VIÑA TONDONIA RESERVA RIOJA \$49.98 [378096]

Classical Rioja lovers can rejoice: the “**perfect**” **2010 vintage of a long-time favorite**, the **Tondonia Reserva Rioja** from **Lopez de Heredia** recently arrived! This ultra-traditional wine is a mix of around 70% Tempranillo, 20% Garnacha and 5% each Graciano and Mazuelo (aka Carignan). Wines like this are a rarity now: held to be enjoyable on release, **elegantly combining the fruit and savor** that can only come from proper aging. Of course, **the vintage provided enough intensity and concentration** that will allow this to go years further!

Lopez de Heredia was **among the pioneering wineries in the Rioja region of the latter half of the 1800s**, and they haven't changed much since. The juice is still fermented by the ambient yeasts in large oak vats that are now well over 100 years of age. In line with Riojan tradition, they use American oak, mostly well-seasoned, which provides a subtle soft character to the fruit. Over the long aging (**six years in barrel, followed by more years in bottle**), the myriad flavor contributions in the wine have **married into a harmonious whole**.

This is a wine for rich and flavorful dishes, especially roasts; the winery suggests leg of lamb stuffed with garlic, rosemary, and anchovies!

JAMES SUCKLING 97 POINTS - “This is as **complex and savory** as the rest of the Viña Tondonia wines, but also **shows a tad more depth**, with a hint of **black plum and blue fruit** on top of the **orange rind, iron, tobacco and earthy spices**. Expect some **cedar and truffle**



to develop in the future. Juicy, zesty and tight, with **dusty tannins** and **bright berry fruit** on the medium-to full-bodied palate."

WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS - "The 2010 Viña Tondonia Reserva has all I expect from a **Reserva** from Tondonia, **complexity, elegance and evolution**, a developed nose with notes of **forest floor** and **wild berries, herbs and flowers**, a touch of iodine, brick dust and **very fine, polished tannins**. It has the seriousness and elegance of Tondonia. This is a blend of 70% Tempranillo, 20% Garnacho (they use the masculine form of the name of the grape) and 5% each Graciano and Mazuelo that fermented in the ancient oak vats from when the winery was created **144 years ago** and matured in **well-seasoned, American oak barrels for six years**."

#5. RAUL PEREZ VIZCAINA 2020 LA VITORIANA \$39.98 [383758]

We love the wines of Raul Perez, not only because they walk the appetizing line between fruity and savory, but because they are **like impressionist landscapes of their home**. La Vizcaína is a line of wines based on old family vineyards in his home region of Bierzo, and the small 'La Vitoriana' vineyard is the oldest of those at 130 years of age! Bierzo is a departure from the inland valleys and Mediterranean coast as it's distinctly cooler and wetter due to its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, though well protected from storms, nestled in a mountainous amphitheater. Naturally, distinct varieties of grapes thrive here, dominated by **Mencia** for red wines, whose style roams the spaces between Côte de Nuits Pinot Noir, Loire Valley Cabernet Franc, and Northern Rhône Syrah depending on the character of the vintage and site.

Mr. Perez's winemaking philosophy is **very classical**, involving harvesting from old, mixed variety vineyards in which he practices organic farming, with **native yeast fermentations** that proceed leisurely as the whole grape clusters slowly break down; he then leaves the juice in contact with skins for long periods (a total of 1-3 months!) to gently extract the right amount of flavor and texture for the desired style. Aging takes place in older, **used barrels** that provide slow oxygenation without covering those carefully developed flavors with oak. Raul also **avoids adding sulfites, a risky choice in winemaking, but for him it's a requirement**.

WINE ADVOCATE 97 POINTS - "The 2020 La Vizcaína La Vitoriana matured mostly in a troncoconic [cone-shaped, flat on bottom] oak foudre and had a very short time in barrel. This wine has more Alicante Bouschet in the blend than

Raúl Pérez



others, and they didn't include the white grapes in the vineyard. But against all logic, the wine has more finesse than the 2019..."

#6. RAUL PEREZ VIZCAINA 2020 "LA DEL VIVO" BLANCO \$39.98 [383252]

Here's another top wine from Raul Perez (see #5)! This time it's his "La del Vivo" white, made mostly from **Godello**, one of the great varieties of the Bierzo region (there's some **Doña Blanca** in the field, too). Godello shares some things in common with dry Chenin Blanc, with subtle flavors ranging from the **citrus family** (*lemon, grapefruit, & orange*) and **stone fruits** (*peach & nectarine*) along with a **relatively expansive mouthfeel** and **crystalline or crushed rock 'minerality'** on the palate that can carry a **mouthwatering saline sensation**.

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. Aging takes place in **a mix of 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 (though they are clear).

WINE ADVOCATE 95 POINTS - "The 2020 La Vizcaína La del Vivo is **super harmonious, tasty and balanced**. The wine matured in two **2,500-liter oak foudres**, and a small part fermented and matured **in amphorae with skins**.

It's varietal and expressive... It's **very dry** and has a **chalky texture**. 6,000 bottles produced..."

#7. REMELLURI 2018 "LINDES DE LABASTIDA" RIOJA \$29.98 [381055]

Winemaking has taken place around Remelluri since at least the 1300s, though the modern winery here was founded on those remnants in 1967 by the father of today's winemaker and viticulturist siblings, **Telmo and Amaia Rodriguez**. While Telmo has had his own successful forays into wine projects all over Spain, other members of the team have drawn on experiences at the top-of-class Petrus in Bordeaux and Domaine Leflaive in Burgundy. The combined insights give them the ability to better adapt to the vagaries of vineyard, variety, and vintage rather than follow viticultural or winemaking recipes. **This is a key to making teruño wines** (wines of their place), which is central for them.



The "**Lindes de Labastida**" bottling focuses on **organically farmed** vineyards near the town of Labastida in the **high-altitude Alavesa** area of Rioja, which experiences a significantly **cooler climate** and later harvests. This is a Rioja with more focus on the **character of the fruit** due to the lighter oak influence: **tight-knit, firm**, with **fine powdery tannins**, and a profile reminiscent of **dark cherry, plum, licorice and purple flowers**. It's a ripely-fruited wine, but not sweetly so. A fine partner with charcuterie and heavy *hors d'oeuvres!*

ROBERT PARKER 94+ POINTS - "... A blend of **Tempranillo, Garnacha and Graciano**, it fermented with indigenous yeasts and matured in barrels of different sizes and origins for 13 months. This is **more reticent and serious**, with a grainy sensation on the palate, **beautifully textured**. It has more austere tannins. This is **probably the finest vintage for this wine so far**. 2018 has produced many great wines."

#8. CASA CASTILLO 2020 “EL MOLAR” GARNACHA \$24.98 [383472]

We're impressed with this **full-bodied, warm and succulently-fruited Garnacha** for the price! The family-owned **Casa Castillo** estate lies in the sun-drenched southeastern **Spanish region of Jumilla**; it's as Mediterranean as Mediterranean gets. In conditions like these, it's easier to **farm organically**, and that they do! For the **El Molar** bottling they use the Spanish native variety, **Garnacha** (aka Grenache), grown on gravelly soils at the base of the area's mountains, dominated by the peak of *El Molar*. The winemaking is very hands-on and traditional.



This is **classic Mediterranean climate Garnacha**: there's the beautiful, true-to-variety ruby hue that's only moderately deep, along with a **pure, cherry and raspberry cordial** fruit character in full display. Accents of '**Mediterranean herb**' and **kola nut** (the main flavor of real cola drinks), along with a **gentle crushed stone minerality**. **The mouthfeel is full and viscous** due in large part to the 15% abv, and **glossy-textured**, with just a **powdering of tannin** for a subtle grip on the finish. The acidity is tucked nicely into the fruit, and provides the wine with a **fresh, rather than flabby, feel**. Using large oak barrels allows the wine to soften and develop complexity while contributing a **subtly creamy caramelized oak note**. This is a great wine for pot roasts; lamb shish kabob with roasted bell peppers and onions (get them a bit caramelized!); and hummus or aged cheeses. Vegan.

WINE ADVOCATE 95 POINTS - "The perfect Mediterranean vintage produced an **outstanding Garnacha**. The 2020 El Molar fermented with 35% full clusters and matured in a combination of 500-liter barrels and 5,000-liter foudres for one year... It's **super aromatic, extroverted and expressive, floral, elegant and complex**. There is **great balance**, and the wine feels fresher and less ripe; it's refreshing and has a **core of minerality** and **super fine tannins** with pungent flavors. There is **precision, elegance and balance**, the three words that define the vintage. All the wines are very good value, but **this is a steal.**"

#9. UGALDE 2018 CRIANZA \$19.98 [378122]

Haro, Rioja, Spain... end of the 19th Century. This was a time when Rioja was welcoming French **winemakers from Bordeaux in search for grapes and wine** to replace theirs, having been destroyed by phylloxera. Trade brought along an **exchange of knowledge** from which both locals and visitors benefited. One of those Rioja winemakers was **Felipe Ugalde**, a curious fellow from Haro who, spurred by his French colleagues' experience, decided that his objective had to be making wines of **superior quality** that transmitted the values of Rioja's *terroir*.



He founded the **original Bodegas Ugalde cellar and brand in 1882** which he spread to other countries by also establishing the region's **first export alliance with other Rioja winemakers**. He was the **pioneer** of the exports of wines from Rioja, the first winemaker who promoted sales to the international markets. Over 130 years later, his legacy lives only ten kilometers away from Logroño, spread among the first vineyards planted in the property.

Nestled between the North shore of the Ebro River and the Eastern-most skirts of the Sierra de Cantabria, Bodegas Ugalde's team had to decide what kind of wines they would make. For that, they looked back on history and were **inspired by Ugalde's vision of 1882: Bringing Rioja terroir, as the new team understands it, into each bottle of Bodegas Ugalde**.

This lovely blend of Tempranillo and Garnacha comes from vineyards over 10 years old. It spent 12 months ageing in American oak and 6 months in bottle. The nose is filled with **ripe red berries, cherries and strawberries**, enlivened with notes of hillside **garrigue, mineral hints and brown spices**. The ripe fruits continue in the palate adding a touch of cherry cola and citrus to the effusive strawberries and cherries. The structure is excellent with **rounded tannins and good acidity** allowing for harmonious balance. The finish brings a touch of herbal to the mainstay fruit and supporting cast of spice, earth and savory hillside. This is fresh, nimble, captivating wine that's easy to drink with or without food (burgers, wild boar tacos, sausage/fennel pizza). Lovely, balanced, eminently drinkable wine.

DECANTER 93 POINTS - "A **punchy, opulent** and rather classical style with a **black pepper, leather and strawberry** nose, then leather and graphite on the palate. Finishes **lengthily.**"



#10. VINA MAGANA 2018 BARON DE MAGANA \$14.98 [383239]

We are amazed by the absolute quality of this Tinto blend and how much value the imbiber receives-- talk about **bang for the buck!** A blend of 65% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and the remainder in Syrah, Malbec, and Tempranillo, this 2018 Tinto received **92 Points** from Robert Parker's [Wine Advocate](#) (November, 2021) and highlights the terroir of the **Navarra** region in **Northern Spain**. **Juan Magaña**, now entering his **sixth decade** of proprietorship, could easily rest on his laurels as one of the elder statesman and original visionaries of Navarra. Instead, he's making some of the most interesting wines of his career.

