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December 2022

Dear Wine Club Member,

The holidays are upon us! With so many different cultures celebrating at this time of year, there's often many a party to attend, and we're here to make sure you don't go empty handed. Whether you're looking for a full-bodied red to stand up to brisket (try the 2020 Kalinda Napa Cab) or a Champagne to accompany party appetizers (Gobillard Cuvée Tradition is perfect) or something seafood-friendly for the Feast of the Seven Fishes (dry Mosacto from Castello di Perno for the win!), we've got a Club wine for you—all available to our Club members at the special Club price.

Thank you for making us a part of your 2022. We can't wait to see what new adventures—and new wines—2023 has in store for us!



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Best Buy Wine Club

2021 Cafayate Cabernet Sauvignon La Salta Argentina

Club: \$9.99, Retail: \$12.99

By Kirk Walker, Argentine Buyer

Salta is an extreme place to make wine. It is in the northwest corner of Argentina, about 800 miles north of Mendoza. It is at the same latitude as Rio de Janeiro and further north than any Chilean wine region. Located in the Andes Mountains, the lowest vineyards here start at a mile above sea level, which is the only reason viticulture is possible. It is an incredibly beautiful place, with the saturated colors of the high desert, mountain landscapes, and unique flora like native cacti interspersed in the vineyards. The extremes of temperatures define the character of the wines. This Cabernet is delicious with a forward ripeness to it; vibrant is an adjective that comes to mind. It is perfectly ripe, with just enough acidity to give it a clean, lingering dryness. Subtle hints of spice and violet elevate the aromatics. The tannins are polished, with an easy round feel. Unmistakably Cabernet. Unmistakably Salta.



2021 Les Vignerons de Fontès "La Petite Française" Languedoc Blanc Club: \$9.99, Retail: \$11.99

By Thomas Smith, Australia/New Zealand/South Africa Buyer

In the heart of the Languedoc-Roussillon, Les Vignerons de Fontès began as a humble cooperative in the village of Pezenas, about a half-hour's drive southwest of Montpellier. Founded in 1930, a few dozen local grape growers, tired of bargaining with negociants over price, banded together to share resources and craft wines from their vineyards. Today, nearly 100 years later, Fontès is led by director Corinne Pastourel, with 200 quality winegrowers, vineyards blanketing the foothills of the Cévennes mountains, and dozens of varieties that thrive in the warm and breezy Mediterranean climate. The 2021 La Petite Française is a blend of 80% Grenache Blanc, 10% Vermentino, and 10% Clairette from 35-year-old vines. Vinified all in stainless steel tanks and bottled quickly to preserve freshness and aromatics, this wine is a full-bodied, versatile white that continues to impress with every vintage and is one of our all-time favorites at K&L.

Signature Red Collection

2018 Pellegrini "Toboni Vineyard" Russian River Pinot Noir

Club: \$24.99, Retail: \$29.95



This is a wonderful time of year for a lushly fruited, bold Pinot that still holds an elegant poise. Enter Pellegrini Sonoma: a benchmark Russian River Valley estate led by fourth-generation vintner Alexia Pellegrini, known for their RRV Pinot. Together with winemaker Charlie Fauroat, Alexia crafts balanced, flavorful wines with fruit grown in some of the most notable vineyards in the valley, including Olivet Lane, Hurst, Hallberg, and Nonella vineyards.

This bottling boasts the double whammy of great vineyard and great vintage. It was grown in Toboni Vineyard, just around the bend from their estate vineyard, and in 2018, which was hailed as a long, even vintage with nearly perfect conditions. It's a wine full of energy and vibrance, with notes of peppercorn, pomegranate,

blueberry, and vanilla layering with each sip. It will make a great match for your holiday ham or a wild mushroom risotto.

2020 Kalinda Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Club: \$24.99, Retail: \$27.99

By Clyde Beffa, Co-owner and Bordeaux Buyer

This wine comes from one of the more renowned Cabernet Sauvignon producers in Napa Valley. We can offer this beauty at a price much lower than what you'd pay at the winery, but we've been sworn to secrecy on the source. For decades now, our Kalinda private label has been providing K&L customers with awesome wines at a fraction of what they'd normally pay under the producers' mainstay labels. Naturally, no producer wants their wines on the market for less than what they'd usually sell them for, so the trade-off is anonymity.



