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## Dear Wine Club Member,

Our Wine Club tastings and pick-up party events have been so successful that we are making them a regular occurrence! From this month onward, please join us on the first Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 PM. You can sample other wines in the month's lineup, meet fellow members, and pick up some bottles at your special Club discount. This is happening in all three locations, complimentary for members and their guests. Bring your friends!

If you are barbecuing this summer, try a side-by-side comparison of New World vs. Old World Grenache! We've got a juicy 2017 from Ojai Alisal Vineyard in Ventura County and a 2020 Gigondas from Domaine Raspail-Ay in Southern Rhône. Both will be wonderful with anything off the grill, but are made in different styles. Will you prefer the fruit-driven California version or the herbal, more savory style of the French? We love them both and won't make you decide! But it will be a rewarding tasting experiment any way you slice it.

If rosé is your summer water, then you'll have to try the bottle from Domaine Jacourette. In fact, you may have tried it already in previous vintages! We've carried it for years as Vignoble Dragon, but it has changed labels this vintage. We keep bringing it back year after year for a reason: it's full of flavor and wonderfully refreshing. Give it a try—perhaps poolside—and let us know what you think.

As always, we love to see our wines out in the wild, so tag us on social media #klwines. Until next month, happy wining and dining!



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## Best Buy Wine Club

**2020 Bourdieu, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux** Retail \$12.99 / Club \$9.99

*by Thomas Smith, Australia/New Zealand/South Africa Buyer (and Bordeaux Enthusiast)*

The vineyards of Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux are planted in the deep north of Bordeaux's Right Bank. Marked by rolling hills and a diverse range of soils, including gravel, clay, and limestone, Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux has become an excellent source for well-priced wines that provide excellent value. Château Bourdieu is one of Blaye's shining stars. The Bourdieu estate's wine growing history can be traced back to 1464, but probably extended even further to Roman times. Today, the Schweitzer family perpetuates the estate's rich winemaking traditions, which span over seven centuries. The family's deep-rooted passion for viticulture is evident in the meticulous care they devote to their 180-acre vineyard, where 35-year-old vines thrive in diverse soils, ideal for growing Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes. The 2020 Bourdieu is an excellent rendition of this perennial high-performer. A blend of 87% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 3% Cabernet Franc, I was absolutely impressed by this charming wine. A piercing note of red cassis comes through on the nose, supported by dark, earthier notes and subtle nuances of black truffle, tobacco, and cedar. Full bodied, and yet light on its feet, the palate follows with further red fruit notes and excellent acidity. With minimal tannin, and a bold array of fruit, the Bourdieu is a perfect, no-nonsense bottle that's great to pop for a weeknight dinner.

**2021 Grand Bateau Blanc, Bordeaux** Retail \$12.99 / Club \$9.99

Maison Barrière and the illustrious Fourth Growth from St-Julien, Château Beychevelle, have formed a collaboration to create this delicious wine, which represents a stunning value from Bordeaux. This blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon is made from hand-harvested grapes. The juice undergoes a cold soak before 75% of it is barrel fermented and the other 25% is fermented in stainless steel. The result of this process gives the wine body while maintaining its succulent acidity. Crisp and mineral with vanilla tones on the nose, the palate is nicely rounded and full with citrus and tropical fruit. It is delicious with lighter foods, and also quite refreshing on its own. Try it with a Caprese-and-stone-fruit salad drizzled with balsamic vinegar for a wonderful summer lunch!

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## Signature Red Collection

**2018 Calluna "Cuvée CVC" Chalk Hill Bordeaux Blend** Retail \$29.99 / Club \$24.99

*by Ryan Woodhouse, Domestic Buyer*



*David Jeffrey, winemaker at Calluna.*

Calluna is a stunning property high on the ridgetop in the Chalk Hill AVA in Sonoma Valley. This small AVA, sandwiched between Russian River and Knights Valley, is famed for its white quartzite volcanic ash soils. Calluna's estate feels the full effect of cool breezes coming in from the Sonoma coast, while the thin, rocky soils produce intense wines with great structure and length. As you come up the long winding driveway to the property, the vineyard is quite striking. The vines are planted at very high density and trained low to the ground, mimicking some of the great vineyards in Bordeaux. Proprietor/winemaker David Jeffrey strives to make wines with balance and finesse. He prefers moderate alcohol levels and subtle use of new oak, allowing the qualities of this majestic vineyard to shine through.

