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Dear Wine Club Member,

Happy May! Last month, we rolled out a brand new new tasting and pick up party for our Club members. It was so much fun, and we're thrilled to bring it back for your June Club wines. Save the date:



June Wine Club Member Tasting and Pick Up Party

Thursday, June 1, 2023, 4 o 6PM

San Francisco - Redwood City - Hollywood

Complimentary for members and their guests. Bring your friends!

We hope you'll join us to taste the Club wines and meet some fellow wine lovers.

In this month's Signature Red Club, we have a fun tasting challenge for you: we've spotlighted two very different styles of California Cabernet Sauvignon so that you can see how climate and location affect this popular grape's expression in the glass. The 2019 Precision Wine Company "Method" Napa Cabernet Sauvignon is a classic Napa Valley version: big, bold, generously fruited with soft and velvety tannins. The 2021 Desire Lines "Cachagua Ridge Vineyard" Carmel Valley Cabernet Sauvignon comes from a much cooler site and shows more pronounced aromatics, rigid structure, and lower alcohol. Pick your favorite and tag us on social media to tell us why @klwines!

As always, all Club wines are available to you at the discounted price, no matter which Club you belong to you. Thank you for being a member!



Reordering is easy!

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Best Buy Wine Club

2020 Domaine Paul Buisse Chinon Retail \$12.99 / Club \$9.99

by Keith Mabry, Loire Buyer

Chinon, located in the Touraine portion of the Loire Valley, is one of the most iconic regions for wines made from the Cabernet Franc grape. The region is situated at the intersection of the Vienne and Loire rivers. The alluvial soils from both rivers have piled up over the famed Turonian limestone and are a huge factor in the style of wines they deliver. Domaine Paul Buisse's Chinon comes from the clay-heavy and flint soils from vines ranging from 10-50 years of age. The clay soils helps provide some of the structure, and, since it is fermented and aged in stainless-steel tank, it is a transparent and pure expression of Cabernet Franc. You should find notes of strawberry, currants, black olive, wild sage, and violets. In the mouth, you should taste flavors that make you think of Cabernet Sauvignon but with a finer structure similar to a Pinot Noir. Cabernet Franc is one of my favorite wines to pair with food and one of the classics is an herb-roasted chicken. Whether you want to make it yourself or pick up one from your favorite rotisserie, it is a seamless pairing that will show the versatility of this grape variety.



2015 Bois-Malot, Bordeaux Supérieur Retail \$12.99 / Club \$9.99

by Clyde Beffa Jr., Bordeaux Buyer

Before becoming known as a winemaker, Fernand Armand was a dedicated fruit grower and famous for growing outstanding pears. He planted the trees himself, mostly after the big frost of 1956 that ruined half of the vineyard. In 1973, Fernand enlarged his existing estate by buying Bois-Malot, a château adjoining his property. It is located in St-Loubès and situated on the shoreline of the Dordogne River. Since 1980, it is his son Jacques who is in charge of keeping up the family tradition. This cuvée is the standard bearer of the property. Jacques followed his predecessors by adding new plots of land to the estate, which now comprises around 30 hectares of vineyard and 3 hectares of pear trees.

We have carried Château Bois-Malot since the 2003 vintage, and it's always been a hit. We have sold over 13,000 bottles of this 2015 vintage alone as it's such a great value! If you like framboise you will adore this. It tastes and smells of raspberries and earth, but with a gentle middle and a soft finish thanks to the extraordinary vintage. Round, seductive, and filled with easy-drinking character. A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Perfect for Tuesday burger night or large parties.

Signature Red Collection

2019 Precision Wine Company "Method" Napa Cabernet Sauvignon Retail \$27.99 / Club \$24.99

by Trey Beffa, Head Buyer

It is not easy these days to find a wine from Napa Valley that you would consider a good value. Many new Cabernet releases are going for well over \$50 per bottle and most of them over \$100. Well, here is a great value from Napa at under \$25 for Club members! Precision Wine Company's vintner and proprietor, Trevor Sheehan (in the picture to the right), has created a brand that has sourced top-quality fruit from some of the best vineyards in California for over 10 years now. As the name suggests, every detail in the winemaking process, including the harvesting of the grapes in the vineyards, is handled with great precision and care.