The 2020 Cabernet is quite rich and elegant. It's full-bodied, and sweet and fruity on the palate. It's very easy to drink now, with the abundant fruit covering the latent tannins. I suggest a bottle now and a few for your cellar. This will certainly continue to reward you for years—it's a steal for this level of quality!

Premium Club

2016 Beaumont, Haut-Médoc Club: \$15.99, Retail: \$19.99

By Clyde Beffa, Co-owner and Bordeaux Buyer



Beaumont is one of our favorite value properties on the Left Bank. They produce outstanding wines every year, and we have been carrying their wines for over 25 years. Owned by the people at St-Julien's Fourth Growth Beychevelle, the wines are shepherded by many experienced and tender-loving hands. The attention to detail starts in the vineyard: the fruit is grown via the stringent sustainable principles of Terra Vitis. A must-try for value from a legendary vintage equals happy Bordeaux lovers.

The lovely 2016 from this property is 50% Cabernet and 47% Merlot with 3% Petite Verdot thrown in. Located in the Cussac region between

St-Julien and Margaux, Beaumont has created another stunning value red that shines especially bright in this famed vintage. It shows tons of sweet, sexy black cherry aromas and flavors. It is so elegant and sweet, you'll want to drink it right up. It will cellar well for at least five more years.

2020 Clos des Lunes "Lune d'Argent," Bordeaux Blanc

Club: \$13.99, Retail: \$17.99

A gorgeous dry white that provides exceptional every day drinking with a serious pedigree and an even more serious value! It was grown in the hallowed Sauternes terroir between Châteaux d'Yquem and Guiraud and made by the team at the renowned Domaine de Chevalier in Pessac-Leognan. Comprising 70% Sémillon and 30% Sauvignon Blanc, there's a bright minerality on the attack, followed by a generous palate and a long, taut finish. It brings out the best of both grapes: the zippy personality of the Sauv Blanc and the luscious, honeyed fruit of the Sémillon. Our staff is buying this by the case! This will cut through the fried latkes at your Hannukah party with the utmost aplomb.

Le Club Français

Gobillard Cuvée Tradition Brut Champagne Club: \$37.99, Retail: \$42.99

By Gary Westby, Champagne Buyer

The Gobillard Cuvée Tradition is a great deal to begin with, but it's a bargain for our Club members. It is composed of roughly one-third each of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Meunier. The wine is aged for three years on the lees and benefits from an addition of 40% reserves from past vintages. Trey Beffa and I first visited this property back in 2002, and it is great to have it back in the Club to mark the 20th anniversary of this first meeting. Located in the village of Hautvillers, famous for being the village where Dom Perignon himself mastered the blending arts of Champagne. The abbey still stands to this day, and he is buried there—it is a must visit for anyone who makes the trip to Champagne. The wine has a bright white-gold color, with *pain au levain* and crisp pear on the vibrant nose. In the mouth, it has a fine bead, more bready generosity, a touch of almond-like intrigue, and a crisp, dry finish. Great on its own or with finger food.



2018 Domaine de Galuval "Inspiration" Rasteau Club: \$21.99, Retail: \$24.99

Residing between the two Cru appellations of Cairanne and Rasteau, Domaine Galuval was established in 1923 by the Marchal family and was early to bottle its own wines, a rare occurrence in that region for the many decades following. They have 49 hectares in some of the best terroir in both Cairanne and Rasteau, including the sites of la Montagne, the Grayere Valley, and la Colline des Rasteau. "Inspiration" is from a terrace plot overlooking the Grayere river that yields some of their best Mourvèdre. This wine is a blend of 50% Grenache, 30% Mourvedre, and 20% Syrah, all hand-harvested from vines planted on calcareous-clay over bedrock of sandstone. This makes for a wine with beautiful structure and power.