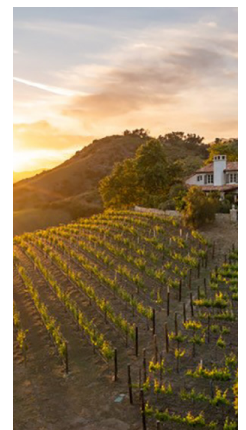
The 2018 Calluna Vineyard Cuvée is a classic Bordeaux blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Petit Verdot. The wine spent 21 months in 20% new French oak and was bottled unfiltered. The alcohol came in at a modest 14.1% ABV. The nose has soaring aromas of dried lavender, blueberry, chaparral, bay laurel, a little dark cherry, and unsmoked cigar. Medium to full bodied with lovely lift and floral elements accompanying the bright fruit. Savory elements harken back to

the wine's Bordelais inspiration. In his glowing 94-point review, iconic Bordeaux commentator John Gilman writes: "This has been one of California's finest values in the world of Bordeaux blends for many years, and the 2018 may well be one of most complete vintages yet for this lovely cuvée." With our special Club member pricing coming in \$10 per bottle under the winery's price, we wholeheartedly agree: this is VERY hard to beat! Cheers!

**2017 Ojai Alisal Vineyard, Ventura County Grenache** Retail \$29.99 / Club \$24.99

*by Clyde Beffa Jr., Bordeaux Buyer*

Though the majority of the blend is Grenache (90%), it's rounded out with 10% Syrah. What a great discovery here from a small plot in Ojai, California. I discovered this wine at a dinner with a neighbor of ours in Purisima Canyon, south of Half Moon Bay. Less than 100 cases are produced, and we have 50 of them. Wonderful raspberry aromas (from the Grenache) mixed with a touch of oak (from the barrels) and pepper (from the Syrah). A medium-bodied, ruby-colored red with flavors of cherry, red berries, and plums underlined by hints of anise and smoky herbs on the palate. Rich and warm. At my advanced age, I really enjoy the fruitiness of Grenache. Perfect with short ribs or pot roast—and it will cellar well for several more years. At six years old I think it is best to drink now or next year so you can enjoy the youthful enchantment of Grenache while you cellar your Bordeaux reds. A must try. This won the gold medal at the San Francisco *Chronicle* tasting in 2020. Note—I was a judge for this competition in the 1980s and 90s! Time flies when you are having fun, and this is a fun wine.



## Premium Club

**2022 Domaine Jacourette Côtes de Provence Rosé** Retail \$15.99 / Club \$12.99

by Keith Mabry, French Regional Buyer



Some of you may be familiar with this wine under its old label, Vignoble Dragon. When we started working with Domaine Jacourette, they had a national importer, so they created a cuvée name and special label that was exclusive to K&L on the West Coast. Well, they have parted company with that importer and we can now use their classic Jacourette label. But more importantly—how is the wine? Jacourette is located in the Côtes de Provence Cru known as Sainte-Victoire. The winery sits beneath the Montagne Sainte-Victoire, which is one of the most stunning mountains in the region. The Montagne is composed primarily of limestone and much of it has eroded into the soils surrounding it. This chalky limestone makes for beautifully structured rosé that is filled with fresh acidity and light, elegant fruit. Vigneron Hélène Dragon does very little to influence the winemaking, using concrete and stainless steel tanks in her production to produce a fresh, flavorful wine. Aromas of strawberry, fresh guava, and white flowers fill the glass. Perfect for summer sipping, this would be great with a light salad of goat cheese and citrus or perhaps some grilled chicken with a mango slaw. Keep it fresh, and keep it simple.

**2021 Kalinda Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir** Retail \$21.99 / Club \$16.99

by Clyde Beffa Jr., Co-owner and Bordeaux Buyer

The Kalinda label started way back in 1984! Almost 40 years ago, Bob Pellegrini approached me to say, “Why doesn’t K&L have their own label for wines? There is plenty of very good juice out in the market, and you can find some to make excellent value wines vis-à-vis what is on the market now.” (Then it was Glen Ellen and Fetzer Sundial—fighting varieties, they called them). The rest is history. From our first 1984 Kalinda Chardonnay until now, we have tasted innumerable samples to find wines worthy of our Kalinda label—after all, Kalinda is named after my wife (Kay) and my co-founder’s wife (Linda).

This wine comes from one of the more renowned Pinot Noir producers in Northern California. Really! But, we offer this beauty at a price much lower than what you’d pay at the winery. Naturally, no producer wants their wines on the market for less than what they’d usually sell for, so the trade-off is anonymity. This vintage is very similar to the 2020. A more elegant style that combines a mix of cherry and forest berries on the nose. Good entry on the palate: soft, sweet, and fruity. Fruit dominates tannins so enjoy now.