The nose is filled with **red berries, scrub brush, peppery/savory notes** and **hints of rose petal**. The rich fruits continue upon tasting with **cherries** and **blueberries** balanced by **mellow tannins** and a nice level of acidity. Subtle notes of **scrub oak** and **hillside brush** with **flecks of fruit leather** make for a lengthy, tasty finish. Really a banger of a bottle-- impeccable form with ripe forward fruits that grow toward the mid-palate with plums and blue fruits joining the forementioned berries. The **finish adds more savory, earthy elements** but the **fruits are the star** of this show (supported by a well-structured cast, of course!).

WINE ADVOCATE 92 POINTS - "The 2018 Barón de Magaña is a red blend produced with **Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah** from their oldest vineyards, looking for a fresher wine that expresses the limestone soils from their vineyards. It fermented with indigenous yeasts and had a short maceration at no more than 28 degrees Celsius. It matured in second use French oak barrels for 12 months. It has a bright ruby color and an **expressive nose of berries and herbs, very spicy** and with a **medium-bodied palate** and polished tannins."

The Top Wines From South America

Clos Apalta



#1. CASA LAPOSTOLLE 2018 CLOS APALTA \$119.95 [353551]

Within just a few years, this wine achieved remarkable international recognition, and was soon considered as being **part of the world's greatest wines**. It has now become a standalone wine, with its own specific vineyard in Apalta, and a dedicated winery.

ONE OF THE MOST AWARDED WINES IN THE WORLD

- Five times in the Wine Spectator Top 100, three times in the Top 3
- Clos Apalta is the one and only South American wine which has **been #1 on the Wine Spectator Top 100**
- Since the creation of the Top 100 **only two wines of the Southern hemisphere have been #1: Clos Apalta 2005** and Penfolds Grange 1995.



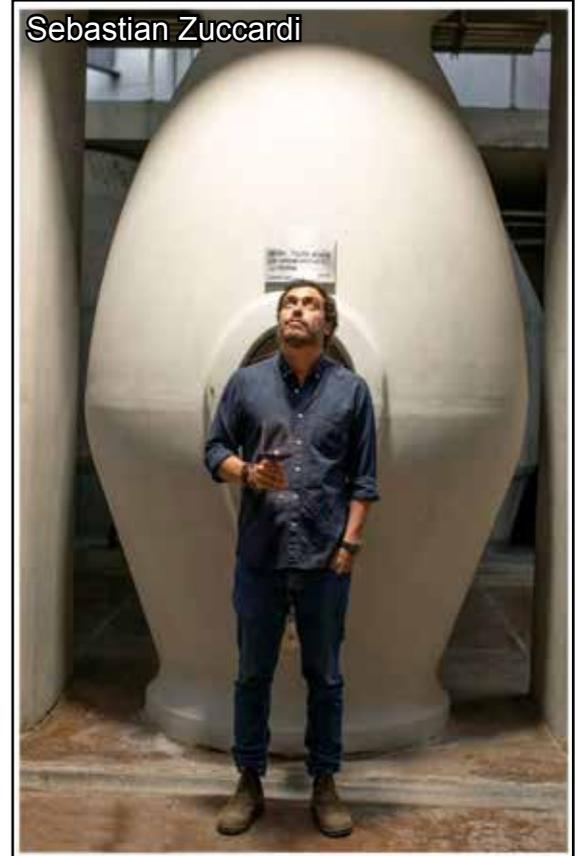
The Marnier Lapostolle family, founders of the liqueur **Grand Marnier**, created Casa Lapostolle in 1994 with the ambition to create world-class wines by combining the superb *terroir* of Chile with their French winemaking philosophy. With Michel Rolland as winemaker consultant, they decided to create Clos Apalta, the flagship of the winery, which debuted with the vintage 1997.

JAMES SUCKLING 98 POINTS - "So aromatic and fresh with **dried flowers, sweet tobacco** and hints of straw. Red fruit, cloves and green peppercorns. Medium-to full-bodied with fine tannins that are very fresh and refined. Fine, **silky and beautiful**. Hints of minerals and **granite** to the dark fruit. Such gorgeous length and beauty. Extremely long and poised. Cooler wine.

From **biodynamically** grown grapes."

WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS - "There is a lot of Carmenerre character on the nose of the 2018 Clos Apalta, which was produced with 64% Carmenerre, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot, a blend that is similar to the one used in 2016. The wine is not shy at all and hits the scale at 15% alcohol. It's showy, **heady, hedonistic**, aromatic, full-bodied and lush with abundant **velvety tannins** and a long and **powerful finish** where the notes of black peppercorns and tea and tobacco leaves dominate."

Sebastian Zuccardi



#2. ZUCCARDI ALUVIONAL 2018 PARAJE ALTAMIRA MALBEC \$84.95 [378373]

There is experience in the hands of winemaker Sebastian Zuccardi: he learned from his father and grandfather who had been making wine in the Mendoza region of Argentina for decades. Since taking over, he has focused on new aging techniques and on the expression of specific sites near Mendoza; he wants to make "wines of place." Indeed, his innovation and skills earned him a headlining spot on Decanter's list of **top 10 South American winemakers** a few years ago!

The vineyards for this wine are high up in the foothills of the Andes, on alluvial soils (carried and deposited by water) in the **Altamira district** of the Uco Valley, at 3600 feet above sea level! At high altitude, the combination of warm, sunny days and quickly cooling evenings make for wines with

The Top Wines From South America

intense, fully-formed flavors, velvet tannins, and a **refreshing vein of acidity.** Sebastian Zuccardi likes to ferment the juice in unlined concrete, and age in a combination of **concrete and used oak barrels**, which allows him to craft his signature textural style. Decant this for an hour or so, and pair with grilled meats and vegetables.

WINE ADVOCATE 97 POINTS - "I loved the 2018 Aluvional Paraje Altamira at **first sight.** There's a bit more of everything, **more aromatic complexity, more flavor** and definitely a lot **more minerality** in the texture and **more finesse.** They have removed the fat in the Aluvional range; the wines **reflect the soils**, and in vintages like 2018, there is a jump in **precision and expression.** There is texture, **salinity**, austerity and a **long-lasting finish**, something not easy to achieve with Malbec. Some 70% of the volume matured in **concrete** and the rest in used 500-liter oak barrels. **This is superb.** 9,700 bottles were filled in 2019. It should develop nicely and for a long time in bottle."

#3. BODEGAS CARO 2018 CARO

\$64.95 [377824]

Bodegas Caro was born of an alliance between two wine cultures, (French and Argentine), two noble grape varieties, (Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec), and **two royal families** of winemaking, (**Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) and Nicolas Catena.**) The name of the winery, Bodegas Caro is a contraction of the two family names, Catena and Rothschild. Their plan was to produce a wine that would combine their expertise and the signature grapes of each producer. Together, these families have made a wine which delivers immediate gratification and can also be cellared over the mid-term.

Malbec is a powerful, exuberant fruity grape variety that benefits from the **structure and elegance** given by the **Cabernet.** These two grape varieties go well together with the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. Bodegas Caro has succeeded in making a wine that is flat-out gorgeous and immensely satisfying.

TIM ATKIN, MW 98 points - "Combining the considerable talents of Fernando Buscema and Philippe Rolet (the former made the wine, the latter did the blend), Caro is one of the wines of the vintage in 2018. Paraje Altamira is the source



of this finely judged cuvée of Malbec and 24% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 80% new wood. Subtle, graceful and perfumed, it's a wine that carries its structure and concentration lightly, with **graphite, cassis** and **blueberry** fruit, fresh acidity and harmonious, **caressing tannins.** **Superb stuff."**

DECANTER 96 POINTS - "Made by the Catena Zapata and Rothschild families with grapes from Paraje Altamira, Caro 2018 is an **exquisite** assemblage of 76% Malbec and 24% Cabernet Sauvignon aged for 18 months in barrels made by Domaine Rothschild in Pauillac. Thanks to an excellent season, offers extraordinary elegance with its aromas of dark fruit, **mountain herbs, violets and lavender.** Velvety in feel with an inviting texture, good freshness and **polished tannins."**

ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 95 POINTS - "The 2018 Caro is a blend of 76% Malbec with 36% Cabernet Sauvignon from Paraje Altamira, Uco Valley, aged for 18 months in French barrels, 80% of them new. **Garnet red** in the glass The complex nose is more inference than statement; everything is present, but nothing stands out. Fresh plum and blackcurrant, country herbs, hints of violet, oak and spice feature alongside a touch of undergrowth. But the key is what happens in the mouth. Its **sheer velvet** with blood, **gently reactive tannins** that deliver chalky, **juicy texture** while **precise,** detailed flavors grown more prominent with each sip. This is a wine where one can switch off their mind and simply enjoy, a rare and attractive quality."

#4. TARAPACA ETIQUETA AZUL

\$41.98 [387941]

75 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Syrah, 9% Cabernet Franc & 6% Malbec
Viña Tarapacá celebrates **145 years winemaking** expertise in Chilean viticulture - a long history of excellence and tradition as one of the **oldest wineries** in the country. The vineyards are located at the heart of the Maipo Valley, renowned as one of the best regions for winemaking in Chile.

Tarapacá Estate: "The **Natural Clos** of the Maipo Valley" is bordered by the River Maipo and surrounded by the Andes Mountains. Our



vineyards have unique characteristics within a **Mediterranean macroclimate**, with a warm, dry season allowing for full-bodied wines with ripe tannins and medium acidity.

DECANTER 97 POINTS, BEST IN SHOW "One of the most encouraging qualities of those Chilean wines which made it through to gold and platinum this year, our judges felt, was a new **aromatic complexity** and a much finer understanding of aromatic maturity in the vineyard than in the past. This complex, subtle and still youthful blend offers an excellent example of this. It's **dark black-red**, with creamy plum and currant notes as well as a hint of fragrant, **cured Havana leaf.** On the palate, it is concentrated and long, with admirable freshness lending **life and energy** to the red and black fruits. Meaty yet supple tannins bring ballast. It's **harmonious and accessible** now, but there is enough density here to carry it effortlessly through half a decade's maturation."



#5. VENTISQUERO 2020 TARA "WHITE #1" CHARDONNAY \$44.95 [387634]

This is a **distinctive Chardonnay** from the extreme wine region of the **coastal Huasco Valley**, on the border of the famous **Atacama Desert** in **northern Chile.** This is a semi-arid land of cacti, though it's known as the "garden of Atacama" for the old olive trees and vines for Pisco production. It's an appropriate place for Ventisquero to make their small-production, **low intervention** line of wines.

To make this bottling, the grapes are **foot crushed** and fermented with **native yeast**, and aged only in **stainless steel.** Stirring the sediment and not letting the wine settle too much allows them to bottle **with the fine lees**, offering a bit of built-in protection for the wine. But this also gives it a **cloudy appearance.** Letting the wine open in the glass, the struck flint aromas move

The Top Wines From South America

into a **stony character**, with the fruit ranging from **crisply ripe apple and nectarine** to **plump citrus**. Mid-bodied, with a **soft mid-palate**, and the **acidity firmly underscoring** the juicy fruit, driving it into the lengthy finish. The **toasty nut** quality comes from the **fine lees**, as they block malolactic fermentation from occurring (**no buttery or oaky Chardonnay here!**).

