

# WINE News

*Reason to be merry:  
Holidays 2021*



## DECEMBER 6, 2021 FEATURES

- |                   |                      |                    |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Top Picks 2021  | 5 Hot Tips from L.A. | 9 Play Père Noël   |
| 2 Big in Bordeaux | 6 Burgundy's Back    | 10 Iberia et al.   |
| 3 Champagne!      | 7 The Boot of Plenty | 11 Season's Shiraz |
| 4 Domestic Joys   | 8 Good Spirit, ...   | 12 Join the Club!  |

## Our Holiday Best to You

Each year, our wine and spirits buyers put you at the top of their “nice” list, and offer their greatest hits and gifts for 2021 on this page:

**2016 Pauillac de Latour, Pauillac (\$95.99)** This third wine from Château Latour is wonderful. So integrated and seamless. Red rose and cassis aromas. Red berry fruit flavors and very round tannins. Great texture on the palate. One of their best in years. **94 JS**

**2016 Heitz “Lot C-91” Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (\$99.95)**

This new wine is inspired by an old one! In 1969, Joe Heitz experimented with creating a high-end blend from some of his top single-vineyard lots. 47 years later, the winery has once again taken select barrels from legendary sites—Martha’s (Oakville), Trailside (Rutherford), and Linda Falls (Howell Mountain)—to create this majestic cuvée in an incredible vintage. **96 JS, 93 WS**



**2018 Domaine des Remizières “Cuvée Emilie” Hermitage (\$64.99)** This sumptuous Syrah comes from one of the rising stars of the region. Not only does it punch well above its price point (Chave and Chapoutier’s wines are in the \$100s), but it has an accessible sexiness that will wow people at their dining room tables—and make a great gift for their collector friends. **95 RP, 95 JD**

**2007 Billecart-Salmon “Cuvée Louis” Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne (\$129.99)**

While most other big-name tête de cuvées have shot up in price, or are not available, this top-notch, all-Grand Cru, elegant bottling is \$34 less than it was last year! Creamy, poised, refreshing, and long! **95 RP**



**2018 Penfolds “Bin 389” Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz South Australia (\$49.99)** Known as “Baby Grange,” this comes from the same vineyards and is aged in the same barrels as Australia’s celebrated, classic wine. **97 JS**

**2018 Scar of the Sea “Rancho Tepusquet” Santa Maria Valley Chardonnay (\$29.99)**

Sourced from a Bien Nacido Vineyard block planted in 1973. Ripe pear and apple, with a touch of savory salinity. A class-act Chardonnay. **95 WE**



**2016 Bodegas Muga “Selección Especial” Reserva Rioja (\$39.99)**

Not just for fans of Spanish wines, this will thrill Cabernet and Bordeaux drinkers with its bright berry fruit and intense, elegant palate, with layers of fruit, spice, and earth. **95 JS**

**2017 La Massa “La Massa” Toscana (\$19.99)** This Super Tuscan red blend, always a favorite at K&L, is a terrific wine to serve for your holiday functions. The supple richness, smooth tannins, and complex flavors are a hearty match for that Christmas prime rib—or just grazing the leftovers. **93 JS**

**Amrut 8 Year Old “SCWC Exclusive” Ex-Port Pipe #4672 (\$200.00) and Amrut 6 Year Old “K&L Exclusive” Ex-Oloroso Sherry Butt #3890 Indian Single Malt Whisky (\$149.99)**

The first ever single casks for the U.S. market from the award-winning Amrut distillery in Bangalore are finally here. If you love big, bold whiskies like Kavalin Solist, there is no more impressive malt on the market.



## Bordeaux: Holiday Party Time with Bordeaux Magnums

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

**Magnum bottles (1.5-liter) are so festive, so be sure you stock up for the holidays.** As our very good friend, Anthony Barton, of Leoville-Barton and Langoa-Barton, often says, “The magnum is a perfect size for two people—if one does not drink!”

**2018 La Tour de By, Médoc (1.5L \$39.99)** One of our favorite value Bordeaux properties since we started selling it in 1979. **91 WE:** “The structured Cabernet Sauvignon in this ripe wine gives attractive black-currant flavors and a core of tannins that will allow it to age. It is a great food wine.”

**2015 Bois-Malot (1.5L \$25.99)** If you like *framboise* you will adore this wine—2015 was a huge success for this property. Château Bois-Malot is located in St-Loubes along the Dordogne river. As in most years, this wine tastes and smells of raspberries and earth, but with a gentle middle and a soft finish due to the extraordinary vintage. Round, seductive, and filled with easy-drinking character. Great party wine, and a super value.

**2015 Siaurac, Lalande de Pomerol (1.5L \$44.99)** We stayed here in 2016 and enjoyed some older vintages. Our friends at Château Latour now own this property. **90 DC:** “The solar nature of the vintage is clearly apparent in this wine’s rich, ripe, gourmand style. There’s a sweetness to the fruit and plenty of mid-palate substance.”



**2017 Tour St-Christophe (1.5L \$79.99)** One of K&L’s favorite properties in Bordeaux for value. **95 JD:** “This estate made a stunning 2017, and I continue to love this wine. A typical blend of 80% Merlot, and 20% Cabernet Franc, the 2017 Château Tour Saint Christophe has remarkable purity in its black raspberry and blueberry fruits, as well as complex spice, candied violet, spring flower, and cedary herb aromas and flavors.”

**2000 Citran, Haut-Médoc (1.5L \$89.99)** Here’s a wonderful 21-year-old big bottle, ready to drink this holiday season. **91 WS:** “Beautiful aromas of currants, berries and flowers. Full-bodied, with a wonderfully integrated palate of ripe fruit and fine tannins. Long finish. Best Citran in years.”

**1990 Citran, Haut-Médoc (1.5L \$84.99)** A superb 31-year-old party wine for the holidays.

**2016 Cos d’Estournel, St-Estèphe (1.5L \$569.99)** The perfect gift for your child or grandchild born in 2016. Cellar it for up to 50 years. **100 JS, 100 RP**



### A Container of Bordeaux Just Arrived

**Finally, a container has arrived, packed with holiday bargains from Bordeaux.** The spotlight is on St-Estèphe.

**2018 Trébiac, Graves (\$13.99)** A staple in our great value section. The 2018 is very mineral on the palate and quite smooth on the finish.

