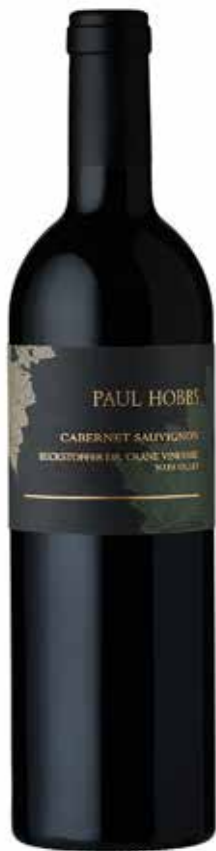




Top North American Cabs of 2024

#1. PAUL HOBBS 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ST. HELENA "DR. CRANE"

\$299.98 [#230620]



Paul Hobbs is one of the true masters in the wine world. It doesn't seem to matter where he makes wine, or with what grape; anything he makes is simply fantastic! With a Masters degree in Viticulture and Enology, Paul started his winemaking career working side-by-side with Robert Mondavi, who handpicked Paul for the inaugural Opus One team. After helping to launch Opus One, Paul served as a winemaker at Simi Winery before consulting at several famed estates, including Peter Michael, Lewis Cellars, and Argentina's Bodegas Catena. Paul Hobbs produces some of the most highly-praised and consistent Cabernet Sauvignons in Napa Valley. Sought for their complex flavors, seamless textures, and long finishes, the Paul Hobbs wines tend to be fairly allocated, as only the better wine shops and restaurants can get their hands on these gems.

The Beckstoffer family owns some of the most prized land in the Napa Valley and their Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard is one of our favorites here at Hi-Time. This property is located on the west side of the town of St. Helena, and is in the proximity of other notable properties, such as Spottswoode, Hayne and Salvestrin. The grapes from Dr. Crane have helped Realm, Russell Bevan, and others to earn triple-digit scores from the critics, and this wine is no different, as this has earned a perfect 100-point score from respected critic Jeb Dunnuck! His tasting notes read: "Needing plenty of air to show at its best, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard is a sensational, gorgeous Napa Valley Cabernet that delivers the goods like only this region can. Pure Cabernet magic on the nose, with deep blackcurrants, smoked tobacco, lead pencil, and a kiss of spring flowers as well as a beautiful Pessac-Leognan-like scorched earth character, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, silky tannins, no hard edges, and a great, great finish. It's one of those wines that builds incrementally on the palate and it's only after the second or third sip that you realize how special this wine is. It also offers that rare mix of power and

elegance that's the hallmark of all great wines. It needs a couple hours in the decanter if drinking any time soon. It will benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and cruise for 20-30 years in cold cellars. Hats off to Paul Hobbs for an incredible Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon."

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Hi-Time Wine Cellars

Nov/Dec • 2024

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Nov. Wine of the Month

MARK WEST 2022 CALIFORNIA PINOT NOIR \$9.98 [241150]



Mark West was founded in 1978 with one desire - to craft remarkable Pinot Noir that delivers exceptional quality at an affordable price. Their name, Mark West, is an ode to a region in the heart of Sonoma county, one of the world's best places to grow Pinot Noir. It was here that they started their winery and passion for Pinot. And we, the imbibers, have certainly benefited over the years! Their goal of making affordable, delicious Pinot Noirs has been met-- but they don't rest on their laurels and continue to strive, year after year, to keep earning the kudos they have been justly given. And here we are, once again, featuring a Mark West Pinot Noir! Because it's a great value-priced Pinot that will make the month and Thanksgiving even better.

The nose is classic Pinot Noir, loaded with bright red fruits like cherry and strawberry, with a touch of cherry cola and violets. The palate continues with the red fruits as cherry and raspberry take the

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Josh Hoover - Operations Manager
Sean Kinney - IT Manager / Webmaster
Mike Hirst - Maintenance
Charles Hirst - Internet Sales - x254
Jordan Hanson - Liquor Buyer, Specialty Beverages
Blayne Hirst - Internet / Merchandising Specialist
Katie Kottelanne - Floor Manager
Fernando Ruvalcaba - Beer/RTD Buyer
Ziggy Norbert - Liquor Manager
Mckenzie Johnston - Sales, Shipping
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Grace Romero - Sales, Baskets
Natalie Garcia - Internet
Michelle Murray - Miniature Buyer, Cigar Sales
Tyler Johnston - Spirits Specialist
Adrian Ruelaz - Spirits Specialist, Floor Manager
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Jack Gallagher - Beer
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Zach Williams - N. America
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November Wine of the Month 2



CHAMISAL 2022 PINOT NOIR SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY \$19.95 [210080]

This bright, acid-driven Pinot Noir is sourced from some of the most **marine-influenced vineyards** on the Central Coast. The cool climate generated by the close proximity to the sea is vital for the **freshness** and **vibrancy** of this wine. The vineyards for this first vintage are predominantly located in the Edna Valley, just five miles from the Pacific Ocean, with a very long, cool growing season.

The first vineyard planted in 1973 in what would become the Edna Valley AVA, **Chamisal Vineyards** is located just outside the city of San Luis Obispo on California's Central Coast. A specialist in Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, Chamisal Vineyards strives to produce wines that express

the wild and inspiring beauty of California's Central Coast and, more specifically, their 82-acre estate vineyard.

What a **fun, complete wine** to taste! This one is all about **purity of fruit**-- classic Pinot notes of **cherries and strawberries** run rampant in the nose, supported by scents of **mixed florals, forest floor** and a hint of **black tea** for balance. In the mouth, the **cherry/berry flavors** are gorgeous and rich but shaped and balanced by brisk acidity in the wine's structure. The fruit here shines but doesn't blind, allowing the berry flavors to soar to new heights without becoming cloying. A bit of **earth** and **underbrush** adds a more grounded base for the fruit to land upon-- **and this one definitely sticks the landing! Great fruit** contained by **excellent structure** and all at a **fair price**. Pair this with the classic Thanksgiving table and enjoy!

WINE ENTHUSIAST 90 POINTS - "This is a very satisfying Pinot Noir for a fair price. Round and even fat aromas of strawberry cream and fruit punch are quite juicy on the nose. The palate's bouncy acidity elevates crisp redfruit flavors, though there's an earthy edge keeping everything grounded." - Matt Kettmann

Nov. Wine of the Month

Continued from Page 1

lead in the flavor profile, bolstered by light acidity and soft tannins. A touch of earth, pastry and clove leads to a long, flavorful finish reiterating the main focus of red berries. Enjoy with Thanksgiving fare, pork, poultry, charcuterie, lamb, mushroom risotto, pastas with tomato-based sauces.

Pinot Noir

Nothing worth obsessing over ever came easy. And that's certainly the case for Pinot Noir. The grape is an interesting one: It's thin-skinned and fickle, which means it's not easy to grow. Even

the slightest change in temperature can throw it off, which is why the Mark West team looks for the best cool, dry climates when choosing their vineyards. But, when it's done right, the result is a wonderfully complex wine. The perfect Pinot, in an infinite number of expressions. It's unlike any other grape.

*Please Note: The Mark West 2022 Pinot Noir is not 10% Off During our November Sale (we've already discounted it!)

WINE BAR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE!

NOVEMBER 2024

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

NOVEMBER 2024 WINE BAR

Thursday, November 28

WINE BAR CLOSED HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 29

ITALY: REDS AND WHITES - \$45

Saturday, November 30

TOP DOMESTIC REDS & WHITES- \$55

FEATURED WINE TASTINGS

Our featured wine tastings are Thursday through Saturday and range in price from \$35 to \$150 depending on the wines being poured. At these tastings we generally pour between 8 and 12 wines.

We are accepting reservations through TOAST. 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.



See our Full Wine Bar Schedule Online
[WINE BAR PAGE ON HITIMEWINE.NET](#)

DECEMBER 2024

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 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

DECEMBER 2024 WINE BAR

Thursday, December 5

LAURENT PERRIER CHAMPAGNE with
MICHELLE DiFEO IN ATTENDANCE - \$55

Friday, December 6

TOP FRENCH WHITE WINES 2024- \$85

Saturday, December 7

TOP ITALIAN REDS & WHITES 2024 - \$65

Thursday, December 12

TOP GERMAN/EXOTIC IMPORTS 2024 - \$35

Friday, December 13

TOP DOMESTIC CABS 2024 - \$90

Saturday, December 14

TOP FRENCH RED WINES 2024- \$90

Thursday, December 19

RHÔNE VALLEY NORTH & SOUTH - \$55

Friday, December 20

TOP SPANISH REDS & WHITES 2024- \$45

Saturday, December 21

12 CHAMPAGNES OF X-MAS POURING 10
SELECTIONS- \$150

Thursday, December 26

BEST OF TOP WINES 2024- \$55

Friday, December 27

BAROLO VS. BURGUNDY- \$80

Saturday, December 28

TÊTE DE CUVÉE & CULT CHAMPAGNE- \$200

DECEMBER 2024 WINE OF THE MONTH

CHATEAU PETIT FREYLLON 2022 BORDEAUX SUPERIOR CUVÉE LEAH

\$12.95 [358462]

Looking for a delicious, crowd-pleasing Bordeaux at a rockin' price? We were too and found it in the 2022 Chateau Petit Freyillon Cuvée Leah. **We love the lush, fruit-forward nature and seamless texture of this wine.** We have featured this cuvee before as wine of the month-- and for very good reasons we are doing so once again! **The 2022 "Cuvée Leah" delivers a delicious, crowd-pleasing experience at a great price!**

The adage about a rising tide lifting all ships is one we've used quite often over the years when talking about a **great vintage affecting all the wines from that region.** In this case, a solid, everyday Bordeaux Supérieur becomes a **delicious bang-for-the-buck poster child showcasing the 2022 season and how good it was (is!).**

Cuvée Leah is a delicious blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon with 20% Merlot. The nose on Leah is sublime: **bright, beautiful fruit loaded with scents of ripe cherries and mixed black and blue berries;** there's a touch of earth and French vanilla, light spice, background florals and incense adding support. **But it's the fruit that's the star.**

The palate continues the fruit-filled theme-- black cherries, blackberry and blue berries are in the foreground as light tannins and acidity keep the wine from being cloying. **Structure and balance!** The berries meld with flavors of vanilla and a touch of garrigue culminating in a long finish. **This is a fantastic winter wine and I was craving a petit filet to go with this Petit-Freyllon when tasting.**

Château Petit-Freyllon is located in the small Aquitaine village of Saint-Genis-du-Bois, a tiny village boasting less than 100 inhabitants. The estate belonged to the Lagrange family for generations until 2011, when it was purchased by La Société PESA. Since that time, the new owners have invested heavily in the château's vineyards and wine-making facilities. This attention to detail is apparent and the results can be tasted in the glass.

This is a great wine to stock up on. **It's drinking well now** and will deliver pleasure over the next 5-10 years. Enjoy!

The nose on Leah is sublime: **bright, beautiful fruit loaded with scents of ripe cherries and mixed black and blue berries;** there's a touch of earth and French vanilla, light spice, background florals and incense adding support. **But it's the fruit that's the star.** The silky tannins and a long, flavorful finish are impressive. 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot



Top North American Cabs of 2024

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#2. TURNBULL 2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON OAKVILLE “BLACK LABEL” \$171.95 [#270320]

Turnbull has been rooted in the culture and history of the Napa Valley, making wine of exceptional quality since 1979. Operating their small, family business from the original estate winery in Oakville, they pay tribute to their heritage while rooted in the present. It starts with their estate-grown fruit, which they carefully tend to from the ground up through to the winery. Turnbull wines are crafted with integrity and without compromise.

It starts with the painstaking process of vinifying lot by lot, tasting and evaluating each for specific attributes and characteristics. Winemaker Peter Heitz weaves together a narrative of place, tasting through and chalking each barrel one by one to determine the final blends. This bottling is a signature selection of individual barrels that showcase dark, brooding, hedonistic characteristics, with dusty black fruits and an exotic floral lift. These barrels over-deliver, resulting in a wine of astounding purity and density. “Stunning stuff, the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Black Label offers a full-bodied, deep, majestic style as well as beautiful aromatics of creme de cassis, violets, flowers, and nicely integrated background oak. It has ultra-fine tannins, flawless balance, and a regal, age-worthy style that has so much to love.” -**Jeb Dunnuck 97+ points!**

#3. O’SHAUGHNESSY 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON HOWELL MOUNTAIN \$109.95 [#247500]

Betty O’Shaughnessy’s Howell Mountain property is simply...**STUNNING!** Every individual who walks through the doors of the winery eventually leaves feeling like they are family; often that person tells their friends and family that O’Shaughnessy is a “must see” winery in the Napa Valley (hint...go visit them!). The animated Sean Capioux makes the wine. He has worked at Peter Michael, Jordan and Pine Ridge wineries, in addition to crafting lovely Pinot Noirs under his eponymous label. The vineyards are planted on the property in an amphitheater-like setting, as to take advantage of maximum sunlight during the day. This wine is all about intensity balanced by subtlety, and has earned a stunning **98+ points from Jeb Dunnuck!** “The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain is an incredible wine, and it flirts with perfection. Full-bodied and concentrated, it has flawless balance and elegance as well as just textbook Howell Mountain notes of blue fruits, cassis, violets, graphite, and background oak. I love its tannins, it has remarkable purity of fruit, and a great, great finish. It has some appeal today yet deserves 4-5 years of bottle age and should have over two decades of longevity.”



#4. GHOST BLOCK 2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON OAKVILLE \$74.99 [#225670]

For five generations, the Pelissa family have farmed some of the most prized vineyards in the Napa Valley. **They proudly farm all 650 acres of their grapes using 100% certified organic practices.** Simply put, their mandate is to provide world-class wine by any means possible-- and at competitive prices. The Ghost Block name traces back to the early 1980s when current owner, Andy Hoxsey, was told a story by a retired veteran. The veteran told of a ghost leaving a cemetery adjacent to a vineyard Andy was working, and the ghost traversed through the vineyard and up the hillside. After that story, the vineyard name was changed to Ghost Block, and the rest is history.



The backbone of this full-bodied Cabernet comes from the Rock Cairn Vineyard in Oakville, a property characterized by deep, gravelly loam soil with a western exposure. The vines produce highly concentrated fruit late in the season and are typically the last picks of the harvest. This vineyard is located just a stone’s throw away from other notables, such as Paradigm, Vine Hill Ranch and Opus One. With **a wonderful 94-point score from Wine Spectator**, this wine presents a captivating deep ruby-red hue, accompanied by luxurious aromas of blackcurrant, ripe plum, and blackberries, complemented by subtle notes of cedar, vanilla, dark chocolate, and black peppercorn. Upon the palate, indulge in a velvety texture that harmonizes with a symphony of flavors echoing the aromatic profile. Impeccable balance and finesse unfold with silky-smooth tannins leading the way, followed by a refreshing acidity that lingers, enticing you to savor each sip. Whether marking a special occasion or seeking solace after a long day, Ghost Block Cabernet Sauvignon promises to elevate every moment, creating memories that linger long after the last drop.

Top North American Cabs of 2024

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#5. JOSEPH PHELPS 2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY \$89.99 [#250790]

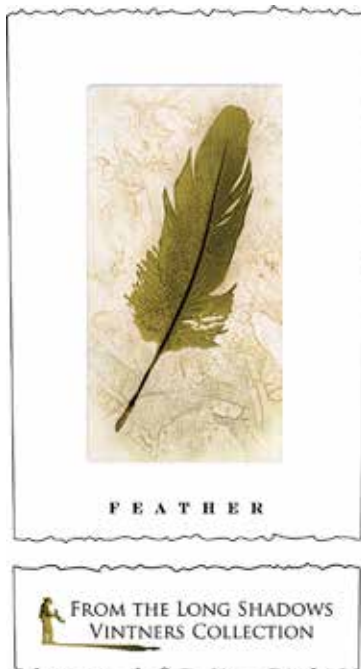
The Joseph Phelps Napa Cabernet has always been at the top of the critic's list since day one; moreover, it is a staple of any fine restaurant or resort. The wines from Joseph Phelps routinely receive lofty scores, and their 2002 bottling of Insignia was even given the honor of becoming Wine Spectator's Top Wine of the Year! **Their estate vineyards are now entirely sustainably farmed, with several being organically farmed,** so the wines are going from strength to strength! This is classic Napa Cab, and was aged for 16 months in a combination of French and American oak, both new and used. The 2021

Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon has classically expressive aromatics of ripe currant, tobacco, leather, pencil shavings and dark chocolate notes. A rich, fleshy wine that is full-bodied, dense and layered with dark plum, blackberry and savory spices. It is a vibrant and alive offering with acid structure and depth for long-term cellar aging. -**Wine Spectator 93 Points!**

#6. FEATHER 2020 CABERNET SAUVIGNON COLUMBIA VALLEY \$69.95 [#275887]

Founded in 2003 by Washington State wine visionary Allen Shoup, the mindset behind the Long Shadows winery is quite simple; **obtain the best grapes and get them into the hands of the best winemakers.** While often easier said than done, Allen managed to get one of the best Cabernet winemakers to craft Feather for him; that man is Randy Dunn. Randy first appeared on the winemaking map in 1975, when he took on a job at Caymus Vineyards, and had become their winemaker by 1976. With the 1979 vintage, Randy would release his first bottling of Dunn Vineyards. He purchased property on Howell Mountain, overlooking the Napa Valley, and his Dunn wines are known for their power, structure, and ability to age for several decades. To this day, the Dunn wines are highly sought after by collectors.

The grapes for Feather come from Washington State's Columbia Valley. Cabernet grown here accentuates the varietal character of the grape and contributes to the wine's silky texture. Grapes were picked by hand, and to help the wine develop optimal structure and extract concentrated color and flavor, the cap was pumped over vigorously at



peak fermentation. When ready for barrel, the wine was aged 22 months in all French oak barrels, 85% new. This percentage of new oak is typically reserved for wines that sell for 2x-4x times this price. This wine received a massive **98-point score from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate!** "Instantly impressive, the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Feather opens to silky, fresh and fleshy dark red and black fruit tones with picturesque rich and ripe notions that sashay out of the glass with elegance, power and precision. Medium to full-bodied, the Cabernet shows incredible depth and breadth with succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins. This will have no trouble aging past its 20th birthday. World-class and devastatingly beautiful, the wine continues to somersault across the ever-evolving finish, and it will undoubtedly be well received upon its release in the fall later this year. Mark your calendar now, and run, don't walk to add this to your cellar. Just under 48,000 bottles were filled after the wine rested for 22 months in all French oak, 90% first fill."

#7. PINE RIDGE 2022 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY \$54.95 [#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. Josh Widaman is the current winemaker for this venerable property, and **Josh was the winemaker for the Napa Cabernet that was named Wine Spectator's "Wine of the Year" in 2016!** The 2022 Pine Ridge Napa Cabernet is comprised of estate fruit from Stags Leap, Howell Mountain, Oakville, Rutherford, and Carneros. This wine has aromas of cherry compote, herbs, raspberry and black licorice that tantalize the senses. The palate is a symphony of flavors, featuring blueberry, vanilla, and a touch of molasses. Soft tannins support the fruit, while notes of black fruit, pine, and a hint of grilled meat add complexity.



Top North American Cabs of 2024

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#8. POST & BEAM 2022 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY \$47.98 [#277425]

If this label looks familiar to you, it's because Post & Beam is the latest addition to the Nickel Family of wines. A fine compliment to their Far Niente, Nickel & Nickel, and Bella Union labels, Post & Beam is named for the simple yet elegant barns that dot the American landscape as an enduring reminder of our history. Post & Beam represents craftsmanship, tradition, legacy, and purity in their structured yet approachable wines. Comprised of fruit from several key vineyards up and down the Napa Valley, this Cabernet has been a noteworthy standout since its release. Full-bodied and with ample fruit, the 2022 Post & Beam Cabernet Sauvignon displays seductive aromas of briar patch and plum sauce on the nose before leading onto a palate that is well-structured yet elegant. Round and textured on the palate, the entry is layered with cassis and blackberry. The finish exudes vanilla, mocha, and cocoa flavors alongside silky tannins.

#9. CANVASBACK 2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON RED MOUNTAIN \$33.95 [#216945]

After conducting extensive blind tastings between Napa Valley and Washington wines, the folks over at Duckhorn became extremely excited about the quality and character of the Cabernets from their neighbors to the north. In particular, it was the Cabernets from the Red Mountain AVA that grabbed their attention the most. They immediately began cultivating relationships with the growers who farm some of the appellations most esteemed vineyards, and Canvasback was born. Wines made from Red Mountain fruit express a unique terroir with exceptional color, strength and richness, while demonstrating remarkable balance of fruit, acidity, and tannin. This is thanks to five essential factors (called The Five Pillars) of Red Mountain's terroir; soil, slope, precipitation, wind and temperature. In short, this is one of the most coveted regions in Washington State. This luxurious wine draws you in with soaring aromas of cherry pie, grenadine and plum, as well as delightful notions of sagebrush, fennel, sarsaparilla and hints of flinty minerality and barrel spice. On the broad, supple palate, silky tannins underscore concentrated flavors of dark fruit and spice, with sophisticated notes of cocoa, tobacco leaf, black tea, nutmeg and cardamom emerging on the long, rich finish. **-Jeb Dunnuck 91 Points!**



#10. NATIVE HANDS 2022 CABERNET SAUVIGNON PASO ROBLES "NU-CHIEF" \$24.95 [#260900]

Chris Lobo is a wine industry veteran. He's been doing this for over 20 years, and has worked with the likes of Lewis Cellars, Herman Story, and Sans Liege, so you can be assured that Chris knows what separates mediocre wine from delicious wine. The word "Nu" means "Chief" in the native Juaneno language; Chris is a 9th generation Juaneno Mission Indian, and his ancestors planted the first grapevines in California at the Mission San Juan Capistrano in the year 1779. It's with this connection that he honors the first winemakers of California, the Mission Indians and their **NATIVE HANDS**.