TIM ATKIN MW 96 POINTS - "One of the **great Chardonnays of South America** - and, indeed, the southern hemisphere - this owes as much to the wines of Jura and Jerez as it does to those of Burgundy. Waxy, **leesy...** with notes of **fresh bread and rock salt**, some **tannic grip from skin contact** and layers of **citrus peel** and grapefruit."

#6. ZUCCARDI 2019 POLIGONOS SAN PABLO MALBEC \$29.98 [383251]

Check out our profile on Sebastian Zuccardi in our #2 spot. This is one of the "**new wave**" of **Argentinian wines**, focusing on **distinctive sites** with **no oak interference**. It comes from younger vines in the ultra-high-altitude (**4590 meters above sea level!**) area of **San Pablo**. The brashness of the young-vine fruit is brought into focus with a **long, slow ripening of the skins**, **higher-than-average acidity**, and aging solely in **unlined concrete**. All of this allows for a wine that is **aromatic**, with **well-defined purity**, and a **finely-etched chalky texture**. This is a wine for hearty bean dishes like "**Black Beans a la Olla**" or beef-stuffed empanadas (with a squeeze of lemon); or with *salumi* and medium-aged cow cheeses!

WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS - "The first Poligonos was from San Pablo (2013) but didn't carry the name of the appellation, as it didn't exist. The 2019 Poligonos San Pablo Malbec fermented and matured **exclusively in concrete**. 2019 was a cool year, similar to 2018, and it was cooler in some places than in others. In San Pablo, the **coldest of the regions**, the grapes are picked very late. The area is austere and feels a bit close. For them, it's **one of the most particular places for Malbec**, with descriptors that are different: **citrus** and **herbal** within the varietal, even **white flowers** combined with the **textbook violets**. The wine is fresh with **red fruit** to go with those fresh herbal aromas. **It's precise, chiseled and delineated.**"



#7. GARZON 2018 SINGLE VINEYARD TANNAT \$24.95 [383321]



Uruguay has become identified with Tannat, just as Argentina did with Malbec. One of the finest estates representing the country is Bodega Garzon, a gorgeous, expansive property on the Atlantic coast that became the **first winery to be LEEDS-certified (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) outside of North America**. Founded in 1999 by Alejandro and Bettina Bulgheroni - a renowned agro-industrial entrepreneur - the winery managed to get world class Italian winemaker, Alberto Antonini (**of Frescobaldi and Antinori fame**), on board!

Garzon's hilly vineyards near the ocean are in a warm maritime climate, like a cross between Santa Barbara and Bordeaux. Grapes are hand-harvested in small bins and then hand-sorted and sent through an optical laser sorting machine to ensure that **only the very best fruit gets to the bottle**. Fermentation occurs with the **native yeast in concrete "tulips,"** which force more of the skins to be submerged at the narrow top, and allows for a natural circulation of the fermenting juice. They made the uncommon choice of aging in **untoasted French oak**, which they feel maintains the individual integrity of the wines.

The mid-slope plot for this single vineyard wine was chosen among 100 different vineyard sites that they source from. In contrast to the typical French Tannat, this is **dark and plush** with a copious amount of **velvet tannins**. In a drinking prime right now, with some savory **notes of tobacco and leather** joining the **dark- and soft red-fruited, spicy, and dark chocolate** character of the wine. Pair with **roast lamb** (leg or rack) and **aged cheeses** like Parmigiano Reggiano.

JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS - "Extremely perfumed with **violet** and **blueberry** aromas that follow through to a **full body** with **creamy, refined tannins**. Wonderful depth, due to the **compact fruit** and **vertical line of tannins**. **Black pepper** to the dark fruit."

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#8. CATENA 2019 APPELLATION PARAJE ALTAMIRA MALBEC \$19.95 [378509]

The Catena family is one of the most important in the modern history of **Argentinian winemaking**. The current generation is led by **Laura Catena** (above left, with her father **Nicolás Catena Zapata**) and star winemaker **Alejandro Vigil**, who also collaborate on the well-loved *El Enemigo* project.

A decade ago, journalists kept asking Laura Catena, "What comes after Malbec in Argentina?" This question frustrated Laura because Malbec is a grape with 2,000 years of history which has survived centuries of fame, near-extinction, and rebirth.

So, Laura questioned the journalist: "Would you ask Aubert de Villaine of Romanée Conti what comes after Pinot Noir in Burgundy?" Laura proceeded to explain to this journalist how diverse the expressions of Malbec can be from North (Salta) to South (Patagonia) in Argentina and within the different sub-regions of Mendoza.

Laura realized though, that to explain this extraordinary diversity of Malbec flavors, the wines from the **different terroirs should be bottled separately**, and that is how the "**Catena Appellations**" line was born. The **Altamira** region, near Mendoza at around 3600 ft above sea level, was of early interest to Catena already in the 1950s for its contribution of elegance and aromas to their blends. **Now you can experience it in its purity!**

WINE ADVOCATE 93 POINTS - "Following the path of the 2018, the 2019 Appellation Paraje Altamira Malbec is **phenomenal**. It shows **freshness, elegance, balance, complexity and nuance** as well. It's **seamless, precise and ethereal** with lots of inner **energy and light**. As the 2018 was, it's **expressive and floral**, varietal and with the **full chalky texture** that is a distinct characteristic of **Altamira**. It's tasty, the **tannins are polished** and there is an almost salty sensation in the finish."

The Top Wines From South America

Marco Pelleriti Wines



#9. MARCELO PELLERITI 2019 CABERNET FRANC \$17.95 [383211]



We chose the Marcelo Pelleriti 2019 Signature Cabernet Franc for its well-made, **hedonistic drinkability** for **less than \$20!** It's medium-bodied for drinkability, but with a satisfyingly **velvet, vinous texture** coming from a judicious amount of extraction from the perfectly-ripened skins and creaminess from oak aging. Thanks to the **mountain climate** of the Uco Valley in Mendoza, fruit can ripen with **fully-developed** flavors and still maintain a **freshness of acidity**. There is an appetizing umami quality (some might find a "saline minerality") that blends in nicely with the **plush dark**

fruits, floral hints, and soft vanilla from the oak, and which keeps you coming back for more! While this is a wine you can have on its own, it will be a great partner with mixed grill dinners.

The quality doesn't come out of the blue: **Marcelo has made wine for decades**, including at the **Monteviejo** winery in Argentina (one of the contributors to the well-known Clos de los Siete wine) as well as right-bank Bordeaux standouts **Chateau La Violette** and **Chateau Le Gay** (for which he has received 99-100 points from The Wine Advocate).

JAMES SUCKLING 95 POINTS - "A powerful, rich red with **blackberry, dark-tobacco** and wet-earth aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, dense and structured. Needs time to soften still, but shows focus and intensity."

#10. FINCA EL ORIGEN 2020 MALBEC RESERVE MOUNTAIN CHARACTER

\$9.98 [378985]

Finca el Origen is located in Vista Flores, at **3,900 feet above sea level**, with soils of alluvial origin (deposited by water), deep and permeable, filled with pebble, stone and sand, which allows the vine to grow with a perfect natural balance. Due to the high altitude, the vines receive **a lot of sun exposure** which, along with a continental desert climate with wide temperature variations from day to night, contributes to the development of grapes



with **thick skins**, rendering **concentrated wines with very deep colors and explosive floral aromas**.

The Uco Valley is located at the foothills of the Andes mountain range. Millions of years ago, some parts of the mountain range were submerged under the sea, which explains the presence of sea fossils like the ammonite, which is depicted in the winery's logo.

Winemaker Notes - "The **intense violet color** makes it a worthy representative of the wines from **Los Chacayes**. A wine of distinct **aromatic complexity**, with outstanding notes of red fruits, **floral aromas of violets, vanilla**

and cigar. The mouth confirms the presence of black fruits like **blackberries** and **spices**. The **medium structure** and **silky tannins** are **perfectly balanced** with the delicious natural acidity, leading to a prolonged finish."

JAMES SUCKLING 93 POINTS - "Intense aromas of **blackberry**... Some **slate**, too. It's full-bodied with **firm, silky tannins** that are **polished and refined**. Attractive tannin through the center palate. Drink or hold."

The Top Wines From Eastern Europe & "Other" Imports

ZORAH 2020 VOSKI DRY WHITE, ARMENIA \$39.98 [372402]

Zorah's Voski White is composed of 50% Garandmak and 50% Voskeat, native Armenian white wine varieties grown on their own roots in the highlands (4,500 feet in altitude). The grapes are grown on phylloxera free *terroir* with low vigor, sub-alkaline, sandy soil rich in limestone and large stones. The grapes are hand-picked. Only the best bunches are selected and the grapes are fermented on their own yeasts in unlined cement tanks.

We found this white to be rich, deliciously interesting and very elegant with good acidity. The 2020 (a cooler year than usual) opens with a very delicate aromas of white flowers, white pepper and stone fruits. The texture is lovely, soft and very approachable; the wine lingers nicely in the mouth. This is a very easy drinking and strangely alluring white wine, quiet at first but intriguing, a wine to sit and think about, or just drink! This is a white that benefits from time in the glass to warm up a bit and allow the flavors to develop.

KARAS 2019 ARENI SIRENI RESERVE, ARMENIA \$22.95 [372790]

This rich dry red is composed of 40% Areni and 60% Sireni grown in Armenia's Ararat Valley. These indigenous grape varieties were grown on volcanic soil: lightly eroded clay formed by basalt, high levels of carbonate and limestone, volcanic tuff and alluvial stones. The climate is continental: semi-arid with warm summers and dry cold winters. The grapes were manually harvested then fermented in karas, Armenia's traditional clay amphora, and aged in Armenian oak.

Cherries and red berries take the lead in the nose with excellent support from a touch of forest floor, herbals, spice and a hint of florals. Lovely! The red berries are primary on the palate with cherries again in the limelight as raspberries and a soupçon of pomegranate lead to touches of garrique, light brown spices

and a bit of black pepper. The structure, broad tannins and easy acidity, make this a natural fit with heartier fall fare (stews, chilis and meat dishes, oh my!) but it's balanced and fruit-forward enough to enjoy solo.



CRNKO 2021 JARENINCAN WHITE, SLOVENIA 1 LITER \$16.98 [372430]

The Crnko farm is located on the eastern side of Slovenia, north of Maribor and just south of the Austrian border. All the fruit is estate grown and comes from the family's six hectares of mixed white varieties. The vines are planted in the region's unique marl soils and sustainably farmed. This charming white is a blend of Laski Riesling (Welschriesling) Sauvignon Blanc, Ravenec (Muller-Thurgau). Riesling dominates the aromatics offering juicy tangerine and quince notes to the refreshing minerality that Crnko wines often share. As a beverage it is thirst-quenching and light on its feet with invigorating acidity that makes it difficult to set down. It has only 11.5% alcohol and is as drinkable and refreshing as wine comes. The 1 Liter bottle makes this a perfect party wine. It is closed with a crown cap so you will need a bottle opener, not a corkscrew.