**2018 Tour du Moulin, Fronsac (\$19.99)** This under-the-radar property makes fabulous value wines, and this 2018 is super delicious. Lots of black cherry flavors.

**2017 Tronquoy-Lalande, St-Estèphe (\$29.99)** One of my top picks for value in the 2017 vintage. Perfumy aromas of black cherry and toasty oak. Black licorice, black fruit flavors conceal the latent tannins. Round and subtle, with a lingering finish.

**2018 St-Estèphe de Calon-Segur, St-Estèphe (\$29.99)** Another super value from St-Estèphe.

**2009 Gaudin, Pauillac (\$39.99)** Ripe, sexy vintage from a big boy property that we just started carrying. Decant and enjoy with your prime rib.

**2015 Barde-Haut, St-Emilion (\$44.99)** and **2016 Barde-Haut, St-Emilion (\$46.99)** We love the wines of Barde-Haut in almost any vintage. They are always well-priced, and best of all, taste great. Thank you, Hélène Garcin Lévêque and Patrick Lévêque, for all these great wines you make.

**2000 Poujeaux, Moulis (\$74.99)** Another of our favorites at K&L. Good upfront fruit with chocolate nuances on the palate. Fine, mid-palate sweetness. This property consistently makes excellent wine for a reasonable price. This wine is perfect now.

**2005 Meyney, St-Estèphe (\$61.99)** and **2009 Meyney, St-Estèphe (\$64.99)** Perfect terroir here and very underappreciated property. We sell many vintages of this property, and these two are ready to drink.

**2009 Pagodes de Cos Estournel, St-Estèphe (\$84.99)** **94 JD:** “The 2009 Pagodes De Cos is a blockbuster that I wish I had more of in the cellar... 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 tannin, beautiful purity of fruit, and a great finish, it’s an incredibly sexy, satisfying second wine that will keep for another 10-15.” The first wine sells for \$400!

**1999 Chasse-Spleen, Haut-Médoc (\$59.99)** This under-the-radar property makes fabulous value wines, and the 2010 is super delicious. I have a case in my cellar.





*K&L Champagne buyer, Gary Westby, demonstrates the correct way to kick off the holiday season.*

## Champagne: There's a Bottle for Every Occasion!

By Gary Westby

Whether you are entertaining a big crowd or having an intimate gathering over the holidays this year, K&L has you covered for Champagne. With prices going up and availability scarce on many of the famous names, our Direct Import portfolio has remained reasonable and available. We are also lucky to have great relationships with some of the best-known producers in the region — and while we won't have everything from everybody this year, we will have something for every Champagne lover and every budget.

My favorite pick for a large gatherings of friends and family this season is the **Baron-Fuenté Grande Réserve Brut (\$24.99)**. This never fails to surprise Champagne lovers with its quality, as it has been aged for three years on the lees and contains 40% old reserves. It is composed of 60% Meunier, 30% Chardonnay, and 10% Pinot Noir. The wine has lovely toast, small bubbles, and a dry, refreshing finish. This is guaranteed to delight your guests and will surprise the most seasoned Champagne lover with its depth and balance.



If you are hosting a crab feed this holiday season, look no further than the **Franck Bonville Grand Cru Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne (\$34.99)**. While most producers don't start getting into 100% Grand Cru fruit until their tête de cuvée range, and well after breaking the \$100 barrier, our 20-year direct relationship with Olivier Bonville allows us to sell this stunning blend of Avize and Oger Grand Cru at under \$40. This scintillating wine has the Meyer lemon drive and chalky minerality that one rarely encounters at such a low price — and its dry, precise finish is magic with Dungeness crab!



One of the most anticipated Champagnes of 2021, the **Louis Roederer "Collection 242" Brut Champagne (\$54.99)** replaces the Brut Premier in their range. This is a wine that lives up to its hype. The number 242 refers to the batch number, and since they have made one every year since 1776, it is a high number! This batch is based on the 2017 harvest, which makes up 56% of the blend; the remainder is reserves from one large solera-like tank containing 2012–2016 vintages in even parts, and a small amount of individually oak-aged wines going back to 2009. The results are amazing. This wine is both fresher and more complex than the excellent Brut Premier that came before it, and a prime example of how great Champagne that is blended across time can be.

For the most special and intimate of gatherings, I cannot recommend the **Laurent-Perrier "Grand Siècle" Iteration #24 Brut Champagne (\$149.99)** strongly enough. This is the most elegant of aperitifs, composed solely of Grand Cru fruit from three vintage years: 2004, 2006, and 2007. After more than 10 years of aging on the lees, this wine has the delicate brioche aromas, tiny bubbles, and seamless texture that one must invest time to get, but because of the class of the Grand Cru sites, it is still completely fresh. This wine sees no oak whatsoever and is done entirely in stainless steel. While some of the famous names pump out huge quantities of their most expensive Champagnes, the production of Grand Siècle is tiny.



A toast to you!

## Domestic: It's a Wine-Gift Wonderland for Every Budget!

By Ryan Woodhouse

I'll keep my verbosity in check this time around, and save as much space as possible to just recommend some of my favorite Domestic wines from all across the spectrum. There's a gift for every budget!