Paso Robles is a region where Cabernet shines, and this wine demonstrates that it's not just the L'Aventure, Patrimony, and Bookers of the region who can do it, but also those who strive for complex, delicious wines at day-to-day prices. Chris teamed up with Curt Schalchlin to be a partner in the project, and to make this wine. Curt is another seasoned veteran of our industry, as Curt has been the talented hand behind some of Paso's most enjoyable wines, including Sans Liege, Groundwork, and Fableist. The Native Hands 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon "Nu" draws the eye by presenting a captivating violet hue. The nose offers a complex bouquet of blackberry, cedar, licorice, and a subtle cinnamon note. On the palate, flavors of plum sauce, red berries, and baking spice unfold, accompanied by a hint of leather and a silky tannin structure. **Only 500 cases were produced!**

LE BRUN SERVENAY 2012 EXTRA BRUT "EXHILARANTE" \$74.95 [#379352]

Produced only in exceptional vintages, Cuvée Exhilarante is a masterful, limited-production blend of grapes rigorously selected from the family's best old-vine parcels drawn from the entire estate. It is fashioned from 80% Chardonnay from Avize, Cramant and Oger (from vines 60-80 years old) and complexed with 10% Pinot Noir (for structure) and 10% Meunier (for fruitiness). After traditional hand riddling this cuvée was disgorged in January 2022 after 9 years on the yeast and finished off with a minimal dosage of 4g/l. We were immediately smitten by its nose which proffers an array of citrus aromas mingled with inflections of sea air and meadow flowers. On the palate one finds an abundance of luminous green apple and pear fruit accented with focused malic acidity set atop a sturdy foundation of textbook Avize chalk. Interestingly, the red grapes in the cuvée seem to frame and amplify the Champagne's Chardonnay character while adding depth to the resonant finish. This 2012 Exhilarante is a serious, pitch-perfect bottling that compares favorably to prestige Champagnes selling for three times its modest price. Pictured (r): Patrick Le Brun

Patrick Le Brun



ROEDERER 2015 BRUT "CRISTAL" \$279.99 [#378404]

We know that we have opened ourselves to a bit of trolling for including obvious choices like vintage Krug and this edition of Cristal in our top Champagnes of the year roster. We don't mind a bit of flack, because sometimes you just have to give the "greats" their due, especially when we are able to offer both of these gems at very competitive Direct Import Prices. All the critics have fawned over this beauty, but John Gilman's remarks are particularly insightful. [JOHN GILMAN - A VIEW FROM THE CELLAR, 98 POINTS](#) - "The 2015 Louis Roederer Cristal is composed this year from a cépages of sixty percent pinot noir and forty percent chardonnay, with twenty-five percent of the *vins clairs* raised in oak barrels. As is customary, the still wines do not go through malolactic fermentation for Cristal and the wine was finished with a dosage of seven grams per liter in this vintage, after aging nearly seven years sur lattes. It delivers a beautifully refined aromatic constellation of apple, nectarine, a superbly complex base of chalky minerality, a touch of raw almond, *pâtissière*, white flowers and a very, very discreet hint of oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and utterly seamless in its perfect balance, with a marvelous core, superb soil signature and grip, zesty acids and a very, very long, focused and complex finish. 2015 is a riper year in Champagne and this seems to have dovetailed brilliantly with the classic Cristal style of mineral signature, precise fruit tones and great structural integrity. This is destined to be a great, great classic vintage of Cristal! 2033-2100. (May/June 2023)"



Patrick Le Brun

LARMANDIER-BERNIER 2016 BRUT NATURE “TERRE DE VERTUS” BLANC DE BLANCS \$97.98 [[#378261](#)]

Through the sustained diligence of Pierre and Sophie Larmandier, their Terre de Vertus has become one of Champagne’s iconic Brut Nature Champagnes as well a great example of terroir “speaking” beneath the bubbles. It is comprised of Chardonnay from the northern side of Vertus where the chalk sits close to the surface-- specifically from two prime mid-slope sites-- Les Faucherets and Les Barillers. Fermented and raised in old, neutral oak barrels, it is then polished with five years aging on the lees before release. 2016 was a cooler vintage and Pierre Larmandier has produced a wine that has all the earmarks of a classic Terre de Vertus. It is bone dry and brisk, with pleasing hints of brioche intermingled with citrus and apple inflections while everything is braced with penetrating citrus and saline flavors in the long, kinetic finish. **VINOUS WINE MEDIA, 96 POINTS**-- “The 2016 Brut Nature Blanc de Blancs Terre de Vertus is fabulous. Composed of 100% Chardonnay from two mid-slope parcels in Vertus, it is perfumed and exotic with striking aromatics. This cuvée straddles the line between still and sparkling wine. Lime, mint, white pepper and chalk lend tons of high-toned character. This 2016 is really quite compelling. Bottled with no dosage. Disgorged April 2022.”

FLEUR DE MIRAVAL “PETITE FLEUR” BRUT ROSE \$89.95 [[#321604](#)]

Fleur de Miraval is an exciting project launched in 2020 by film legend Brad Pitt with two “star” winemakers, Rodolphe Péters of Champagne’s Pierre Péters and Marc Perrin of the Rhône’s Famille Perrin estates. “Exclusivement,” Fleur de Miraval’s original Rose Champagne garnered rave reviews from us and the wine press, but our enthusiasm was dampened by its nearly three-hundred-dollar tariff. Petite Fleur is a new companion label to the “Exclusivement” that is available for just a third of the cost. This “little sister” is a Champagne of impeccable pedigree as it encompasses Chardonnay grapes sourced exclusively from magnificent terroirs of the Côte des Blancs with a 5% splash of Pinot Noir, vinified as still wine, to create the pale pink hue. As we said, upon its release, this bottling charms with its Billecart-like finesse while showing more verve and chalk character from its Côtes des Blancs lineage. **JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS** -- “This is a new classic rosé from Fleur de Miraval with rose petals, iron shavings and some orange peel. Medium-bodied with zesty orange peel, rose petal, chalk and hibiscus on the palate. Dried strawberry and iron. Lovely balance of acidity. Juicy. Lightly dry finish. Based on the proprietary reserve. White from 2019 and red 2019 blends. All Côte des Blancs and Pinot Noir from Vertus. October release. Drink or hold.”



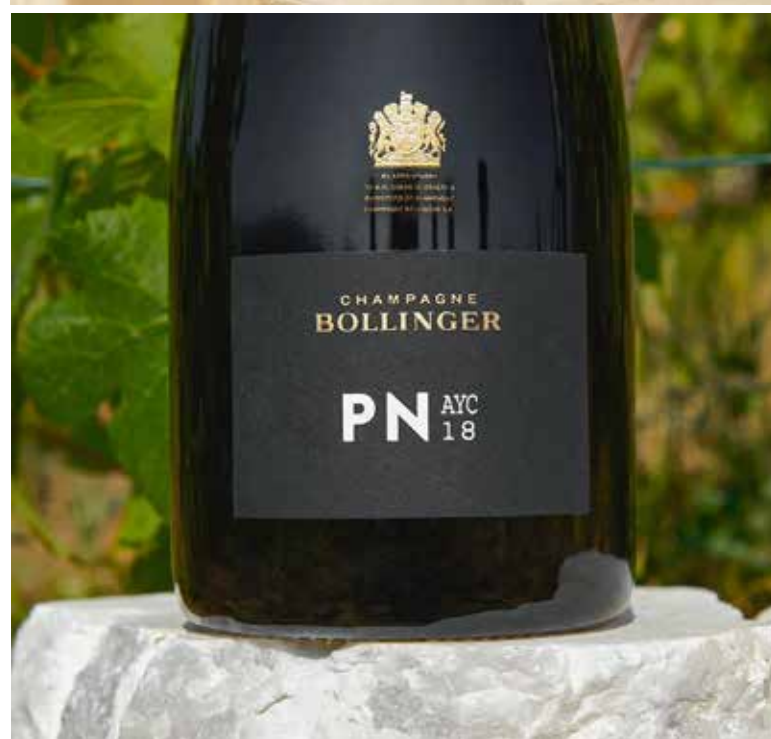
KRUG 2011 BRUT \$349.95 [[#335712](#)]

In wine, as in other things, a little bit of knowledge can be a dangerous thing. This adage is often true of vintage charts, which is to say that over the years we have had more than a few superb wines from poorly rated vintages. A great, recent example of this phenomenon is this Krug masterpiece from the much-maligned 2011 vintage. Krug's blending panel dealt with the challenges of the vintage through a very draconian fruit selection and by being open minded with their blending decisions. For example, in 2011 the staff found that Meunier provided surprising freshness and cut to the cuvée while the Chardonnay contributed density and ripeness, very much the inverse of their experience with prior vintages. They dubbed the resultant cuvee "Spirited Roundness" because it yielded a generous, multi-faceted bubbly with bright yellow fruits, toast and brown spices reined in by a long, stone-flecked finish. **JAMES SUCKLING 98 POINTS** -- "It shows reserved character but with a lot of energy and tension. Concentrated citrus fruit, candied lemons and mandarin peel with hints of savory herbs and spices. Notes of brioche and caraway seeds. Full-bodied, complex and nervy on the palate. It has fine, silky bubbles yet it's structured and firm with a lot of power. It builds up on the finish with freshness and vibrancy." Compare elsewhere at \$450.00 and more a bottle.



BOLLINGER BRUT PINOT NOIR AYC 2018 \$119.95 [[#379120](#)]

Nicknamed "The Red Burgundy House," every Bollinger Champagne has at least 60% Pinot Noir in the blend, and 68% of the Bollinger's grapes come from estate vineyards. These holdings are largely centered around Aÿ, Champagne's historic Pinot Noir epicenter where the firm farms fifty well-situated acres. In 2020, Chef de Caves Gilles Descôteaux debuted his Bollinger PN VZ15 (featuring Pinot Noir from Verzenay) to join their eighteen-hundred-dollars-a-bottle Vieilles Vignes Francaise as the firm's second 100% Pinot Noir Champagne. The concept of Descôteaux Bollinger PN bottlings was to showcase a particular Pinot Noir cru to reveal that village's distinctive terroir and flavor signature. This PN AYC 2018 is the newest edition of his village-focused Pinot Noir Champagnes and, as the moniker suggests, it is based on the Grand Cru of Aÿ. 53% of the blend is from the warm, early ripening 2018 harvest and the rest is reserve wine largely from 2009 Verzenay (from magnums) plus dollops from 2017 and 2016. The 2018 component was fermented half in oak and half in tanks and finished with a light dosage of 6 grams/liter. **WINE SPECTATOR 93 POINTS** - "Mouthwatering and finely meshed, with density to the satiny texture, this marries bright acidity with flavors of ripe white cherry, biscuit, pickled ginger and candied grapefruit peel. Opens slowly on the palate, revealing layers of fragrant spices, mineral and dried flowers on the finish."



GUY CHARLEMAGNE BRUT BLANC DE BLANCS GRAND CRU RESERVE \$52.98 [[#347552](#)]

Philippe Charlemagne is the fifth generation of father-to-son winegrowers in Le Mesnil-sur-Oger. He only harvests and vinifies grapes grown from his own 37 acres of vines (87% being Chardonnay and rest Pinot Noir) which are mainly planted in the Grand Cru villages of the Côte des Blancs. The vines are worked favoring nature-friendly practices that minimize the use of chemicals. Soil health and biodiversity are at the heart of Philippe's viticultural approach. This value-priced, multi-vintage blanc de blancs is made solely with Philippe's grand cru Chardonnay grapes from Mesnil-sur-Oger and Oger. The cuvée underwent 100% malolactic fermentation and was aged *en tirage* for three years. The result is a Champagne brimming with ripe Chardonnay and mineral goodness that is refreshingly balanced without being too brisk. Critic James Suckling loved it as this recent review attests: **JAMES SUCKLING 95 POINTS**-- "Restrained citrus notes, particularly fresh, with lime, chalk powder and tarte tatin pastry. Medium-bodied, tight palate that's super-zesty, with silky, persistent mousse and a polished, mineral finish full of salinity. Elegant and tight. Drinkable now, despite the exuberance, though there's potential for aging."



LAURENT PERRIER BRUT

“GRAND SIECLE NO. 26” \$249.98 [#338810]

This glorious Champagne is sort of a Ghost of Christmas Past that has haunted us with the memory of not being able to stock it after a flash sell out that occurred when James Suckling’s rave review appeared last Holiday Season. Well, this year we have acquired, what we hope is, an **ample supply** to put an end to our L.P. nightmare. **JAMES SUCKLING 100 POINTS** -- “This is really something. Electric on the palate. The aromas are so complex with sliced fresh and dried ginger, subtle pie crust, tarte tatin and hints of nutmeg with some salted caramel. Toasted bread, too. Always subtle. The palate is full- to medium-bodied yet hemmed-in with a freshness and balance that draws you back. Savory and vibrant. It’s full of energy. Spectacular. Fascinating. Symphonic blend of 2012, 2008 and 2007. 65% of the 2012, 25% of the 2008 and 10% of the 2007. Eight Grands Crus. Chardonnay 58% and 42% Pinot Noir. Disgorged February 2023. 10 years on the lees. 7g/L dosage.”

FAMILLE MOUSSEÉ EXTRA BRUT

BLANC DE BLANCS “L’ORAGE” \$59.95 [#374183]

L’Orage” means “The Storm” in English and very stormy it was in Champagne during the 2021 growing season. Cedric Moussé’s village of Cuis was hit particularly hard. That year started inauspiciously with several Spring frosts that reduced production by 40%, and then a series of rain storms led to a serious spread of mildew. Additionally, hail stones ravaged half of the estate’s vineyards so that, in total, 85% of the harvest was lost. Well, as they say, ‘It takes a village’; in this case it took eleven of his fellow *vignerons* that stepped up in solidarity to provide grapes and assistance during the harvest in order to make this lovely Champagne possible. As a tribute from Cedric, these eleven friends appear in silhouette on the front label of the bottle. This 100% Chardonnay is composed of a dozen elements in all and is finished with a minimal dosage 1.5 grams per liter. Thanks to total malolactic fermentation, this bottle displays more texture and generosity than its low dosage would suggest. In the mouth the attack is energetic but supple, while the mid-palate reveals juicy notes of white-fleshed fruits, ripe Meyer lemon and blanched almonds along with a slight hint of ginger in the back palate. Youthful for sure, but displaying plenty of flavor and charm. In truth, we can think of no better fizz to toast friendship with than this “miracle cuvée” from Cedric Moussé.

J. LASSALLE 2013 BRUT “SPECIAL CLUB”

\$119.95 [#375242]

We have proudly stocked J. Lassalle Champagnes since the early 1980s which makes them one of the real **OGs** of the Grower Champagne movement. Jules Lassalle established his Champagne house during the Second World War in the village of Chigny-Les-Roses on the Montagne de Reims. He soon mastered his craft and developed a strong following for his elegant, tightly knit Champagnes with a certain *élan*. When he passed away in 1982, his wife, Olga, and their daughter,



Chantal Decelle-Lassalle, stepped in and took over the estate, and built upon Jules’ high standards. In 2006, Chantal’s daughter, Angéline Templier, joined the estate as winemaker. Their tradition of “*une femme, un esprit, un style*” (one woman, one spirit, one style) holds true today more than ever. All of the Lassalle current releases are worthy, but the house’s 2013 edition of their top-of-the-line Special Club is a special success that brims with class and sophistication, as these notes attest. **THE CHAMPAGNE GUIDE 96 POINTS** - “A pretty pale straw hue heralds the cool late 2013 season on the elegant slopes of the northern Montagne de Reims. This is a vintage that rises to the refined mood of Lassalle, a brilliant flash of pure citrus precision, with lemon and grapefruit of pristine purity, broadened subtly by the body of white peach and the supple flesh of ripe pear, opening into mixed spice in time. A decade in the depths has built wonderful layers of vanilla cream, almond nougat, brioche, butter and spice. The crystalline minerality of the pure chalk of the Montagne de Reims focuses a finish of brilliant line and length. Delightful at full decade of age, this is a vintage with tremendous potential for another ten years in the cellar yet.” -Tyson Stelzer.



POL ROGER 2016 BRUT MILLESIME \$89.98 [#379119]

While Pol Roger's vintage Champagnes can always be counted on to be among the top wines of any given vintage, their 2016 represents a special success for the Maison. Trying weather conditions during the growing seasons (i.e. frost, hail, rain, and extreme heat spikes) resulted in a reduced crop; but Indian summer weather at harvest saved the day and resulted in balanced, wonderfully expressive base wines especially for the firm's estate grown Pinot Noirs. This 2016 is blend of 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Chardonnay from twenty different Grand and Premier crus in the Montagne de Reims and the Côte des Blancs. At harvest, the musts from each village were given a separate, double cold-settling regime, to obtain the most pristine juice possible. Afterwards, the clarified musts underwent a very slow, cold fermentation in stainless steel in order to provide the production team with an array of vibrant blending options. After blending and bottling, this brut was aged on the yeast in Pol Roger's hundred-foot-deep caves for seven years before it was hand riddled and disgorged. The following remarks by Audrey Frick are spot on: JebDunnuck.com 95 Points-- "... It pours a straw hue and displays a more expressive profile on opening, with notes of tangerine and fresh flowers, its red fruit coming through with fresh red raspberry and peppery spice. It's medium-bodied and rounded through the palate, with excellent structure, powerful concentration, and a long finish. This has a refined yet powerful feel and will be a wine with significant longevity and slow maturation over the next 15-20 years. True to the house style, it has a sturdy backbone and is emblematic of a fantastic vintage champagne from Pol Roger. The mousse is pinpoint and rounded on the finish. Drink 2024-2040."

JEAN LALLEMENT ET FILS BRUT RESERVE GRAND CRU \$59.95 [#378118]

The stellar, Pinot Noir-driven, Champagnes of Jean Lallement have been unavailable to us for the past few years. This tiny grower-estate's production averages a miniscule 1700 cases from ten acres of vines split between the Grand Crus of Verzenay and Verzy. Furthermore, the lion's share of the U.S. allocation had been reserved for savvy east coast **restaurateurs**. Now, due to the persistent sourcing efforts of a small California importer we have, once again, gained access to this long-time staff favorite. For value and immediate enjoyment Lallement's mid-range Brut Reserve is our top portfolio pick. This outstanding iteration is drawn mainly (80%) from the 2020 harvest and freshened with wine from 2021. It is an old vine (35 plus years old) assemblage with a well-melded dosage of 4 grams per liter. The nose pleases a cornucopia of scents including that of Mirabelle plums, wild strawberries and filberts while the palate features a lively play of Queen Anne cherries, quince and baking spices that rise up in the long, expansive finish. This full-framed farmer fizz leaves an enduring Burgundian impression that makes it a perfect call for Holiday fare.





VOCORET 2023 CHABLIS \$27.95 [352088]

This wine captures the typical Chablis character with steely minerality, focused citrus expression and firm acidity. Serve as an aperitif or with oysters, seafood, snails, charcuterie, goat cheese, Gruyere cheese.

PIERRE RIFFAULT 2022 SANCERRE 7 HOMMES

\$27.99 [353069]

A STAFF FAVORITE AND BEST SELLER

Light yellow with gold tints. An elegant nose that is fruity with aromas of citrus and tropical fruit. Beautifully fresh, intense aromas that come from ripe sauvignon blanc. Good length and minerality. Can be enjoyed as an aperitif, with sea-food, fish dishes or cheese."

MICHEL SARRAZIN 2022 GIVRY BLANC

\$32.99 [358089]

Pale golden in color. Bright and lively aromas of peach, apples, spiced pears, white flowers, with hints of citrus fruit, almond and brioche. On the palate, the creamy texture with an intensity to the mid palate that is rarely seen at this level is very well balanced and fresh with a mineral backbone supported by a refreshing acidity and a persistent finish.

VACHERON 2022 SANCERRE LES ROMAINS

\$69.95 [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."



WILLIAM FEVRE 2020 CHABLIS LES PREUSES

\$104.95 [355047]

JOHN GILMAN 97 POINTS : "The 2020 les Preuses from Domaine Fèvre was one of the finest white wines I tasted from the entire vintage during my trip in November and December. The perfect ripeness of the vintage, coupled to such great acidity are the hallmarks of the best wines of 2020 and these attributes are on full display in this stunning young wine. The nose soars from the glass in a mineral bath of les Preuses Kimmeridgian limestone terroir, carrying notes of apple, pear, fresh lime, straw, oyster shell, white flowers and a topnote of beeswax. On the palate the wine is pure, precise, snappy and very, very complex, with great depth at the core, stunning mineral definition, laser-like focus and stunning length and grip on the simply beautiful young finish."

