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## Dear Wine Club Member,

As we round the corner into the holidays, we begin to think about gathering with our family and friends. And for the food and wine lovers around these parts, that means we start talking about what's going to be on the table! When turkey and the fixings are involved, you really can't go wrong with Pinot. We have an incredible value on the Pike Road Pinot in the Premium Club, made by the pioneering Willamette Valley family who also make Elk Cove. With the member discount of \$14.99, you can stock up on this delicious bottling for the big meal, or give as a sure-to-please gift for the holidays.

Speaking of holiday gifts, both of the bottles in our Best Buy Club clock in at \$9.99 and are versatile enough to please everyone on your list. The Portuguese red from Falua is full flavor with friendly tannins, meaning it'll work in so many situations, including on its own while you wrap the holiday gifts. The Niales Rhedon-Marin white Burgundy is one of our perennial value favorites. It manages an elegant balance between ripe fruit flavors and lifted acidity.

Making brisket? Try the 2018 Reignac from Bordeaux in Le Club Français. Though some Bordeaux can famously take ages to soften, the ripe 2018 vintage means that this one is approachable and delicious right out of the gate.

As always, all wines in our Clubs are available to our members at the discount, no matter which Club you belong to. Show us what you're pairing on Instagram at #klwines!



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## Best Buy Wine Club

**2019 Falua "Duas Castas" Tejo** Retail \$14.99 / Club \$9.99

*by Kirk Walker, Portugal Buyer*



Portugal is having a moment. Everyone I talk to has either been there recently (and cannot wait to go back) or knows someone who has just returned. Falua is from the Tejo region, a place you may be unfamiliar with. Named after the Tejo River that runs through it to Lisbon, the climate here is not unlike California's—warm Mediterranean conditions with the river moderating heat. Duas Castas refers to the two varieties in this wine: Aragonez and Cabernet Sauvignon. Tejo's alluvial soils mirror those of Bordeaux, and Cabernet Sauvignon thrives here.

Aragonez is one of the Portuguese names for Tempranillo. This wine tastes unmistakably Iberian, with such a charming and generous personality that it must be Portuguese! The aromatics are dark cherry with a dusting of spice and earth. It is medium-full bodied with enough substance that a hearty braise would be a great pairing, but the tannins are soft and pliable making this a great glass of wine to enjoy while planning a trip to Portugal with friends.

## 2021 Domaine des Niales Rhedon–Marin Mâcon–Villages Vieilles Vignes Retail \$14.99 / Club \$9.99

by Alex Pross, Burgundy Buyer

Domaine des Niales Rhedon–Marin is an old estate in the middle of Southern Burgundy's Mâcon region, studded with hillside vineyards. Proprietor Lionel Marin is nearly a one-man show, and he fashions some of the best values in all of the Mâcon on an incredibly consistent basis. In his capable hands, the 2021 Domaine des Niales Rhedon–Marin Mâcon–Villages Vieilles Vignes is a brilliant wine that transcends a very difficult growing season and turns out to be one of the best wines to date from Niales. Fresh, bright, and zesty on the nose, this wine displays citrus and green apple notes with a hint of mint and wet stone. The palate is alive with bright acidity, crisp fruit notes, and minerality, plus a lip-smackingly good, surprisingly long finish. A stunning value, this white can pair well with salads, fish, and roast chicken, or act as the perfect aperitif to enjoy on your deck. This is a testament to the fact that good white Burgundy does not have to empty out your wallet! It's a fun, enjoyable white that can work for parties or daily drinking.

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## Signature Red Collection

### 2020 Leviathan California Red Blend Retail \$32.99 / Club \$27.99

by Trey Beffa, Head Buyer

Acclaimed winemaker Andy Erickson has made wine at some of the most prestigious properties in the Napa Valley. He began his career with esteemed mentor John Kongsgaard at Newton Vineyard and later honed his skills at Screaming Eagle, producing several 100-point wines. Erickson's philosophy is centered around showcasing the unique terroir of each vineyard. He co-owns Favia Wines with his wife, viticulturist Annie Favia; together they craft distinct, small-production wines. Erickson also consults for various wineries, including Dalla Valle and Mayacamas.



He began Leviathan in 2004 with the goal of creating a wine free from the restraints of appellations and varietal restrictions. Here at K&L, we have been fans since its inception. We were able to grab the last of the 2020 vintage at a discounted price and are now able offer you a stellar buy for the holiday season! The 2020 vintage is mostly Cabernet Sauvignon blended with some Merlot, Petite Sirah, Syrah, Petit Verdot, and Cabernet Franc. The wine is very open and drinkable even at this young age. It shows flavors of blackberry, plum, licorice, and hints of toasty oak that linger on the finish. Tough to beat this wine for the price!