### 2018 Edge Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (\$19.99)

*Elsewhere \$25 or more.* Sourced from some of the most famous vineyards in Alexander Valley (I'll let you consider what those might be), this wine delivers powerful, densely fruited Cabernet with blackberry, ripe plum, hints of mocha, exotic oak spice, and scorched earth. The fruit is plush and polished, but a solid core of grippy varietal tannin gives nice structure and definition to the finish. This is a classy bottle of Cab that's very hard to beat at this price. **93 JS, 92 VN**

### 2018 Buehler "Estate" Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (\$29.95)

*Elsewhere \$45.* 94-point, estate-grown Cabernet, from a prime subregion of Napa for \$29.95?! This wine hugely over-delivers. From hillside blocks, some dating back to the 1970s, in the Conn Valley area, Buehler is quietly making some of the best values in the region. Two of the most influential wine publications in the wine world, Vinous and Robert Parker Wine Advocate, both rave about this wine, with Galloni writing: "Buehler... doesn't get anywhere near the recognition it deserves." Perotti-Brown, echoing that sentiment, concludes: "Impressively priced for the quality here, it is drinking beautifully right now... Stock up!" **94 VN, 92 RP**

### 2017 Authentique "Fond Marin" Eola-Amity Hills Chardonnay (\$39.95)

This is one of my favorite Chardonnays of the year! The Fond Marin, or "seabed," Chardonnay from Authentique comes from top vineyards in the Eola-Amity Hills — Keeler, Bois Joli, and Eola Springs — that all share ancient marine sedimentary soils, hence Fond Marin. A beautiful combination of ripe Chardonnay flavors and textures with searing acidity and saline minerality. Bursting initially with ripe golden orchard fruit and poached pear, the palate quickly transitions into preserved lemon, citrus peel, toasted almonds, and oyster shell mineral. The range of flavors experienced on the palate is remarkable, and the texture goes from viscous and creamy up front, to dry, chalky, and mouthwatering on the finish, with focused acidity and seemingly endless persistence. So impressive and impactful. Absolutely stunning Chardonnay. **94 WE, 94 JS**

### 2018 Clos Du Val "Estate" Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

**(\$49.95)** The 2018 Estate Cab from Clos Du Val has one foot in the Old World and one in the New. It explodes from the glass with aromas of crème de cassis, blackberry purée, huckleberry, new leather, shaved cedar, and cigar box. Totally classic aromas and flavors — quintessential Cabernet. Wonderful, mouth-filling fruit and ultra-fine tannins. Exquisite balance of pure fruit, but ample structure, and nice savory, varietal characters of tobacco and dried herbs. I truly believe this can stand toe-to-toe with *much* more expensive bottles and not flinch. Clos du Val has perfectly captured the excellence of the 2018 vintage. **97 DC**

### 2018 O'Shaughnessy Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (\$74.95)

O'Shaughnessy's Napa Valley bottling combines top-notch estate holdings from Howell Mountain, Mt. Veeder, and Oakville, and fashions them into one seamless beauty of a wine. The wine is rich, dense, and powerful, but at the same time, pure and elegant, with lots of energy and wonderful perfume. There's structure to age, but this is also wonderfully accessible and expressive as a young wine. A fantastic representation of this top Napa vintage and the pedigree of this benchmark producer — not to mention an absolute steal for \$75! **97 WE, 93 VN, 93 JS**

### 2016 Cobb "Old Firs Block Coastlands Vineyard"

**Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir (\$79.95)** The 2016 Old Firs from Cobb is drinking beautifully. A few years in bottle have allowed this wine to unfurl and show all of its remarkable depth and complexity. Sourced from the oldest vines at Coastlands Vineyard, a block of heritage Wadenswil and Martini selections planted in 1989, the wine shows a depth of brooding red to black fruits, crushed raspberry, bramble, and dark cherry, all intertwined with savory herbs and forest notes. Peppercorn and other mortar-and-pestle crushed spices come through with time in the glass. It has a very Burgundian feel, embracing the savory nuances of the grape, but there's also that Sonoma Coast purity that I love. **96 RP, 94 VN**

### 2013 Buselli Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon (\$99.95)

*Elsewhere \$150.* From a tiny family-owned estate in east Oakville, right next to Dalla Valle. Just down the street are Rudd, Tench, and Screaming Eagle. Talk about a prime location! In fact, Dalla Valle's driveway crosses this property. The Buselli family bought this parcel in the 1970s, and until recently sold all of the fruit to some of Napa's most prestigious wineries. In the last few years they enlisted the help of super-star



consultant winemakers, Tim Milos and Stacy Vogel, to craft small amounts of their own estate wine. The results are spectacular! Powerful, hillside Cabernet, with that telltale exotic, luxurious flare of Oakville. Having struck up a relationship with this very sweet and unassuming Italian-American family, we buy the wine directly from them and have this bottling from the highly celebrated 2013 vintage. The staff have been hand-selling this wine to folks looking for something boutique and under the radar, and the feedback has been stellar!

**2018 La Jota Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon (\$149.95)** Made by the inimitable Chris Carpenter, a top-three winemaker of a generation, who also crafts Lokoya at \$450 and Cardinale at \$325. When you consider La Jota's \$149.95 price tag versus the cost of its stable mates, this wine really does represent a great value. This is compounded by the fact that I don't think it gives up much, if anything, in quality compared to those wines. Carpenter knows how to perfectly tame the beast that is Howell Mountain Cabernet. The 2018 is benchmark Howell Cab that you don't have to wait 20 years to drink. It hones this powerful, rugged mountain terroir into a highly polished, luxurious cult Cabernet.



## Hot Tips from Hollywood

By Kaj Stromer

Gifting and sharing wine is one of the great pleasures of the season, made all the more pleasurable when you can easily supply your holiday cupboard with the great range and quality of wines and spirits found here at K&L. Whether your aim is to gift or entertain, we're well stocked for the holidays with just about anything your heart desires. And if your heart desires fine Domestic wines, here's a short list of top recommendations from my corner of the store. Happy holidays to you all!

**2019 Arnot-Roberts "Trout Gulch Vineyard" Santa Cruz Mountains Chardonnay (\$44.95)** Headquartered in Sonoma County, Arnot-Roberts has built a reputation for producing some of California's most distinctive and delicious wines sourced from the best vineyards across the state. Having recently visited the Trout Gulch vineyard, I can attest that it is a legendary site for Chardonnay. Grown a mere four miles from the Pacific Ocean, this wine displays an amazing intensity of green apple and pear fruit character, touched by a hint of sea spray. **96 VN**

**2019 TOR "Torchiana Cuvée Beresini Vineyard" Carneros Chardonnay (\$79.95)** Tor and Susan Kenward, along with winemaker Jeff Ames, produce some of my favorite wines from Napa Valley. For my money, this is one of the most plush and luxurious Chardonnays on the market. It's a contemplative wine that gives pause to the taster. A mere 250 cases were produced, so rest assured, it's rare and truly special. Kudos to the team for this magnificent Chardonnay.