Il Club Italiano

by Greg St. Clair, Italian Buyer

2020 Valle dell'Acate "Tenuta Ibdini" Nero d'Avola Sicilia Club: \$13.99, Retail \$17.99

By Greg St. Clair, Italian Buyer

I regularly get requests for travel advice to Tuscany, and I usually add a "you should really be going to Sicily." I'm that enamored with this magical island. The incredible quality leap on the slopes of Mt. Etna in the last 20 years has placed it among the great wine regions of the world. Yet, well before Etna became a name to be reckoned with, Nero d'Avola was the grape for Sicily. When the Italian government took over the island from the mafia, a wave of outside investors overplanted Nero d'Avola.... it didn't work. Fortunately, those wines have mostly disappeared, and the estates who were making quality Nero d'Avola before all the hullabaloo have survived. Owner Gaetana Jacono has crafted such an easy-drinking expression of the varietal, I thought it was a perfect opportunity for folks to try it.

2020 Castello di Perno Moscato Secco DOC Piemonte
Club: \$25.99, Retail: \$29.99

Last April I was in Monforte d'Alba, where the aromas of Barolo fill the air. I was staying at the Castello di Perno—a newish concept winery where Gregorio Gitti, a professor of civil law at the University of Milan, and his family purchased the property in 2012. They have a grand project and were building out their winery for the 2022 harvest as I was there. Those wines will be arriving down the line but the wine that shocked me the most was this month's Moscato Secco. Most will say Moscato is a sweet grape, but actually it's just a grape that you can make it sweet or, as in this case, dry. Moscato is naturally aromatic like Riesling, Gewürztraminer, or Sauvignon Blanc, and that sometimes fools folks on the sweetness monitor—but that shouldn't be where you're going. While the nose of this wine shows some floral aromatics, it is on the palate that the depth of flavor, intrigue, and persistence comes out. If you're going to celebrate the Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve, this wine will light up your friends and family. Open your mind to a new experience, and I think you'll love it.



Champagne Club

by Gary Westby, Champagne Buyer

Contrasting Styles from the Mountain of Reims

Just like that—it is already December! This month in the Champagne Club, we have two almost opposite styles of grower-produced Champagne for you to enjoy. Although both come from the north slope of the Mountain of Reims, and both are entirely estate-grown, they could not be more different in the glass. I think you will love them both—I certainly do!



Duménil 1er Cru "Grande Réserve" Brut Champagne Club: \$34.99, Retail: \$39.99

From Chigny-les-Roses, the village made famous by Jay Z's Armand de Brignac brand and the grower J. Lassalle, we have the excellent Duménil 1er Cru "Grande Réserve." This Champagne is composed of one third each Chardonnay, Meunier, and Pinot Noir, all tank fermented. While half of the wine comes from the 2017 harvest, the other half is from a massive solera system that was started all the way back in 1996. This bottle has at least a little bit of 21 different vintages in it, and the effortless complexity that this incredible solera aging has given it makes it one of the standouts in the Club

this year. I love the wine for the creamy, sourdough-framed aromatics, the round texture in the mouth, the fine bead, and the fresh, dry finish. Take your time with this one—it is very easy to drink as an aperitif, but the depth is off the charts if you take a moment to look for it.

Michel Arnould Verzenay Extra Brut Champagne Club: \$34.99, Retail \$39.99

From the northernmost of the Grand Crus, we also have the Michel Arnould Verzenay Extra Brut Champagne. This wine is also based on 2017, and all stainless-steel fermented, but is composed entirely of Verzenay Pinot Noir. It is dosed very low at just 2.8 grams per liter, and while that puts it firmly into the Extra Brut category, I do not find it austere, just quite dry. This has a white-gold color and plenty of the signature hazelnut bread aromas that Verzenay is famous for. While I find that the wine has dark fruit savor in the mouth that reminds me more than a little of Vosne-Romanée, the tight streamers and the chalky, ultra-crisp finish is all Champagne. This is a fantastic bottle for your best piece of tuna, your Dungeness crab or your holiday caviar.



I can't thank all our Champagne Club members enough: your loyalty and love of Champagne are an inspiration. A toast to you!