GRGIC 2018 PLAVAC MALI, PELJESAC PENINSULA, CROATIA \$39.98 [372454]

Well-balanced with smooth tannins, this full-bodied red wine is packed with flavors of dried berries, plums and dark chocolate, and hints of wild game. Enjoy with grilled and cured meats, hard cheeses and pizza. Grgic Vina was established in 1996 by legendary Napa Valley winemaker, Croatian-born **Miljenko "Mike" Grgich**, and his daughter, **Violet**. The winery is just north of the historic walled city Dubrovnik in the southern Dalmatian wine region. Mike started the winery to produce the finest wines from native Dalmatian grapes. When Mike

Grgich came to the Napa Valley in 1958 to make wine, he noticed a remarkable resemblance between Zinfandel and the Plavac Mali grape variety of his native Croatia. Some 35 years later, Mike worked with scientists at the University of California, Davis, to prove that Zinfandel/Primitivo was actually Crljenak Kaštelanski (a.k.a. Tribidrag), a grape native to Croatia. Plavac Mali (plah vatz molly) is a descendant of a naturally occurring crossing of Crljenak and another Croatian red, Dobricic.



Miljenko Grgic – Violet Grgic & Ivo Jeramaz



Peljesac Peninsula, Croatia

Grassnitzberg Vineyard



Armin & Monika Tement

AUSTRIA'S HIDDEN GEM AND SAUVIGNON BLANC AND CHARDONNAY'S NEW FRONTIER

"I am possibly repeating myself in saying that Armin Tement (supported by brother Stefan and his wife Monika as well as his parents Manfred and Heidi) has made Weingut Tement Austria's number one wine producer. In terms of size, sophisticated winemaking and the immense range of high-quality wines, I don't see anybody else producing wine on this level in Austria..."

—Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate

It's not often that we do a winery focus for our newsletter, but this specific winery is making such benchmark wines we had to take a moment to introduce to Weingut Tement.

The Tement's Certified Organic winery is located in Austria's southeast corner called Steiermark or Styria. The wines of Styria are unique in that they account for only 10% of the wines produced in Austria. As a result, most of the Styrian wines produced are consumed within the region itself. The regions' undisputed standout variety is Sauvignon Blanc, influenced by the area's shell-limestone soils, giving the wines complexity, profound minerality, that can be compared to the France's great Sancerres. This is a big claim, but we stand by it. They also make a phenomenal Chardonnay which shouldn't be missed. We bring to you their top single vineyard wines (Ried Zieregg), as well as their Grassnitzberg Sauvignon Blanc which is outstanding as well as an excellent value. If you had to criticize the Tements for anything, it would be similar to another notable Austrian, **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**: "...too many notes!"

TEMENT 2019 "RIED ZIEREGG" SAUVIGNON BLANC GROSSE LAGE "GSTK" \$64.98 [342393] JAMES SUCKLING - 97 POINTS

Very dense and compact, this giant sauvignon blanc opens very slowly. The pronounced rosemary, thyme and sage character takes it light years from any of the stereotypes for this grape. Very tightly wound, with enormous wet-stone minerality, this is already stretching out towards infinity. From organically grown grapes. Drinkable now,



but best from 2023. Glass stopper

WINE ADVOCATE – 96+ POINTS

Dense, ripe and tight on the nose, the 2019 Ried Zieregg Sauvignon Blanc is surprisingly cool and elegant yet aromatic. Dense and taut yet very elegant and balanced on the palate, this is a compact, salty and persistently complex Sauvignon classic from the Zieregg, but perhaps also as akin in essence to the Grassnitzberg as is otherwise rare (or at all). It still needs an enormous amount of time. 13% stated alcohol. Glass stopper. Tasted in Grafenegg in September 2021.

TEMENT 2019 "RIED ZIEREGG" MORILLON (CHARDONNAY) GROSSE STK LAGE

\$58.98 [342389]

WINE ADVOCATE - 98 POINTS

Opening super clear, fresh and chalky on the nose, the 2019 Ried Zieregg Morillon exhibits the pure terroir with its refreshing lime and lemon aromas. Intense and complex on the palate, this is a round, very elegant, fresh and tangy Zieregg with incredible energy and tension. The finish is amazing, the wine mind-blowing and without rivals in all of South Styria. An absolutely fabulous Morillon. 13% stated alcohol. Glass stopper. Tasted in Grafenegg in September 2021.



TEMENT 2019 SAUVIGNON BLANC GRASSNITZBERG ERSTE LAGE STK 750ML \$38.98 [342390]

WINE ADVOCATE - 96 POINTS

The 2019 Ried Grassnitzberg Sauvignon Blanc is sometimes quite reductive and needs a lot of air, but it is precise, deep and clear. A second bottle was far better and a clearer Grassnitzberg representative, with a deep, cool and intensely fruity nose with mango notes and fine, smoky spice. Complex, elegant and fine on the palate, this is a full-bodied, juicy, ripe, savory, salty and grippy Sauvignon from Grassnitzberg that is tartly bitter on the finish and needs plenty of time to shine. The 2019 is not at all for young-wine or brand drinkers, but for collectors and connoisseurs of demanding wines. This is a tightly knit, taut, big wine that needs around 10 years before its journey really begins. 13% stated alcohol. Glass stopper. Tasted in Grafenegg in September 2021. Stephan Reinhardt.



CASA DRAGONES REPOSADO MIZUNARA FINISH \$139.99 [121835]

Casa Dragones Mizunara, 100% Blue Agave Reposado sipping tequila, is the first tequila rested exclusively in Mizunara, a rare oak native to Japan and traditionally used for aging Japanese whiskies. This delicately rested tequila perfectly balances the minerality of the agave with the light notes of Japanese oak, for a refined, elegant sweetness that defies the ordinary.

PLANTATION EXTRA OLD 20TH ANNIVERSARY BARBADOS RUM \$53.99 [109564]

“To honor Alexandre Gabriel’s 20th anniversary as Master Blender, we created Plantation XO 20th Anniversary using a blend of quintessential extra-old rums from Barbados.

Over a decade later, we are still very proud of this rum as it continues to receive praises and top awards. First aged in bourbon casks in Barbados for many years, this rum is then sailed across the ocean in barrels to the southwest of France to be further matured in small Ferrand French oak casks. This centuries-old “double ageing” process imparts incredible smoothness and complexity. It unveils a sophisticated palate of chocolate, vanilla, ripe banana, roasted coconut and a hint of fresh mango notes. With a remarkably long finish, Plantation XO 20th Anniversary is truly a rum to savor.”



CLASE AZUL TEQUILA GOLD \$299.99 [117027]

History

Before dusk, there is a delightful moment when darkness embraces the light. This precious moment inspired this combination of spirits, pouring into a shimmering glass decanter fused to a night-colored ceramic base. The Clase Azul Tequila Gold decanter challenges the impossible: its shimmering glass is fused against a black ceramic base, a technique that took their experts 6 years to develop.

Clase Azul Tequila Gold is an incomparable tequila joven, a blend that combines Clase Azul Tequila Plata with a special reposado tequila matured in French oak casks and an Extra Añejo aged in American whiskey casks and finished in sherry casks. NOM-1595

Nose

Agave syrup, green apple, orange peel, fresh fig, raisins, light note of almond and walnut.

Palate

Toasted wood, fig, green olive, ginger, cocoa / dark chocolate.



HIGH WEST BOURBON \$31.99 [102104]

Meet the American West’s most innovative and inviting bourbon. A blend of straight bourbon whiskeys, aged a minimum of two years in charred white American oak barrels. Never chill-filtered or carbon-treated and utilizing a variety of high rye content mash bills to convey an earthy complexity (with a bit of spice). The perfect marriage of richness and brightness expressed by notes of honey nougat, sweet cornbread biscuits, and lemon zest with caramel apples and pecan pie lingering on the finish. Whether sipped or stirred, this bourbon is blended to be your tried and true.

Mashbill

Straight Bourbon Whiskey: 75% corn, 21% rye, 4% barley malt from MGP; 84% corn, 8% rye, 8% malted barley; Other whiskey components are undisclosed due to contractual reasons.



GLENLIVET 12YR DOUBLE OAK SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY \$36.99 [111610]



This whisky has been called a lot of things in its time: smooth, fruity, complex, sophisticated, entertaining, classic. The Original Malt Whisky Almanac says: “A first-class malt. One of the most popular malts in the world – deservedly so.” Representing The Glenlivet’s signature style, this classic malt is first matured in traditional oak, before spending time in American oak casks which impart notes of vanilla and gives the whisky its distinctive smoothness. The mineral-rich water that comes from Josie’s Well helps form the flavors during mashing and fermentation, whilst the specific height and width of the copper stills add a delicate yet complex character. Keep a bottle on hand for every occasion.

SUNTORY ROKU GIN \$20.99 [114606]

ROKU, which translates as “six” in Japanese, is the House of Suntory’s distinctly Japanese craft gin. ROKU is crafted using six unique Japanese botanicals and eight traditional gin botanicals. These botanicals are infused, distilled, and blended by the Japanese artisans of Suntory Spirits in Osaka, Japan, giving the gin a unique and balanced flavor.

The premium gin was inspired by the Japanese four seasons, as each one of the six Japanese botanicals are harvested in accordance with “shun,” the Japanese tradition of enjoying each ingredient at its best by only harvesting at its peak of flavor and perfection. The Japanese botanicals - Sakura flower, Sakura leaf, Yuzu peel, Sencha tea, Gyokuro tea, and Sansho pepper - are all distilled using a selection of different pot stills, each chosen to ensure that the best flavor is extracted from each botanical. The result is a complex yet harmonious gin with a smooth and silky texture.



MONKEY 47 SCHWARZWALD DRY GIN
750ML 94PF \$49.99 [120461]
BATCH DISTILLED IN GERMANY

History

The story of Monkey 47 is attributed to an Indian born British Commander who was stationed in Germany after the second world war. Inspired by the Black Forest through the lens of his family's heritage he combined British influence, Indian botanicals, and the natural flora of the German forest to create a complex gin he called Schwarzwald Dry Gin.

Tasting Notes

Nose: Juniper, pineapple sage, lemon verbena, lavender, rose, hibiscus and lime. This encyclopedic list merely reflects how incredibly complex and brightly aromatic this gin is.

Palate: Minty, herbal notes. Herbaceous juniper, blackthorne, lavender and an acute resinous pine note that comes across as more spruce/rosemary. As the taste progresses, we get peppery, vegetal notes, harmoniously entwined as if a single botanical.



LALO BLANCO TEQUILA 750
NOM-1468 LOS ALTOS DE JALISCO
\$44.99 [118680]

LALO Tequila was founded by Eduardo "Lalo" Gonzalez, the grandson of Don Julio, and Lalo is continuing the legacy of his grandfather and father as a third generation tequilero by perfecting Blanco- the true essence of tequila. We are Mexican owned, additive free, gluten free with only three ingredients: Highland Agave, Champagne yeast and deep well water. A tequila with true Legacy and Authenticity!