### 2017 Eyrie "Estate" Dundee Hills Pinot Noir (\$34.95)

The Eyrie estate continues to hold its title, not only as one of Oregon's original Pinot pioneers, but as one of the country's top wine estates. Visionary David Lett pioneered both Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris in the Willamette Valley, and his legacy continues in the capable hands of his son, Jason Lett. True to form, this wine offers up plenty of classic Oregon Pinot character, featuring red and black cherry, a touch of cranberry for refreshing tartness, and a dash of wood spice. Simply exhilarating Pinot Noir. **94 JS**

### 2019 Rochioli "Estate" Russian River Valley Pinot Noir (\$89.95)

When speaking of Russian River Valley wine, few names are as legendary as Rochioli. Along with contemporaries like Williams Selyem and Dehlinger, they definitively established the area as a world-class winegrowing region. Their Pinot Noir is structured and poised, and, like many wines of this pedigree, has plenty of complexity on a palate filled with ripe cherry, savory herbs, and a long, juicy finish. While impressive on release, it certainly can age with the best of them. **94 WS**

### 2017 Paradigm Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon (\$79.95)

Longtime Napa Valley residents Ren and Marilyn Harris have been running this Oakville estate since the 1970s.

In 1991, none other than Heidi Barrett took over winemaking duties. This is 100% Cabernet fruit sourced from the estate. There's plenty of gorgeous blackberry and black plum. Tannins are firm but properly ripe. There's an elegance here that you don't always find in today's newer offerings. Tradition and continuity rule at Paradigm, and the result is one of the valley's finest offerings and values.

### 2016 Portfolio "Limited Edition" Napa Valley Bordeaux Blend (\$164.95)

Founded in 1998, Portfolio is the private wine label of Geneviève Janssens, the director of winemaking at Robert Mondavi Winery since 1997, and director of production at Opus One for nearly a decade. The wines have always been highly allocated with very limited production. The fruit is sourced from the Hendry Ranch Vineyard Block 8 (planted in 1974) and the Detert East Vineyard in Oakville. The wine is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Cabernet Franc. It is aged in 100% new French oak. Only 200 cases were produced. **95 WE**





A quiet winter's scene in Burgundy. (Photo: BIVB)

## Burgundy: Hard-to-Find Wines of World Renown

By Alex Pross

**This holiday season, stuff the stockings with quality red Burgundy.** With two stellar vintages in 2018 and 2019, a weaker euro, and the removal of the 25% tariffs, we have some great prices on a wide array of fine, ready-to-drink Burgundy wines. From top to bottom, the quality has never been higher, and many of these wines will please the French wine enthusiast as much as they will enlighten the neophyte, while satisfying the California aficionado.

**2018 Domaine Albert Morot Beaune 1er Cru “Marconnets” (\$44.99)** Beautifully crafted with pretty fruit, marvelous complexity, and a regal elegance found only in the best Burgundies. **93 WE, 90 WS, 90 BH**

**2018 Domaine Joseph Faiveley Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes (\$49.99)** A quintessential Gevrey-Chambertin, loaded with gorgeous purple fruit, spice, and subtle volcanic rock notes. This is a sublime offering and is one of the best values around. **93 WS, 93 JS, 93 DC**

**2019 Domaine Joblot Givry 1er Cru “L’Empreinte” (\$49.99)** Not to be confused with Gevrey-Chambertin, Givry is one of Burgundy’s up-and-coming appellations, with a bevy of great offerings. Joblot is one of the best producers there. This wine is fantastic. Tons of dark berry fruit, supple tannins, and spice notes all mingle here to produce a wonderful offering. **91-94 BH**

**2018 Domaine Jean-Marc & Hughes Pavelot Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru “Aux Gravains” (\$59.99)** From one of the producers that put Savigny-les-Beaune on the radar of consumers comes this stellar offering. Gravains is one of Savigny-les-Beaune’s top vineyard sites, and Pavelot fashions a wine that frames the beautiful fruit as well as the mineral notes in this terroir. **91-93 VN, 91-93 BH**

**2018 Domaine Drouhin-Laroze Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru “Au Closeau” (\$79.99)** Drouhin-Laroze is on an incredible upswing, and the 2018 Au Closeau is a testament to the great goings-on here. Fresh, bright, and lively, this wine has red fruits, licorice, and spice, all wrapped up into a sexy package. **93 WS**



**2018 Domaine Duroché Gevrey-Chambertin (\$79.99)** Pure and elegant, with great structure, this Gevrey-Chambertin from Domaine Duroche is both a crowd-pleaser and a traditional-feeling Burgundy. Duroche focuses mainly on the Gevrey-Chambertin appellation, and it shows here. **90 JM, 89-91 VN**

**2018 Domaine de la Pousse d’Or Volnay 1er Cru “Clos de la Bousse d’Or” (\$119.99)** Pousse d’Or is a household name in Volnay, as they fashion some of the appellation’s top wines. The Clos de la Bousse is such a pretty, elegant red, with high-toned red fruits, floral aromas, and hints of spice and stems on both the palate and nose. **93 DC, 91-93 JM, 90-93 BH**

**2019 Domaine Dugat-Py Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes (\$119.99)** If you want a window into the stunning 2019 red Burgundy vintage, this wine from super-small, cultish producer Dugat-Py is the ideal holiday gift. A hard-to-find wine, this is the one for that person who seems to have everything. **92-95 BH**

**2018 Domaine Marquis d’Angerville Volnay 1er Cru “Frémiets” (\$189.99)** This is the reference-point producer for Volnay. If you want to know how good a vintage is, just taste the most recent d’Angerville wine, and you’ll know how truly great it is. Beautiful, complex, structured, and packed with fruit, these wines age marvelously—and are mind-blowingly good. **92-94 RP, 91-93 VN, 91-93 JM, 91-93 BH**