While the brand makes several different Napa Cabernets, the 2019 "Method" is one of our favorites. It is very classic Napa Cabernet in profile, with a medium to full body, hints of toasty oak, cassis, and black cherry. It is well balanced and not overdone in any way, which will help this wine pair with a variety of dishes. Perfect for those upcoming summer barbecues!

2021 Desire Lines "Cachagua Ridge Vineyard" Carmel Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Retail \$29.99 / Club \$24.99



Cody Rasmussen and his wife Emily (pictured to the left) met in the second grade. They followed Cody's passion for wine to Sonoma County two months after they were married and three months after they graduated college. The romance of their story infuses their wine company, which is named after "desire lines," i.e., paths made by diverting from the main trail. They draw inspiration from vineyards that they love throughout California as well as from the early winemaking pioneers in California's 1970s and 80s wine scene. Cody started his wine career with Balletto Vineyards in 2011, and was such a quick study that he had landed a gig as assistant winemaker at Bedrock Wine Co. by 2013, where he still works today with Morgan Twain-Peterson.

This wine comes from the Cachagua Ridge vineyard, which is planted on a ridge above the Cachagua Valley, below the towering peaks of the Ventana wilderness. "Cachagua" is purported to mean "hidden waters," a nod to the underground springs that flow down from the Santa Lucia Mountains all along the length of the valley. This is a cool-climate Cabernet, but achieves remarkable richness that belies its 13.4% ABV.

Premium Club

2019 The Royal Tokaji Wine Company Dry Furmint Tokaji Hungary Retail \$16.99 / Club \$14.99

by Keith Mabry, Hungarian Buyer

For those not familiar, Tokaj is one of the oldest classified regions in Europe. Even before Bordeaux's late-harvest wine region of Sauternes existed, the royal families of Europe insisted on drinking the sweet nectar that came from Tokaj. In 1990, after the fall of Communism, the Royal Tokaji Wine Company emerged as one of the great producers in the region. They resuscitated many of the great vineyards and became one of the strongest international advocates for wines from Tokaj. In the post-Cold War era, however, the demand for dessert wines was so low that many producers began fermenting the noble grape variety Furmint as a dry wine. As winemakers began to understand better ways to make these wines, quality improved by leaps and bounds. Now dry wines make up the greater percentage of wine coming from Tokaj and, like this one from Royal Tokaji, are sinewy, framed with vibrant acidity, yet hold a richer mouthfeel. Lemon curd, green apples, apricot, and white flowers are some of the characteristics you may find. The finish is long and precise. This is a great white to serve as an aperitif alongside smoked trout and soft cheeses. You could even try it with spicy food as an alternative to Riesling or Gewurztraminer.

2018 Momo (Seresin) Pinot Noir Marlborough Retail \$19.99 / Club \$14.99

by Thomas Smith, New Zealand Buyer

David Seresin is a world-renowned cinematographer and director, known for his work on the *Harry Potter* films, *Gravity*, and the newest rendition of *The Planet of the Apes*. He founded Seresin wines in the early 90s to focus on organic and sustainable approaches to winemaking from his native New Zealand. Over the years, Seresin winery has become a magnet for young winemakers who travel across the planet to train in organic winemaking.



Momo is the Maori word for "offspring"—a fitting name for Seresin's entry-level Pinot Noir. It is crafted from vineyards in Marlborough's southern valleys—the best subregion for Pinot—and, like all of Seresin's wines, it is made from fully certified organic and biodynamic grapes. Momo is fermented only with native yeasts and is completely vegan. Bright and fresh with crunchy red fruit and a dry, herbal finish, the 2016 Momo Pinot Noir is an outstanding example of the value to be found in New Zealand Pinot Noir.