Inhale. Sip. Exhale.

LALO Blanco Tequila 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.

LOOK at the platinum color, the body and texture. **FEEL** the viscosity and quality of the liquid and notice how the aromas stay on your hands. **SMELL** the top notes of cooked agave, sweet potato, cinnamon and a hint of dulce de leche. **SIP** and experience the taste of those aromas. Sip again and notice citrus and tropical fruit notes.



GLENDRONACH 12YR SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY \$49.99 [164524]

This superb richly sherried single malt is matured for at least 12 years in a combination of the finest Spanish Pedro Ximenez and Oloroso sherry casks. Non-chill filtered, of natural color and bottled at 43%, the GlenDronach 12 year old Original is a sweet, creamy dram.

APPEARANCE: Deep-amber red gold.

NOSE: Sweet, creamy vanilla, with hints of ginger. Autumn fruits.

PALATE: Rich, creamy, silky-smooth. Warm, rich oak and sherry sweetness, full mouth feel, raisins, soft fruits. Spicy with medium length and a dry finish.

FINISH: Long, full and firm, slightly nutty.



BLUE RUN GOLDEN RYE WHISKEY
\$94.99 [121543]

History

Blue Run small batch Golden Rye Whiskey is Blue Run's inaugural Rye expression. Named for both the distinct color of the choice grains that were used in the creation process and the resulting product, Golden Rye was awarded a Gold medal in 2021 by the San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

Tasting Notes

Nose: Honey-baked, graham cracker aroma surrounded by sweet grains and wood sugar.

Palate: Easy-going finish that rests with honey and a dash of pear-syrup, with touches of ginger that add just the right tingle.



BLUE RUN 'REFLECTION 1' 95PF
750ML KENTUCKY STRAIGHT
BOURBON WHISKEY BATCH SPRING
\$79.99 [121095]

History

Blue Run Spirits announces its second whiskey release of the year with Blue Run "Reflection 1" Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, contract distilled by the company's liquid advisor, Bourbon Hall of Fame member **Jim Rutledge**.

Blue Run "Reflection 1" Kentucky Straight Bourbon is a small-batch whiskey which Rutledge distilled at Castle & Key Distillery in 2018. Just 200 carefully selected barrels were chosen for this bottling, each toasted to a #3 or #4 char and aged in Frankfort and Bardstown, KY. "Reflection 1" is bottled at 95 proof.

Tasting Notes

Nose: Cherries and creamy butterscotch.

Palate: Fluffy pancakes and maple syrup on the front end, fresh rosemary on the mid palate and an invigorating nutmeg finish.



BASIL HAYDEN
BOURBON
\$37.99 [102390]

This unique recipe calls for a larger percentage of small grains in the mash (rye and barley) and eight years gently resting in the wood. During the mashing and aging, the spicy flavor of the rye marries with the sweet smoothness of the corn for a character unlike any other bourbon. Enriched by a hint of peppermint, Basil Hayden's mellow taste and dry, brief finish is delicious sipped neat or on the rocks. It's perfect for those who enjoy a light-bodied bourbon.

Aroma: Charred oak and sweet notes of vanilla & caramel with hints of dried fruit.

Taste: Charred oak flavor that is complemented with sweet brown sugar, a touch of black pepper and dried fruit to round it out.

Finish: A pleasant, lingering charred oak finish with a touch of dried fruit.

EMPRESS 1908 INDIGO GIN

\$33.95 [199799]

“Handcrafted in **small batch copper pot stills**, Empress 1908 Gin is a collaboration between Victoria Distillers and the legendary Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria, British Columbia. In addition to more traditional botanicals, we add a signature blend of **black tea** served at the Empress Hotel, and **butterfly pea blossom**, an exotic herb that balances the traditional citrus notes of gin with a warm herbal earthiness, and natural indigo color. Empress 1908’s combination of exquisite taste, delicate aroma, soft texture, and remarkable presentation provide the perfect base for a new aesthetic of cocktail creation and enjoyment.”

Featured in the **TOP 100 Spirits list 2020** in [Wine Enthusiast](#).



TAPATIO TEQUILA REPOSADO

\$38.99 [102314]

“With the rising popularity of **Tapatio Blanco**, we introduced the Reposado to the collection in 2013, to give our fans more ways to enjoy this cult favorite. It has a smooth and rich flavor that can be easily enjoyed on its own or as a fantastic base for a cocktail.

To make our Reposado, Agave *piñas* are harvested by *Jimadores*, slowly baked for 4 days, then crushed to extract the *Mosto*. Fermented by an 80-year-old yeast culture, double-distilled in Tequilano Pot Stills, aged 8 months in used **Jim Beam American oak barrels** then barely filtered and bottled. Only required to be aged for 2 months, we age for 8 months in used bourbon barrels, which draws out notes of **caramel, oak and smoke** and ends with a smooth finish.

93 Points - “Tapatio’s new expression has intriguingly savory, almost meaty flavors that seem a shame to hide beneath fruit juices”.

– **Wine Enthusiast**

“This is a fine example of a reposado...It’s very subtle and easy to sip, without being over-oaked”. – **distiller.com**



PROBITAS WHITE BLENDED RUM

\$23.99 [115201]

Light white rums contributed to the explosion of popularity of cocktails like the Daiquiri in the post prohibition era. Unlike the white rums of today, which are often made from neutral or near neutral spirits, the white rums of the past had appreciable flavor.

For the time in history, Probitas is a joint venture between Caribbean distilleries to produce a blended Rum.

Coming from two of the most iconic distilleries in two of the most respected islands in the Caribbean for Rum making - **Foursquare Rum Distillery** in Barbados and **Hampden Estate** in Jamaica.

Distilled, matured, blended and bottled in the Caribbean. No sugar, flavor, color nor neutral/multi-column spirit added.

Bottled at a higher proof, 47% Alc./Vol., to showcase bold character, especially in cocktails.

Probitas brings a new gold standard to White Rum used in cocktails.

Probitas is a blend of different rums from different sources, blended by Master Blender **Richard Seale**. While Blended Rum has existed in many forms this is the first time a Blended Rum has been made entirely in the Caribbean and selected by the rum maker themselves.

Unaged Pot Still Rum from Hampden Estate in Jamaica, selected by **Mr. Vivian Wisdom**, Hampden’s Master Distiller at the time of blending.

Unaged Coffey Still Rum from Foursquare Rum Distillery in Barbados, selected by Richard Seale.

2 Year Aged Pot Still Rum from Foursquare Rum Distillery in Barbados, selected by Richard Seale.



THE BOTANIST ISLAY DRY GIN

\$29.99 [101004]

The Botanist is a small-batch, artisanal Islay gin. We use nine of the classic gin aromatics and augment these with a heady harvest of 22 local botanicals, hand-picked by our expert foraging team from the windswept hills, peat bogs and Atlantic shores of this Hebridean island of Islay. This truly seasonal and exotic SERVE is then slow “simmer” distilled in our unique and cherished Lomond pot-still, affectionately known as “Ugly Betty”. Our precious botanicals are slowly and gently coaxed into releasing their complex, signature aromatics. The result: a highly distinctive, complex, floral gin with outstanding finish and impeccable provenance. In an age of re-badged industrial gins, the Botanist stands out as a truly artisanal, small-batch, hand-crafted labour of love and distiller’s art. A breath of botanical Islay in every glass.

RÉMY MARTIN 1738 ACCORD ROYAL COGNAC \$57.99 [162304]

Rémy Martin Accord Royal 1738 is a smooth and well-balanced cognac from the prestigious vineyards of Cognac-**Petite and Grande Champagne**. An authentic cognac, deeply rooted in the terroir and tradition, it is aged in toasted French oak casks revealing a round and mellow body with oaky notes of butterscotch and spices.

Rémy Martin 1738 Accord Royal commemorates the recognition of excellence awarded to Rémy Martin by King Louis XV of France. Enjoy it neat, on the rocks or in cocktails.

Nose: Generous notes of plum and fig rounded out by intense oaky notes of toffee and nutty aromas.

Taste: The mellowness of butterscotch and baked spices with hints of dark chocolate

Body: Exceptionally round with a rich, creamy finish



WHISTLEPIG 10 YEAR RYE WHISKEY \$76.99 [109470]

WhistlePig Whiskey kicked off our Rye Whiskey journey with the Quintessential Rye –our Small Batch Rye, Aged 10 Years –it’s the one that started it all. True to our original Master Distillers’ vision, it’s a high Rye whiskey with a bold, spice forward whiskey that offers new layers of flavor with every year of age. And at 100 Proof, it’s versatile no matter how you drink it. Ingenuity, determination, and a fearless pursuit of flavor led us here, and we never turned back.

96 Points from [Wine Enthusiast](#), one of the highest rated Rye Whiskeys of all time. Certified Kosher.



OLD FORESTER 1920 PROHIBITION STYLE BOURBON \$52.99 [109324]

The Volstead Act of 1920 which initiated Prohibition in the USA granted permits to six distillers in Kentucky to continue to bottle bourbon for medicinal purposes. Through one of these permits, Old Forester continued to be produced as medicinal whiskey on Louisville’s famed Whiskey Row. It is the only bourbon continuously sold by the same company that has been available for sale before, during and after Prohibition.



During this time, all whiskeys had to be bottled at 100 Proof. With a barrel entry proof of 100, the “angel’s share” would have created a **115 proof whiskey** after maturation. To pay homage to this era, Old Forester presents 1920 Prohibition Style Bourbon at 115 proof to represent the rich flavor profile this bourbon had nearly 100 years ago.

Nose: The aroma is rich and powerful. Dark fruit, burnt brown sugar, chocolate, and a hint of bananas make up the components. Not surprising for the proof.

Palate: It’s big, bold, and immediately likeable. The richness of barrel char and dark chocolate play against the sweetness of caramel and creme brulee. There’s a nuttiness to it as well, along with some smokiness and a hint of coffee. The taste is reminiscent of some of the better Old Forester Birthday Bourbons.

Finish: Allspice and black pepper pop initially. They quickly dissipate and leave a long-lingering finish without further introduction of new flavors, but a pleasing end to those introduced on the palate. Dark chocolate, barrel char, and that nuttiness are the most prominent. It’s a nice finish, plain and simple.

TITO’S HANDMADE VODKA \$17.99 [166200] 750ML



Tito’s Handmade Vodka is produced in Austin at Texas’ first and oldest legal distillery. It’s made in small batches in an old fashioned pot still by Tito Beveridge (actual name), a 45-year-old Geologist, and distilled six times. Tito’s Handmade Vodka is designed to be savored by spirit connoisseurs. It is micro-distilled in an old-fashioned pot still, just like fine single malt scotches and high-end French cognacs. This time-honored method of distillation requires more skill and effort than modern column stills, but it’s well worth it. These handcrafted technique offers more control over

the distillation process, resulting in a spectacularly clean product of incomparable excellence. They only utilize the heart of the run off the still; only the nectar is taken, leaving behind residual higher and lower alcohols. The vodka is cleansed of phenols, esters, congeners and organic acids by filtering it through the finest activated carbon available. Tito’s Handmade Vodka won the prestigious **Double Gold Medal** having prevailed over 70 of the world’s best premium vodkas, as the judges’ unanimous **Gold Medal** choice, at [The World Spirits Competition](#) in San Francisco California.