**2019 Domaine Arlaud Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru Grand Cru (\$259.99)** This terroir is at the top of the red Burgundy hierarchy, and Arlaud makes a stunning wine. Layer upon layer of red fruit slowly unfolds on the palate as this wine shimmers with zippy notes and an electric mouthfeel. **93-95 JM, 92-94 VN, 91-94 BH**

**2019 Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils Echézeaux Grand Cru Echézeaux (\$299.99)** This special, small Grand Cru plot produces wines that display beauty, elegance, and structure, while simultaneously feeling powerful and regal. **92-95 JM, 94 DC, 92-94 RP, 92-94 VN, 90-93 BH**



# Italy: Diverse Wines from “the Boot” of Plenty!

By Greg St. Clair

I usually limit myself to using the word “cornucopia” just once during the holiday season—and since I didn’t use it in the Thanksgiving issue, well, here it seems even more appropriate. Yes, there’s a veritable cornucopia of Italian wines of exceptional quality here, and they are also real bargains! Let’s start with a couple of rosato, or rosé—or just call ‘em pink wines.

## Rosé, Rosato

**2020 Poggerino “Aurora” Toscana Rosato (\$15.99)** This gem from the highest part of Chianti Classico is an all-Sangiovese varietal rosato that’s crisp, clean, and has so much freshness it revives me every time I try it.

## 2020 Proprietà Sperino “Rosa del Rosa” Piemonte Rosato

**(\$19.99)** A perennial favorite around K&L, this wine comes from Alto Piemonte, an hour from Milan and up against the Swiss border. A blend of Nebbiolo and Vespolina, it’s a more complex wine, with headier aromatics. Yet it still shows aromatic purity and has exceptional lift and balance. These wines are super for ham, or just as an aperitif. Even though we’re out of the summer, you can drink pink all year!

## Sicily

I love Italy. It is an incredibly diverse country—but every time I go to Sicily, I find that it really stands out as someplace unique. In the last 15 years, the wines from Mount Etna have shocked the wine world. Don’t be surprised if it’s new to you, because it takes time to overcome the existing set of wine lists and store shelves. The whites are scintillating. They are made from the local grape Carricante, and are so mineral-driven they seem almost crystalline in their directness.

**2019 Benanti Etna Bianco (\$21.99)** This is the perfect entry-level example of this style, and if you like that, you can jump to the single-vineyard versions.

**2018 Benanti Etna Rosso (\$17.99)** This will give you a basic course in Nerello Mascalese, the predominant grape in Etna Rosso. The wines seem to have a bit of Burgundy and a bit of Barolo as a stylistic direction—earth, spice, minerality, and depth. This is truly exceptional—and the single-vineyard versions will blow your mind.

## Tuscany

### 2019 Montenidoli “Tradizionale” Vernaccia di San Gimignano

**(\$17.99)** If you’ve never had this wine, it will rewrite the experience you’ve had with this varietal. The Tradizionale refers to a bit of skin contact, the way they used to make white wines in Tuscany. Complex, with a bit of grip, and just a stunningly good finish. 97 DC



### 2019 Ciacci Piccolomini d’Aragona Rosso di Montalcino (\$25.99)

The 2019 vintage in Montalcino is another exceptional, 5-star vintage. This wine will give you a preview on the Brunellos that will be



here in a couple of years. Luscious, full-bodied, and still classically Sangiovese from Montalcino.

### 2019 Fuligni “Ginestreto” Rosso di Montalcino (\$34.99)

Less fruit-forward—not that it lacks fruit, but as compared to the Ciacci—this has a more soil-driven, Tuscan brush and Middle Eastern spice profile. It’s truly exceptional.



### 2016 Collazzi Toscana Rosso (\$29.99) Elsewhere \$40.

While I am typically not a great imbiber of Bordeaux-style blends from Tuscany, this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot shook me to the core. So many facets of flavor, spice, and intrigue, while still showing the balance and length of a great wine (yes, I said great), this has super potential. Truly a special wine. 95 JS



## Piedmont

### 2017 Correggia Roero Nebbiolo

**(\$17.99)** If I’m just sitting around watching a movie, one of my

go-to wines is Nebbiolo. Well, OK, not normally—but this is a Roero, which is Nebbiolo from across the Tanaro River, and has a drinkability that, in the current parlance, you could call *crushable!* Enjoy yourselves, and happy holidays!



# Spirits: Gifts for the Drinker Who Likes to Know Things

By David Othenin-Girard and Andrew Whiteley

At this time of year, when there's a nip in the air and holiday occasions to celebrate, there's nothing better than a dram of craft spirits in your glass — or in a gift bag to present to a thirsty loved one. K&L is your one-stop shop for the best spirits around, with a curated selection of unique whiskies, brandies, mezcals, and the like from across the globe. Let us help you hit a holiday home run with some of our favorite tipples.

## Perfect Midwinter Mezcal

### Maguery Melate “Pechuga Tasting Box #3” Uncertified Mezcal Tasting Kit (\$119.99)

This rare offering features 11 different distillates from masters across Mexico. Expand your horizons or take a special someone on a winding journey through Mexico's traditional holiday spirit.



### Maguery Melate “Signature Box” Uncertified Mezcal Gift Pack (\$250.00)

Cannot ship; will call and hand delivery only.

This is both a 3-pack mezcal tasting kit and a work of art. There's no better gift for your mezcal-loving family or friends.



## Lift Your Holiday Spirits

### David Lebovitz “Drinking French” and French Spirits Bar Box Gift Pack #3 (\$139.99)

What makes a better gift for the booze-appreciator than a box of booze? One that's tailored to explore the wonderful *Drinking French* book by David Lebovitz! This holiday gift pack is the perfect thing to check off the Francophile or spirits lover on your list. *Drinking French* is a beautiful and funny exploration of all things French drinking culture, and a whole bunch of wonderful cocktail and food recipes, to boot. The box includes four distinctly French spirits: one (1) 750ml bottle of Château de Pellehaut K&L Exclusive “L'Age de Glace” Ténarèze Armagnac; one (1) 750ml bottle of Domaine Hubert K&L Exclusive Pays d'Auge Vieux Calvados; one (1) 750ml bottle of Byrrh Grand Quinquina Apéritif; and one (1) 375ml bottle of Green Chartreuse.