OLIVIER LEFLAIVE 2022 PULIGNY

MONTRACHET \$129.95 [352788]

JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS - "Attractive nose of ripe apricots, jasmine, hazelnuts, white grapefruit and some smoky touches. Creamy, ripe and fleshy, with a full body. Excellent concentration. Drink or hold."

LATOUR GIRAUD 2022 MEURSAULT GENEVRIERES

\$149.95 [357473]

BURGHOUND 94 POINTS *Burghound Sweet Spot Outstanding!* - "From 40+ year old vines from a huge 2.5 ha parcel in Genevrières Dessus. Firm reduction masks all the aromas except an interesting hint of exotic tea. There is again both good vibrancy and freshness to the finer still, but not denser, medium weight flavors that are almost delicate yet certainly don't lack for punch as the strikingly long finale is almost painfully intense. This is bone-dry but not especially austere and overall, one very classy wine. Buy it if you can find it!"



CELLIER AUX MOINES 2020 PULIGNY LES PUCELLES

\$199.99 [356920]

JAMES SUCKLING 94 POINTS - "It shows a rather quiet, restrained fruit character as well as great harmony and seamlessness. Fermented in 20% new oak, alive with good acidity and highlighted by light toast, almond and mineral accents that add complexity. Medium- to full-bodied and quite well structured. Drink or hold."

LOUIS LATOUR 2019 CORTON CHARLEMAGNE

\$189.99 [345601]

JAMES SUCKLING 98 POINTS - "Such a classic Corton Charlemagne! Stunningly concentrated and powerful, but also so graceful. Very racy at the long finish, which has so much mineral freshness. Takes your breath away! Drink or hold."

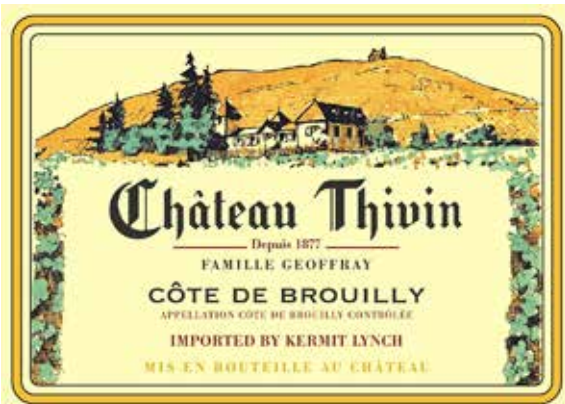
PLATEAU DES CHENES 2022 LIRAC \$15.95 [357984]

JEB DUNNUCK 90 POINTS - Already bottled, the 2022 Lirac Plateau Des Chênes is a juicy, up-front, delicious Lirac with lots of black raspberry and framboise fruits, medium body, a silky, elegant mouthfeel, and classic spicy, floral nuances. Drink this beautiful Lirac over the coming 5-7 years.

CHÂTEAU HAUT BRISSON 2020 SAINT-ÉMILION \$26.95 [353579]

JEB DUNNUCK 96 POINTS

“Coming from dismal yields of 12.5 hectoliters per hectare, the 2020 Château Haut-Brisson is shockingly good and another brilliant Right Bank that’s going to represent a tremendous value. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc brought up in just 35% new French oak, it has a sensational perfume of red and black cherries, leafy tobacco, chocolate, lead pencil shavings, and liquid violet-like nuances. Full-bodied, concentrated, and flawlessly balanced, it has ultra-fine tannins, remarkable purity, and a great finish.”



CHÂTEAU THIVIN 2022 CÔTE DE BROUILLY \$28.95 [352948]

JAMES SUCKLING 93 POINTS - “Great blackberry fruit aromas and excellent concentration on the medium-bodied, impeccably balanced palate. Long, complete finish. Needs a bit more time in bottle to give its best, but impressive depth. A blend from this producer’s seven parcels in this appellation. From organically grown grapes. Bottled unfiltered. Drinkable now, but best from 2025.”

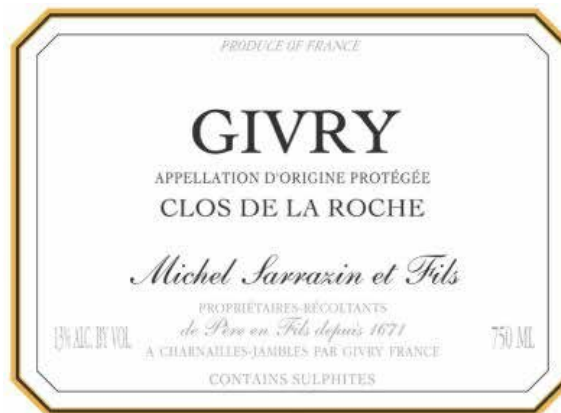
CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE 2018 SAINT-ÉMILION \$37.99 [352418]

JEB DUNNUCK 95 POINTS - “A gorgeous wine that shines on all accounts, the 2018 Château Fombrauge sports a dense purple hue to go with loads of blackcurrant and black cherry fruits as well as tobacco leaf, damp earth, chocolate, and cedary herbs. With full-bodied richness, a deep, layered mid-palate, silky tannins, and outstanding length, this rock star Saint-Émilion can be enjoyed any time over the coming 20-25 years or more. It’s hands down the finest vintage I’ve tasted from this estate.”



JAMES SUCKLING

94 POINTS - “Ripe-plum, black-cherry, milk-chocolate, walnut and vanilla aromas and flavors. It’s full-bodied with plush, velvety tannins. Creamy and polished. Very tight now. From organically grown grapes. Try from 2023, when it will begin to open up.”



MICHEL SARRAZIN 2022 GIVRY CLOS DE LA ROCHE \$39.99 [358088]

This Pinot Noir from Michel Sarrazin is a stunning wine which illustrates the brilliance of the 2022 vintage in France. A combination of old vines carefully tended to by a skilled winemaker from a fantastic vintage has resulted in an aromatic and flavorful overachiever. Sarrazin’s Bourgogne Rouge Vieilles Vignes unfolds gracefully on the palate with great intensity, purity of fruit and silky smooth texture.

This is a forward, accessible and pleasing wine which will appeal to lovers of Pinot Noir from both France and California. This wine over-delivers with an incredible quality to price ratio and

is a great wine to purchase by the case and enjoy over the next few years.

Bright ruby in color. On the nose, expressive aromas of fresh cut flowers, perfectly ripened cherries, red berries and brown spices leap from the glass. On the palate, the wine is dry, medium-bodied and polished with wonderful texture and silky tannins. With air, the wine gains complexity as darker fruits emerge with notions of boysenberry and Marionberry mingling with cherry, raspberry and cinnamon spice. The finish is long lasting and very satisfying.

JANASSE 2020 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE \$49.99 [355081]

WINE ENTHUSIAST 95 POINTS - “Thrilling in fruit purity and delicately mineral, the standard label or “tradition” bottling of Châteauneuf-du-Pape from La Janasse is a consistent out performer of its peer class. A blend of 65% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 5% Cinsault matured with a minimal amount of new oak, its throbbing black cherry and plum flavors are powerful yet pristine. Flecked with hints of crushed salt and smoke, it’s a silken, delicately tannic sip at peak now—2027 but likely to hold further. *Editors’ Choice*”



CELLIER AUX MOINES 2022 GIVRY CLOS CELLIER \$49.99 [357052]

JAMES SUCKLING 95 POINTS - “If every red from Givry tasted like this, the appellation would be world famous. Deep nose of forest berries with notes of allspice and licorice. Very cool, with a fantastic herbal freshness on the quite compact and concentrated, medium-bodied palate. What a great structure of fine tannins this has, and they drive the very long and chalky finish. From biodynamically grown grapes. Drinkable now, but best from 2026.”



**LES PAGODES DE COS 2009
SAINT-ÉSTEPHE \$94.99 [350064]**

ROBERT PARKER 94 POINTS - "The brilliant 2009 Les Pagodes de Cos actually has more Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend than the grand vin (69% versus 65%) in addition to mostly Merlot and a small quantity of Petit Verdot. As powerful as the Cos in terms of alcoholic clout (14.5%), the full-bodied, round, generous Les Pagodes de Cos exhibits lots of creme de cassis and floral notes intermixed with hints of wood/barrique and spice. Juicy, succulent and remarkably fresh and well-delineated, it merits considerable attention from consumers. It should drink well for 15-20 years. Oddly enough, the second wine is superior to many vintages of Cos in the 1960s 1970s and 1980s!"

JEB DUNNUCK 94 POINTS - "The 2009 Pagodes De Cos is a blockbuster that I wish I had more of in the cellar. A blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest mostly Merlot (there's a small amount of Petit Verdot) brought up in roughly 50% new French oak, its deep purple/plum color is followed by a smorgasbord of black raspberry and kirsch-like fruits, spice box, dried flowers, and licorice. With a huge mid-palate, sweet, sweet tannin, beautiful purity of fruit, and a great finish, it's an incredibly sexy, satisfying second wine that will keep for another 10-15 years."



**DOMAINE DE
CHEVALIER 2016
PESSAC-LÉOGNAN
\$94.99 [352410]**

JEB DUNNUCK 97 POINTS: "This deep purple-hued beauty boasts a powerful bouquet of tobacco smoke, damp earth, gravelly, rocky minerality, wood smoke,

and loads of dark fruits. Full-bodied, deep, concentrated yet incredibly elegant and seamless on the palate, it's a legendary Chevalier in the making. While I rated this as high as 99 points on one of the four separate occasions I was able to taste it, I'm being conservative with the score."

JAMES SUCKLING 97 POINTS: "Aromas of blackberries, red and dark plums, cedar and gravel, as well as red flowers and brown-leaf tea. It offers a very sleek and powerful array of ripe dark fruit and a very plush, focused and elegant bed of fresh, fine and powerful tannins. Plenty of aging potential, this is still quite tight."

VINOUS 96 POINTS: "The 2016 Domaine de Chevalier is a thrilling wine. Dense and beautifully layered, the 2016 is also quite a bit richer than it usually is. Cabernet Sauvignon aromatics and structure pulse through the wine. The red-toned fruit is incredibly primary at this stage. Readers should be prepared to cellar the 2016 for at least a handful of years. It has been nothing short of magnificent on the three occasions I have tasted it so far."

**DOMAINE
MARCOUX 2019
CHÂTEAUNEUF-
DU-PAPE
VIEILLES VIGNES
\$124.99 [323176]**

JEB DUNNUCK 97 POINTS - "Also a true gem of a wine, the 2019 Châteauneuf Du Pape Vieilles Vignes includes all three terroirs of Charbonnière, Esqueirons and Galimardes and is all Grenache. It's a ripe, opulent, incredibly sexy wine that's just about overflowing with notes of raspberries, blueberries, Provençal herbs, violets, and flowers. It's a big,



exuberant Grenache offering sweet tannins, a broad, mouth-filling texture, no hard edges, and a great finish."



**SMITH HAUT LAFITTE
2010
PESSAC-LÉOGNAN
\$199.99 [353227]**

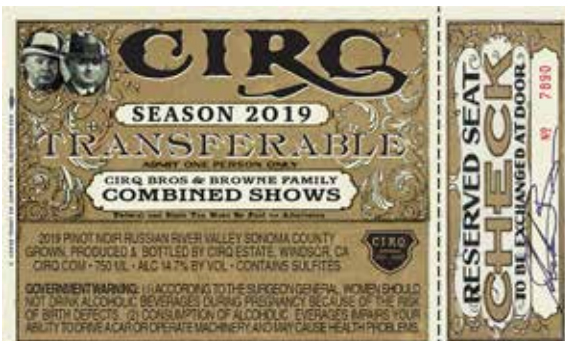
ROBERT PARKER 98+ POINTS - "This is an extraordinary performance once again from the Cathiard family, the proprietors of Smith-Haut-Lafitte. They think the 2010 is even better than the 2009. (I disagree, but only slightly.) This wine has laser-like definition in its an remarkable nose of a subtle charcoal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

**PONTET CANET
2010 PAUILLAC
\$269.99 [351258]**

ROBERT PARKER 100 POINTS:

"An absolutely amazing wine, from grapes harvested between the end of September and October 17, this blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot has close to 15% natural alcohol. It comes from one of the few biodynamic vineyards in Bordeaux, but you are likely to see many more, given the success that Tesseron seems to be having at all levels, both in his vineyards and in his fermentation/winemaking. An astounding, compelling wine with the classic Pauillac nose more often associated with its cross-street neighbor, Mouton-Rothschild, creme de cassis, there are also some violets and other assorted floral notes. The wine has off-the-charts massiveness and intensity but never comes across as heavy, overbearing or astringent. The freshness, laser-like precision, and full-bodied, massive richness and extract are simply remarkable to behold and experience. It is very easy, to become jaded tasting such great wines from a great vintage, but it is really a privilege to taste something as amazing as this."





Hartford



#1. CIRQ 2019 PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY \$199.98 [#208410]

Receiving the elusive 100-point score is no easy task, and in the world of Pinot Noir it's seen less frequently. Respected wine critic Jeb Dunnuck only rated one Pinot Noir from the Russian River a perfect 100 points from the 2019 vintage, and that wine is here for you!

This is not Michael Browne's first time in the limelight. His first noteworthy act was partnering with coworker Dan Kosta to make unique and delicious Pinot Noirs, and together they started Kosta Browne. Michael eventually sold his ownership in that label, and with the creation of Cirq, he can now focus on a brand that would be his own, and produce wines from Russian River Valley's most exceptional sites. The label is inspired by his childhood circus-performing days, and he only uses the highest quality fruit from prime vineyards to create unprecedented flavors for the ultimate expression of this magical region. "The 2019 Pinot Noir is a jeweled ruby hue and has layered aromas of pristine cherry, cardamom, rose petal, and sweet herbs. It has incredible clarity and focus, with a silky texture in its notes of raspberry liqueur and violets, and somehow seems to have more depth after the wine is gone. It offers fantastic balance and a sunny feel, with great refinement that lasts for ages. This wine is outstanding." **-Jeb Dunnuck 100 Points!**

#2. DENNER 2021 PROPRIETARY RED PASO ROBLES "DIRT WORSHIPPER" \$79.95 [#214850]

There are some wines from Paso Robles that are dang near impossible to get. These are small-production, high-scoring wines that only the lucky seem to find. Well...



Denner's "Dirt Worshipper" Syrah is one of those wines! Planted in 1999, Denner Vineyards is a winegrowing estate on the far western border of the Paso Robles AVA. Their 156 acres press up against the Santa Lucia Range, giving the site great diversity of elevation, aspect and soil; the vineyards are planted in an East/West corridor where the marine layer can reach the inland valleys. As a result, they receive large diurnal temperature swings without high moisture pressure, creating a near perfect growing climate. The 108 acres under vine are comprised of 19 different varieties in 26 unique blocks.

Each block is farmed with painstaking attention to detail, allowing only for the best possible grapes to reach the winery. Aron Nevarez, their vineyard manager, is **committed to environmentally friendly farming practices, using only sustainable inputs and minimal irrigation**. Winemaker Anthony Yount has fashioned a wine that combines ripe, rich, intense fruit flavors with the peppery spice that Syrah is known for, and his wine delivers in spades! "A more Syrah-dominated release, the 2021 Dirt Worshipper is textbook Syrah magic with is peppery, gamey dark fruits, iron, tapenade, sandalwood, and violet-laced aromas and flavors. It's rich, medium to full-bodied, has a concentrated, layered mouthfeel, and a great finish. Based on 88% Syrah, 7% Petit Verdot, 4% Graciano, and 1% Viognier that was fermented with 40% whole clusters and aged 20 months in 25% new French and Hungarian oak, it will probably merit a triple-digit rating in 4-5 years, and I'd be happy to put this up with the best Syrahs out there." **-Jeb Dunnuck 98 Points!**

#3. HARTFORD 2022 PINOT NOIR SONOMA COAST "FAR COAST" \$84.95 [#228840]

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 2 times** what the Hartfords ask. Hartford Family Winery began back in 1994 by Don and Jennifer Hartford. Since their inaugural release in 1996, Hartford has continued to produce wines with lots of personality and charisma. The single vineyard wines they produce range from as little as 90 to 800 cases and receive high accolades from the top wine critics.

Their Far Coast Vineyard is a cool site surrounded by redwood forests, located almost two hours north of the Russian River on a Sonoma Coast mountain ridge. It's an area that some call the "True Sonoma Coast;" others would simply describe the distant vineyard site as "the middle of nowhere." Far Coast Vineyard sits just south of the town of Annapolis at 600-1000 feet above sea level. The Goldridge soils at this ridge-top site are well-drained and help to contribute to the sense of minerality and focus in this rare single-vineyard Pinot Noir. This vintage has earned an impressive **96 points from Jeb Dunnuck!** "Dark red magenta in color, the 2022 Pinot Noir Far Coast Vineyard belongs to the recently added West Sonoma Coast AVA and was aged for 14 months in 32% new French oak barrels. In the glass, it's ripe with notes of black raspberries, crushed pine needles, licorice, and toasted cedar. Medium-bodied, it has sweet tannin and a good deal of fresh, ripe fruit, with a juicy feel throughout its long-lasting finish. It's quite charming out of the gate, but it also has a very well-balanced structure and a more interesting level of refined complexity. Drink it over the next 10-15 years."

#4. LEWIS 2021 PROPRIETARY RED NAPA VALLEY “ALEC’S BLEND”

\$67.98 [#237455]



Former open-wheel driver Randy Lewis is driven to achieve perfection; that’s why the Lewis family has been hands-on in every aspect—from vineyard management to winemaking to sales. Their strong dedication to producing only the best wine they can make has helped them to garner acclaim and big scores from the best critics. Their wines have made the Top Wine list from Wine Spectator more than once, with their 2013 Napa Cabernet being named Wine Spectator’s Wine of the Year! This year doesn’t seem to be much different, as the high scores keep coming in.

Alec’s is named after one of Randy’s grandsons, and the Alec’s Blend is a unique wine in their lineup. This wine is always driven by Syrah, and combines varying amounts of Bordeaux varietals into the mix, such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Production is always quite small on this wine, and it is typically one of the first wines of the Lewis releases to sell out. However, since we have supported them since the first vintage, we have been able to secure enough to include this in our “top wine” list of 2024! “The 2021 Alec’s Blend is mostly Syrah (there’s some Merlot, Petite Sirah, and Cabernet Franc) and its deep purple hue is followed by a gorgeous perfume of blackberries, blueberries, camphor, ground pepper, and hints of bacon fat. It’s full-bodied and has remarkable purity, fine tannins, and a great finish. Drink this incredibly sexy, hedonistic beauty over the coming decade.”
-**Jeb Dunnuck 95 Points!**



#5. AARON 2021 PROPRIETARY RED PASO ROBLES “MAUKA”

\$56.95 [#201445]

Aaron Jackson is a Central Coast native with Hawaiian roots and is a hardcore surfer. So, you can imagine how dedicated to

winemaking Aaron must be when he has to leave those firing point breaks to head for the vineyards! At a young age, he found himself working in coastal Pinot Noir vineyards near his hometown of Cayucos and working in cellars producing wines from Paso Robles’ westside, most uniquely Petite Sirah. While studying wine at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, he pooled together the pennies from his weekend jobs and launched his eponymous label with the first vintage of Aaron Petite Sirah in 2002.

Mauka, meaning “towards the mountains” in Hawaiian language, is a blend that was a long time coming. Aaron has always been fascinated with Bordeaux varietals, but struggled to find the vineyards that gave him a more classical Cabernet profile, which is what he’s been looking for. However, he began working with some wonderful, cooler sites in the Willow Creek and Adelaida districts that finally gave him what he desired! “The 2021 Mauka is based on 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Petite Sirah, and the rest Petit Verdot, all of which spent 22 months in 65% new French oak. It has a terrific perfume of blackcurrants, spicy oak, leafy herbs, and chocolate. This carries to a full-bodied red that has beautiful purity, a focused mouthfeel, and ripe tannins. I like it today yet see no reason this beauty wouldn’t continue to evolve gracefully for another 10-15 years.” -**Jeb Dunnuck 94 Points!**

#6. MARINE LAYER 2022 PINOT NOIR SONOMA COAST “LYRA”

\$49.95 [#239930]

The distinctive name, “Marine Layer,” pays homage to the thick blanket of fog that pours in from the Pacific along the Sonoma Coast. Known for cooler temperatures and extreme conditions, growing grapes in this region is undoubtedly challenging, yet the most rewarding, as the longer hang-time for grapes results in nuanced flavors, bright acidity and balance. Their “Lyra” bottling is named after one of the oldest and brightest constellations found in the California summer sky, arriving as the vines awaken back to life and departing at harvest. It presides with a watchful eye over the evolution of our Pinot Noir vineyards as they progress through their annual cycle from bud to flower to grape.

