



K&L Wine Merchants
3005 El Camino Real
Redwood City, CA 94061
Orders: (800) 247-5987
Wine Club Extension: 2744
wineclubs@klwines.com

March 2024

Dear Wine Club Member,



St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Purim, Women's History Month, the first day of spring... there's plenty to raise a glass to celebrate in March. And we've got some lovely wines this month that we hope will set the mood for all your springtime festivities.

The 2010 Haut-Bergey in Le Club Français is perfect with an Easter lamb and spring vegetables—even better, you can celebrate the fantastic female winemaker behind these wines, the inimitable Hélène Garcin-Lévêque. And though we don't have Irish beer or whisky in the Clubs, try the Skinner Grenache in our Signature Red Club with your corned beef and hash.

No matter how you celebrate the end of winter, we hope you have a glass of something delicious in your hand.



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Best Buy Wine Club

Joel Gott "Palisades" California Red Blend Retail \$14.99 / Club \$8.99

Joel Gott is a fourth generation vintner and entrepreneur. He and his winemaker wife Sarah, who trained at UC Davis and worked at Quintessa, started Joel Gott wines in 1996. They began with Amador County Zinfandel, and earned enough critical praise on this first effort to encourage them to try their hand at other varietals. The couple also owns several food markets and restaurants throughout Napa and the Bay Area.

Palisades is a fruit-forward, non-vintage blend of Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, and Malbec—mostly from Borden Ranch in Lodi. It's a fantastic value to begin with, but when you factor in Club pricing, this is one to stock by the case! Perfect for parties and burger nights. You can count on

Joel Gott wines being dependable for some of the best QPR wines in California. The flavor profile here leans to forest berries, cherries, and cola with hints of baking spice and caramelized brown sugar. Tannins are smooth, but the nice acid lift at the end makes this bright and lively. A super value!



2022 Nuiton-Beaunoy Bourgogne Blanc Retail \$14.99 / Club \$10.99

by Alex Pross, Burgundy Buyer

Located on the outskirts of the town of Beaune on your way south towards Pommard and Volnay is the cooperative known as Vigneron and Associates, where the wines of Nuiton-Beaunoy are made. This cooperative works with hundreds of small farmers in order to source the best fruit possible at outstanding prices. The results are amazing, the values currently coming out of Nuiton-Beaunoy are undeniable, and the 2022 Nuiton Beaunoy Bourgogne Blanc is a wonderful example of this drive towards excellence. Sourced from vineyards scattered throughout greater Beaune, the 2022 Nuiton Beaunoy is a great window into the quality of the 2022 vintage. Spoiler alert: it is a great vintage!!

The 2022 Nuiton Beaunoy Bourgogne Blanc has seductive aromas of orchard fruits, crushed rock and faint hints of citrus zest while the palate has wonderful energy and drive with a distinct lean towards citrus notes and hints of saline and spice. The palate is great length and good density with fruit notes throughout and just the right amount of acidity and tannins. This is a well-balanced white that feels Burgundian except when you look at the price-tag! The perfect daily drinking white wine this can be paired with a myriad of cuisines including fish and fowl.

Signature Red Collection

2021 Auteur Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir Retail \$34.99 / Club \$29.99

by Trey Beffa, Head Buyer

This month we have a special Pinot Noir find for you from the Sonoma Coast. Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir is celebrated for its elegance, complexity, and the broad range of styles it can exhibit. The region's diverse soil types, ranging from sandy loam to clay, further contribute to the complexity of these wines. The varying microclimates within the AVA also allow for a broad spectrum of Pinot Noir expressions, from light and ethereal to bold and robust. Auteur Wines is a boutique winery founded by winemaker Kenneth Juhasz and his wife Laura. With a focus on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, Auteur is committed to expressing the authentic characteristics of unique vineyard sites and the varietals grown there. The winery's name, Auteur, is French for "author" and reflects the winemaker's role in articulating the story of the grapes. Fruit for the Pinot Noir comes from several top vineyard sites throughout the Sonoma Coast AVA. This 2021 vintage shows a rich, fruit forward mouthfeel with flavors of dark cherry, plum and cola. Hints of spice and savory notes float in the background. This wine will pair well with everything from poultry to red meat!



