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Dear Wine Club Member,

This time of year, we start craving some good picnicking. There's nothing better than sharing a plate of cheese and charcuterie with a hunk of crusty bread and a cold bottle of wine. This month, we have picnic wines aplenty for you in our Club selections.

For a serious Sancerre, try the Dominique & Janine Crochet bottling from the inimitable Le Chêne Marchand vineyard (in Le Club Français, but available to all Club members at the discount). If you'd like to take a lighter-bodied red on your adventures, put a chill on the Blason Cabernet Franc from Il Club Italiano. Wherever you end up this summer, we're thrilled to think that a Club bottle or two might join you on your journey. As always, tag us @klwines on social media to show us what you're drinking!



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Best Buy Wine Club

2020 Domaine du Petit Clocher Anjou Villages Rouge Club: \$11.99, Retail: \$16.99

by Keith Mabry, Rhône Buyer

Petit Clocher is a family-owned winery in Anjou spanning four generations, managed by brothers Julien and Stéphane Denis and their cousin, Vincent Denis. Located along the Loire River, Anjou is renowned for producing superb value wines based on Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc. The Anjou-Villages designation is characterized by its special volcanic soil, which is described as "warmer" compared to the widely prevalent schist soils. This warm soil is perfectly conducive to the ripening of Cabernet Sauvignon, which can often struggle to fully mature in the region's cooler temperatures. This particular blend features 60% Cabernet Sauvignon married with 40% Cabernet Franc. Its rich, medium-to-full-bodied profile boasts luscious currant and black cherry notes accompanied by flavors of crushed rosemary and violet. Alongside its freshness and fine tannins, this wine makes an excellent pairing with dishes such as steak tartare, sautéed pork chops with onions, or creamy mushroom pasta.

2021 Domaine de Millet Côtes de Gascogne Blanc Club: \$7.99, Retail: \$9.99



The Gascogne region in southwestern France is probably more famous for its Armagnac and the literary hero D'Artagnan of the *Three Musketeers* than its wines. But there are some tremendous, quaffable value reds and whites made there from local grapes that you won't find anywhere else. Their lack of international notoriety has kept them very reasonably priced, and that's one of the reasons the Domaine de Millet is a winery that we love, year after year. This blend of Ugni Blanc and Colombard is a great wine to kick off our summer selection of Club wines. Papaya, peach, pear, and a little squeeze of Meyer lemon showcase the freshness in the wine. This has been a staple on our shelves for years and remains an entertaining favorite. Pure pleasure in a glass!

Signature Red Collection

2016 Red Car Sonoma Coast Syrah Club: \$26.99, Retail: \$34.99

by Ryan Woodhouse, Domestic Buyer

For 20+ years, Red Car has been a champion of the true Sonoma Coast, maintaining a tight focus on cool- (actually, downright cold) climate Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Syrah. Their first release, 50 cases of a 2000 Syrah, made it on to some of the top restaurant wine lists in the country—including the French Laundry and Spago! Since then, they've helped shape the contemporary style of elegant, food-friendly Syrah in California. Anchored in the Fort Ross-Seaview AVA, winemaker Tanner Sheer combines pristine fruit from their estate and other top-notch sites in the far west Sonoma Coast. A standout is this 2016 Syrah, which we have secured at a very sharp, winery-direct price for our Club members! A testament to quality and precision, the fruit gets lots of ocean influence, then is hand-picked and carefully sorted. The wine presents flavors of blackberry and plum with cracked black pepper, dried herbs, and a hint of smoked meat—classic Syrah! A distinctive forest element with pine needle and chapparal reflects its rugged coastal origin. Fresh acidity and fine tannins provide a balance that allows the complex, layered flavors to fan out on the finish. A lovely mid-weight wine that can age for another three to five years with ease.

2020 Penfolds "Bin 28" Shiraz South Australia Club: \$22.99, Retail: \$24.99

by Thomas Smith, Australia Buyer

As Australia's most historic producer, Penfolds traces its origins back to 1844 when Dr. Christopher Rawson Penfold, an English physician, moved to Australia. He purchased the 500-acre Magill Estate on the outskirts of Adelaide, South Australia, and established a reputation for fortified wines and dry reds. A century later, Penfolds' winemaker, Max Schubert, introduced the bin system, labeling wines with the number of their aging room, or "bin." Today, Penfolds is one of the most recognized wine brands in the world. Under their current winemaker, Peter Gago, the most recent vintages of Bin 28 are the best that have ever been produced. True to its origins, Bin 28 is a multi-regional blend of Shiraz from vineyards across South Australia, made from the highest-quality parcels. The 2020 Penfolds Bin 28 punches above its price point with supple, dark cassis fruit and savory undertones, accented by spicy American oak. An exceptional value!