Crafted with precision, the 2022 blend showcases the exquisite fruit harvested from the



esteemed Marine Layer Vineyard in Sebastopol Hills, intertwined with grapes sourced from select single vineyard sites nestled in the Green Valley and Petaluma Gap sub-AVAs. This blend celebrates the rich diversity found in the varying climates, soils and clonal varieties across these vineyards, and was aged for 11 months in 25% new French oak. This has been one of our top selling Pinot Noirs this year, and it just received a fantastic 94-point score from Jeb Dunnuck! “Medium red in color, the 2022 Pinot Noir Lyra is the estate’s Sonoma Coast blend and is about an 800-case production. It’s juicy and bright on the nose, with aromas of bright red cherries, cinnamon candies, fresh roses, and fresh herbs. Medium-bodied, with fine tannins, it stays refreshing and is approachable now, and it’s going to hold on with ease over the next 7-8 years. **A phenomenal value.**”

#7. MARIATINTO 2021 PROPRIETARY RED VALLE DE GUADALUPE

\$42.98 [#239670]

To those who have visited the gorgeous wine region of Valle de Guadalupe, seeing a wine from Baja Mexico on our “top wine” list will come as no surprise. The wine hails from a Mediterranean climate, tempered by cooling winds coming off the Pacific Ocean, similar to parts of California. The wines from this region are gaining favor with sommeliers and consumers alike and becoming increasingly harder to keep in stock. The Mariatinto label began in 2002 as an oenological project in the hand of partners Humberto Falcón and Chef Guillermo González Beristáin with the intention of creating a Mexican wine that would pair with the national gastronomy. This project grew until it became one of the best-selling wines in Mexico. At a recent event put on by importers, our buyer said this is the best red wine from Mexico he’s ever tasted!

This tremendous wine is a blend of 35% Nebbiolo, 25% Syrah, 20% Tempranillo, and smaller amounts of Merlot, Grenache, Malbec, and Cabernet Franc. Its powerful nose is complex with notes of fresh black and red fruit: raspberry, blackberry, plum and blueberry, followed by floral elements such as violets and rose petals. Immediately afterwards, fresh spices such as licorice, black pepper and cardamom



stand out, to finally find roasted elements such as fresh leather, cedar and roasted coffee. In the mouth it is intense and elegant, with great balance between firm and linear tannins, fruitiness and refreshing acidity. A wide fruity mid-palate and a long, fresh finish gives way to an elegant aftertaste of red fruit and dark chocolate.

#8. DOMAINE DROUHIN 2021 PINOT NOIR DUNDEE HILLS \$39.99 [#216100]

It seems that families whose names are well-established in other wine regions have been flocking to Oregon's Willamette Valley lately. However, **it was the Drouhins who were the first Burgundy family to stake a major claim into this now world-renowned wine region back in 1987.** After tasting a wine from pioneer David Lett, Robert Drouhin was intrigued by the region, and settle on this region for his next Pinot Noir venture. Poised atop the Dundee Hills, with gentle slopes that capture the breezes and sunshine, this 235-acre estate overlooking the Willamette Valley produces Pinot Noir and Chardonnay that rival some of the best in the world. With its red volcanic soils, cool nights, warm days and elongated growing season, grapes from this property are destined for greatness.

The property is now headed by Veronique-Boss Drouhin, who is part of the 4th generation of Drouhin winemakers. The wines of Domaine Drouhin have exceptional complexity, length, and depth, and the 2021 vintage is being heavily touted by all of the more respected critics. Our buyer thinks this is the best rendition of this wine he's ever tasted, and **Jeb Dunnuck rated this at 96 points!** "Moving to the Domaine Drouhin Oregon lineup from the Dundee Hills, the 2021 Pinot Noir Dundee Hills is ripe with ripe black cherry, fresh licorice, and dark stone. Lush and inviting, with ripe structure and broad shoulders, it is flush with a ripe, meaty texture and warming spice. Allow it another couple of years in the cellar. This is an age-worthy wine to drink 2025-2037."



#9. FOXEN 2021 PINOT NOIR SANTA MARIA VALLEY \$30.99 [#222650]

Bill Wathen and Dick Dore have been making wine together since 1985, when they founded Foxen Vineyards and Winery at the historic Rancho Tinaquaic in Northern

Domaine Drouhin



Santa Barbara County. Since that time their dedication has remained the same: **the creation of small production, sustainably-farmed, vineyard-focused wines** using a straightforward and minimalist approach to winemaking. They seem to be doing all the things right, as they now have an amazing following, and their tasting room has become a Santa Barbara Wine Country destination!

Santa Maria is a highly-prized growing region within Santa Barbara County. Foxen sources Pinot Noir from two of the more noteworthy vineyards in this area; Bien Nacido and Riverbench. Multiple clones of Pinot Noir are harvested from these two properties, fermented separately, then blended for increased complexity while being aged in French oak barrels. "The appellation 2021 Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley is **a beauty as well as a brilliant value.** Wild strawberries, framboise, dried flowers, and spice all emerge from this graceful, medium-bodied, elegant **Pinot Noir that has tons of character.** Destemmed and brought up in neutral oak, drink bottles over the coming 4-6 years." -**Jeb Dunnuck 92 Points!**



#10. ANCIENT PEAKS 2021 PROPRIETARY RED PASO ROBLES "RENEGADE" \$19.95 [#211270]

Ancient Peaks is singular to Paso Robles, and in more ways than one. Ancient Peaks and

their estate Margarita Vineyard stands alone and apart, as the southernmost vineyard in the Paso Robles region, and as the only vineyard in the Santa Margarita Ranch AVA. Just 14 miles from the Pacific Ocean, this property occupies one of the Paso Robles region's coolest growing environments, providing their wines with native structure and intensity. When the days heat up, the air rises to create a vacuum that pulls marine breezes inland and over the surrounding peaks—and right through the vineyard. The peaks are frequently enshrouded in coastal fog during the growing season, a vivid testament to the vineyard's unique microclimate.

From missionaries to gunslingers, roughriders to outlaws, a colorful cast of characters has traversed the ranch's rugged terrain since the 18th century. In that spirit, Ancient Peaks has made an intensely flavored blend that pushes the envelope and resists conformity, adding an adventurous twist to their family of wines. The winemaking vision of Renegade is to craft a bold Syrah-driven wine with the structure and finesse provided by classic Bordeaux blending varieties. A blend of 83% Syrah, 14% Petit Verdot, and 3% Malbec, the 2021 Renegade presents complex aromas of violets, blue fruits and pomegranate with notes of graphite, cinnamon and toasted oak. The palate is rich and racy with flavors of cherry, currant, raspberry, cranberry and smoked meat. Trailing accents of cedar, juniper, earth and white pepper add intrigue to a lively, chewy finish.

Defiantly bold and daringly elegant—this is Renegade! **Antonio Galloni's Vinous Media 92 Points!**



**#1. DUMOL 2022 CHARDONNAY
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY “CHLOE”
\$74.95 [#220340]**

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! Winemaker **Jenna Davis** has worked at some of the most illustrious wineries in California, including Opus One and Spottswoode, and has been an integral part of DuMol’s success since 2016.



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. It’s a blend of several different Chardonnay clones in order to increase complexity and the wine was aged for 11 months in 30% new French Oak, then held in tank for 6 months to bring verve to the wine. This magnificent wine earned a **96-point score from esteemed critic Jeb Dunnuck**, and his review reads: “Pouring a bright medium yellow/straw hue, the 2021 Chardonnay Chloe is highly expressive, with a golden perfume of pineapple, orange oil, and a bit of honeysuckle. It has full body and a rounded texture, with ripe apricot, hazelnut, and white flowers. A lush personality to drink over the next ten years, it’s a bit more open at this youthful stage.”



**#2. DRAGONETTE 2022 SAUVIGNON BLANC
HAPPY CANYON OF SANTA BARBARA “VOGELZANG” \$54.95 [#215960]**

The boys at Dragonette bonded over a bottle of Didier Dagueneau and searched throughout Santa Barbara’s Santa Ynez Valley to find vineyards that could best exemplify the enticing characteristics of this grape. They found those vineyards and now their Sauvignon Blancs have become some of our favorites in the entire store! Happy Canyon, with its unique soils and climate, warm to hot summer days and cool to cold evenings, is ideal for promoting full phenolic ripeness while still retaining critical acidity. The **organically-farmed** Vogelzang is situated on a gently sloping bed of well-drained, gravelly loam soil with serpentinite, and Dragonette controls all farming practices, from pruning to canopy management to yield control. Dragonette always does what’s needed to help produce the best wines. Only 275 cases were produced, and **Jeb Dunnuck honored this with 95 points**, making it one of the highest scoring Sauvignon Blancs produced in California!



is a touch more exotic, with ripe stone fruits, spicy wood, caramelized orange, and honeyed minerality (there’s almost a Riesling-like diesel quality) that carry to a richly textured, medium to full-bodied Sauvignon with nicely integrated acidity, a layered, balanced mouthfeel, and a great finish. It’s another impeccably made, impressive Sauvignon Blanc from this team that can be drunk any time over the coming decade.”

**#3. DEHLINGER 2021 CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN
RIVER VALLEY ESTATE \$47.95 [#214000]**

When Tom Dehlinger planted the property’s initial 14 acres in 1975, he was one of the first winemakers to revive western Sonoma County as a winegrowing region after Prohibition. In these pioneering days of Russian River Valley winemaking, fewer people were involved in the industry, and knowledge, resources, facilities and equipment were primitive or hard to find. But over time,

THE TOP WHITE WINES FROM NORTH AMERICA

with trial and error, and some blind luck, the Dehlingers and others came to realize the promise of the Russian River Valley climate and the potential of some of its better hillside soils and locations.

Dehlinger has long been recognized for its Russian River Valley Chardonnays, which are known for their balance, fresh acidity and unctuous flavor. Today, Dehlinger produces a single Estate Chardonnay bottling each vintage, originating from their eight acres of Chardonnay vines planted between 1975 and 1988. These old vines, grown in the region's classic goldridge series soils, are grafted to the California heritage Wente clone, which produces small clusters and berries and has a notable minerality and almost oily viscosity. Dehlinger is one of the blue-chip labels in the Russian River Valley and they are not easily found. In fact, it has taken us years to be able to secure enough wine to feature them on our list, and this beauty has earned a noteworthy **96-point score from Jeb Dunnuck!** "Aged in barrel on the lees for one year, the bright yellow/green 2021 Chardonnay Estate offers a mineral slanting style. In the glass, it has a fantastic nose, with pristine notes of lime, green pear, delicate oak spice and wet stones. Medium to full-bodied, it takes on notes of lime candies and white flowers, and it has a fantastic texture and a great, long finish."

#4. WALTER HANSEL 2022 CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY "CUVÉE ALYCE" \$38.95 [#228320]

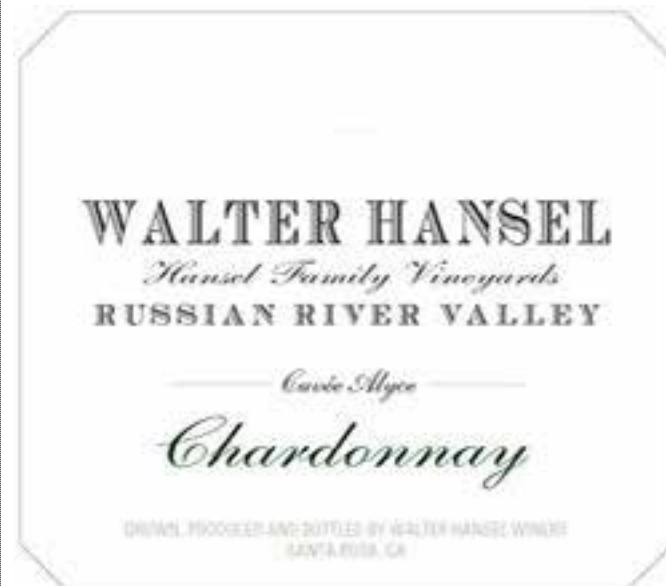
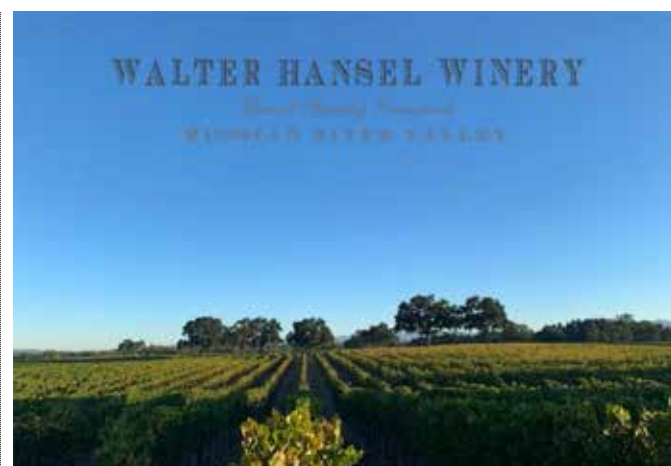
To put it bluntly, if you enjoy balanced, flavorful and complex Chardonnays, then Walter Hansel Winery should be on your radar... plain and simple! Winemaker Stephen Hansel crafts masterpieces year-in and year-out from his family's 75+ acres in Russian River Valley and his wines often remind us of premier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

Even esteemed wine critic Antonio Galloni has written that "...these are some of the most fairly-priced wines readers will find anywhere in the world." So here we have somebody who makes wines from one of the best regions in the world, doesn't make the wines in large quantities, gets high scores from the critics and charges reasonable prices. There's not much more to want from this wine. Earning an impressive **93-point score from Antonio Galloni**, his review reads: "The 2022 Chardonnay Cuvée Alyce is a blend of Hyde, Hudson and 95 clones. It is also the richest and deepest of these Chardonnays from Hansel. Burnt sugar, lemon confit, marzipan, tangerine oil and vanillin are nicely pushed forward. This is an especially understated vintage of the Alyce."

#5. RUTHERFORD HILL 2022 SAUVIGNON BLANC NAPA VALLEY "AJT" \$26.99 [#256500]

Wine Spectator is arguably the most prominent wine publication in the United States, if not the world. In the entire history of Wine Spectator, **only 10 Napa Sauvignon Blancs have ever achieved 94 points or higher** from them... this is the latest member in that elusive club! Nestled high on a hill, Rutherford Hill Winery commands a spectacular view overlooking the Rutherford bench of Napa Valley. It is from a handful of the most select Napa vineyards that Rutherford Hill continues its tradition of crafting legendary wines. In 1972, while the rest of the world was just beginning to take notice of Napa Valley, the founders of Rutherford Hill recognized a unique opportunity; they believed that the climate and soil of the valley were well-suited to Bordeaux varietals (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Sauvignon Blanc) and have become one of Napa's premier wineries.

Michael Coode is their passionate, driven and dynamic winemaker. His experience spans 18 harvests across four countries including experience at world-renowned Chateaux **Margaux** in Bordeaux, **Paul Jaboulet Aîné** in the Rhône Valley, **Inglénook** in Napa Valley, **Inniskillin** in Niagara and **Wolf Blass** in Adelaide. Michael and the rest of the Rutherford Hill team are **fully committed to sustainable farming and green business practices across all of their operations**. "Stunning, this exuberant, generous version shows notes of passion fruit, Key lime, dried pineapple and orange blossoms, along with grated ginger. Reveals a hint of sea salt minerality on the long, expressive finish, where toasted herb accents linger. Drink now."
-Wine Spectator 94 Points!





Chiara Boschis

#1. E. PIRA - CHIARA BOSCHIS 2019 MOSCONI BAROLO \$119.98 [301208]

Tucked in amongst the shadowy foothills of the ridge leading to Monforte d'Alba, the historic Mosconi vineyard area leads to powerfully structured, savory-toned Barolos. The organically farmed vines of the E. Pira estate happen to be in a special section that lends more aromatic and textural elegance to their wines. That fits with Chiara Boschis's winemaking aesthetic: inspired by the traditions of Burgundy, she makes Barolos that are more open and expressive in their youth. In fact, when she took over the E. Pira & Figli estate at the end of the 1980s, she not only became the first female winemaker in the region, but helped bring Barolo to a wider audience.

The wonderfully balanced 2019 growing season imbued Chiara's Mosconi Barolo with an explosive mix of ethereal and brooding aromas, a saturated mouthfeel that's both vibrantly lithe and full of vinous warmth, and a finely-knit undercurrent of sleek tannins. Aging in small, lightly toasted French oak barrels polishes textural edges and infuses the wine with subtle cedar, coffee and cacao accents that work beautifully with this Mosconi's dark, succulent character. This will only get better with age, but in the near-term give it a few hours in the decanter and pair with braised lamb or beef in a vibrant wine sauce (like *brasato al Barolo*)!

WINE ADVOCATE 98 POINTS

VINOUS 98 POINTS - "... the most potent of the three

Barolos in the range. It exudes Monforte darkness and virile intensity from the very first taste. *Black cherry, plum, mocha, sage, tar, lavender* and *spice* infuse the 2019 with tons of character. This is one of the most elegant wines I have ever tasted from Mosconi, a site that does not naturally lend itself to finesse." – Antonio Galloni



#2. PETROLO 2021 "GALATRONA" VALDARNO DI SOPRA \$114.98 [301356]

This seductive, full-bodied red comes from the Upper Arno River Valley, a historic wine region that lies deep in the heart of Tuscany. While winemaking here goes back to the Etruscans, the Petrolo estate helped put it on the modern wine map for its distinctive Super-Tuscans. The dramatic climate makes for aromatically complex wines that tend toward a greater balance of richness and energetic freshness compared to the ubiquitous coastal Tuscans.

Inspired by right-bank Bordeaux, Galatrona is 100% Merlot aged in French oak barrels for a year and a half, bringing cedar and spice to the dark and rich, cocoa-dusted fruit. Like in Bordeaux, Merlot here has veins of minerality, infusing the suave fruit texture with a classic crushed chalk sensation and a dry finish. The bold fruit tones and earthy iron-ore and tobacco accents are classic Tuscany. The exceptional 2021 vintage has made for a densely-packed wine that needs plenty of time to unwind, so give it a couple hours in the decanter and pair it with rich, meaty dishes.

Organically farmed.

VINOUS 98 POINTS – "... In most vintages, Galatrona is very showy right out of the gate. That is not at all the case with the 2021, a wine that is going to need a number of years to be at its finest. *Black cherry, plum, mocha, leather, licorice* and *incense* infuse the 2021 with tremendous complexity. More than anything else, I admire a feeling of vertical, explosive energy that catapults the 2021 into the stratosphere. This is a tremendous wine by any measure." – Antonio Galloni

#3. FONTODI 2020 "TERRAZZE SAN LEOLINO" CHIANTI CLASSICO GRAN SELEZIONE \$109.98 [302602]

Fontodi is a gorgeous, **organically farmed** estate in **Panzano's** famous "Golden Shell" amphitheater. Bottling their wine since 1968, they became an icon for the **modernization of Chianti Classico**. They helped popularize the use of pure Sangiovese and small French oak barrels for aging in order to make their **elegantly bold, polished, and precise** house style. As a complement to their original single-vineyard bottling, *Vigna del Sorbo*, Fontodi introduced this new *Terrazze San Leolino* bottling, which showcases a revived, terraced vineyard above the winery.

Here, their Gran Selezione approaches the **depth and richness** of Brunello, but with the **fresher tones and elegance** of Chianti. It has an inner tension between the **depth and breadth** of its dark-red and purple-toned core and its **generous structure**: firm, earthy tannins help ground it, and a core of luminous acidity energizes it. The aging in small French oak barrels contributes to the **darker tones** and **extra richness** in texture, with an infusion of *oak spice* (*cinnamon & incense*) and *mocha*. Perhaps the true magic of this **powerhouse wine** lies in its broad, but **elegantly tapered**, finish that makes it a pleasure to drink. This is a fantastic wine to hold onto for years as it slowly matures. In the meantime, give it a couple hours in the decanter and serve with hearty, flavor-rich cuisine like a thick porterhouse steak or a rich, wild boar ragú.

WINE SPECTATOR 97 POINTS - "Deep in color, this **sumptuous** red shows both **power** and **finesse**, packed with *blackberry, black currant, violet, iron* and *spice* flavors. **Expressive** and **beautifully balanced**, yet this is poised for a long evolution thanks to its **solid structure**. Offers **superb refinement** and a **long aftertaste**..."



#4. BARICCI 2019 MONTOSOLI BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO \$89.98 [301957]

Baricci is a **small, benchmark** estate for Montalcino that was one of the leading founders of the association of Brunello producers. When Nello Baricci started bottling his own wine in the early 70's, it became the first Brunello to be purely from the "**grand cru**" **Montosoli hill**, north of Montalcino. Today, Nello's grandsons continue to make exceptional wines that are true to the region's **traditional style**.

Thanks in part to the **brilliant vintage**, Baricci's 2019 Montosoli Brunello is a wonderful expression of the vineyard's character, with a **compact core** of vivid dark fruits and minerals, fragrant herbs and earthy licorice. The **grainy, mineral tannins** and **juicy, luminous acidity** give a **lithe energy** to the wine, creating contrasts of **lift, breadth, and weight**. The traditional, 3-year aging in large, seasoned oak vats mellows Sangiovese's rustic edges and deepens the well of aromas. This will make an excellent addition to a classic Italian wine collection. Give it a few hours in a decanter before serving and enjoy with prime rib or braised-and-roasted pork shank.