## Warming Brandy from Napa Valley... Apples!

### Hotaling 4 Year Old Apple Brandy (\$49.99)

This 4-year-old apple brandy is the epic followup to the 21-year-old version released earlier this year. The apples for this release have an incredible history. Hotaling (formerly Anchor Distilling) was founded by Fritz Maytag, owner of a massive vineyard on Spring Mountain in the Napa Valley. That Spring Mountain estate is littered with many different varieties of old-growth apple trees that produce fruit with incredibly intense flavors. For several years in the early 2000s, those apples were harvested exclusively from Fritz's estate, and distilled at Anchor. The brandies were aged in casks that previously held Anchor's Old Potrero rye whiskies. After aging for four to eight years, they were moved to tank to stop the aging process. It was there they rested for about a decade before being bottled as this extraordinary brandy with a humble four-year age statement. The brandy shows tremendous complexity, ranging from zippy, fresh, crisp apple flavors to baked apples, cinnamon spice, vanilla, candied nuts, and citrus zest. It also garnered an impressive 93-point score from *Wine Enthusiast*. For just 50 bucks, it's the steal of the season.



## Very Rare Brandy from Napa Valley Wine Grapes

### Alembix 21 Year Old Napa Valley Cabernet Brandy (\$129.99), Alembix 21 Year Old Napa Valley Merlot Brandy (\$129.99), and Alembix Napa Valley Cabernet-Merlot Grappa de Venus (375ml) \$49.99

While we're on Napa Valley brandies with an epic history, don't miss the Alembix lineup. Coming from the Narsai David Estates in Napa, these 21-year-old brandies were nearly never made. When Narsai (founder of the legendary Narsai's Restaurant in Kensington, Calif.) was establishing his vineyard decades ago, he was saddened at the thought of dropping the first crop of beautiful fruit and letting it compost in the field, as is custom. While the very young vines weren't up to snuff for producing fine Napa wines, the early “harvest” of Cabernet and Merlot were ultra-high in acid and absolutely perfect for distillation. Narsai took the fruit to Jörg Rupf at St. George Spirits in Alameda for fermentation and distillation into the incredible Napa Valley brandies they are today. There they quietly aged for 21 years in used wine barriques before being transferred into neutral vessels for further resting. In all, three different distillates are available from this amazing production. These are sure to be legendary bottlings in California's brandy-producing history.

NARSAI DAVID ESTATES  
**ALEMBIX**

Grappa  
DE VENUS  
(DISTILLED FROM NAPA VALLEY  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON AND MERLOT GRAPES)  
45% ALC / VOL. 90 ML



## Rhône and French Regional: Playing the Part of Père Noël

By Keith Mabry

In France, Père Noël (aka Papa Noel), or French Santa Claus, leaves toys, money, and small offerings in your shoes and socks. My offerings are just slightly larger and bottle-shaped, but they may fit into a stocking if it's long enough. Here's a short list of the wine selections that I will be hiding around the house for friends and family as we get together this holiday season!

For my friends who love white wine, I will be sharing the **2019 Domaine la Clef du Récit (Anthony Girard) Sancerre (375ml \$12.99; 750ml \$24.99)**. Any fan of Sancerre and Sauvignon Blanc will be delighted by the notes of grapefruit, Meyer lemon, chalky minerality, and fresh tarragon flavors. This will make a winning aperitif, and would be even more ideal with some fabulous oysters! The 2019 Sancerres are drinking spot-on, having fully integrated in the bottle, and are now showing their full potential. **90 WE, 90 VN**



Certainly, one of my favorite wines this year is the **2019 Moulin de la Gardette "Tradition" Gigondas (\$29.99)**. As you breathe in the bouquet of the wine, you are transported to the hills of Gigondas and sense the surrounding forests and the vines from which the wine originates. Roasted strawberry, lavender, fennel, white pepper, and bay leaf have a kaleidoscopic presence as the wine unfolds, and the palate offers a near-decadent and full-bodied weight that will delight and satisfy all red wine drinkers. **95 DC**

A new best-in-class for the northern Rhône is the **2018 Domaine Belle "Cuvée Louis Belle" Crozes-Hermitage (\$29.99)**. You don't need to be a Rhône collector to appreciate this powerful and sumptuous red. From some of their best vineyard sites, the Louis Belle is deep and dark, with brooding red and black fruit. In the context of the region, this stands out as

one of the superstars and could give many of the much more expensive Hermitage reds a real run for their money. This is a perfect Secret Santa gift that will have everyone hoping that next year, they get you as their mystery gift-giver. **95 RP**

For holiday gatherings, I will be arriving with the **2016 Château de Montfaucon "Baron Louis" Lirac (1.5L \$49.99)**. This might be hard to conceal in a shoe, but this large-format bottle houses one of the best wines produced by one of our most cherished producers in our Direct Import portfolio, Montfaucon. Their Baron Louis is classic Lirac, with blackberry and currant fruit complemented by flavors of anise, allspice, and clove. It has structure, with a rich, saturated palate that will linger on the tongues of all merry-makers. **97 DC**



A superb gift to hide in plain sight, the **2000 Xavier Vignon "2000" Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$99.99)** is one of the coolest offerings we have across any category. The 2000 is perfectly mature Châteauneuf from a great vintage, and impeccable provenance. The winemaker Xavier Vignon procured juice from the vintage that had been aging in tank for two decades before he bottled it. I have tried this a couple of times now, and it is stellar. Perfectly mature, still showing tons of ripe fresh fruit, it has also developed some wonderfully truffled nuances that will excite and delight even the most hardened palate. Since it was all aged in tank and bottled just under a year ago, there is little to no bottle variation. The wine is perfectly enjoyable now and for another decade or more. This is a standout gift! **94 JS**



## South America and Iberia: Santa Goes the Extra Mile for These

By Kirk Walker

**The holidays and wine have many intersecting points.** I have a hard time imagining a festive holiday meal or gathering without wine. But what is most salient for my purposes now is the pairing aspect of wine. There are so many facets to consider when matching wine with food, just like there are so many facets to consider when giving gifts. Do you give them exactly what they asked for? Or just a slight variation? Do you give the gift that you know that they would like, but they don't know about it? We have the wine for all those potential variations. Here are just a few from my neck of the woods. Happy holidays, and cheers!