2019 Skinner El Dorado County Grenache Retail \$24.99 / Club \$19.99



The Scottish patriarch of the Skinner family, James Skinner, struck gold during the hey day of California's Gold Rush, and used the profits to establish one of the first wineries in the U.S. in 1861. Located in the Sierra Foothills, it became one of the largest operating wineries of its time. The current Skinner project, now run by Mike and Carey Skinner and family, is in honor of that great-great-great-grandfather. Their properties sit close to where those original vineyards stood and produce the same grape varieties, including Mission, Zinfandel, Trousseau, Grenache, Carignane and the Skinner clone of Petit Bouschet. Grenache thrives in the warm, dry climate and rocky soils of El Dorado County. The Skinners pick early to create a vibrant, lively red. Wine Enthusiast gave this vintage 92 points and said, "Vivid, sunbaked fruit flavors and a

great structure of moderate acidity and tannins balance this wine out beautifully on a high level. Blackberry and raspberry notes mingle with hints of cedar, clove and black pepper for a tasty complexity. (JG 12/2021)"

Premium Club

2022 Kalinda Russian River Sauvignon Blanc Retail \$16.99 / Club \$13.99

by Trey Beffa, Head Buyer

There is a good chance that you have seen the Kalinda label here at K&L before. Yes, this is our private label. We use this label when we find specific lots of juice that we can purchase at or below market price. We taste many different lots before we pick one that fits our tastes and target price point. Generally, the lots are around 200–300 cases, and sources can come from anywhere—wineries, brokers, suppliers, or even the winemakers themselves. We're always on the lookout for good juice to bring to you at fantastic prices.

One of our most popular varietals is Sauvignon Blanc. We are all fans of Sancerre and white Bordeaux, meaning we are always looking for freshness and acidity in our Sauvignon Blanc. This year's selection comes from the Russian River Valley in Sonoma. The valley's geographical features, which include cool ocean breezes and foggy mornings, create an extended growing season that allows grapes to develop full flavor maturity over an extended period. This 2022 vintage shows a delicate yet fruit-forward mouthfeel. It shows crisp acidity, complex flavors, and well-rounded texture. Very clean and fresh, this wine will pair well with seafood, lighter poultry dishes, or as your pre-dinner cocktail!

2018 Marchesi Frescobaldi "Tenuta Perano" Chianti Classico Retail \$19.99 / Club \$15.99

by Trey Beffa, Head Buyer



Frescobaldi is one of Italy's most ancient and respected wine dynasties. Located in the heart of Tuscany, the Frescobaldi family has been producing wines since the 1300s, making them an integral part of Italian viticulture's history and identity. The family owns several estates, each dedicated to expressing the distinct terroir of their respective regions, including Chianti and Montalcino. Their portfolio is diverse, encompassing everything from renowned Brunello di Montalcino, to the celebrated Masseto.

The Tenuta Perano comes from the commune of Gaiole in Chianti. The region's hilly terrain, moderate climate, and limestone-rich soil contribute to the wines' high acidity and firm tannins, making them perfect companions for hearty Italian fare. The blend for this wine is mostly Sangiovese but it also has some Merlot. It is aged for 24 months in oak barrels. This wine shows classic Chianti Classico flavors. It is bright with tart cherry and notes of earthy herbs. Hints of leather, tobacco and spice complete this wonderfully fresh and long finish. As with many Italian red wines, this wine is best paired with food. A pot roast or other richer meat dishes would be an excellent combination!