Premium Club

2019 Kilikanoon "Killerman's Run" Cabernet Sauvignon Clare Valley South Australia Club: \$14.99, Retail: \$19.99

by Thomas Smith, Australia Buyer

In 1997, Kevin Mitchel founded Kilikanoon in the Clare Valley, one of the best and most under-the-radar wine regions in Australia. Mitchel has strong roots in the region, with his father, Mort, being an experienced grape-grower. Before Mitchel bought it, Mort had been tending the Kilikanoon vineyard for 40+ years and knew it produced some of the best fruit in the region. The place has been known as Kilikanoon for over 150 years, and the name has stuck. Mitchel's wines began earning acclaim immediately, and he has been dubbed "Australia's Best Winery" seven times. Killerman's Run Cab harkens to an old Clare Valley legend about a hermit living off the grid where Kilikanoon now stands. Tall tales and his wild demeanor earned him the nickname Mr. Killerman by the locals, and he survived by trapping wild game and making his own wines. With rich flavors of cassis, bayleaf, and graphite, bound in a rigid structural frame, the Killerman's Run Cab is far more sophisticated, but just as rooted in its home soil.

2021 Château Vitallis Maçon-Fuissé Club: \$14.99, Retail: \$16.99

by Alex Pross, Burgundy Buyer

I am writing this from Burgundy after just having visited Château Vitallis in the small town of Fuissé in the Mâcon. We have been working directly with Vitallis for over a decade, and I can confidently say the wines have never been better than they are today. Maxime Dutron has fully taken over winemaking reins from his father, as evidenced by the slightly new label with his name on it. The wines seamlessly meld the gorgeous orchard and apple fruit notes that the Mâcon is known for with vibrant acidity and amazing lift. The 2021s are

a revelation in a challenging year, and the depth of fruit and classical structure are a testament to world-class winemaking. This is the entry-level offering and a great introduction to the estate. An intoxicating nose of spice and fresh orchard fruit gives way to an explosive core of orchard fruits and Golden Delicious apples with spice and hazelnut notes. The energy and mouthfeel here are impressive as is the long, lingering finish that seems to go on for at least 30 seconds. This humble Macon-Fuissé drinks way above its price point and is a wonderful wine to enjoy without breaking the bank! Pair with roast chicken or a charcuterie plate.



Le Club Français

2021 Domaine Jean-Michel Giboulot Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru “Aux Gravains” Club: \$31.99, Retail: \$39.99
by Alex Pross, Burgundy Buyer

The 2021 vintage in Burgundy was characterized by one setback after another: frost, hail, and mildew challenged even the most seasoned winemaker. But, in the end, warm weather came at the right time and the vintage was saved from disaster. Yields were down and quality was in question when a strange thing happened... the wines were not only better than expected—they were surprisingly good. This wine in particular has benefitted from the challenges of 2021. Usually the darkest and most closed of the four 1er Cru Savigny-lès-Beaune wines from Giboulot, in 2021 it is incredibly fresh and bright. Crunchy red fruits dominated by cherry and wild strawberry slowly cede to spice and savory earth notes. Excellent energy and drive with firm tannins and racy acidity. The lift and complexity here plus an engaging finish make this a classic Burgundy to pair with salmon or pork. An enviable wine from one of Burgundy’s most challenging vintages. Do not take my word for it; taste it to see what a triumphant vintage 2021 is!

2020 Dominique & Janine Crochet “Le Chêne Marchand” Sancerre Club: \$34.99, Retail: \$37.99
by Keith Mabry, Loire Buyer

There are many vineyards in Sancerre, but only a handful of sites garner the attention that Le Chêne Marchand does. Its south-facing slopes and calcareous soils produce richer wines with weight, intense fruit, and vibrant acidity. Like a Grand Cru site in Burgundy, only a select few producers make wine from this vineyard. We are fortunate to have started working with the Crochets a few years ago and to have access to wine from such a superb site. A touch of barrel aging rounds out the flavors giving more breadth and body. Look for flavors of lemon, lime leaf, passionfruit, and tangerine all girded by a chalky mineral undertone. This is the kind of Sancerre that is both amazing in its youth and after a few years in the cellar. Try it with a mellow Thai curry or a braised veal shank in a cream sauce.