**2019 Catena “Appellation Series” Malbec Paraje Altamira (\$19.99)** Paraje Altamira has long been known, in Argentina, as a great place to grow grapes. Higher elevation, limestone-rich soils, and high diurnal temperature swings are just the broad strokes. A great number of spectacular wines are coming from this region, most carrying hefty price tags. I love that Catena is highlighting it with their appellation series, and at an incredible price. Bright, aromatic, and elegant. Polished tannins, backing bright, aromatic berries, and dark fruits, with just a hint of oak and earth. This is a gateway into the special wines that come from Mendoza.

94 JS, 93 RP

**2017 Viña Quebrada de Macul “Domus Aurea” Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley (\$54.99)** This is one of the best Cabernet producers that you have never heard of. So many of the great wines of Chile— or, the ones that make it to our shores— have an immediate connection to Bordeaux or Napa. When Viña Quebrada planted on the hills of Maipo in the '70s, it was unheard of. While not technically mountain fruit, this is a mountain wine. Structured, intense, and powerful. The fruit is ripe, with layers of bright red fruits supported by mellow French oak, accented with layers of spice, tobacco, and that dusty Chilean earth. While I wish there were a romantic story to associate with this wine, the wine speaks for itself, and would make any story seem pointless.

95 RP

**2014 Remelluri Reserva Rioja (\$37.99)** Deep and mysterious, yet at the same time bright and spicy, the nose is so captivating. It somehow evokes both a warm, classic Christmas vibe and a chilling, thriller set

in a dark, rainy mountainside. Regardless of the vibes, it is flat-out delicious. That dark red Tempranillo fruit that comes from Alavesa, dusted with fine, spicy oak, frames the fruit and leads it across polished tannins toward a clean, earthy finish. Long, intriguing and complex, this is a wine for large and small gatherings; a wine to sit with and contemplate— as well as to drink too fast, and with gusto!

93 RP, 93 JS

**2014 Miguel Merino Gran Reserva Rioja (\$44.99)** This is the flagship wine of our Direct Import producer, Miguel Merino. Gran Reserva wines are special occasion wines, and that is just what this is. This is a wine for roasts. The larger the better. It is dark, rich, and spicy, with that extra something that you only get with Gran Reservas— those warm, soft, broken-in leather, dusty earth, and soft savory tones. Mature and seasoned, but not old. This is Tempranillo with just a splash of Graciano, sourced from vineyards that were planted in the '50s and '60s. Aged for 30 months in new French oak and an additional three years in bottle, it is polished, elegant, and long; a modern update on the classic wine.

**Taylor 20 Year Old Tawny Port (\$49.99)**

Port is one of the great classic wines of the world. The Douro Valley is a Unesco cultural site for its historical significance. But Port has a problem: it is old-fashioned. The demand and market for sweet wines has dwindled. But do you know what is also old-fashioned? The holidays! There is no better wine that captures the season, and the 20 Year Old Taylor exemplifies everything that is wonderful about tawny Ports. It is full and rich; deep, long, and complex. With its intense combination of wild berries backed and balanced by a deep nutty tone, spice, caramel, chocolate, and array of dried fruits, this makes a wonderful complement to any gathering, or a delightful cocktail alternative at the end of a long, eventful day.



## Australia: Winter Warmers from Down Under

By Thomas Smith

I absolutely love Australian Shiraz around the holidays. When it comes to the winter months, I tend to shy away from refreshing whites and lighter reds, gravitating toward bigger, full-bodied wines that bring the warmth on cold nights. And with its bold, spicy flavors, there's nothing better to complement a hearty-home cooked meal than Australian Shiraz. With selections that range from delicious, everyday values to profound, world-class collectibles, Shiraz has something to offer for everyone. This holiday season, I've picked out a few of my favorites that are sure to impress friends and family alike.

### 2018 Mount Langi Ghiran "Cliff Edge" Shiraz Grampians (\$22.99)

This is an incredibly unique style of Aussie Shiraz that demonstrates what cool-climate Shiraz is all about. Situated in the Pyrenees range west of Melbourne, Mount Langi Ghiran is cooled by altitude and ocean breezes from Port Phillip Bay, giving firmer tannin, bright acidity, and brilliant aromatics to their Shiraz. Bursting with red plum, cassis, and rosemary, the Cliff Edge is medium-bodied, with a bright punch of acid that delivers on delicious fruit flavors at a great price.



### 2019 John Duval "Entity" Shiraz Barossa Valley South Australia (\$29.99)

On the other hand, if you're looking for big, classic Aussie Shiraz, there's no need to look further than this one. John Duval is the former head winemaker at Penfolds, where he spent nearly 30 years crafting Australia's most iconic wine, the Penfolds Grange. In 2001, he left to found his eponymous label, and is now working alongside his son, Tim, in crafting some of the best Shiraz coming out of the valley today. Sourced from some of the best old-vine vineyards in the Barossa, the Entity Shiraz is brimming with roasted black cherry, black raspberry, and smoky, savory undertones. Incredibly concentrated, with softened, silky tannins, this is one of the best Australian values, hands-down.

### 2019 Clonakilla Shiraz-Viognier Canberra New South Wales

(\$99.99) If you're shopping for the wine connoisseur in your life, I have to wholeheartedly recommend this Shiraz-Viognier blend from



Clonakilla, one of the most respected producers in Australia. They've been crafting this critically acclaimed blend from their estate vineyard for three generations. Clonakilla is often compared to the great wines of Côte-Rôtie, and despite its similarities, there's no wine quite like this. With dark, concentrated flavors of blueberry, black cherry, and exotic spice, wrapped in a harmonious texture with firm tannin, it is powerful, profound, and absolutely age-worthy. Clonakilla is one of the most exciting Shiraz producers on the planet. I'd be thrilled to receive one of these bottles for any occasion.