RHUM J.M SINGLE BATCH RESERVE RHUM VIEUX AGRICOLE 48% 700ML HI-TIME BARREL; AMERICAN OAK 2015 \$69.99 [121531]

Located in the small northern village of Macouba, Martinique, at the base of iconic volcano Mt. Pelée, Rhum J.M produces the finest **AOC Rhum Agricole** from estate-grown sugarcane. Credited to be the first recorded distillery to produce Rhum Agricole, there is no fresher sugarcane crush in the world, taking less than an hour for sugarcane to go from field to fermentation tank.

The ‘agricole’ category for rum, in general, means they use the fresh-pressed sugar cane juice to make their rums, as opposed to molasses, the byproduct of the sugar refining process. This changes the flavor profile immensely when compared to molasses-based rums (*mais naturellement*) and makes rum agricoles stand out for many reasons.

Our store pick bottling is a lovely example of Rhum Agricole from the Martinique AOC (The AOC or **Appellation d’Origine Contrôlée** mark was adopted by the Martinique distillers in 1996 and it is unique to the rum of Martinique). The nose is filled with tree fruit scents with **apple** in the lead aided by hints of **pear** as a nice layer of **brown spices and a touch of herbal** rounds everything out. The palate continues with tree fruits, **dried apple and spicy pear**, as more baking spices (cinnamon, cardamom) create a tasty profile. The American oak really works with the aged rum. This will probably work well in a panoply of cocktails but **it’s so delicious neat we may be hard-pressed to add anything to it**. The finish adds more spicy apple and lasts and lasts.

DON FULANO BLANCO FUERTE 100 PROOF NOM 1146 \$52.99 [164133]

DON FULANO FUERTE is the original Over-proof. One of a kind. Profoundly aromatic, full of spice and flavor and yet absolutely mellow with glimmers of jasmine and orange blossom. It brings a direct connection with the agave fields, with its terroir, its patient fermentation and its masterful distillation in copper alembics. Full bodied and generous in its complexity. One for the connoisseur and epicurean. Unaged, rested at least 90 days Stainless steel.



Unaged, rested at least 90 days Stainless steel.

HORSE SOLDIER SMALL BATCH BOURBON \$59.99 [118252]



Extraordinarily complex with notes of vanilla, ginger, and cherries. This “wheated” bourbon is made from small batches of meticulously blended mature whiskey. Horse Soldier Bourbon is non-chill filtered to provide a full-bodied and decadent finish.

Aroma - Butterscotch, ginger, cherries

Tasting - Creamy toffee, dark stone

fruits, ginger, cola, vanilla and oak

Proof - 95° / 47.5% ABV

Gold Medal - 95 points New York International Spirits Competition 2019

Silver Medal - 92 points International Wine and Spirits Competition 2019

Silver Medal - San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2019

SILENT POOL GIN \$42.99 [112512]

The Story

“You wouldn’t be alone in wondering how a distillery nestled deep in the woodlands of the **Surrey Hills** came into existence. It’s a story of two Surrey locals coming together to create a distillery where things are done properly.

In 2014, founders Ian McCulloch and James Shelbourne met in their local pub (where else?) and discussed the idea of setting up small, local distillery. Taking their inspiration from Scottish whisky distilleries, the two friends started out with a grand vision of making a truly sustainable distillery next to a fresh water source, producing handcrafted, artisan spirits using locally sourced ingredients. But first they needed the perfect location.

Most distilleries end up in grim locations or boring industrial estates. Where’s the fun in that? Ian and James wanted somewhere filled with history, a good story and plenty of provenance. After scouting many locations in the south of England, one day Ian happened upon Sherbourne Farm (a former cow barn and petting zoo) on the banks of the magical Silent Pool in the Surrey Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Excited by the find, Ian and James contacted the landowner, The Duke of Northumberland, and got the go ahead to restore the dilapidated farm buildings into the Silent Pool Distillery.

Whilst all of our products taste distinctively different from one another, each are united by a shared purpose and vision. Rather than being reliant on one unique ingredient to shine through, all our recipes work like a symphony of flavours. Each and every ingredient serves a purpose and complements the last without dominating the palate.”

Nose: Juniper, sweet, citrus, floral tones, lavender, slight spice

Palate: Soft dry juniper, elderflower, chamomile, floral undertones, the honey tones are beautifully tied in

Finish: Vanilla, honey, some floral tones



MIJENTA REPOSADO TEQUILA NOM-1499 \$58.99 [117969]

A super premium, small batch spirit that is carefully crafted with a commitment to environmental sustainability and support for the local community, Mijenta’s Reposado is aged up to **six months** in a blend of American white oak, French oak and French acacia casks. As with Mijenta’s Blanco, Mexico-based **Maestra Tequilera Ana Maria Romero** oversaw the entire creation process of the Reposado. Presenting a more mature and fuller expression with a long finish on the palate, the Reposado is best enjoyed neat, on the rocks or as a nightcap cocktail, such as an Old Fashioned. It pairs well with dry fruit, soft cheeses, game meat, as well as flavorful Asian dishes. For dessert, Reposado is best savored with vanilla flavors, coconut and semi-bitter chocolate.

Tasting Notes:

On the eye: Light golden hue, Bright and Transparent with a powerful body.

On the nose: A delicate and inviting vanilla nose with notes of bergamot, honey, preserved fruits and orange blossom flowers.

On the palate: Rich flavors of cooked agave, honey, vanilla with a mid-palate of cacao nibs. A long and generous finish on the palate.

BLUE ICE POTATO VODKA \$16.99 [163222]

Made from Idaho Russet Burbank Potatoes, Certified NON-GMO.

Natural Water Source

Vodka is 60% water, and as the snow caps of the **Grand Tetons Mountains** melt, the water trickles into the Snake River Aquifer where it naturally filters through 200 feet of porous, volcanic rock before reaching our 200-foot well.

Four-Column Distillation -Blue Ice Vodka is distilled in a four-column apparatus via fractal distillation. This process allows our Master Distiller to control the removal of impurities at a micro level. This neutral spirit contains no additives, citric acids or glyceride.

Five Stage Filtration - Blue Ice Vodka is filtered five times for extreme clarification. Most vodka is filtered only three times. This five-step filtration process includes passage through a filter press, garnet and crystal, travertine and sub-micron to ensure the utmost clarity.



COMPASS BOX ORCHARD HOUSE SCOTCH WHISKY \$42.99 [119375]

Fruit-forward & spirit-driven

What is more universally delicious than ripe fruit? Even the greatest chefs have been known to serve a simple dish of strawberries or a single, perfect peach as a dessert.

Orchard House gathers together some of the fruitiest malts Scotland has to offer, including whiskies from the Linkwood and Clynelish distilleries; what's more, we have sourced many of these whiskies as new spirit and laid them down in our own oak casks. This, our monument to fresh fruitiness in Scotch whisky, has been many years in the making.

When neat or poured over a large ice cube, Orchard House makes for an outstanding pre-dinner malt. It will ably partner amber and pale ales, as well as swathes of soft cheeses. Welcome to our home among the fruit trees – the door is unlocked. 92pf

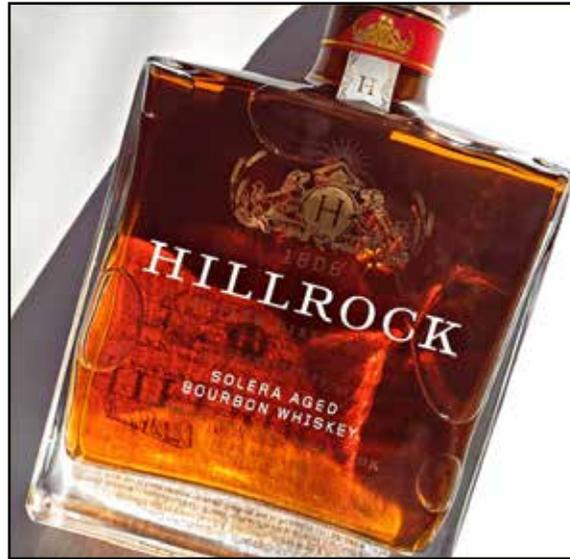


KAIYO 'THE SIGNATURE' WHISKY 86PF \$64.99 [112478] MIZUNARA OAK • JAPAN

This whisky is matured in the finest Mizunara oak casks. Our pioneering research into the effect of wood selection on whisky maturation has led to the development of bespoke barrels, crafted from slow growth, air-seasoned wood from hand-selected trees. These casks are handmade due to Mizunara oaks delicate wood grain. This spirit is gently matured in traditional style for many years before it embarks on its unique sea voyage.

TASTING NOTES

Kaiyō 43% - Delicate nose with vanilla, ripe dried fruit and hints of cherry, with a long lingering finish.



HILLROCK SOLERA AGED BOURBON 92.6% \$85.99 [112633]

History

Hillrock Solera Aged Bourbon is the first American whiskey to be aged in the centuries-old Solera method used traditionally to create exceptional Sherries, Ports, Madeiras, and Cognacs. Recognized internationally, the award-winning whiskey is finished in 20-year-old Oloroso Sherry casks. Solera aging involves a pyramid of barrels where a small portion of whiskey is removed periodically from the lowest tier of barrels and an equal measure of new whiskey is added to the top barrels. No barrel in the Solera is ever emptied, and over time, the older whiskey in the Solera mingles with younger whiskies to create unmatched depth and complexity.

Nose: It's sweet on the nose with toffee, ripe fruits, and exotic florals.

Palate: The palate opens up with spice and more toffee before blooming with vanilla orchids, walnuts, cinnamon toast, and sultanas.

Finish: Crisp and clean, with a bit of rye spice popping at the onset. As it fades the taste of sweet cherries balances nicely with seasoned oak and plums. It's short to medium length, but what's present is pleasing.

LAWS WHISKEY HOUSE SAN LUIS VALLEY STRAIGHT RYE WHISKEY \$49.99 [116578]

History

8,000 feet above sea level, in Colorado's San Luis Valley, the Cody family has been cultivating this low yield, semi-wild rye grain since the 1930s. We fell in love with how it ferments and distills into a terroir-driven, unapologetic whiskey.

AROMAS: Floral and perfumed on the nose with notes of baking spice and orange oil

FLAVORS: Black tea, sweet mint, salted toffee, orange peel and stewed fig. Finishing with a radiant green peppercorn spice

MASH BILL: 100% heirloom rye



ARETE GRAN CLASE EXTRA AÑEJO (2 DIFFERENT SINGLE BARRELS LI292185 #1 & #5) HI-TIME PICKS \$139.99 [163451]

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.

Tasting notes: beautiful agave sweetness balanced with up-front minerality (white pepper, sea salt), baking spices (vanilla, cacao) and wood tannins. Lovely Tequila!