Il Club Italiano

by Greg St. Clair, Italian Buyer



2021 Blason Cabernet Franc Isonzo del Friuli Club: \$11.99, Retail \$14.99

The 2021 vintage of this wine is exceptional. It owes much of its character to the terroir of the Isonzo River plain, scant kilometers from the Slovenian border. The gravel-laden alluvial soil gives an unmistakable intensity to the palate. This is a cooler-climate Cabernet Franc with herbaceous tendencies—even more so because of some pre-DNA-era confusion in Friuli between Carménère and Cabernet Franc; they were thought of as the same grape and many vineyards still have them mixed together. Blason’s grapes are harvested in early September, fermented in stainless steel, and aged six months in large oak barrels. The flavors are of dark red fruit, bell pepper, and tomato leaf. On the palate it is refreshingly lower in alcohol and has a supple, easy-drinking texture. This wine always brings a smile to my face and reminds me of Giovanni Blason, the irrepressible owner/winemaker. It’s one of my favorite summer drinks, and should be drunk cellar temperature with chicken, grilled salmon, or Spaghetti alla Carbonara—make sure you use Guanciale!

2018 Sarno 1860 "Erre" Fiano di Avellino Club: \$27.99, Retail: \$39.99

You don't find too many winemakers in Campania that just do one grape varietal, but Maura Sarno is one of those rare gems. She chose Fiano d'Avellino as her one grape and dedicated her entire winery to it. This single-vineyard version is a stunner; it exhibits the classic Fiano d'Avellino aromatics, which for me are beeswax and lanolin. Although those are hard to miss, the Bosc pear and Kaffir lime on the nose have a brightening affect on those lush scents, and in the background you can detect a bit of brioche from the 26 months of extended aging on the wine's lees (spent yeasts), all done in stainless steel. On the palate the richness of the wine is balanced with excellent acidity and some volcanic minerality that lifts the back end of the wine. The aforementioned fruits carry through to floral components that complement the beeswax richness.



The white wines from Campania are harvested later than you might guess, and this one is harvested in the first week of October. This wine always makes me think of food, and I would love to have this with a bigger, more structured fish like swordfish, although I'm sure many of you'd head towards lobster—and you wouldn't be wrong. If you like this, buy a few more bottles to age for another three to five years—you'll be blown away.

Champagne Club

by Gary Westby, Champagne Buyer

Long-Aged Vintage and Top Rosé Champagne

This month we have two rare treats for Champagne Club members: an almost 20-year-old Blanc de Blancs and a world-class grower-producer rosé. The two wines could not be more different—the only thing they share is a quality level that I believe is among the best that we have ever offered in this Club. If there was ever a time to taste the bottles in your shipment quickly, this would be it, as both have benefited from a nice settling time in our warehouse, and I expect them both to sell out quickly.



The 2005 Vincent d'Astrée "Equinox" Extra Brut 1er Cru Blanc de Blancs Champagne Club \$34.99 / Retail \$49.99 is a barrel-fermented, ten-month barrel-aged cuvée from the Premier Cru of Pierry, just one village south of Épernay. After this long élevage, it was kept for over ten years on the lees before disgorgement. This is the oldest current-release Champagne in stock at K&L and is a chance for you to discover pristinely aged vintage for a song. The wine has developed a light golden color and is as creamy and toasty as one could wish for. Thanks to the cold micro-climate and the white chalk soil of Pierry, it has remained refreshing and hugely mineral on the long back end.

The Fallet-Dart "Anthocyane" Brut Rosé Champagne Club \$34.99 / Retail \$49.99 says "Tirage 2016" on the front label—a confusing statement that in fact means "bottled in 2016." This wine is based on the 2015 vintage, with reserves from 2014, 2013, and 2012. It is composed of 60% Meunier and 40% Pinot Noir from Paul Fallet's estate in Drachy out in the western valley of the Marne. This very dry rosé has the chiseled structure of a great vintage wine, but with fine grace notes and black cherry savor. It is one of the best rosés I have tasted this year.

A toast to you!