KERIN O'KEEFE 98 POINTS VINOUS 97 POINTS - "The 2019 Brunello di Montalcino is youthfully inward and *darkly floral* with an *herbal* tinge and hints of *crushed ashen stone* that give way to vivid *black raspberry* and *exotic spice*. This is **juicy** and **spry**, with racy *cherry-berry fruit* and **stimulating** acidity that creates a sensation of **boundless energy**, even as a **saturation** of **primary concentration** settles in toward the close. The 2019 finishes with **incredible length** and **youthful tension**, leaving *balsamic spice, sage* and *licorice* notes lingering over a bed of dusty tannins." - Eric Guido



#5. ROCCA DI MONTEGROSSI 2019 "SAN MARCELLINO" CHIANTI CLASSICO GRAN SELEZIONE \$59.98 [305059]

Tuscany's Chianti Classicos offer some of Italy's best value for **bold, earthy reds** with **vivacious mouthfeels**, and this Gran Selezione bottling from Rocca di Montegrossi is one of the benchmarks! It comes from the town of Monti in the region's warmer south, on land that's been owned by the Ricasoli-Firidolfi family since the 8th century A.D.! Made from older vines in their **organically farmed** San Marcellino vineyard, their Gran Selezione **approaches the style of Brunello** in its power and structure. It includes a dollop of **Pugnitello**, a rare native variety that complements the dominant Sangiovese with its earthy, dark-fruited character.

With the long and balanced 2019 growing season, the classic, warmly toned aromas of *iron-rich earth, leather, cured tobacco, orange peel* and soft *Amarena cherry* are **awash in fresh, 'energetic' accents** of *purple flowers, crunchy-ripe dark berries* and a mouthwatering **crushed rock minerality**. The wine is aged for nearly 2-½ years in a combination of small and large French oak barrels, which rounds the edges, and contributes notes of *woody spices*. Give it time in the glass to really show its stuff, and pair it with dishes like citrusy braised pork or a hearty stew with roasted lemon.

WINE SPECTATOR 97 POINTS - "*Violet, black currant* and *black cherry* aromas and flavors are at the heart of this **supple** and **energetic** yet **elegant** red. **Vibrant** and linear, with a **firm line of tannins** and **terrific length** on the *iron-tinged* finish. Ends with *fruit, mineral* and *spice* notes, showing solid grip..."



#6. SAN CARLO 2019 BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO \$49.98 [306834]

San Carlo is a **small, traditional producer** led by 3rd-generation winemaker, Gemma Marcucci. Their strip of vineyards lies on the broad, gently-sloping hillside above the hamlet of **Tavernelle**, southwest of Montalcino. With neighbors like the benchmark estates of *Caprili* and *Soldera - Case Basse*, this is a special place with a distinctive style of Brunello. You'll find that style shining in San Carlo's 2019 Brunello, with its **streamlined** mouthfeel, and **expressive, sun-kissed aromas** that are balanced across the spectrum of savory, fruity, spicy, herbal and gourmand. It's an **outstanding value** for an **authentically classic** taste of Montalcino!

This youthful wine gradually unwinds with time in the glass, revealing *new leather, sunbaked, clayey earth, brambly blackberries* and *Morello cherry preserves*, with hints of *black and brown spices, bay leaf, lavender* and *walnut*. The **medium-full** weight on the palate **flows easily**, its **brooding flavors** delivered with a classic Italian feeling of **rustic elegance**; the 2019 vintage especially shows in a distinctive, juicy acidity that gives life to its richer side, and an infusion of softly grainy, lightly smoky, crunchy minerality. There's an intriguing interplay of **crispy, juicy** and **lightly chewy** sensations on the palate, paired with swirling *umami*-tinged flavors that are reminiscent of *nutty nougat, ripe forest berries* and *blood orange peel*. The vinous warmth and lighter tannic structure on the finish makes this a great wine to serve cool to the touch, around 62 F. Enjoy it with peppercorn steak, grilled mushrooms, tagliatelle wild boar ragú, and Parmigiano Reggiano!

JEB DUNNUCK 97 POINTS - "... opens to notes of *blood orange, balsamic herbs, ripe blackberries, candied licorice, and lavender*. Quite **compelling**, it more closely resembles the estate's 2015 than their 2016, with a **more robust feel**. Offering **rich velvety tannins**, good **mineral undertones**, and a **clean finish**, it's more full-bodied, with a **long finish**, and has **wonderful freshness** throughout." – Audrey Frick



#7. MASTROBERARDINO 2017 "RADICI" TAURASI \$49.98 [306244]

Just inland from the chaos of Naples, **Taurasi** is one of the most idyllic and historic wine regions in Italy. Winemaking has been a popular thing to do since at least 800 B.C. in this elevated hill-country formed by ancient volcanos. Today, this is prime territory for **Aglianico**, an ancient red variety known for making some of the finest, quintessentially Italian wines with **bold** structures, **wild and savory** aromas and an **appetizingly dry** finish. It might have been a different story if not for the heroic efforts of **Antonio Mastroberardino**, who championed traditional grape varieties, and helped to lift his home region out of obscurity.

The 2017 Mastroberardino "Radici" Taurasi is an **expressive** mix of **riperly-toned red and black fruits**, **dark spices** like *licorice root, pepper* and *incense*, **barrel notes** of *cedar, clove* and *dark cocoa*, along with **wild herbal** and **savory** notes of *camphor, tobacco leaf, olive* and *musk*. The **firm structure** of grainy tannins and core of acidity are **enrobed in the fruit**, giving the wine an **inner liveliness** and **flow**, and a finish that balances a **dry richness** with a **lifted tangy berry** and *citrus vibrancy*. Some great dishes for this marry flavor-rich meats, legumes, herbs and some acidity, like lamb shank with lemony lentils or a rich Neapolitan ragú!

VINOUS 94 POINTS - "... a force to be reckoned with, as it **bursts** from the glass with **masses** of *raspberries, currants* and *plums*, complemented by an array of *autumnal spices* and *crushed violets*. Its **textural depth** and **density** is something to behold, **silky**, almost creamy, yet contrasted perfectly by a **core** of *mineral-laced black fruits* and **brisk** acids, as an air of *inner rose* and *cloves* forms toward the close. The 2017 is **persistent** and **structured** yet also **unbelievably fresh**, as **fine tannins** frame its *smoky mineral* tones, along with lasting hints of *blackberry* and *olive*. This is a **gorgeous rendition** of Radici ..." – Eric Guido



#8. MASSOLINO 2019 BAROLO \$39.98 [301665]

Massolino's **sleek house style** gives their calling-card Barolo a **classic profile**, but with a bit **more openness** and **precision** than the old school. The **Serralunga d'Alba** estate has been **family-run since 1896**, and in the years and generations that have followed, they've accumulated some top vineyard plots and gradually perfected their art. This allows them to blend from multiple sites to make a **more balanced and accessible Barolo** on release. With almost all of this classic, calling-card Barolo sourced from their **Serralunga** vineyards, it really represents their home area.

The 2019 edition is a standout "everyday" Barolo, with a sense of **poise** and **energetic lift**: it's medium-full in body with a **firm, finely etched** tannic structure, **brilliant acidity**, and a **beguiling perfume** that meshes *Nebbiolo's brilliant ripe red fruits* and *floral aromas* with *dark spices* (like *licorice*), *tobacco*, and a Serralunga earthy streak, like *'crushed stone'* and *iron-ore*. Let this open up in a decanter for a couple hours and it'll shine with simple but rich dishes like *paté*, cheeses like *Castelmagno* or *Toma*, smoked brisket and beef ribs (no sauce, just the wine), and roast duck with a red wine sauce. **Organically farmed.**

WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS - "... **elegant and contained**, showing a **very focused and linear** style that makes a great impression and **awakens the senses**. There is *wild cherry, blue flower* and *crushed stone* backed by **balanced freshness** and **tannins**. The wine ages in large Slavonian oak casks for 30 months..."



THE TOP WINES FROM ITALY



#9. SOTTIMANO 2020 "PAIROLERO" BARBERA D'ALBA SUPERIORE \$24.98 [305801]

This small family estate makes their Barbera in a way that combines Piedmontese style of **bold, structured reds** with the **elegance and purity of expression** learned from Burgundy. Founded in 1975, Sottimano is **one of the most highly-regarded producers in the Barbaresco region**, but they give a lot of love to all of their wines. In fact, the French oak barrels in which they age this humble wine are made expressly for them by a cooperage in Burgundy.

Their 2020 Barbera d'Alba is **tense and concentrated, saturated with succulent blackberry and black cherry, cooling herbs**, infused with accents of *incense, anise* and a *crushed stone minerality* at its core. The suave generosity is streamlined by the **sleek, finely-knit layer of rounded tannins** and Barbera's **mouthwatering acidity**, leading to a **pleasantly dry** finish. This is a **not-to-be-missed** Barbera that's reasonably priced and perfect for an evening of pizzas, stuffed pastas, cured meats and moderately-aged cheeses. **Organically farmed.**



#10. TENUTA DI ARCENO 2021 CHIANTI CLASSICO \$24.98 [306444]

This **modern and opulent** take on the **vibrant, herbal-tinged** reds of Tuscany's historic Chianti hills **will win over a lot of wine lovers!** The Arceno estate has been putting out wine for centuries, but it was California wine pioneer, **Jess Jackson**, who gave it new life when he bought it in 1994. Here in the southern **Castellnuovo Berardenga** region, you can find a **generosity of fruit character** equaled by **rich tannins**. For their classic everyday bottling, Arceno leans into this character by pairing their Sangiovese with a bit of Merlot, and aging it 10 months in seasoned, small French oak barrels.

The 2021 edition is dominated by a **concentrated base** of *stony earth* and *macerated plum*, and a **deliciously fruited core** of *herbal-tinged strawberry, Morello cherry* and *blood orange*. **Finessed top notes** of *soft leather* and *flowers* add lift to the ebullient fruit. On the palate, its **lithe vibrancy** quickly grows into **ripe-fruited concentration**, but infused with a refreshingly **juicy, citrus acidity** that comes forward again on the finish. The **compact fruit texture** opens up with time, displaying a subtle undercurrent of **crunchy minerality**, tapering into a light grip on the finish. This is a great wine for sheep cheeses, hearty pizzas, and citrusy pork roasts. As with most Italian wines, it just gets better with time in the glass!

WINE SPECTATOR 93 POINTS - "Expressive and charming, featuring *cherry, strawberry* and *rose* flavors, with flashes of *wild herbs* and *iron*. The **vibrant** structure drives this red's flavors and keeps everything focused. Ends with a **long, fruity, minerally** and *spicy* aftertaste..."



And now for something completely different...Welcome to the world of first-class German Sparkling wine (*Deutscher Sekt*)!

SEKTHAUS RAUMLAND 2014 CHARDONNAY BRUT RESERVE \$49.98 [328038]

"The quality of *Deutscher Sekt* is now astounding. At Raumland, you can currently subscribe to sparkling wines that have been aged sur lattes for 12 and 15 years at prices that should be called gifts, because **these wines are practically given away more than sold, especially in comparison to Champagne.**" – Stephan Reinhardt, Wine Advocate.

Sparkling wine from Germany may sound like a new thing, but France's neighbor to the north has long been involved in the production of Champagne. Many famous Champagne houses were founded or managed by Germans, including Krug, Taittinger, Piper-Heidsieck, Mumm, and Bollinger. Which brings us back to Rheinhessen, Germany where we find winemaker Volker Raumland, who has been making German Sparkling wine since the 1980's under his label. Volker has been a pioneer in German Sparkling wine, being one of the first few who deviated from making sparkling wine from Riesling, and instead switching to the Burgundian varietals of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. The finest sekts rarely travel outside of Germany, but we have found you this remarkable treasure. The 2014 Raumland Chardonnay Brut Reserve was aged on the lees for 90 months (or 7.5 years), and dosage is 3.5g/l.

WINE ADVOCATE - 97 POINTS - The 2014 Chardonnay Brut Reserve is pure Chardonnay from old and also grafted vines in Bockenheim and the Burgel grand cru. Vinified in 76% stainless steel and 24% barriques and bottled in April 2015, it was disgorged in January 2023. This lemon-colored sparkling wine opens with an intense and really chalky Chardonnay bouquet that indicates complexity depth and finesse as well as concentration and perfect fruit ripeness. On the palate, this is a rich yet stringent and even pure, very saline and persistent sparkling wine with great complexity, length and tension. The acidity here carries the wine to a long and complex, salivating finish and gives this Réserve spectacular aging potential. 12.5% stated alcohol. Natural cork. Tasted at the domaine in July 2023. Drink date: 2023 to 2040. Stephan Reinhardt. Published: Dec 07, 2023



#1. CLOS MOGADOR 2021 PRIORAT \$114.98 [350153]

Our top wine for Spain is an icon that will please a lot of full-bodied red lovers! Aromatically **vivid, freshly toned, and elegantly structured**, this flagship wine from Priorat is hard to beat! Founders Rene Barbier and Isabelle Meyer made a leap of faith in 1979 when they bought their first vineyard in the Montsant Mountains, a tucked away corner of the Mediterranean region of Catalonia. Today, their son continues to make their original wine, Clos Mogador, and it continues to enthrall. It's a masterful approach to the region's **richly-fruited** wines, tapping into the **lifted fragrance** and **minerality** that comes so naturally from the best sites here.

Like the Chateauf-neuf-du-Papes of France, Priorats are generally a thoughtful combination of complementing varieties. Clos Mogador is driven by **Grenache** for its generous **volume** and **Carignan** for inner **verve**, backed up by a dollop of **Syrah** and **Cabernet Sauvignon**, which contribute darker fruit tones and a lightly framing structure. The 2021 Mogador is a **sleek** version, with **fragrant garden flowers**, *Mediterranean herbs*, and a **firm core** of *crunchy blue and red fruits*. It's all awash in a "*crushed rock*" **minerality** that invigorates its **suave, finessed breadth**, and leaves the palate refreshed. This is why Priorat is famous! **Organically farmed.**

WINE ADVOCATE 98 POINTS - "... It has **aromatic complexity** and a **beautiful texture**... The wine has 14% alcohol and has the Priorat, Mogador and Mediterranean character (*wet slate, graphite, aromatic herbs*) with **more elegance and freshness**. The tannins are a lot **more elegant**, and the wine comes through as **very balanced**... bottled in June 2023."



#2. LA RIOJA ALTA 2015 "904" RIOJA GRAN RESERVA \$84.98 [380850]

For a **luxurious red** with **suave, seamless textures** and the **evolved bouquet** of **old-school Spain**, it's hard to beat the **2015 vintage** of this classic Rioja! La Rioja Alta is a historic winery for the region, having bottled their own wine since 1890, but its popularity today is greater than ever thanks to a well-honed lineup that offers great value across the board! Created to commemorate the merger with the Ardanza estate in 1904, the "**904**" **Gran Reserva Rioja** stands out as **one of the most seductive Spanish reds** you can find.

Because the wine can take it, La Rioja Alta does an extra-long, **4-year aging** in American oak barrels (which are made in-house). It's driven by Rioja's lithe, **soft-red-fruited Tempranillo** (*red plum, strawberry*), complemented by the Basque native, **Graciano**, a more fragrant grape that shows itself as a touch of **extra richness** at the core, and a flavor boost of **ripe dark fruits** (*mulberry and black plum*) and **spices**. Long oak aging takes the naturally suave textures to another level, adding a **creaminess** to the edges, and marries aromas into a swirl of **savory, spicy** and **gourmand** notes: *forest floor (mushrooms, soft earth), cured tobacco, caramelization, cedar and creamy vanilla*. The wine is **generous and suave**, but doesn't lose its **old-world sensibilities** thanks to its **warming inner brightness** and **balanced, velvet mouthfeel**. This makes it a fantastic wine to enjoy either on its own, or with dishes like aged cheeses and fig preserves, rack of lamb, prime rib with a coffee rub, and hearty stews!

JAMES SUCKLING 97 POINTS - "**A perfumed nose** of *plums, mulberries, mushrooms, caramel, sweet tobacco and sweet spices*. **Full-bodied** with **velvety**, fine tannins and lively acidity. **Balanced** and **supple** with a **creamy texture**. Delicate and **precise** with a **long, polished** finish."



#3. TELMO RODRIGUEZ - GAGO 2019 "PAGO LA JARA" TORO \$59.98 [388522]

Telmo Rodriguez makes his wines in a very **traditional, rustic** style giving them **layers** of texture and flavor that slowly come together with time to breathe. It begins with **old, organically farmed** vineyards that he helps local growers reclaim. It extends to the winery, where he works to maintain an **imprint of place** as the grapes are turned to liquid landscapes. Avoiding excessive oak flavors and over-texturizing, his wines have a quality that Luis Gutierrez of Wine Advocate describes as an **"elegant rusticity."**

As is typical for the Toro region in Spain's dry interior, this is a **full-bodied, powerful** and **chewy Tempranillo** in which the **rich fruit texture** is contrasted with equally **rich, chalky tannins**. Telmo's version is **packed with brooding aromas** that slowly unfurl with air: *macerating blackberry and roasted black plum, limestone earthiness, white peppercorn, vanilla pod, tobacco, black olive* and more. Get this in a decanter for an hour or so, and pair with well-aged Manchego, cheddar or gouda, and roasts (like lamb shank with olive tapenade or a peppery ribroast).

WINE ADVOCATE 96 POINTS - "The 2019 Pago La Jara from Toro comes from an extremely dry year that was saved by some rain before the harvest... It has a bright and **deep color** and a **perfumed nose**, **elegant** but keeping the **Toro richness**. It's **medium to full-bodied**, terrifically **balanced** and with very good **freshness**, still young but with the **harmony** and components to develop nicely in bottle. **Impressive**, transcending the year. 1,816 bottles were filled in June 2021."



#4. COMANDO G 2022 'ROZAS' SIERRA DE GREDOS \$59.98 [382684]

This red is one of Spain's most **distinctive** wines, an **intense mountain Garnacha** with a **firm, grippy structure** and **leaner fruit weight**. It comes from the **Sierra de Gredos**, the mountains west of Madrid, deep in the heart of the country. While Garnacha from most of Spain has a plush, rounded fruit character, the **cool mountain heights** restrain that tendency. It's a challenging place in which to make wine, but Comando G is up to the task, as they grew up here! They decided that the character of their wines would be best an **old-fashioned** way, like the classics of Rhône or Burgundy: natural fermentations with whole grape clusters and long, gentle extractions from the skins.



Even with the relatively leaner fruit weight here in the mountains, the warmer, drier growing season of 2022 made for a wine that's packed with **wild, raw character** and engaging contrasts of **intensity and nuance!** Underlying it all are darkly-shaded notes of *roasted strawberry* and *earthy, stony creosote (smoky, iodine-like)*. With a **slow unfurling** in the glass, you can find soft, *mineral* and *drying floral* aromas drifting above a **bold core** of *worn leather*, *juicy bright red fruits*, *savory red olive* and an herbaceous *balsam spiciness*. The finish is broadly tapered and drying, with persistent **spicy, roasted** and **fruity** flavor echoes, and a **firm structure** of **zesty, grippy** tannins and a **warming, sunny brightness** and that pull everything to a close. The 2022 Rozas almost feels like a youthful, traditional Italian Nebbiolo! Give this one a couple of hours in the decanter to let it come together, or hold for years to come! Try this with grilled lamb chops, smoked turkey or stuffed red peppers.

WINE ADVOCATE 95 POINTS - "... In this warmer vintage, they did a softer vinification, with less maceration and more fermentation without skins, to avoid over-ripeness and notes of black

fruit in the wine. It has more fruit and some silty tannins, which are **more like Italian tannins** in the more Mediterranean years like this 2022. This village is more subject to the changes in the years, with more herbal and ethereal notes in the wines in cooler years and **juicier** and **with more marked tannins** in the warmer ones. It has 14.5% alcohol and is more jovial, **definitely not banal**. 10,992 bottles produced. It was bottled in August 2023."

#5. REMELLURI 2020 "LINDES DE REMELLURI" LABASTIDA RIOJA \$49.98 [381055]

This **Rioja** gives the traditions of this historic region a **fresh look**, with **more intensity** and **edge**: a scintillating expression of **mountain Rioja!** Winemaking has taken place around the Remelluri estate 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**. This bottling focused on **old, organically farmed** vineyards near the town of Labastida in the **high-altitude Alavesa region**, which experiences a significantly cooler climate and later harvests.

This is a Rioja with more focus on **structure and clarity** from the **stony, savory-tinged fruit** due to **shorter aging** in oak than the old-school Riojas. By using French oak instead of American, there are **woody, balsam** accents rather than the typical vanilla and toasted coconut of other modern Riojas. As is typical for Rioja Alavesa, the Labastida is **driven by Tempranillo** and complemented by the expressive **Graciano** and **Garnacha** varieties. It's **tight-knit, firm**, with fine powdery tannins, and aromas reminiscent of *crushed limestone*, *blackberry*, *licorice*, *purple flowers* and *tobacco*. This is a flexible wine for hearty dishes and grilled vegetables, just give it time in the glass to open up.

WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS
VINOUS 94 POINTS - "**Intense and savory...** Aged for 12 months in different sizes of oak vats, this garnet wine offers a **balsamic** nose



with **blueberry** and **blackberry** notes over a layer of **wild herbs**. On the palate, it is **dry** and **luxuriously rich**, with chalky, fine-grained tannins lending a **velvety texture** to the enduring fruity finish. This terroir-driven wine is a testament to **the marriage of ancient Rioja style** with a **modernist commitment to precision.**" - Joaquin Hidalgo

#6. TERROIR AL LIMIT 2019 "HISTORIC" PRIORAT \$34.98 [377553]

This is a **delicious** red with a **serious side**. It's a wine about **balance** and **seamless** textures, with Priorat's famous combination of **opulence and lift**. With time in the glass, the aroma of *gunflint* gradually gives way to a core of *succulent red and blue fruits* (like *raspberry/strawberry* and *elderberry/boysenberry*) and *aromatic Mediterranean herbs, flowers* (lilac, rosewater) and an undercurrent of *stony, struck flint* and *earthy dark spice*. The **suave mouthfeel** has nearly as much **volume** as weight thanks to an **inner brightness** and **finessed flavors**, finishing **dry** and **softly mineral**.