### 2018 Château de Montfaucon "Baron Louis" Lirac Retail \$24.99 / Club \$21.99

by Keith Mabry, Rhône Buyer



One of our longest relationships in the Southern Rhône and still one of our strongest is with vigneron Rudi de Pins of Château de Montfaucon. Rudi resides in the region of Lirac, which sits just across the Rhône River from the more famed Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Lirac and Châteauneuf share all the same soil types, all the same grape varieties, and an equally long history of wine production; but but Lirac has never gotten quite as much attention as its neighbor. Of course, if the pope moves in across the river, people are going to pay more attention to that region. That notoriety has stuck for centuries but Rudi has made great strides to put Lirac on everyone's radar.

His flagship wine is the Baron Louis, and it remains one of his and our most popular Rhône wines every year. The new vintage is pure Provençal pleasure, with flavors of cherry, blackcurrant, garrigue, and herbs de Provence permeating the glass. Rudi is known for the ageability of his wines as he often releases some library selections each year. The 2018 is worthy of a few years in the cellar, but the vintage, which is a little lighter and more classic, makes this great drinking right now. Classic pairings are braised pork shoulder, rib chops, or maybe even a cassoulet!

## Premium Club

**2021 Pike Road Willamette Valley Pinot Noir** Retail \$18.99 / Club \$14.99

*by Ryan Woodhouse, Domestic Buyer*

The Pike Road brand from Oregon stalwart Elk Cove has long represented one of the best values in Willamette Valley Pinot Noir. With our even sharper Wine Club member pricing, this is just unbeatable. The team at Elk Cove, led by Adam Campbell, has their pick of fruit from six incredible estate vineyards in four different AVAs, plus the kind of access to great fruit from friends and neighbors that comes from 50 years of grape growing in the region. Adam is a second-generation winemaker who, in 1996, joined the business that was founded by his parents in 1974—hey are pioneers of the Oregon wine business. Pike Road produces an excellent-value Pinot Noir drawing on their deep connection with the region. All fruit is hand-picked and hand-sorted before being fermented in small open-top tanks. The wine is aged exclusively in French oak (15% new) for 10 months before blending and bottling. It's amazing that they can bring truly artisanal, small-lot winemaking to us for under \$15! A lovely mix of dried rose petal, red berry fruits, baking spice, dried herbs, forest floor, and woody spice. Medium bodied, silky, and bright on the palate with lifted acidity and great length. A very honest and authentic representation of Willamette Pinot that drinks well above its price point.

**2022 Bedrock Wine Company "Ode to Lulu" California Rosé** Retail \$22.99 / Club \$14.99

*by Ryan Woodhouse, Domestic Buyer*

Bedrock Wine Co. is one of the most important wineries of the modern era. They are true champions of California's historic, iconic old-vine vineyards. California's old-vine heritage is constantly under threat with urbanization, trendier grape varieties, and the economic pressures of farming old, relatively low-yielding vineyards. No one does more to cherish and protect these vineyards than Bedrock. They have also made huge contributions to the conversation around more sustainable, holistic farming practices in the business. They have been an incubator of sorts for many up-and-coming young winemakers to launch their own labels and projects—the familial atmosphere, community support, and encouragement at Bedrock is very special. As with everything at Bedrock a lot of very deliberate thought and attention to detail is given to their rosé program. The name "Ode to Lulu" is an homage to Lulu Peynaud from the great Bandol estate Domaine Tempier. As with Tempier rosé, the wine is predominantly Mourvèdre, with 35% Grenache and 5% Syrah. The fruit is sourced from old-vine vineyards with an average age of more than 60 years—some dating back to the 1880s! The fruit is largely straight pressed, with some portions getting a few hours of skin contact to pick up the pink hue. The style perfectly combines juicy, flavorful red berry fruits with stony minerals, floral notes, spice, and subtle herbaceous elements. The fresh, mouthwatering acidity makes the wine extremely quaffable and versatile with food. Your Wine Club member pricing on this is best kept a secret... we did a fantastic deal with Chris and Morgan to get this wine to you at an unbeatable member-only price that is way under what you'll get the wine anywhere else. Stock up, because our staff certainly has been!