Size/Proof/Nom: 750ml, 100PF, NOM-1109

Date Distilled: August, 2018

Aged: 37 months

Barrel Type: Bourbon (Used American Oak)

Toasting Level: Medium

**MILAM & GREENE
STRAIGHT RYE
WHISKEY PORT
CASK FINISH
\$44.99 [120069]
94 PROOF**



Indiana Rye whiskey is brought to Texas where we batch it in our warehouse and finish it in old Port Wine Casks. The Texan sun influences the rate and strength of flavor imparted into the whiskey. Some casks take longer than others. The team tastes the whiskey finishing in the Port Wine Casks regularly until the optimal flavors are achieved. Casks are then batched together, tested regularly and proofed before bottling.

Nose: Cinnamon, chocolate, dark fruits such as black currants and blackberries

Palate: Rich, velvety for a 94 proof spirit

Finish: Long and warm

**ARTE NOM SELECCION 1146 AÑEJO
41.3% 750ML TEQUILA \$79.99 [100846]**



Provenance

At Tequileña in the eponymous town of Tequila, Jalisco, home to a range of celebrated tequilas, Master Distiller **Enrique Fonseca** distills agave predominantly grown in and around his highland hometown of Atotonilco el Alto. For this añejo expression, Enrique ages select tequilas initially in used **Cabernet Franc** wine barrels from the Loire Valley of France for a minimum of 14 months. The tequila is then extracted from the French oak and laid into toasted American white oak previously used to age either Canadian whiskey or Tennessee rye whiskey, for a minimum of 14 additional months, for a truly masterful balance of oak

and agave flavors.

Tasting Notes

Color: rich amber

Nose: butterscotch, citrus, baking spices, vanilla

Palate: toffee, walnut candy, custard, orange zest, dark chocolate

**5 SENTIDOS TOBACICHE MEXICANO
MEZCAL 101.8PF 750ML HI-TIME PICK
\$114.99 [121131]**

History

This batch of Tobaziche and Mexicano, bottled exclusively for Hi-Time Wine Cellars, was distilled from mature agave Karwinskii and agave Rhodacantha that were harvested outside of San Agustin Amatengo, Oaxaca. This is one of the first batches produced by father-son duo Luis and Sergio to be exported by Cinco Sentidos.



Tasting Notes

Nose: An intensely aromatic, feral nose with notes of collard greens, fountain pen ink, talc, and rock candy.

Palate: A blast of wintergreen on the palate hangs around with red hots, cinnamon, candied bacon, and cayenne pepper as it continues to blossom over time.



**CASCAHUIN TEQUILA BLANCO
\$37.99 [120489]**

Fantastic 100% Agave blanco from El Arenal, Jalisco. Tequila Cascahuín has its origins since 1904 in the traditions of tequila production processes, distinguishing itself today, for its authentic flavors and its select quality from the best cultivated agaves in the valleys area.

The word “Cascahuín” arises from the pre-Hispanic roots whose interpretation is “Cerro de Luz” or “Fiesta en el Cerro”

Smell: Fragrance of raisins and small aromas of almond, peach and golden peanut.

Taste: Natural flavors are denoted to the wood (American oak barrels), and at the end a sweet taste of cooked agave matured in the barrel along with light minerality

**SINGANI 63 BRANDY 40%
FROM BOLIVIA DISTILLED FROM
MUSCAT OF ALEXANDRIA GRAPES
\$32.99 [121952]**

“Unaged grape brandy ‘singani’ is often compared to the likes of pisco, but this floral 500-year-old Bolivian spirit is unique in itself— and by law must be grown and distilled at 5,000 or more feet above sea level. Currently Singani 63 is the only bottle of the spirit widely available in the US, and was launched by film director Steven Soderbergh (of Ocean’s movie fame).”

--**Departures Magazine**

Singani 63 is unique among spirits to be given both a **DO** (Designation of Origin) and a **GI** (Geographical Indication) since the grapes are grown at a minimum altitude of 5,250 feet and within the confines of the historic home of Singani in the Andes.



**FUJI SINGLE GRAIN JAPANESE
WHISKY 92PF 700ML \$94.99 [119174]**

History

We are the only distillery who uses Mt. Fuji snowmelt water in all processes of production. This water takes a 50-year journey from the peak of the mountain to the aquifer underneath the distillery; filtered and polished by Mother Nature it is pure and soft. We refer to it as the precious gift.

Our Master Blender Jota Tanaka is an **Icon of Whisky Award Winner 2017**, with 30 years of experience in the industry in Japan and the US, and only the second Master Blender in our 50-year history.



Nose: Fuji has a very inviting nose. It's bold and confident but not overpowering, somewhere between a Rye and Brandy. You'll get notes of apple, banana, pears joined with baked fruits, cinnamon and liquorice.

Palate: The whisky has a soft mouthfeel. There is more orange on the palate. The sweetness is joined by subtle spices, cinnamon, bitter chocolate, and some rye bread. There are estery, ripe fruit notes.

Finish: The finish is medium. It starts sweet and then moves towards woodiness, incense and finally a homey rye bread feeling.



BARRELL CRAFT SPIRITS

**BARRELL DOVETAIL
GRAY LABEL
FINISHED IN RUM,
PORT & DUNN CAB
CASKS WE 96 PTS!**

\$249.99 [122034]

- Whiskey finished in rum, port, and Dunn Vineyards cabernet barrels
- Distilled in Indiana, Tennessee and Canada
- Aged in the US and Canada
- Crafted and bottled in Kentucky
- 131.54 proof cask strength bottling



Over the past several years, Barrell Dovetail has become a highly regarded expression within our portfolio of products and the American Whiskey world. Recently, we became intrigued with applying the concept of “Dovetail” to some of our older stocks. The result is **BCS Gray Label Dovetail**, which still boasts our award-winning blend of Whiskey finished in rum, port, and Dunn Vineyards cabernet barrels and uses the same finishing and blending method. The difference, as with all our Gray Label offerings, is that we used **older and more rare barrels** in Gray Label Dovetail. The result harmoniously unites a dark and fruity California cabernet finish, a jammy and pleasurable port finish, and a sweet and funky rum finish to create a well-balanced, iconic whiskey. The component whiskeys are aged up to 20 years, making the final blend significantly more elegant.

This is an ester-forward bourbon with the brooding depth of cabernet and port casks. The varied distillates and casks come together into a complex palate that showcases the cola notes of whiskey that's spent many years in oak.



BARRELL CRAFT SPIRITS



BARREL VANTAGE CASK STRENGTH WHISKEY 57.22% 750ML MIZUNARA, FRENCH AND TOASTED AMERICAN OAK \$84.99 [121809]

- Bourbon whiskey finished in Mizunara, French, and toasted American oak
- Distilled in Indiana, Tennessee and Kentucky
- Bottled at cask strength

Our unique vantage point in the whiskey world, combined with a passion for experimentation and nuance, has inspired us to produce a blend with **impeccable balance** and **depth of flavor**. Vantage is a blend of straight bourbons finished in three distinct expressions of virgin oak: Mizunara, French, and toasted American oak casks. The result is a warm, elegant bourbon that highlights the many dimensions of oak.

Each component whiskey in Vantage is finished separately, focusing on the wood characteristics and the specific flavor contributions that each cask contributes to the blend. The result is a masterfully blended, perfectly balanced representation of the harmonious synergy between bourbon and barrel. Selected Mizunara, French, and toasted American oak casks create multifaceted dimensions to this unique blend. The unique aspects of each wood and treatment are layered atop one another, precluding the singular taste of oak. The nose is creamy, spicy, and resinous, and the palate is richly textured and oily, soaked with barrel influence.

BARRELL SEAGRASS GOLD RYE WHISKEY \$499.99 [121034]

- Rye whiskey finished in Martinique rum, Malmsey Madeira, and apricot brandy casks
- Matured for 20 years, Distilled in Canada
- Bottled at cask strength

Crafted and bottled in Kentucky, Gold Label Seagrass represents the **pinnacle of Barrell Craft Spirits' Seagrass series**. It is clear from the nose that this Rye Whiskey is old and layered, with savory, herbaceous notes behind the trademark Seagrass tropical freshness. All in all, this whiskey is remarkably flavorful, showcasing the best of the Seagrass profile in a whiskey that can only be made complex with time in the barrel.

Palate: Ripe Meyer lemon and clover honey show first, with fresh basil and perfectly ripe pineapple taking over in the mid-palate. There are glimmers of deeply aged rye, as this layered whiskey evolves sip to sip. Moments of heat are balanced with a viscous sweetness, brightened by the natural acidity of the Malmsey Madeira finish. Black pepper is present too, as this is a cask strength rye, but the tropical notes win out until the finish.



HOLIDAY SPIRITS!

DOS BOOTS MEZCAL

\$49.99 [118681]

Dos Boots honors the traditions of Oaxaca, its generations of families working with Agave and its deep culture. Every pair of proper boots, from hard work to fiesta, regardless of color, style and origin have their own story and represent the Dos Boots' spirit. From Dos Boots we raise our glass and say "Salud!"



"This photo was taken by hermano @ moralesedwin in October 2020 at our Palenque just before starting the fire that roasts our Agave.

Traveling and navigating in the middle of a global pandemic was not easy especially going back and forth from Mexico.

At this point we had worked on our company Dos Boots Mezcal for over 3 years. In the background of this photo I remember us talking about a bit of strategy on our introduction into the US.

We launched 6 months after this photo was taken.

These agaves in the photo are what made our first batch of Dos Boots Mezcal. 8 1/2 years of growing in the mountains of Oaxaca. 100% Maguey Espadin Joven 45% Alc Volume.

There are zero additives in our Mezcal. It is the purest of pure so please sip slow and enjoy.

Sip to Soil it is the most labor intensive and clean spirit you can have.

Thank You all for your love and support. We ask you all to share our journey with your friends and family."



Guillotine is revolutionary French vodka created exclusively from the **Aÿ-Champagne** region's finest pinot and chardonnay grapes.

100% French and 100% natural.

Our products are vegan and gluten-free, contain no coloring or flavoring agents, no glycerol, and no citric acid.

Our mission is to introduce the world to the finest artisanal spirits, starting with ultra-premium vodkas that are unparalleled in quality, taste and *joie de vivre*.

GUILLOTINE VODKA \$24.99 [119262]

ORIGINALE. French savoir-faire, quality without concession.

Guillotine Originale Ultra Premium Vodka is a classic, clear vodka made from the finest Champagne-region grapes. Light, smooth, and aromatic, it offers notes of citrus with hints of almond and toffee. The nose is sharp, punctuated by soft notes of fresh lemon.

The spirit delicately coats the mid-palate, exposing a complex structure that flows into a clean and well-balanced finish. Taste carefully and you'll also find the smooth and velvety palate delivers a light fruity hint of Zante currants.

Offering unparalleled quality, taste and versatility, Guillotine Originale was recently awarded the gold medal at the 2019 Cathay Pacific Hong Kong International Wine & Spirit competition. See our **GUILLOTINE GIFT BASKET** on Page 43!



GUILLOTINE HERITAGE VODKA

\$37.99 [119269]

The first-ever aged amber-color vodka

Guillotine Heritage Barrel-Aged Vodka is our unique "aged" vodka that is matured in barrels made from acclaimed Limousin oak, giving the vodka a warmth reminiscent of the finest French spirits.