This is the result of **artisanal production**, with hard work in the vineyards and a light touch in the winery. Terroir al Limit farms **organically** and follows the principles of **biodynamics**, which is believed to make more characterful and naturally balanced wines. The "Historic" red is an homage to the wines of yore here, using only the classic varieties of Priorat (around **75% Garnacha & 25% Cariñena**): they ferment with whole grape clusters, which emphasizes elegance and expansive volume, and they don't use oak, which preserves more of its aromatic freshness and clarity. Give it time to breathe outside the bottle and pair with *tapas*, *paella* or Basque-style chicken!



Ψ Psi



Ribera del Duero. Denominación de Origen

#7. DOMINIO DE PINGUS 2021 'PSI' RIBERA DEL DUERO \$29.98 [380784]

If you're looking for an exceptional crowd-pleaser, this one is hard to beat! Spain's **Ribera del Duero** region shines for its bold, sun-kissed **Tempranillo-driven** wines, born in the dramatic, dry climate of inland Spain. Peter Sisseck, founder and head winemaker of Pingus, wanted to make a more youthfully expressive, everyday wine, with pared-down winemaking. The name he chose, "Psi," is the Greek letter that resembles the old head-pruned vine depicted on the label, echoing the focus on a more straightforward expression of the vines.

Reflecting the traditions of planting a mix of varieties here, the **savory-tinged, finely grippy Tempranillo** is complemented by some **expansive, juicy Garnacha**, which really helps make this so friendly in its youthful state. Classic to Ribera del Duero, "Psi" combines **sun-kissed tones of fleshy plum, crunchy dark and red berries, floral and iron-rich earth accents**, all surrounding a **firm, mineral core**. The **expansive mouthfeel** transitions into a softly-tapered, **savory-edged** finish with Tempranillo's signature **chalky, pixelated sensations** left on the palate. This is a fantastic wine for a simple classics like grilled meats and vegetables, cured meats like jamon, and semi-firm sheep cheeses (try the smoked Basque cheese, *Idiazabal*). You can even go a little *bleu*!

ANTONIO GALLONI; VINOUS 96 POINTS

"The 2021 PSI is 90% Tempranillo and 10% Garnacha sourced from old vines planted in calcareous soils and was aged for up to 16 months in mostly sizeable French oak barrels. In the glass, it's garnet-red with a light purple sheen. The nose offers **blood** notes along with **sour cherry** and

blackberry, intertwined with **violets** and **dried flowers**, resulting in a **layered, complex** profile. On the palate, it's **dry** and **velvety**. Chalky tannins define a compact mouthfeel and **long-lasting** fruit and floral flavors. The 2021 is a distinctive Ribera del Duero with **excellent nuance** and **agility**."

--Joaquin Hidalgo

#8. SINDICAT LA FIGUERA 2021 GARNATXA MONTSANT \$19.98 [383697]

We love the simple pleasures of this **quintessentially old-school** red: deliciously **savory, fruity, suave** and **mid-weight**, it's a traditional taste of the Mediterranean mountains of Montsant. This is pure Garnacha, sourced from higher-altitude vines, then fermented and aged in old-fashioned underground concrete vats for a brief 9 months. Flavors combine in a balanced swirl of *umami-tinged baked plum* and *strawberry, orange oil, peppercorn, tobacco, sage* and developing *leather*. The **complexity and graceful openness** make it a **serious everyday wine!** The Sindicat La Figuera is a group of Montsant growers, formed in 1932, but given new life by star winemaker Rene Barbier of Clos Mogador.

WINE ADVOCATE 91 POINTS - "The **characterful** and **honest unoaked** Garnacha red 2021 Sindicat La Figuera was produced in a very **simple and traditional** way... 2021 was a cool vintage... this wine comes through as **fresher** and with better **balance**. It's **more delicate, elegant** within the **rustic and straightforward** style they look for, with very fine tannins and very **clean and focused** flavors ..."

#9. VINOS DEL ATLANTICO 2021 "GORDO" YECLA TINTO \$19.98 [382621]

Monastrells from Spain's southern Mediterranean coast have a generous fruit character that contrasts with its savory edge and dry, softly chewy finish. This one from the high altitudes of the coastal Yecla region is a refreshing take on that, showing an elegant side to its bold



Mediterranean character! Unlike Monastrells (aka Mourvedre) from the lower Jumilla region, this is more aromatic, fresh and easy to drink! This comes from a combination of intense sunlight, colder nights, and 50-year-old vines that have grown deep to reach scarce water reserves. The **organically farmed**, non-irrigated vines are hand-harvested, and grape clusters are lightly crushed, then fermented whole in stainless steel. They finalize it with just 3 months in big, seasoned oak barrels.

You'll find a generous dollop of mellow *blue fruits* (like *mulberry*) partnered with tangy *black raspberries in alcohol*, a subtle *floral* top note, a savory bass like *grilled meat*, and gourmand hints of *cocoa, sun-kissed fig*, and *vanilla*. The wine feels **generous** and **warming**, but with a light extraction from the skins, it's more **transparent** and **refreshing**. The finish is well-tapered and persistent for such a humble, everyday wine, and the **juicy lift** and **velvet** tannins make it surprisingly refreshing! This is a wine you can **serve cool** with a wide range of hearty appetizers, grilled vegetables, *paella* and semi-firm sheep cheeses.

WINE ENTHUSIAST 94 POINTS - "Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of *blackberry, black cherry* and *rose petal*. **Floral** notes underlie **bold fruit-of-the-wood** flavors that are flecked with touches of **baking spice** and encased in a web of **luxurious tannins** that **endures** on the tongue and gums." — Mike DeSimone

#10. LADEIRAS DO XIL 2022 GABA DO XIL "O'BARREIRO" \$24.98 [378132]

We love the Gaba do Xil white for the **natural balance, subtle tension** and **transparent character** at a **great price!** Telmo Rodriguez (who makes a 3rd appearance on our top wines list top list) and Pablo Eguzkiza helped renovate old vineyards in the mountainous **Valdeorras** region of **Galicia**. With dramatic valleys and rocky soils, the site where their **Godello** grows (interplanted with **Doña Blanca** and **Treixadura**) has a cooler, wetter climate than the bulk of Spain.

Here, the Godello-driven whites have **fresher tones**, with a subtle *apple, pear* and *ripe lemon* character, mingling with *crushed stone* and *saline minerality*, along with a hint of *almond blossom*. With a brief aging in stainless steel, Gaba do Xil's **pure character** is preserved in the bottle. Medium in weight, its **juicy acidity** softly hums within the **understated fruit**, and the **billowy, chalky texture** from aging on the fine lees contrasts with a **mellow mineral undercurrent**. Serve this lightly cold with dishes like grilled swordfish or yellowtail, lemon-pepper roasted chicken, and *spaghetti alla carbonara*.

THE TOP WINES FROM CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST

GREECE

ESTATE ARGYROS 2022 ASSYRTIKO, SANTORINI \$44.95 [300039]

DECANTER 95

POINTS: “An intoxicating frisson of sea breeze, preserved lemon and floral notes which pervade the linear texture and steely backbone of acidity. Glowing with vibrance and verve.” (2024 DWWA 06/2024)

Assyrtiko is a grape variety native to Santorini and considered by many to be the finest Greek white grape varietal. The Estate Argyros is made from 100 to 120 year-old Assyrtiko vines grown in the island’s volcanic soil. Decanter praises this fascinating white grape’s aromas of “sea shells, pungent lemon zest, white flowers, volcanic ash and salt notes.” We love this crisp white’s richness balanced with minerality on the finish. Try this with

savory appetizers, fried calamari and grilled fish.



CROATIA

MILOS 2019 PLAVAC MALI, PELJESAC PENINSULA \$23.95 [362382]

Croatia’s best known red varietal, Plavac Mali (Plah-vahts Molly), is a relative of Zinfandel that thrives on the Peljesac Peninsula. The Milos (Mee-loash) family has farmed and lived on their land near the village of Ston for over 500 years. Their vineyards are located on steep, rocky hillsides leading down to the Adriatic Sea. The winery is certified organic and transitioning to bio-dynamic. Fermentation (only the native yeasts are used) takes place in open-topped stainless steel to start and then finishes in large Slavonian oak barrels, never new. The wine is aged first in the large old barrels then in the bottle until its ready to be released.

The 2019 Plavac has a very dark color. On the nose you find aromas of cherries, cranberries and plums with a hint of fine herbs and exotic spices. On the palate this elegant red offers flavors of dark fruits without a hint of jamminess. The dry finish is long and smooth. This would go well with chicken, lamb or beef dishes.



LEBANON

MUSAR 2021 JEUNE ROUGE

\$21.95 [372442]

This delightful red comes to us from Lebanon’s famous Chateau Musar located in the Bekka Valley. The Jeune red is an unoaked blend of 50% Cinsault; 35% Syrah and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. Decanter magazine: “The Jeune range is made for unfussy, early-drinking pleasure. The red is intense but soft. Fermented and aged in stainless steel, then bottled without filtration in the summer after harvest, this wine is all about fruit-forward boldness and velvety warmth.”



ARMENIA

KARAS 2022 RESERVE ARENI SIRENI

\$22.95 [372790]

This rich dry red is composed of 40% Areni and 60% Sireni grown in Armenia’s Ararat Valley. These indigenous grape varietals 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.

Sherrie Nachman, writing in Forbes magazine, suggested the Karas would go well with Thanksgiving dinner:

“An under the radar bottle: Karas, Reserve Areni–Sireni 2022

If you are looking for something new to wow your guests, this bottle

from Karas is an excellent choice. This distinctive Karas Reserve Areni Sireni from Armenia is a blend of 40% Areni and 60% Sireni and brings the rich essence of the Ararat Valley to life. On the nose, vibrant notes of cherries, prunes, and violet petals intertwine with a subtle earthiness and mineral undertones. The palate is fresh and medium-bodied, showcasing a harmonious mix of red berries, a touch of pomegranate, and hints of forest herbs and spices. This wine’s round tannins and balanced acidity lead to a persistent, fruity finish. Crafted in Armenia’s traditional clay karas and aged in Armenian oak, this wine is a perfect Thanksgiving companion.”





**TAYLOR FLADGATE "KINGSMAN"
EDITION VERY OLD TAWNY PORT
500ML \$3533.98 [377870]**

WINE ADVOCATE 95 POINTS - "The NV Very Old Tawny Port Kingsman Edition is a field blend bottled in 2020 with an average time in barrel of 90 years. It has 206 grams of residual sugar and a bar-top cork. As always, old Tawnies are simply a joy to just smell, but that's nowhere near the best part here. Unctuous in texture and very concentrated, this still manages to be rather elegant, with some brightness and lift to the fruit to go with the power on the finish. It does show its age a bit on opening, but it held perfectly for the relatively short time I had with it. The finish is more dark molasses than caramel, as befits a very old and aging Tawny. The key here, though, is the combination of brightness with the unctuous and almost creamy texture. The two make an enchanting combination that leads to a long, lively and tasty finish. This is pretty fine, and you would expect nothing less from a special presentation by Taylor's. The winery's website mentions a touch of British humor regarding this bottling (and its connection to the Kingsman film series), but there's nothing funny about this. It's pretty serious stuff."

Taylor Fladgate Very Old Tawny Port - Kingsman Edition is a very rare Tawny Port of great age matured for approximately 80-90 years in hand-made seasoned oak casks. To create this exclusive limited edition, Taylor Fladgate agreed to release some rare and valuable wines from its extensive reserves of very old cask-aged Port laying in its cellars in Oporto. These reserves include a small treasury of priceless, historically important wines each representing a very small volume. A few rare gems from this collection, only

used in exceptional circumstances, were carefully selected by Taylor Fladgate's expert blenders to produce the Kingsman Edition Port. The individual wines were then meticulously assembled, using Taylor Fladgate's heritage of experience in the art of blending, and then left to marry together for several months in cask until the blend was judged to have reached its peak of balance and harmony. This is an exceptionally made port, with lots of extract, and notes of figs, caramel, brown sugar, browned butter, Christmas pudding and tamarind. Very dense and rich with good acidity, it is seamless on the palate with a lengthy finish. Presented in a crystal decanter with gold detailing and a wooden presentation box, Taylor Fladgate Kingsman Edition Port was created not only for Kingsman devotees but also for connoisseurs and collectors of fine and rare wines around the world. A very limited number of 700 bottles have been produced.

**QUINTA DO
VESUVIO 1995
VINTAGE PORT
\$99.98 [376823]**

**95 POINTS
WINE SPECTATOR**
- A ripe and rich '95 boasting a remarkable essence of crushed berries, this is classic Port. It's full-bodied and quite sweet, with the velvetyest of tannins and a long, long ripe



fruit finish. At its best after 2008. 3,000 cases made.

**FROM THE GREAT
2011 VINTAGE!!
SANDEMAN 2011
VINTAGE PORT
\$84.98 [377684]**

**WINE SPECTATOR - 97
POINTS** - "Well-proportioned, showing fine balance and grip to the fresh boysenberry, red plum and wild cherry flavors. Intense black fig and dark chocolate notes appear on



the firm, powerful finish. Best from 2040 through 2060. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 1,250 cases made, 200 cases imported."

VARIETALS: Touriga Nacional 40%, Touriga Franca 40%, Tinta Roriz 10%, Tinto Cao 5%, Sousao 5%

**FERREIRA DONA
ANTONIA TAWNY
RESERVE PORT
\$19.98 [377165]**

We just love this Tawny Port so much, not to mention its excellent value, that we had to include it in our Holiday Newsletter! The Ferreria Tawny Port is a stunning shade of crimson with deep tawny undertones that evoke its gradual maturity in wood. On the palate are notes of flowers and ripe fruit like figs, dates, plums, marmalade, and apricots--with a deep and powerful aroma. Beautifully balanced, this wine is full-bodied and rich in taste, with a delicate yet lingering finish. The selected wines usually vary between 4 and 12 years of age, achieving an average age of about 7 years. After opening, it maintains its qualities for eight weeks. Pairs well with caramel sweets and robust blue cheeses.

The wines chosen for this reserve final blend remain in the Douro after harvest and are transported to the Ferreira's historic Wine lodges in Vila Nova de Gaia (located directly across the river from Porto) the following Spring, where they are aged in oak barrels. The wines are subjected to a series of transfers, analyses, and tastings over a number of years in order to track their aging, blend preparation, and final adjustment when taste dictates. In order to achieve the house style, quality and consistency, Ferreira Dona Antónia Reserva Tawny is made up of wines between 4 and 12 years of age, averaging an age of approximately 7-years-old. This Tawny Port is ready to enjoy, just pop and pour. After opening (and with refrigeration), this Tawny Port will drink well for up to two months.



Helmut Dönnhoff



DÖNNHOFF 2023 RIESLING ESTATE TROCKEN (DRY) \$19.98 [321206]



Dönnhoff, considered by German wine aficionados as **Riesling royalty**, remains at the top of their game with gorgeous wines from 2023, ranging from dry to sweet. The shimmering 2023 Dönnhoff Rieslings provide elegance and brilliance as they dazzle and delight. Even their modest Estate dry Riesling is racy and brimming with lime, white flowers and just a touch of nectarine. These wines are a must-have for any gourmand, as these are practically made for Asian cuisine, or dishes with a good level of spice. The dry (trocken) Estate Riesling from Dönnhoff is lively on

the palate with a Chablis-like lightness. **JAMES SUCKLING 93 POINTS** – “**Fantastic brilliance and a wealth of delicate stone-fruit and citrus aromas**, also floral notes! Barely medium-bodied, but with all the attributes that make a dry Nahe riesling a **thing of beauty to behold**. Drink or hold. Screw cap.”



DÖNNHOFF 2023 RIESLING SPÄTLESE NIEDERHÄUSER HERMANNSHÖHLE (SWEET) \$58.98 [304366]

We could not help but to fall in love with this Riesling, which reminded us of the liquid form of peach cobbler! The liveliness, purity, and intensity of Dönnhoff 2023 Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Spätlese is the best we can remember. Such a gem! Grab it while you can. **JAMES SUCKLING - 99 POINTS** “**Welcome to the Bladerunner of Nahe riesling Spätlese**. This is also extremely fine and complex, with a cornucopia of stone fruit, exotic fruit and spices. Radical stony minerality and racy acidity, yet with a feather-light mouthfeel on the barely medium-bodied palate. Then you wonder if the wine will ever leave you, so long is the almost endless farewell. Drink or hold.”

MAX. FERDINAND RICHTER 2023 RIESLING KABINETT “VELDENZER ELISENBERG” (LIGHTLY SWEET) \$19.98 [362402]



Back to the fantastic Vintage 2023, this time from the Mosel, where we find our next top wine from the classic producer Maximum Ferdinand Richter, who have owned their vineyards for more than 300 years. Ownership of the Veldenzer Elisenberg vineyard began in 1813 when Richter ancestor Franz Ludwig Niessen learned of Napoleon Bonaparte’s plan to demolish the cherished Veldenz vineyard. Niessen arranged a personal payment to the General to stop the destruction. The whole slope of Veldenzer Elisenberg was given to him by the municipality as a token of appreciation,

and has stayed in the family ever since. The quartz soils of the Veldenz produce Rieslings that exhibit flavors of red currant, raspberry, and blueberry... an unusual quality to find in Riesling, but also a trait that makes this wine oh-so-charming, memorable and utterly delicious.

JAMES SUCKLING - 93 POINTS – “This Mosel Kabinett is very sleek and racy, with striking aromas of lime zest and cassis, Light-bodied with acidity that feels as if sparks are jumping around inside your mouth, pushing the touch of grape sweetness way into the background. I love this originality, but some may find it a bit challenging. From a unique site with quartzitic soil. Drink or hold.”



Graacher Domprobst

WILLI SCHAEFER 2023 RIESLING GRAACHER DOMPROBST KABINETT A.P. #3 (SWEET) \$46.98 [324096]

WINE ADVOCATE - 96+ POINTS The 2023 Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett #3 opens with a clear and coolish, very precise and flinty as well as vegetal bouquet of dark, crushed slate. Very elegant and mouthwatering on the palate, with lively, mineral acidity and stimulating salinity, this is an almost dry-tasting Domprobst Kabinett due to its continuous mineral character and grippy phenols. The wine is full of finesse yet still discreet in its hedonistic compounds. The Domprobst is the aristocrat of the Mosel Kabinett world yet also offers a certain charm. Very subtle and long, this will be a classic in a decade, especially when served with very fine dishes. 7.5% stated alcohol. Natural cork. Tasted at the domaine in August 2024 from AP 3 24 (thus the #3 on the label).

**JOH. JOS. PRUM 2021
RIESLING KABINETT
WEHLENER SONNENUHR
(SWEET) \$59.98 [320483]**

From the electric vintage of 2021 we bring you these legendary Mosel producers, making wines that will stand the test of time.

WINE ADVOCATE 94 POINTS

- "The 2021 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett is deep and flinty but bright and clear on the refined and elegant nose with beautiful crushed slate aromas. On the palate, this is a rich, round and generous, incredibly lush and supple but crystalline and even pure Sonnenuhr with a highly stimulating, mouth-watering finish. This 2021 shows the great terroir of the cru, in particular in cool vintages due to its exposition that collects the sun's rays in the morning. 7.5% stated alcohol. Natural cork. Tasted at the domaine in May 2023."



**EGON MULLER 2021 RIESLING
SCHARZHOFBERGER KABINETT
(SWEET) \$299.98 [311011]**

"Egon Muller is clearly *in love* with his 2021 vintage. When prompted, he mentioned that the vintage reminds him most of 1971 because of the fruit intensity and the firm acidity: "What strikes me most is the fruit purity and intensity..." Mosel Fine Wines. **MOSEL FINE WINES - 96 POINTS** The 2021er Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett is a barely fruity-styled wine with a bright white-yellow color and a stunningly pure nose of white peach, citrusy fruits, white flowers, smoke, and a subtle dash of whipped cream. The wine proves stunningly vibrant on the almost off-dry tasting palate and leaves great notes of fresh herbs and spices in the long finish. The aftertaste is to die for as it proves airy, elegant, precise, and incredibly persistent. What a great success! The only downside is that one will need to be a bit patient and give the wine a few years in the bottle in order to allow



it to integrate the touch of tartness currently floating around. 2029-2041

**KELLER 2018 PINOT NOIR
SPÄTBURGUNDER BURGEL
GROSSES GEWACHS "GG"
\$149.98 [372035]**

The wines of Klaus Peter and Julia Keller are renowned for their richness, weight, and structure, earning them the moniker the "Montrachets of Germany" as dubbed by esteemed author and wine critic, **Jancis Robinson**. This well-known Riesling grower in the Rheinhessen, also makes a formidable Pinot Noir (known in Germany as Spätburgunder), thanks to Keller's previous winemaking experiences in Burgundy. Rarely do we see Keller's Pinot Noirs in the US, but we have brought them over especially for you.