Le Club Français

2022 Domaine Vigneau-Chevreau "Cuvée Silex" Vouvray Sec Retail \$23.99 / Club \$19.99

Domaine Vigneau-Chevreau is a Loire Valley family-run estate since 1875. Its 33 hectares comprise tuffeau, clay, and silex soils across half of the villages in Vouvray, and they are Ecocert certified organic and practice biodynamic farming. The Cuvée Silex is 100% Chenin Blanc grown on of south-facing slopes for maximum exposure to sunshine, infusing the wine with beautiful ripe fruit notes. The grapes are hand picked from vines that average 30 years of age. You'll find hints of flint, golden apple notes, quince, honey, and a touch of citrus in this delectable wine. It's round and voluptuous on the palate and leads to a bright acidity that lifts this wine and makes it a pure pleasure to drink. This would be delicious with Chinese food.



2010 Haut-Bergey, Pessac-Léognan Retail \$44.99 / Club \$39.99



Haut-Bergey is made by the amazing H el ene Garcin-L ev eque, who is also the magic hand behind Right Bank wines Barde-Haut, La Poesia, and Clos l'Eglise. These wines are longtime K&L favorites by staff and customers alike. Her wines can be characterized by their pure sensory pleasure: they are deeply layered with flavors and show silky, elegant texture.

The 2010 Haut-Bergey is no exception. Even with 14 years of age, it still opens up slowly in the glass, and provides waves of new experiences as the you continue to go back, sip after sip. There are layers of flavors like tobacco and coffee and dark chocolate and black fruit—each sip reveals something new. Though it's delicious now, this wine will continue to evolve for years to come. It is a great accompaniment to roasted lamb chops and spring vegetables.

Il Club Italiano

by Greg St. Clair, Italy Buyer

2021 La Monacesca Verdicchio di Matelica Retail \$21.99 / Club \$19.99

My first introduction to the Verdicchio grape in a single-varietal wine was, perhaps like you, with the "curvy amphora"—shaped bottle. It was an iconic shape, and its low price and grand distribution made it available at every wine shop and grocery store. The wine at that time was simple, balanced, fresh, and easy to drink. It took many years until I tried a Bucci (boo-chee) Verdicchio, and that's when I began to take Verdicchio seriously. They make great wines. Even though I was a geography major at university, the Italian peninsula is really complex—and their wine grapes even more so. It wasn't until I was introduced to Verdicchio from the Matelica Valley that I understood the wine's depth of complexity, quality, and agability. Verdicchio has two DOC appellations and the largest and most famous is the Castelli di Jesi (yay-zee), but Matelica is magical. The Matelica Valley is the only north-south valley in Italy's Apennine Mountain range, with a closed-off, climatically continental climate. Warm days and cool nights all year long make the growing season exceptionally long—October is when harvest usually starts and this long period of maturation gives the wine much more phenolic ripeness. That's the flavor and structure portion of the grape, and the depth of flavors is profound. I just drank a bottle of 2012 last month, just absolutely fresh, delicious, and still had more life in it. Savor this wine, take your time, and don't drink it too cold. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

2021 Poggio Argentiera "Bellamarsilia" Morellino di Scansano Retail \$22.99 / Club \$19.99

Morellino, you know what grape that is right? Well, if you did you'd be one of the few! How about where is Scansano? Once again, you'd be among the few. Although Tuscany is one of the most popular destinations for American tourists, Scansano is in the south-western hinterlands—not a big spot on the tourist map. It was a DOC established in 1978 and then promoted to DOCG in 2006. It includes about 2700 acres where 800,000 cases a year are produced. The DOCG requires at least 85% Sangiovese in each wine and up to but not more than 15% other local grapes including Cilieggiolo and Canaiolo. The name Morellino is a knock off of morello, or little brown one—not so different from Brunello, from the same origin. The town of Scansano, from which the DOCG name is derived, sits at 1600', but the DOCG stretches far down the hill towards the sea to about 150'. It is a very diverse growing area. This month's wine was made by Poggio Argentiera, founded in 1997, with a collection of six different vineyard sites stretching from a low elevation three miles from the coast up to about 750'. Soil differences, exposures, inclination, and temperature excursions dramatically effect all of the vineyards. Since 2015 the winery has been under the direction of the Tua Rita winery. This wine comes from the Baccinello vineyard, the highest in the estate. Bold, forceful Sangiovese that has lots of length and bright fruit character.