Le Club Français



2020 Clos Floridène, Graves Blanc Retail \$24.99 / Club \$21.99

by Clyde Beffa, Bordeaux Buyer

Many K&L staffers, including myself, have been big fans of Clos Floridène Blanc and the owner/winemaker Denis Dubourdieu since the late 1990s. I considered Denis to be the premier Sauvignon Blanc producer (along with Didier Dagueneau) in the world. I fondly remember a fabulous dinner in 2010 at Tour d'Argent in Paris when we ordered 1991 Clos Floridène—it was fabulous at 19 years old.

Clos Floridène today covers an area of 40 hectares in the Graves appellation; mostly it lies on the limestone plateau of Pujols-sur-Ciron, near Barsac. The name stems from the combination of the founders' names – Denis and Florence Dubourdieu. The wines of Clos Floridène were first made in the cellar at Château Reynon, but since 2015 they have been made at their own facility. This wine is 75% Sauvignon Blanc, 24% Semillon, and 1% Muscadelle. It has aromas of lemongrass, grapefruit, and even some pear. The 2020 white Bordeaux wines are on the richer side, but Floridène always has great acidity. A super delicious white perfect with shell fish and even a nice halibut steak. You can cellar it for a few years, but it is just fine right now.

2019 Maison Frédéric Magnien Fixin “Crais de Chene” Retail \$44.99 / Club \$37.99

Frédéric Magnien is a fifth-generation winemaker from Morey-St-Denis, whose father Michel is the proprietor at Domaine Michel Magnien. After working alongside his father for many years, he trained in California with Calera’s Josh Jensen and Australia’s Gary Farr before returning to his native village to establish his eponymous winemaking business in 1995.

The Fixin appellation lies between Marsannay and Gevrey-Chambertin, and is an excellent spot to look for great values in red Burgundy. This is a négociant bottling, meaning Frédéric buys fruit from other growers; but he is meticulous about his sources and has his own team hand-harvest the fruit. He only works with organically and biodynamically farmed, older-vines then ferments with indigenous yeasts. This site, on chalky clay and limestone with vines that average 35 years, borders a gentle slope called Couchey, east of the Route des Grands Crus. This is a dark-fruited beauty with aromas of black cherries, loam, baking spice, and fresh raspberries.

Il Club Italiano

2020 La Monacesca Verdicchio di Matelica Retail \$21.99 / Club \$17.99

Nestled in Le Marche’s Camertina Valley, La Monacesca has a unique north-to-south positioning that protects them from the harsh influence of the Adriatic Sea; instead, they enjoy a continental climate that produces high-quality, distinctive wines.

This family-run winery (second-generation Aldo Cifola is pictured right) built its reputation on the white grape Verdicchio, and this bottling is their most distinctive, most cellar-worthy expression of it. In fact, this wine thrives with time. With a few years of age, the full-bodied wine will reveal exotic aromas of anise, orange zest, dried apricot, and stone. In 2021, Vinous said, “Wow, this is already such a pleasure to taste, yet there’s significant upside potential here as well. Simply stunning. (EG)” Open a bottle now with quiche for a gorgeous lunch, and let a few snooze in your cellar for five years or more.



2019 Sesta di Sopra Rosso di Montalcino Retail \$29.99 / Club \$21.99



Ettore and Enrica Spina purchased Sesta di Sopra in 1980, initially as a place to retire. They restored the farmhouse and olive groves, and planted a few hectares of grapes. It’s located in a prime spot, just south of Montalcino and outside of the village Castelnuovo dell’Abate, and the wine that resulted was so good that they knew they were on to something. Demand grew, and they were able to export their wines (which is lucky for us!)

This memorable Sangiovese was one of the highlights of our recent Italian customer tastings. We were expecting noticeable French oak flavors since it is aged in small barrels, yet we experienced the opposite: an elegant, well-integrated wine. The overall reaction was that this is about as close as you’ll get to well-made Brunello at half the price. It’s really one of the best Rosso di Montalcinos we’ve tasted recently, and it comes with our highest recommendation. You can never go wrong with this producer but in this vintage, they’ve hit it out of the park, especially at the Club member price!