This is the only French vodka from Champagne-region vineyards that is aged in oak barrels, instilling Guillotine Heritage with its unique aromas, increased roundness, and golden amber hue. Smooth and clean, with subtle woody notes complemented by hints of spice, vanilla and cinnamon, this exceptional vodka has just the right amount of umami.

The spirit was recently awarded the Double Gold Medal at the 2019 SIP Awards.

GUILLOTINE CAVIAR VODKA

\$239.99 [121938]

The world's finest caviar-distilled vodka.

History

Guillotine Ossetra Caviar Limited Edition Vodka is a true feat when it comes to flavor. This super-premium vodka is the fruit of the collaboration between Guillotine and Petrossian. This vodka is guaranteed free of additives and is made from grapes from vineyards in the Champagne region. It's made with Ossetra Tsar Impérial® caviar, the specific caviar that's ideal for the process of maceration and dilution. 20g of caviar are needed to make one litre of vodka. In terms of tasting, it's delicate on the nose with a hint of brininess and an almost smoky aroma. To the palate, it reveals delicate flavours with iodized notes reminiscent of caviar and a hint of smokiness, balanced by the citrus freshness of the original Guillotine Vodka.





TEMPLETON RYE SINGLE BARREL 95PF HI-TIME BARREL \$39.99 [119901]

Templeton, Iowa. So much more than a place. A community that respects one another, that supports each other, and who comes together with a revived spirit. That was the town of Templeton, Iowa a century ago, and it's the very same town today. We are following in the footsteps of our forefathers and crafting a whiskey in their tradition. A whiskey that respects the past, yet is inspired by the future. We call it Templeton.

BARRELL WHISKEY PRIVATE RELEASE HI-TIME PICK BARREL-AQ27B 124.58PF AGED IN TOKAJI BARREL \$89.99 [121864]

A blend of Indiana and Kentucky Whiskeys, the largest component being 14-year-old Indiana whiskey, finished in a Tokaji barrel.

Palate: Rich, sweet grape varietal clearly showing itself off from the finish. The linger has heaps of sweet cherry cola, cheesecake and an airy fruit parfait. Another sip builds in punchy raspberry, raisin and a nice grape brandy flavor. That honeysuckle sweetness.

WESTLAND AMERICAN SINGLE MALT WHISKEY 122.6PF CASK 3859 \$84.99 [119813]

American Single Malt Whiskey is, by its very nature and existence, innovative. That said, we don't innovate for the sake of innovation. We remain committed to expressing our provenance, but recognize the opportunity to contribute new ideas to the landscape of single malt whiskey.

WOODFORD RESERVE RYE HI-TIME BARREL 90.4PF 2022 \$31.99 [115321]

Woodford Reserve Rye uses a pre-prohibition style ratio of 53% rye in its mash bill to pay homage to history's original rye whiskeys, making spice and tobacco the dominant note among a sea of fruit, floral, and sweet aromatics, which yields a nice sweetness and overall balance. Our rye whiskey can deliver complex flavors – neat, on ice, or in a cocktail. A balanced rye makes a more balanced cocktail.

GEORGE REMUS SINGLE BARREL 109.1PF 2022 SELECT HI-TIME STAFF PICK \$59.99 [121874]

George Remus Bourbon is carefully crafted at the historic, 170-year old Ross & Squibb Distillery in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Located above the pure and plentiful Miami Aquifer, it's also the location of one of King George's largest distilleries during Prohibition, Squibb Distillery.

STELLUM BOURBON 117.78PF 750ML "LEO" E9 HI-TIME CELLARS STAFF PICK \$54.99 [118733]

STELLUM RYE 117.06PF 750ML "RIGEL" HI-TIME BARREL CASK STRENGTH RYE WHISKEY \$49.99 [120857]

Stellum Spirits is devoted to bringing American whiskey into the modern age with simple, elegant blends and single barrels selected with care and intention. Our whiskeys are created through a rigorous process of study, observation, and experimentation. We are driven by progress, polish and—above all—attention to detail. We will always think critically about how to make our whiskey better and more accessible.

Holiday Gift Baskets!

Available in-store or online...



Italian Wine Basket
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Ketel One Vodka Basket
\$74.99 [866955]



California Connoisseur Basket
\$199.99 [802075]



California Lovers Basket
\$99.99 [802090]



Grgich Gourmet Wine Basket
\$149.99 [802424]

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 Gift Packs!



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90 Point+ California Trio
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\$95.99 [200112]



L To R
Argentina Giftpack
\$28.98 [966372]

California Duo
\$39.95 [200225]



Italian Giftpack
\$59.95 [857291]



Bordeaux Giftpack
\$96.99 [200111]



Cali Red/White
\$59.95 [200223]



Oregon Pinot Pack
\$49.95 [200226]



Spanish Giftpack
\$49.98 [983758]



Holiday Gift Baskets!

Baskets are available in-store or online...



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CHAMPAGNE BASKET**
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**ROUND POND "KITH & KIN"
CABERNET SAUVIGNON BASKET**
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\$149.99 [802040]



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



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ANGELINE CHARDONNAY BASKET
\$49.99 [808790]

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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(Pacific Time)

M-Wed: 9 AM to 7 PM
Wed-Sat.: 9am to 8pm
Sun: 10 AM to 6 PM

Located Behind The "Staples" on 17th St.



Marcus' Top 25 2022:

1. Sinistro NV Remus
2. Regius Reserva Toro
3. HVC 500 Aniversario Selectos
4. PG Soiree Belicoso 2008
5. CLE 25th Anniversary 54x6
6. Sans Pareil Purple Belicoso
7. Davidoff Yamaza Toro
8. **Paul Garmirian** (PG) Celebration '96
9. Tatuaje Drac Redux
10. La Aurora Perfecto Diamond
11. Davidoff Colorado Claro Perfecto
12. Timeless Supreme 10 Year Toro
13. Olmec Maduro Robusto
14. Devil's Night Asylum Churchill
15. PG Artisan's Passion Toro
16. The Judge Toro
17. Fonseca Cedros
18. Regius Red Fat Perfecto
19. Montecristo Epic No. 2
20. Crowned Heads E 5150
21. Mil Dias Double Robusto
22. J.W. Lithium Toro
23. Patoro Serie P Short Perfecto
24. Ashton Symmetry Robusto
25. Chillin Moose Too Robusto

Michelle's Top 25 2022:

1. Atabey Divinos
2. Zino Platinum Shorty
3. Diamond Crown #5
4. Diamond Crown Julius Caesar Robusto
5. My Father La Promesa Lancero
6. Oliva Melanio #4
7. OpusX Father & Son
8. Sobremesa Brûlée Toro
9. Ashton Symmetry Sublime
10. Padron 1926 No. 35 Natural
11. **Arturo Fuente** (AF) Hemingway Short Story
12. San Pareil Red Torpedo
13. Padron 1964 Soberano Natural
14. AF Rare Pink Queen of Hearts
15. San Cristobal Elegancia
16. Byron Epique Poemas 19th
17. PG Belicoso Fino
18. Tabernacle Havana Corona
19. Partigas Naturales
20. Patoro Gran Anejo #2
21. Sobremesa Brûlée Blue
22. **La Flor Dominicana** (LFD) Andalusian Bull
23. Davidoff WSC Petit Corona
24. Padron #35 Natural
25. Foundation El Gueguense Robusto



Mikey's Top 25 2022:

1. Illusione MJ 12
2. Jake Wyatt Lithium Lancero
3. Zino Platinum Chubby Especial
4. Arturo Fuente Canones
5. Casa Cuevas Patrimonio
6. Black Diamond Radiant
7. The Last Barbarian Robusto
8. Davidoff Aniversario No. 3 Tubo
9. Sinistro Mr. Red President
10. Menelik 12
11. PG 1997 Robusto
12. LFD Capitolo Dos
13. Patoro VA XO Solomones
14. Wiseman Firecracker
15. Eiroa 20th Diademas
16. Asylum 13 Ogre 7x70
17. La Aurora Perfecto Diamond
18. E.P. Carrillo Short Run 2016 Sungrown
19. Highclere Castle Connecticut Toro
20. Tatuaje Cojonu 2003
21. PG Celebration '96
22. Padron 1964 Serie A Maduro
23. Quorum Havana Q Double Robusto
24. Rocky Patel Edge Habano Torpedo
25. Fuente Fuente OpusX BBMF



Sean's Top 25 2022:



1. Sin Compromiso No.7
2. Padron 80th Natural
3. San Pareil Red Torpedo
4. Kristoff 685 Woodlawn
5. Instant Classic Special Lost Habano
6. Sinistro NV Romulus
7. Diamond Crown Black Diamond Emerald
8. Patoro Brazilain Belicoso
9. Rocky Patel 55 Toro
10. LFD Capitolo Dos

11. Byron Epique Poemas 19th
12. Ashton VSG Enchantment
13. Davidoff Late Hour Toro
14. Foundation Menelik 12
15. Eiroa Classic 54x6
16. Atabey Duendes
17. Casa Magna Domus Magnus Caligula
18. Arturo Fuente Anejo No.77 Shark
19. Foundation Tabernacle Lancero
20. Fonseca Belicosos
21. My Father La Gran Oferta Torpedo
22. Casa Cuevas Patrimonio Robusto
23. La Galera Imperial Jade Churchill
24. Montecristo Espada Quillion
25. E.P.C. Encore Valientes

Need some cigars this holiday season? Here are the favorites of our dedicated **Smoke Shack staff**, who go the extra mile to try all these out so you know which ones are worthy! We also have all the accessories you need to cut, light and store your sticks. Pipes and pipe tobacco, imported cigarettes, bulk tobacco, more!

SIPSMITH LONDON DRY GIN

\$26.99 [103691]

Independent Spirits is a brand new, up and coming craft distillery based in England. Their still, adoringly titled **Prudence**, is the first copper still to launch in London in nearly 200 years. Prudence is literally a one-of-a-kind still which utilizes a copper pot base, a carter head and a column still making her ultimately versatile.



Gin is just vodka with botanicals added, right? So what makes this London Dry Gin unique? Well, for starters it is made using in-house pot-distilled **barley spirits** (very unique and exceptionally tasty but considerably more expensive) whereas many brands purchase commercial grain spirits for their gin production. The **10 botanicals** used are certainly very traditional and found in many London Dry Gins but these good ol' English blokes actually sourced their own choice botanicals. Those botanicals include: Macedonian juniper berries, Bulgarian coriander seed, French angelica root, Spanish liquorice root, Italian orris root, Spanish ground almond, Chinese cassia bark, Madagascan cinnamon, Sevillian orange peel and Spanish lemon peel.

The barley-based spirit really does wonders for this London Dry as it lends a certain depth and body along with a pleasant sweetness. The aroma is classic London Dry with **perfumed, floral juniper** in the forefront and **sweet citrus** shining from behind. There is a certain frutiness on the palate that is somewhere between earl grey tea and fruit loops. Wonderfully drinkable yet sturdy enough for a cocktail. **Hats off to these fine Englishmen and their wacky still!**



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

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 the latest news regarding upcoming winebar tastings and off-site events. Cheers!



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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!



<https://www.hitimewine.net/wine-club/>