WINE ADVOCATE - 96+ POINTS -

Keller's 2018 Burgel Spätburgunder GG is a fascinating Burgundian Pinot with a dark and spicy, very elegant and refined yet deep, concentrated and mineral bouquet with some underwood notes. Silky textured, highly finessed and again with some horse stable notes on the palate, this is a tightly structured, very intense and sustainable Pinot with great finesse and an incredibly long, compact and tensioned finish. There is an Islay Whisky (or iodine) note on the finish. Even though the wine is still shy and closed, this is a fantastic Pinot Noir from Germany and by far the best I have tasted from KPK so far (yet I have to admit I missed the 2017). Grand Cru level for sure. Tasted in Wiesbaden in August 2020 next to Huber and with Fürst's incredibly good Hundsruck in mind. Drink date: 2025-2040.



THE KELLERS



In his latest report, “**Austria’s Miracle Vintage**,” wine critic Stuart Pigott of **James Suckling.com** raves that “2023 is an excellent vintage for the dry white wines the Alpine Republic is best known for... the producers were rightly pleased with the ripe fruit, generosity and good balance of the dry white wines.” From what we have tasted, this is indeed a great year for Austria. Ripe fruit, good acids and a harmonious balance all around. There is quality to be found at every price point, so buy with confidence!

Ludwig Hiedler



HIEDLER 2023 GRÜNER VELTLINER “RIED THAL” \$22.98 [342385]

This bright and sunny Grüner Veltliner is brimming with fresh pear and nectarine notes and a clean, citrusy finish. “Ried Thal” (Ried=vineyard), is Hiedler’s oldest vineyard, planted in 1856, composed of quartz and yellow calcareous loess. This is a wine you can immediately enjoy or cellar. We have tasted bottles of the grüner, “Thal” from the 70s, which were quite astounding. Stephan Reinhardt of **The Wine Advocate** shares his thoughts on the winery: “Hiedler’s wine represents a unique style that combines elegance with baroque and finishes linear and lean like a Gothic cathedral. Impressive!” **JAMES SUCKLING - 92 POINTS** “A bright and fruity grüner veltliner that has notes of lemons, peaches and sliced pears. It’s medium-bodied, crisp and pure, with persistent stone fruit notes in a long finish. Drink now. Screw cap.”

SCHLOSSKELLEREI GOBELSBURG 2023 GRÜNER VELTLINER \$17.98 [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.



HEINZ VELICH 2020 CHARDONNAY “TIGLAT” \$69.98 [306877]



JAMES SUCKLING - 97 POINTS - I love the way that ripe and very cool elements are effortlessly married in this magnificent Austrian chardonnay. Very graceful texture on the mouth-filling, concentrated and creamy palate. Then it turns decisively in a profoundly mineral direction with a noble austerity and saltiness. From organically grown grapes. Drinkable now, but best from 2025.



FRUG 2023 ORANGE NATURAL (SKIN CONTACT) WINE \$18.98 [303991] 1L

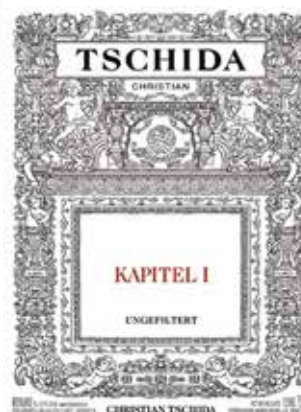
NATURAL WINE

From Jenny & Francois Selections (who, since 2000 was one of the very first importers focused solely on “Natural Wines”) comes FRUG, (pronounced “froog”) named after the dance popular back in the 1960’s. Frug is a skin contact, Orange wine, light-hearted and dry. A fresh blend of 70% Grüner Veltliner and 30% Roter Traminer. Spontaneous fermentation is done in stainless steel, 70% destemmed and 30% whole cluster, for 8 days without crushing. The free-run juice goes through malolactic fermentation and rests for 4 months on its lees in stainless steel tanks. Bottled without filtration or fining. The wine has a light floral and herbal nose with flavors apple, passionfruit and fresh peach and lime. It also comes in a 1Liter bottle, making it, “frugal” and 12% ABV. Do the FRUG!!

REDS

CHRISTIAN TSCHIDA 2022 “KAPITEL I” CABERNET FRANC \$39.98 [303986] NATURAL WINE

FALSTAFF MAGAZINE - 94 POINTS - Strong ruby, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the edge. Red cherry garnished with clear spiciness from some Cabernet Franc, smoky, some gunpowder, dark mineral notes. Juicy, tight-knit, red berryish texture, vivid, persistent tannins, cherry like Blaufränkisch finish, salty and long lasting. Tasting from 24.06.2024: Peter Moser



BORN GOLD DAIGINJO MAGNUM 1.8L
\$54.98 [365779]

Go Big or Go Home! This is the first time we are offering a Sake in Magnum in our Newsletter, only because it is an absolute DEAL and something you should not miss, especially for holiday gatherings. You normally will only find this in 720ml bottles, but Hi-Time has special-ordered this exclusive bottling just for you! We visited the Born Sake Brewery (Katoukichibee Shouten) this year in Fukui Prefecture, and met with 11th Generation President and CEO, Atsuhide Kato, and were impressed by the attention to quality and care they put in their Sakes.

Born Gold Born Muroka Junmai Daiginjo, has been a staple at Hi-Time for many years. This is a sake overflowing with a nose of honeydew melon, plum and apple. On the palate there is more honeydew melon, followed by strawberry and a hint of banana. It is fruity, complex, rich and lightly sweet. The finish lasts for well over a minute. Special Yamada Nishiki rice coming from Hyogo Prefecture's Special A-Grade Area is milled down to 50%, making it "Daiginjo" premium Sake. The purpose of the milling is to shave away any impurities, getting to the "heart" (or "shinpaku") of the rice grain. Further setting Born Gold apart from the rest, this sake is non-charcoal filtered (Muroka), which in the end means more flavor for the drinker. This sake has a light gold color after being aged for 1 year at 14 degrees Fahrenheit. Born produces only junmai sake from premium rice sourced through local farmers and subsoil water from (approximately) 600 feet below ground. This Sake pairs wonderfully with fish, cheese and creamy pasta dishes. After being opened, and kept under refrigeration, this should last approximately one week, and will taste drier.



MISUZU 35 MUROKA DAIGINJO SAKE
\$34.98 [365747]

Misuzu comes from a microbrewery (of about 7 employees) located in the mountains of the Senba Kaido in Nagano Prefecture. There, they make a delicious, elegant yet fruity sake that is with a medium-bold flavor. You are greeted on the nose and palate by apple, yellow plum and passionfruit. The finish is dry and direct. This is a fun and playful sake with a serious edge. Milled down to 35% of its Yamada Nishiki rice grain, the quality is superb. Normally you would have to pay up to \$60 for a sake of this degree of milling, but the fact that we can sell it for under \$40 make this an absolute steal! As soon as we



tasted this and found out the price, we bought every bottle available. Grab it while you can.

DASSAI BLUE 23
JUNMAI DAIGINJO
SAKE (FROM NEW
YORK STATE)
\$64.98 [365820]

Earlier this year, Hi-Time was paid a visit by Kenzo Shimotori, President of Dassai Blue in Hyde Park, New York. We have long carried Dassai's light and lightly fruity flagship Sake, "Dassai 23 Junmai Daiginjo" from Japan's Yamaguchi Prefecture (which continues to be an excellent Sake and producer), but we were so excited to bring in their project, Dassai Blue from New York, where they

opened a new facility last September. The rice for Dassai Blue 23 is brought in from Japan. Like its Japanese counterpart, the Yamada Nishiki rice is milled down to 23% of its original rice grain. Water from New York's Hudson Valley is used in making this sake. There is an extra dose of CO2 to provide extra lightness to this sake, making it supremely sippable. In the glass, this Daiginjo sake exudes pear, peach and light green melon on the nose and palate. The texture is light, with a soft, airy finish.

TENBI JUNMAI DAIGINJO SAKE 720ML
\$88.98 [365788]
SAKE OF THE YEAR

"Stop the presses!" That's what we said when we tried this brilliant new Daiginjo sake from Tenbi that shines like a diamond! It was love at first sip, and we knew we had to include this in our Newsletter. This sake is light, dry, clean, and seamless on the palate, with a beautiful brightness. Notes of fresh pear and honeydew melon dance in the background. The texture is viscose, and so strikingly pure and plush with a lengthy finish. Tenbi Junmai Daiginjo is made of 100% Yamada Nishiki rice, polished down to 40% of its original rice grain. It is also undiluted (genshu), with a 15% ABV.

Tenbi was established in 2020 in Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi after taking over an old sake brewery which had ceased operations for over 15 years. A local company took over and constructed a new one with the goal of producing exceptional and modern sake to boost the community's economy. Their motto, "a tiny difference makes a big difference," reflects their attention to detail, from micromanagement to micro-biology, and their unwavering commitment to achieving perfection. This is a Sake that will dazzle and impress.





THE BALVENIE 30 RARE MARRIAGE \$5,499.99 [125653] (REGULARLY \$5,999.99)

For The Balvenie Thirty, Honorary Ambassador and Former Malt Master **David C. Stewart** MBE marries Traditional and European Oak casks that have been matured for decades in order to craft a whisky of incredible sweetness and complexity.

The Balvenie Thirty's silky sweetness gives way to rich honey, mellow oaky tones and hints of candied orange peel.

WHISKY ADVOCATE 94 POINTS

"As part of Balvenie's Rare Marriages series, this golden whisky was matured in traditional whisky casks then European oak, malt master David Stewart's process of using two distinct cask types in succession. Heather honey, milk chocolate, dried orange, plum, black grape, and nutmeg."

**DALMORE 25YR \$1,899.99 [105219]
(REGULARLY \$2,499.99)**

A sumptuous whisky matured in American white oak ex-Bourbon barrels, aged Tawny Port pipes, and 30 year old Matusalem Oloroso sherry casks, exclusive to The Dalmore.

WHISKY ADVOCATE 94 POINTS

Classic Dalmore sherry notes on the nose, then a rush of spices, dried chile, dates, dried cherry, Cerignola olive, nutmeg, and tobacco leaf, though the aromas are bone dry. Deep concentrated layers of fruit, with purple plum, damson, and port notes mingling with orange peel, raisin, and a hint of balsamic vinegar if you're patient. The tawny port pipe finish really takes this to another level. Quite superb.



COGNAC HARDY NOCES DE PERLE

\$1,999.99 [117343]

(REGULARLY \$2,499.99)

Art Nouveau crystal carafe. Soft, rounded and feminine 30-year-old Grande Champagne Cognac. The foremost expression of prestige in the wedding anniversaries series.

Nose: Raisins, dried meadow flowers
Palate: Peppery, candied fruit, cinnamon
Finish: Citrus, cherry pits

Grande Champagne

Bordered to the north by the Charente, to the south and west by the Né and to the east by the roads from Barbezieux to Châteauneuf and from Châteauneuf to Saint-Même. Named for the clay-limestone nature of its soils on the surface, complemented by soft chalky limestone in the subsoil. The clays give the soil structure, high fertility and good water retention. These soils are therefore not very sensitive to drought, the subsoil acting as a sponge through which water can slowly rise as the summer drought worsens. **It is this cru that produces the finest, most delicate, cleanest and most aromatic eaux-de-vie**, and those that improve the most with age. When you taste them, you'll be pleasantly surprised to find that the glass retains the delicious scent and aroma of the cognac it once contained.

MONFLEURIE L'ORCHIDEE EDITION

\$2,499.99 [118769]

(REGULARLY \$2,799.99)

Signature Monfleurie crystal hand-blown carafe with individually engraved number. 24ct Gold applied details. Piano-lacquered hand-made presentation box.

The precious liquid at the core of Monfleurie Edition L'Orchidee originates from a 1960 Grande Champagne vintage, and over the past six decades it has developed a wonderful rich floral character.

Jean-Marc Olivier blended it with a multitude of other old eaux-de-vie hand-picked from the Maison Boinaud reserves to create a truly phenomenal Cognac experience.



CLASE AZUL ULTRA ANEJO

\$1,899.99 [167057] (REGULARLY \$2,499.99)

The sublime character of this extra añejo tequila is only possible through its extended aging period of five years: first in American whiskey casks then separated into amontillado, oloroso and pedro ximénez sherry casks before being recombined.

TASTING NOTES

Color - Shades of brown with copper highlights

Body - Full

Aroma - Sherry, dried plum, raisin, ripe apricot, brown sugar, clove, cinnamon, cacao and an intense aroma of oak

Palate - Dried plum, cinnamon, cacao and clove with hints of tobacco and a long finish of dried plum and caramelized walnut

PAIRING

- Cheese: aged goat cheese
- Fruit: black cherries or fig
- Chocolate: dark

GRAND MARNIER REVELATION

\$649.99 [121921] (REGULARLY \$699.99)
 With Grande Cuvée Révélation liqueur, Grand Marnier enhances its unique blend by using XXO cognac and a dash of orange essence. Thanks to an extremely high cognac content – 68 eaux-de-vie exclusively from Grande Champagne aged a minimum of 14 years – Grande Cuvée Révélation represents the ultimate cognac experience.

TASTING NOTES

Color - Medium amber tinged with copper.

Aroma - Exceptional deepness and length on the palate; the fresh and round bitter orange perfectly matches with exclusive woody, tobacco and dry plum facets.

Flavor - Intense woody and tobacco notes of old cognac; finish of wood and walnut, with delicate bitter orange and vanilla notes.



The GLENDRONACH

Highland Single Malt
 Scotch Whisky



GLENDRONACH 27YR "HI-TIME" 700ML \$749.99 [124897] (REGULARLY \$999.99)

GLENDRONACH 28YR "HI-TIME" 700ML \$849.99 [124898] (REGULARLY \$999.99)

A small number of Oloroso sherry casks which demonstrate exceptional character have been chosen by Master Blender Dr. Rachel Barrie (above, left) and then picked by our Hi Time Staff for our private barrel.

This expression is an exquisite representation of the rich, complex and full-bodied style of The GlenDronach Distillery. All of its natural color has been drawn from the casks in which it has rested for almost three decades. Each bottle is individually numbered by hand as a reflection of its rarity.

Tasting Notes

Nose: Opulent and powerful with a symphony of sherry aromatics, interwoven with dark manuka honey, roasted almond and walnut. Baked plum and ginger captivate the senses, deepening to rustic vintage leather and freshly ground coffee.

Palate: Intense and full-bodied with dark fruit notes on a base of velvet and fine leather. A crescendo of black cherry and espresso adorns each mouthful.

Finish: Richly rewarding, with a persistent chocolate, liquorice and walnut finish.

GLEN GRANT 25YR \$699.99 [126942]
 (REGULARLY \$999.99)

The Glen Grant 25-Year-Old promises discovery and delight. With velvety smoothness and definitive notes dried stone fruit and toffee. Sweet aromas open up to rich dark chocolate flavours and a lingering warm spice and soft smoke finish.

TASTING NOTES

Aroma - Bright citrus fruits, boiled sweets, hard candy

Taste - Velvety smooth dark chocolate, zesty orange rind, rich oak and nutmeg

Finish - Enduring finish of warm spices and faint hint of soft smoke



HARDY

MAISON FONDÉE EN 1863



**HARDY NOCES D'OR SUBLIME
COGNAC \$499.99 [162895]
(REGULARLY \$549.99)**

Hardy Noces d'Or Sublime is a magnificent Grande Champagne blend in a unique decanter. This 50-year-old cognac has won multiple awards across the globe and is the emblem of the Hardy wedding anniversary series.

PRODUCTION: A rare selection of our oldest Grande Champagne eaux-de-vie.

AGING: **50-year-old eaux-de-vie** aged in lightly toasted Limousin oak barrels.

NOTES FROM THE CELLAR MASTER

Nose: Cherry and honey.
Palate: Candied cherries, vanilla.
Finish: Velvety, subtle and generous.



HIGHLAND PARK 18YR \$165.99 [162193]
Deep and intensely fruity but effortlessly smooth, Highland Park 18 is the distillery's most highly awarded (and dearly beloved) whisky, and for good reason. With a natural glowing amber color straight from the cask, it's a multi-layered whisky with many stories to tell—just like the people who make it. (Regularly \$184.99)



DALMORE 15YR 2009 \$199.99 [127276]
The epitome of Dalmore's house style, this Highland Single Malt is finished in different styles of aged Sherry casks including Apostoles, Amoroso, and Matusalem Oloroso.
Each hand selected sherry cask gifts the Dalmore 15 with its own individual characteristics and flavours, to compliment the base notes of soft vanilla and honey from the American white oak ex-bourbon barrels. (Regularly \$239.99)



**HIGH WEST MIDWINTER NIGHT'S DRAM
ACT 12 2024 STRAIGHT RYE WHISKEY
\$199.99 [127155] (REGULARLY \$249.99)**

"Are you sure That we are awake? It seems to me That yet we sleep, we dream." - Demetrius, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 4, Scene 1 - Wm. Shakespeare

Greetings good gentles and ladies. At High West, we consider whiskey an indispensable part of making it through the long cold winter. One taste of A Midwinter Night's Dram alongside a cozy fire will surely transport you to a dreamlike state. This limited release whiskey is a sumptuous marriage of our Rendezvous Rye finished in both port and French oak barrels. The rye forms a beautiful base of vanilla, caramel and cinnamon; the port barrels enhance with plums and dried fruits; the French oak provides a spice accent. For us, A Midwinter Night's Dram tastes like a proper Christmas plum pudding with lovely mulling spices, dried fruits, and crème anglaise.

So join us good ladies and gents. Gather 'mongst thy family and friends, and raise thy glass to winters that are "Swift as a shadow, short as any dream; Brief as the lightning in the collied night." - Lysander, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 1, Scene 1, Wm. Shakespeare

Taste

Poached white peaches, stewed rhubarb, Italian tiramisu, candied ginger, clove, weathered cinnamon bark, fresh-pulled espresso, raspberry tart on a cedar plank

Nose

Brandied cherries, Calimyrna figs, pecan cinnamon rolls, allspice berries, grapefruit zest, French oak shavings, hayride in the fall.



**HARLEN DAVIS WHEATLEY
CLIX VODKA \$249.99 [100693]
(REGULARLY \$299.99)**

Some years ago, Master Distiller Harlen Davis Wheatley decided to embark on a project to craft the perfect vodka. Through the commitment and meticulous craftsmanship of a dedicated team, HDW CLIX came to fruition. CLIX, or 159 in Roman numerals, represents the 159 separate distillations that were required to produce this ultra-fine vodka.

TASTING NOTES

Polished and smooth upon entry, CLIX is pleasing on the nose and reminiscent of the essence of fresh nectar. Elegant in style, the exclusive character is a combination of exquisite smoothness and interesting nuance. It finishes quickly and cleanly, making for a delicate, refined and stylish drinking experience.

REVIEWS

"The consummate vodka for cocktails."
-Richard Carleton Hacker, Robb Report

Harlen D. Wheatley
Harlen joined the Distillery as a supervisor in 1995. Not long after, the Distillery was rechristened and the flagship Buffalo Trace Bourbon was introduced. It marked a new era in the Distillery's esteemed history and Harlen continued to make his mark as he was promoted to Distillery Manager in 2000. Harlen was named Master Distiller in 2005, becoming Buffalo Trace's sixth Master Distiller since the Civil War.



**BELVEDERE
VODKA '10'
ORGANIC
\$129.99 [124652]
UNRIVALLED
SMOOTHNESS
(REGULARLY
\$159.99)**

Belvedere Vodka releases a new icon: Belvedere 10.

Paying tribute to Belvedere's origins, Belvedere 10 is inspired by the vodka making process used in 1910 when the distillery was first established. That recipe has now been remastered for a new generation, who demands only the very best. Indeed, everything about the crafting of this rare spirit has been meticulously considered. The quest for perfection has led Belvedere's expert distillers to specify the very best ingredients, conditions and production processes: one rye, one farm, one field, one harvest.

The spirit is then rested for exactly ten months to marry the unique flavors and elevate the velvety smooth mouthfeel.

Nose

Fascinating, multi-faceted aromas of coconut, cacao and vanilla with a hint of fresh lemon.

Palate

An opulent and creamy mouthfeel leads to light honeyed sweetness, with bursts of caramel and green coffee.

Finish

Honed, elegant and smooth, with lasting hints of nutty praline and rich dark cacao. Flawless to the end.



**HAMPDEN ESTATE AGED
8 MARKS JAMAICA RUM
\$174.99 [126933]
(REGULARLY \$249.99)**

Building on last year's ground-breaking release, the 2024 8 marks collection again takes each of the 8 expressions made at this inimitable distillery and showcases how one year of tropical oak aging completely transforms the ester profiles and general quality of the rums. Another release that proves that Hampden is not only one of the most important rum distillers ever, but one of the leading distillers in the entire world. For collectors we highly recommend getting multiple sets along with last year's inaugural unaged set, to compare side by side and to keep long term.



**MANDALA EXTRA AÑEJO 1LT
\$209.99 [156402] (REGULARLY \$249.99)**

Elegant with great body, aged for a minimum of 3 years in a blend of French white oak and cognac barrels. Dedicated to those that love the extraordinary and special.

Aroma: Intense fruits and toasted oak.

Taste: Addictive with a long and



CAZCANES SINGLE BARREL 'HI-TIME' ANEJO

\$174.99 [126275]

At Cazcanes, every barrel of tequila is a masterpiece in the making. They don't adhere to a strict aging schedule—instead, they age by taste, seeking out the perfect balance of aroma and flavor. Our spirits staff team tasted several barrels, ensuring only the most exceptional tequila makes it to your glass.