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## Le Club Français

**2020 Domaine Raspail-Ay Gigondas** Retail \$39.99 / Club \$34.99

by Keith Mabry, Rhône Buyer

Domaine Raspail-Ay, established in 1850, is a 19-hectare vineyard with the limestone monoliths, the Dentelles de Montmirail, looming in the background. What makes the estate so special is that Vigneron Dominique Ay focuses on a single wine (plus a little rosé). He makes no Côtes du Rhône or other single-parcel cuvées. The estate is contiguous; its vines grow on clay and limestone terraces with an average age of 40 years—all factors contributing to optimal grape quality. This wine is a blend of primarily Grenache with Syrah and Mourvèdre, all hand-harvested, and vinified in concrete vats before aging in large oak foudres. This process results in a single, consistent wine that routinely ranks among the top in the appellation. One of my favorite features of wines from Gigondas is the scent of garrigue. This is the herbs de Provence character where you find aromas of wild thyme, bay leaf, maybe some lavender and fennel, and this wine is showing it. Brimming with raspberries and black cherries, crushed black pepper, and that characteristic licorice and herbs de Provence, the Raspail-Ay is very food friendly. Serve alongside grilled meats, sausage, and roast duck. Great now and should be even better with a couple of years of bottles age on it.



## 2019 Château de Chamilly Montagny 1er Cru “Les Burnins” Retail \$29.99 / Club \$24.99

by Alex Pross, Burgundy Buyer

Château de Chamilly is located just north of the Côte Chalonnaise, 20 minutes from the town of Beaune. Its castle was built in the 17th century by Noel Bouton (Lieutenant General of the armies of Roy Louis XIV, Governor of Strasbourg and Marquis de Chamilly) on the foundations of a fortified 14th-century farm. At the beginning of the 19th century, the Desfontaine family acquired it as well as the land surrounding it. The Desfontaine family has been winegrowers for 12 generations. In 1970 Louis Desfontaine and his wife Veronique set out to make the best wines possible from their holdings. Louis passed away at a young age leaving Veronique to run the winery. Her two sons, Xavier and Arnaud, came of age to assist her in 2007. Today the three are fashioning some exceptional values. The Côte Chalonnaise delivers 1er Cru white wines for a fraction of what you would pay for 1ers Cru from Chassagne-Montrachet, Puligny-Montrachet or Meursault, as evidenced by this fantastic wine that drinks well above its price point. A brilliant nose of white flowers along with aromas of white peach and pear seductively rise from the glass. On the palate, the wine deftly blends racy acidity, with savory, herbal notes and pristine orchard fruit flavors. A medium-bodied white Burgundy that drinks seamlessly and is incredibly accessible now. The perfect summertime aperitif!

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## Il Club Italiano

by Greg St. Clair, Italy Buyer

### 2021 Caninta Bonelli Ortrugo dei Colli Piacentini Retail \$15.99 / Club \$12.99

It was many, many (can I put in another many?) years ago when I first tasted the wines of Cantine Bonelli. Emilia-Romagna was a region whose wines I was unfamiliar with, other than Lambrusco and some almost Adriatic Sangiovese. It was the Parmigiano Reggiano, Prosciutto, and balsamic vinegar that were the highlights of the region for me—and, ok, I have a thing for Mortadella as well. Stretching north from Bologna through Modena, Parma, you arrive in Piacenza on the northern border of the region. Wine? Who knew?

This month's wine comes from the Bonelli family in Rivergaro, which is about 12 miles up the Trebbia River from Piacenza. Piacenza is 200 feet above sea level—not exactly mountainous—but Rivergaro towers over Piacenza at 460 feet. These lower elevations allow one to feel the humidity, but in this hot and humid region the wine you want to drink is not a big, powerful, red but something low in alcohol and maybe with a little sparkle. This wine is made from a grape named Ortrugo, which I'm sure you haven't heard of before. Its light—*vivace* in Italian—sparkle makes a wine so easy to drink. It's so refreshing. I'd recommend this wine with some calamari fritti or a plate of charcuterie—*affettati* in Italian.



### 2019 Bel Colle Barbaresco Retail \$37.99 / Club \$26.99

While Barolo is the king of the Langhe Hills in southern Piedmont, its sister, Barbaresco, is the more misunderstood of the two. Barolo is certainly more famous, and that is mostly because there are almost three times as many acres of Barolo than Barbaresco. I have heard my entire career that Barolo is the more masculine and Barbaresco more feminine, but that really doesn't hold water. The difference can really be found in more of a commune-to-commune comparison. Barbaresco has only three communes: the eponymous Barbaresco, Neive, and Treiso. Bel Colle's Barbaresco vineyards

are in Treiso, the southernmost commune. Barbaresco is made from 100% Nebbiolo grapes and aged for two years before release. Bel Colle ages their Barbaresco in 50hl barrels of French oak, sort of a blend of old and new methods. Whenever I think of Barbaresco I get a twitch in my hand, it's an almost involuntary response to looking for my fork, because to me Nebbiolo more than anything is about food. A pair of classic accompaniments are Brasato al Barolo (or Barbaresco) which is basically a pot roast. I prefer a wild mushroom risotto, but whichever you try the match will be divine!