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## Le Club Français

**2018 Reignac, Bordeaux Supérieur** Retail \$34.99 / Club \$29.99

*by Trey Beffa, Head Buyer*

Here is a great buy from Bordeaux from the exceptional 2018 vintage! Château Reignac spans over 135 hectares and is renowned for its quality and diversity of terroir: set on a high ridge, it benefits from an ideal microclimate and excellent drainage, which greatly influences the complexity of the wines. Their commitment to sustainable farming and high quality have earned them many accolades. The château itself, dating back to the 16th century, adds to the charm of the estate. The 2018 vintage in Bordeaux was a testament to the region's resilience. After a challenging start with a wet spring leading to mildew pressure, the summer brought heat and drought, creating ideal conditions for grape maturation. The result was a generous harvest of high-quality fruit. The 2018 Bordeaux reds are showing fantastic, and the Reignac is no exception. This warm vintage helped produce a wine that shows deep color, wonderful concentration of fruit, and an open-knit, lush backbone. Tannins are present but integrated and ripe. This wine can be enjoyed now and should age quite well over the next 10 years.

**2020 Château de L'Ou "Compartir" Cotes du Roussillon-Villages** Retail \$34.99 / Club \$29.99

by Keith Mabry, French Regional Buyer

Vigneron Severine Bourrier is originally from Bordeaux, but found a much better fit for her personality and winemaking style in sunny Roussillon in the south of France near the Spanish border, near the foothills of the Pyrenees mountains. She found incredible old-vine Grenache and Syrah primarily in Maury and began buying vineyards for a fraction of what she'd have paid for similar quality in Bordeaux. She began farming everything organically—not that hard in the Roussillon since it is dry, warm, and windy most days. Grenache really excels here and most of her vines are really old. The Compartir uses the classic blend of Grenache as its base with some Syrah and Carignan to round out the flavors. This is a sumptuous and rich wine with layers of brambly black fruit and sweet spices. Sexy in its youth, it is a joy to drink now with grilled meats and braised dishes. It will also cellar for several more years and provide great drinking for a decade or more.

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## Il Club Italiano

by Greg St. Clair, Italy Buyer

**2020 Felling Primitivo di Manduria** Retail \$27.99 / Club \$24.99



I met Gregory Perucci decades ago; he was and is a passionate visionary for his region and the Primitivo grape. He petitioned for years to get into ZAP (Zinfandel Advocates & Producers) in a pre-DNA era and was denied entry for years—they eventually allowed him entry, mostly to not have to deal with his constant requests! According to UC Davis the DNA of Primitivo and Zinfandel are identical, yet clonal variations do happen and there are some differences in the grapes. Manduria is in Puglia, the heel of the Italian boot, and on the southwestern edge, east of Brindisi. It is a relatively flat region and not very high in altitude—rarely does it get to 300 feet above sea level. It is hot and dry, but I find the wines to be remarkably fresh and lower in alcohol than some of their California cousins. This wine is hand harvested and then aged in French oak for 6 months. I find the wine

eminently drinkable with an abundance of the classic berry aromatics, supple mouthfeel, and just enough tannin to frame it in. Hints of spice add to the smooth finish. A wonderful accompaniment to grilled meats or a hearty American-style lasagna!

**2022 Tedeschi "Lucchine" Valpolicella Classico** Retail \$16.99 / Club \$14.99

When I first started in the wine business 41 years ago, Soave was a thing—it was everywhere: Bolla and Folonari on TV commercials, wine shops, restaurants, and grocery stores with 1.5-liter bottles as well. It was pleasant, quaffable, unassuming, and actually really cheap. Then almost overnight it disappeared, the Chardonnay, more Chardonnay, and Merlot from California squeezed them out of fine wine shops and quality restaurants, not to mention the cork-finished 1.5-liter jug wines as the California wine boom exploded in the 1980s. It took a revolution in Valpolicella to focus on high quality. The large negociants and cooperatives slowly began to be replaced by family vineyards with less quantity and more quality, which



resulted in a big bump up in weight and richness. However, you'll find that the charm of lighter, fresher, easier-to-drink wines is now coming back with high quality in mind. I'll tell you the grapes because you'll want to know but it's a bunch of grapes you'll probably know little to nothing about. This wine is made from 25% Corvina, 25% Corvinone, 30% Rondinella, 10% Molinara, 10% Rossignola, Negrara, Dindarella... see, I told you so. I love this wine, pure, elegant grown on limestone soils in the Pergola style which trains the vines up, and the wines are delightful. Serve this one at cellar temperature it enhances the flavors. Enjoy!