This is a boutique establishment that harmonizes with the land and environment. Their artisanal approach ensures that every bottle of Cazcanes tequila is a true reflection of their commitment to craftsmanship. With Cazcanes, you're not just enjoying a drink; you're savoring a crafted experience that celebrates the essence of artisanal tequila.

Tasting Notes: The nose starts with an irresistible wave of rich, roasted agave, warm toffee, and golden honey that invites a second sniff. The aromas unfold with hints of white chocolate and a touch of cinnamon, creating an enticing bouquet. On the palate, discover notes of crème Brulée, velvety vanilla and delicate almond biscotti, each sip a delightfully smooth journey. The finish is a captivating blend of lingering Mexican hot chocolate and a subtle hint of clove, leaving a memorable impression with every exhale.

EL TESORO "HI-TIME" ANEJO LAPHROAIG CASK

\$109.99 [125068]

Introducing the El Tesoro Mundial Collection, a limited-edition series of exceptional tequilas created by Master Distiller Carlos Camarena. The Mundial Collection celebrates El Tesoro's tradition of craftsmanship by partnering with like-minded distillers from renowned distilleries around the world to offer novel, rare tequila experiences.

The Mundial Laphroaig Edition is a special expression of El Tesoro Añejo, aged for 12 months in genuine Laphroaig 10-Year-Old Scotch Whisky casks, adding hints of salty ocean air and peat smoke for a truly distinctive tequila

Tasting Notes

Nose: Cooked agave, peat, vanilla, caramel, and sea salt, with light notes of citrus, cardamom, and leather.

Palate: Cooked agave, butterscotch, black pepper, spices, and seasoned oak, with notes of citrus, peat smoke, and sea salt.

Finish: Long, with lingering oak and spices, peaty and salty.



EL TESORO REPOSADO SINGLE BARREL

\$64.99 [124436]



LAPHROAIG HT SINGLE BARREL SEL \$249.99 [122918]

This is everything we want in Islay Scotch, in a Laphroaig bottling, that we desire! The nose is filled with peat, salt air, smoky beach campfire, mocha and vanilla. The palate continues what the nose started: sweet peat, ocean brininess, smoke, cocoa, kelp. The spice notes imparted from the oak influence mesh well with the Islay profile to make a very complete whisky that does not sip like an overproof monster—this whisky has the balance and finesse needed to tame the high proof and make it immensely pleasurable to enjoy neat. Wow. Magic elixir.

Cask #6080, aged in 2014 virgin French Oak (medium toast), only 288 bottles produced. 58.7% ABV

Laphroaig: On the far edge of the Scotch whisky map, it's supposed that the art of distillation was first brought to Islay by Irish monks. Being remote, it's an art that flourished in the hands of the islanders, whose illegal operations tested the resolve and means of the tax man. Eventually, the law relaxed, various whisky makers set up legitimate distilleries, among them a pair of farmers, Donald and Alexander Johnston, who in 1815 founded their distillery on the island's south coast. Laphroaig, so called after its location, 'broad hollow by the bay.' It would remain in family hands for the next 139 years.



FREY RANCH HI-TIME S.B. BOURBON

\$79.99 [121203] 62.9%ABV

SINGLE BARREL Whiskeys - Frey Ranch: "We taste through every whiskey barrel as it comes to age and specially select those that stand out with unique flavors and textures. Born with exceptional characteristics, these barrels are bottled at cask-strength for our Distiller's Reserve collection that is available in special releases at Frey Ranch and through our online whiskey shop, as well as **store-selected barrels as a premium limited release.**

100% SUSTAINABLY GROWN, MALTED, DISTILLED, MATURED AND BOTTLED on THE FREY RANCH PROPERTY for the CONSISTENTLY HIGHEST QUALITY as a POINT of PRIDE

Hi-Time Store Picks! We love picking barrels & blends and have more in the store!



**ANGELS ENVY
SHERRY HI-TIME S.B.
\$139.99 [126951]**

Angel's Envy Bourbon Single Barrel Finished in Sherry is an exceptional and unique expression, making its debut as the first-ever single barrel release of its kind. This cask strength bourbon is aged and then finished in Oloroso Sherry casks, adding layers of richness, depth, and complexity.

Tasting Notes

Nose: A captivating blend of sherry and delicate floral notes intertwines with the comforting warmth of cedar. A subtle hint of paprika adds a tantalizing spice.

Palate: Luscious flavors of poached apricot and peach are perfectly balanced with the intriguing zest of Thai sweet chili. Every sip is a celebration of rich, vibrant flavors that awaken your palate.

Finish: While the finish may be brief, its lingering allure compels you to return for another sip. The main themes from the palate are reiterated as the complex flavors tease your taste buds, promising a delightful experience every time.

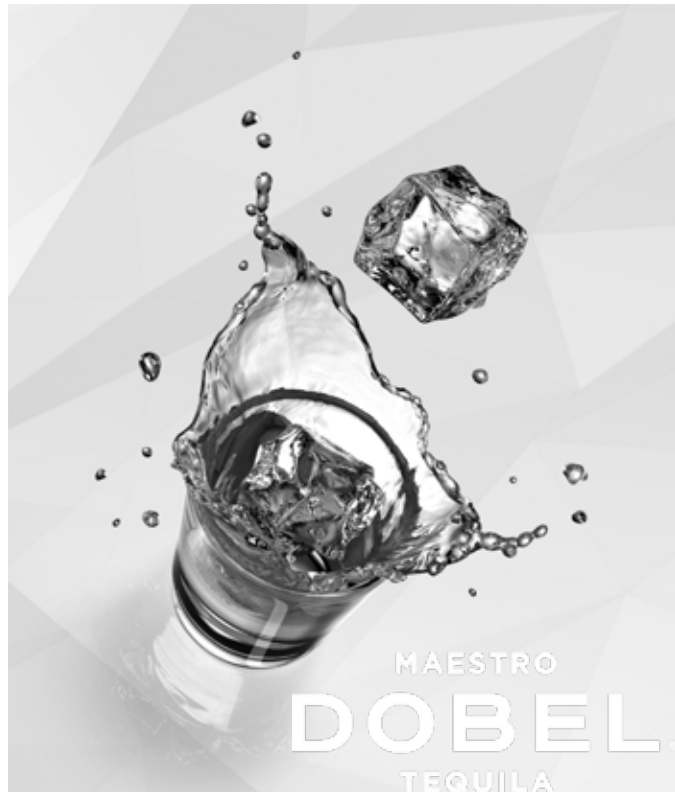
**MAESTRO DOBEL HI-TIME DIAMANTE TEQUILA
\$49.99 [126578]**

Made with 100% pure agave and formulated using a blend of Extra-Añejo, Añejo and Reposado tequilas, this exceptional tequila is unique. After the tequila has completed its aging process, it goes through a proprietary

filtration process that allows us to selectively remove the color, while preserving the tequila's complexity and smoothness.

Tasting Notes

A complex mix of sweet flavors caramel, honey and maple as well as nutty and vanilla notes. An indescribable smoothness and a long finish that leaves you wanting more.



**REY SOL 10YR HI TIME
EXTRA ANEJO
\$299.99 [124074]**

Mark two decades of excellence with Rey Sol's 20th Anniversary Single Barrel Extra Añejo Tequila. Carefully aged for 10 years in new French Oak barrels this tequila captures the essence of dedication and craftsmanship. The 20th Anniversary release stands as a testament to Rey Sol's unwavering commitment to quality and tradition. Boasting a cask strength of 45% ABV, each sip provides an intense and pure tequila experience, making it a coveted possession for connoisseurs.



Tasting Notes

Nose: cooked agave, cinnamon sugar, faint toasted oak, butter

Palate: cooked agave, light butterscotch, oak, vanilla, nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon, creamy finish with hints of baking chocolate

Finish: lasting, warming, with a bit of spice



**MAL BIEN TOBALA
HI-TIME PICK
\$79.99 [123475]**

Distilled by Victor, this is the first batch of tobalá made from plants cultivated beside the family's ranch. Despite some popular myths, tobalá does indeed take to cultivation, and

the plants reached maturity after just six years, as opposed to 12 years when harvested in the wild from the nearby mountains. Both nose and palate are clean and uplifting, with hints of fine smoke, minerality, leather, baked pear and mown grass. Very sippable.

98 proof.





FUENTESECA 5YR EX ANEJO \$199.99 [122261]
(REGULARLY \$249.99)

It began out of necessity. Enrique Fonseca was born in Atotonilco el Alto, he studied Arts and Architecture in Canada and Mexico. Throughout his life he worked alongside his father planting and harvesting blue agave in the region of “Los Altos de Jalisco”. He maintains a close relationship with the agave plant: he knows how to select the best fields (huertas) for planting, comprehends its unique maturation process and so has the ability to harvest only the supreme.

Due to some unforeseen circumstances Enrique found himself with a large quantity of agave, ready to be transformed into tequila, and couldn't find anybody to buy it. Time was not on his side. If he waited too long, the agave would spoil and be worthless for tequila production. So, out of necessity, Enrique Fonseca learned how to make tequila by himself.

What began as a necessity to use up some agave before it spoiled, quickly turned into a passion. Enrique was obsessed. He loved learning about what types of wood made the best aging barrels and how the different treatments reacted with tequila. From his life experiences, he already had more knowledge about the agave plant than any tequila producer in the world. Now, after his tour around the globe, he knew as much about barrel-aging as anyone in the global industry.

Enrique was able to see the tequila production process from all angles. He understood how all of the variables affected one another and used that insight to develop one of the most exclusive tequilas in the world: FUENTESECA. What made it so unique was not just how it was produced and aged, but for how long.

This 5-year Extra Añejo highlights the quality agave Fuentesecca uses and offers a glimpse into the deep well of wood aging they have pioneered--at least in the world of Tequila. Look for primary agave tasting notes (dried fruits, toasted nuts, agave sweetness) with added wood and brown spices from the barrel aging (treacle, vanilla, caramel, cacao, spice).

JOHNNIE WALKER BLUE LABEL ICE CHALET

\$279.99 [127202]

(REGULARLY \$299.99)

Johnnie Walker Blue Label Ice Chalet is a rare, limited-edition release expertly crafted by Master Blender, Emma Walker, featuring whiskies from distilleries in Scotland at the highest elevations to deliver a velvety-smooth blend that evokes salted honey, cacao and soft malt characters.

“Johnnie Walker Blue Label Ice Chalet brings the flavours of Alpine winters and the warmth of a sweet, smouldering fire to Johnnie Walker Blue Label’s signature depth of flavor. We wanted to capture the flavors of vanilla, cloves, spiced apples and gentle smoke - creating a velvety smooth Scotch perfect for marking special moments on the slopes. With **only 1 in 10,000 casks meeting our standards for Johnnie Walker Blue Label Ice Chalet**, this is a truly special whisky, which, for me, captures the energy and magic of the après-ski moment.”

-- DR EMMA WALKER

Johnnie Walker’s Master Blender



DON JULIO 1942 ANEJO TEQUILA \$169.99 [164000]

(REGULARLY \$199.99)

Celebrated in exclusive cocktail bars, restaurants and nightclubs, the iconic Don Julio 1942® Tequila is the choice of connoisseurs around the globe. Produced in small batches and aged for a minimum of two and a half years, Don Julio 1942® Tequila is handcrafted in tribute to the year that Don Julio González began his tequila-making journey.





HIGH WEST BOURBON 92PF \$34.99 [102104]

High West Bourbon is a complex blend of straight bourbons producing an aromatic whiskey that helps preserve the West.

Nose:

Light caramel and sweet vanilla

Taste:

Rich and earthy on the palate with well balanced flavors of candy corn, honey nougat and sweet corn bread biscuits

Finish:

Vanilla with a hint of caramel apple and pecan pie Great in cocktails, but has the complexity to stand on its own.



HIGH WEST DOUBLE RYE \$34.99 [109923]

Our distinctive Double Rye embodies a harmonious balance of bold rye spice with bright botanical notes that simultaneously showcase layers of

freshness and complexity. A blend of column and pot-still whiskies, aged a minimum of two years. Curated to highlight the wonderful, bold spice character that comes from high rye whiskies as well as a refreshing botanical brightness. A unique and balanced flavor profile of cinnamon, ginger-snaps, juniper, mint sprigs, and fresh wildflower honey. Blended to be boldly sipped, stirred, and savored.

DON FULANO BLANC 100PF \$50.99 [164133]

Don Fulano Fuerte is the original overproof; one of a kind, it is profoundly aromatic, full of spice and flavor and yet mellow with floral glimmers of Jasmin and orange blossom. It brings a direct connection with the agave fields, with its terroir, with its patient fermentation and its masterful distillation in copper alembics. Full bodied and generous in its complexity, its finish is full and prolonged. One for the connoisseur and epicurean, to sip neat or unbeatable in a fantastic cocktail.



Notes: Profoundly aromatic with floral glimmers of jasmin and orange blossom.

Palate: This overproof tequila fully shows its complex terroir, high minerality and wet cement.

Aroma: Yellow apple and cooked, mature agave round out this expression and make it soft and smooth despite its higher proof.

Nose: Grassines from volcanic well water shows in this pure and ethereal tequila.

Finish: Unusually generous in its complexity and long finish, this is a one-of-a-kind overproof.
(REGULARLY \$59.99)

G4 REPOSADO TEQUILA \$67.99 [114083] (REGULARLY \$80.99)

Refinement in a bottle. Traditionally aged for at least six months in very old George Dickel Tennessee whiskey barrels, now often blended with some new barrels for enhanced character, Our Reposado is an expression of the landscape, with flavors influenced by the floral, herbal, and citrus plantings we grow at Rancho El Pandillo.

Tasting Notes:

Flavor and Aroma: Cooked Agave, Oak, Vanilla, and Semi-sweet Chocolate, with notes of Caramel, Butter, Cinnamon, and Citrus. But, each Lot is unique.

WHY G4 TEQUILAS?

Why choose G4 Tequilas? From our four generations of experience making exceptional tequila to our sustainable farming and distilling techniques, G4 Tequilas deliver the purest, most authentic taste of Los Altos de Jalisco.



JELINEK 7YR GOLD SLIVOVITZ \$28.99 [109556] (REGULARLY \$33.99)

Slivovitz (plum brandy) is produced from fully matured fruit grown in the "plum region" of Bohemia. This triple distilled product, made from our own recipe, ranks among the premium quality alcoholic beverages, worldwide.



DALMORE 14YR \$92.99 [121621]
(REGULARLY \$109.99)

An exceptionally unique and harmonious balance. The first single malt in The Dalmore Principal Collection to be finished in rare and aged Pedro Ximénez sherry casks. Available exclusively in the United States.

The Aroma: Warm honey dates, Seville orange zest, rich raisins, and all spice

The Palate: Figs, dates, toasted hazelnuts, roasted coffee, and maple syrup



HDW CENTURY VODKA \$89.99 [125274]
(REGULARLY \$119.99)

HDW has two components. HDW stands for Harlen Davis Wheatley, Master Distiller at Buffalo Trace Distillery. Centruy stands for 100 separate distillations that were required to produce HDW Century. Through 100 separate distillations, this one-of-a-kind process creates a smooth, delicate flavor profile with a pure crisp nose and hints of vanilla.

HDW Century Ultra Premium Vodka is the pinnacle of vodka craftsmanship, distilled with precision and care. Crafted using the finest ingredients and a meticulous distillation process, this vodka delivers an unparalleled smoothness and purity.

Notes: Boasting a delicate flavor profile, a clean nose, and delicate hints of vanilla. The ultimate expression of perfection.

HENDRICKS MIDSUMMER SOLSTICE GIN \$39.99 [115349] (REG. \$45.99)



Hendrick's Midsummer Solstice is A DEEPLY FLORAL gin inspired by the eternal mystery of nature's most vivid blooms on the Midsummer solstice. This delightful and refreshing take on the Hendrick's house style is Lesley Gracie's tribute to the sensory powers of the midsummer solstice, when botanicals (and flowers in particular) are believed to be at their most powerful.

CASA DRAGONES REPOSADO \$149.99 [121835] (REG. \$169.99)

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.



PARTIDA ROBLE FINO ANEJO \$139.99 [127134]
(REGULARLY \$149.99)

Partida Roble Fino Añejo begins with Partida's highly acclaimed Añejo, aged 18 months, in ex-bourbon barrels. This intensely flavored tequila then continues its finishing for an additional five months in ex-single malt, sherry-seasoned casks. Expansive complexity and depth of flavor with sweet notes of dried fruits, toasted oak, chocolate, and cooked agave.



he Finish: Rich dark fruits, quorice, marmalade, and epths of cocoa

TARIQUET 20YR 100% BACO \$94.99 [124598]
(REGULARLY \$99.99)

This Bas-Armagnac is made exclusively with the Baco grape variety, combining several different aged barrels. The youngest is 20 years old and therefore the one selected for its classification.

Tasting Notes: After extended aging, Baco shows a structure, complexity, finesse and elegance that are truly remarkable. The colour is olden with orange highlights. The nose is reminiscent of white pepper and ginger. The palate is marked by bitter orange, banana, and spices. The finish gives way to candied fruit notes.



Sean Patrick's Top 25 of 2024 ✪

1. Padron 1964 Hermoso Natural
2. J.C. Newman Yagua Toro
3. Tatuaje Cojonu 2015
4. Arturo Fuente Work of Art
5. Foundation Tabernacle Knight Commander
6. Davidoff Colorado Claro Aniversario No.3
7. Rocky Patel Year of The Dragon
8. Aladino Connecticut Toro
9. Caldwell Long Live the Queen Ace of Hearts
10. Casa Cuevas Sangre Nueva Double Perfecto
11. Arturo Fuente Don Carlos Belicoso
12. J.C. Newman Black Diamond Emerald
13. Montecristo 1935 Anniversary Nicaragua Espeso
14. Foundation Olmec Maduro Toro
15. Casa Magna XV Aniversario
16. Patoro VA XO Robusto
17. Sinistro Cowboy Caviar Toro
18. Paul Garmirian Double Corona
19. Ernesto Perez Carillo Encore Valientes
20. Jake Wyatt U.S.I.R. Toro
21. Avo Ritmo Torpedo Larga
22. Eiroa Classic Lancero
23. Oliva Serie V Figurado
24. Kristoff Cameroon Figurado
25. AJ Fernandez New World Dorado Gordito

Michelle Murray's Top 25 of 2024 ✪ (in no particular order)

- AF Hemingway Short Story
 Don Pepin Garcia Generosos
 Padron 64 Sobrano Natural
 La aroma Mi Amor Magnifico
 My Father La Promesa Lancero
 Padron 1926 No.36 Natural
 Olmec Claro Robusto
 Davidoff WSC Petit Corona
 Tabernacle Hav Ct Dbl Corona
 Paul Garmirian 15th Anni Robusto
 Ashton Symmetry Robusto
 Long Live The Queen Queen's Court
 Eiroa Classic Lancero
 AF OpusX Rare Pink Short Story
 AF OpusX Rare Pink Happy Ending
 AF OpusX 20th Anni God's Whisper
 Arturo Fuente Destino Shark
 Davidoff Zino Crown Platnum Especial Chubby
 Avo Classic Robusto
 Partagas Naturales
 AF Don Carlos Eye of the Shark
 Oliva Melanio No. 4
 Diamond Crown No. 5 Natural
 Patoro Terre Blanche Lancero
 San Cristobal Elegancia Robusto



When Padrón is on the label, quality is a matter of family honor.

“With over fifty-six years to create a perfect cigar and more than 100 years to create a perfect legacy, the Padrón Family understands the significance of time. We deliver only the finest, hand crafted cigars with the flavor of the Cuban heritage out of which the Padrón recipe was born. Our primary mission

is the exceptional quality of our product, not the quantity produced.” --Jorge Padron



J.C. Newman

J.C. Newman Cigar Company's long history dates back more than a century to 1895, when Julius Caesar Newman rolled his first cigars in the family barn in Cleveland, Ohio.

“From our humble beginnings as a one-man cigar factory, we have survived and prospered through the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, two world wars, the Cuban embargo, excessive taxes, smoking bans and the rapid consolidation of the cigar industry.

In 1895, there were 40,000 federally licensed cigar manufacturers in the United States. Four generations and nearly 125 years later, J.C. Newman is the only one that is still owned and operated by the founding family. As J.C. Newman Cigar Company continues in the 21st century, the Newman family is committed to upholding the family tradition of quality and innovation and hand-crafting some of the world's finest cigars.

Only Fuente is Fuente

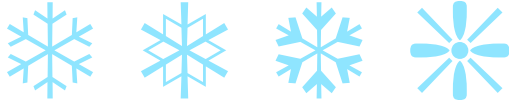
A FAMILY TRADITION SINCE 1912
 “Arturo Fuente cigars are consistently rated among the best cigars in the world. Our reputation for unsurpassed quality, with both flavor and construction, has amassed a loyal following among cigar connoisseurs.”

✪ Please note: Many of our top cigars are very limited and may be sold out. Please check with Sean, Michelle or the Smoke Shack staff for availability.



HI-TIME BEER DEPT.

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



View our [GIFT BASKETS](#) online!



View our [GIFT PACKS](#) online!



Hoppy Holidays!

Need Keg Assistance? Let one of our pros help you with your keg system!



Belgian Beers Baby!



HI-TIME'S WINE CLUB!

Curated by Michael De France

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

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

See the full details online!



www.hitimewine.net/wine-club/

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.