### 2017 d'Arenberg "The Dead Arm" Shiraz McLaren Vale South Australia (\$44.99)

Another of my favorites, The Dead Arm is an absolute classic. Fourth-generation winemaker Chester Osborn crafts this wine from low-yielding vines on his McLaren Vale estate. The result is an incredibly ripe and ultra-smooth expression of the style. With ripe blackberry and chocolate notes along with cinnamon spice, The Dead Arm is a benchmark Aussie Shiraz that is a sure-fire winner, vintage after vintage.

### 2017 Torbreck "RunRig" Shiraz Barossa Valley (\$179.99)

I would be remiss not to recommend one of Australia's all-time great wines. Torbreck arrived on the global wine scene in 1996, and with a focus on revitalizing old-vine vineyards, has been winning remarkable accolades for its incredible wines ever since. The Runrig is their flagship Shiraz. A blend from six different vineyards with an astounding vine age ranging from 120 to 170 years, this Shiraz has everything: balance, power, concentration, and ageability. Easily one of the best Shiraz made anywhere on the globe. It's no wonder that Wine Advocate has rated this 97 points or higher an astounding ten times in the last 16 years.



So, the next time you find yourself perusing our shelves, or browsing our website for wine gifts, make sure to check out our selection of Australian Shiraz. With world-class wines that deliver on bold, spicy fruit, there's no doubt that these warm and inviting wines will complement your holidays, all season long.



*There are so many tempting wines and interesting finds on our shelves — let us send you our favorites!*

## Can't Decide? Join the Club — K&L Wine Clubs!

By Jin Zhang

### Looking to best a sibling or friend at gift-giving this holiday season?

A **K&L Wine Club** subscription is the gift that will not only impress your loved ones during the holidays, but also remind them of your thoughtfulness year-round. Our wine clubs offer the variety and value that even direct-from-the winery clubs can't come close to matching. We have been in the business since 1976. Because of our large purchasing power and longstanding relationships with wineries, brokers, and wholesalers, we have the advantage of negotiating outstanding bottles at bargain prices.

We have six key clubs with different focuses. Each club shipment includes two bottles and is sent out monthly (with the exception of the Champagne Club, which sends out on even-numbered months). And if there isn't one that has exactly what you're looking for, consider setting up a Personal Sommelier Service instead.

You can choose to have the wines shipped to your door, or pick them up at one of our three retail locations. And you'll have access to special pricing on wines from any other club, as well as past club selections. It's a great way to build your cellar and keep your wallet happy. Go to [klwines.com/WineClubs](http://klwines.com/WineClubs) to check out our previous selections.

**Best Buy Wine Club (\$19.95)\*** Bargain hunters rejoice! This club is built for you. Selections could be anything from Chilean Cabernet to New Zealand Pinot Noir or French Chardonnay! Keep an eye out for fun and unexpected wines from all over the world.

**Premium Wine Club (\$29.99)\*** The Premium Club is one of the best places to explore all the different styles of wine. This club includes reds, whites, and the occasional rosé, from across the world. Some of our best-value Direct Import wines are featured in this club!

\*Plus shipping and tax where applicable.

**Signature Red Collection (\$49.99)\*** One of K&L's most popular clubs, this highlights top-tier red wines from around the world. You can expect not only some of the best Domestic wines of our portfolio, but also reds from across the globe. Look for anything from Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and Russian River Valley Pinot to Brunello and Bordeaux.

**Club Italiano (\$39.99)\*** Hosted by our Italian buyer, Greg St. Clair, this club features the best wines from one of the most diverse winemaking countries in the world. You'll receive two bottles of Greg's favorites. He will walk you through all the major regions and introduce you to varietals you've never heard of before.

**Champagne Club (\$69.95)\*** Champagne is for special occasions, but why not make more days special with our Champagne Club? This club ships every other month on even-numbered months. Our Champagne buyer, Gary Westby, picks selections from our portfolio, bringing you wine from small grower-producers as well as the Grand Marque houses.

**Le Club Français (\$59.95)\*** At K&L we have a bit of a love affair with French wine, and we'd like to share our passion with you. Le Club Français showcases higher-end selections — look forward to Burgundy, Bordeaux, Loire, Rhône, and an occasional Champagne, along with wines from each top growing region of France.

**Personal Sommelier Service** If none of these clubs quite fits the bill for you, no problem! Try our Personal Sommelier Service. You can select a staff member as your sommelier to work with you each month to find wines in the style and price range that you like. Email us at [wineclubs@klwines.com](mailto:wineclubs@klwines.com) if you'd like help finding the right staff member for you! Ready to sign up? Call us, or visit [klwines.com/Subscription](http://klwines.com/Subscription).

### K&L REDWOOD CITY

3005 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94061

**P** (650) 364-8544 **F** (650) 364-4687

**HOURS** Tues-Sun 11am-7pm (Closed Mondays)

**LOCKERS** Daily 11am-6:30pm (Last Appt. 6pm)

### KLWINES.COM

Toll Free (877) KLWINES (877) 559-4637

Email: [customerservice@klwines.com](mailto:customerservice@klwines.com)

### K&L HOLLYWOOD

1400 Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90028

**P** (323) 464-WINE (9463) **F** (323) 836-0853

**HOURS** Tues-Sun 11am-7pm (Closed Mondays)

### K&L EVENTS & TASTINGS

We host virtual events throughout the year. For the complete calendar go to [KLWines.com/Local-Events](http://KLWines.com/Local-Events).

### K&L SAN FRANCISCO

855 Harrison Street, San Francisco, CA 94107

**P** (415) 896-1734 **F** (415) 896-1739

**HOURS** Tues-Sun 11am-7pm (Closed Mondays)

**LOCKERS** Daily 11am-6:30pm (Last Appt. 6pm)

### CURBSIDE PICKUP

All locations daily, 11am-7pm

We accept American Express, Discover, Visa, Mastercard, and PayPal.

For Order Inquiries, Shipping Information, Local Events, Policies, and Up-to-the-Minute Inventory, visit [KLWines.com](http://KLWines.com)



**FOLLOW OUR BLOGS ON THE TRAIL AND SPIRITS JOURNAL FOR THE LATEST UPDATES FROM K&L**