

# **HIGHLAND FINE WINE**

## **April 2019 HALF CASE - REDS**

**Andre Brunel Cotes du Rhone Rouge, AOC Cotes du Rhone, France (MIXED)**- Rhone wines are known for their expressiveness. From their vivid colour, to the fragrant, intoxicating nose, to the well developed and nuanced palate, CDR wines tend to deliver. Brunel is a staff favorite (the Grenache is on the shelves now) so you can trust their quality even as this is a blended with Syrah and Cinsault. Elegance and finesse through limestone and power and fortitude through clay and pebble, it is clear terroir has a definite influence as it reveals the potential of each grape. Grenache's red fruit roundness is supported by the strength of Syrah and the aromatics of Cinsault. Discover this well priced wine today!

**Don Rodolfo Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina (MIXED)**- Argentina's major wine regions are located in the western part of the country and are seated along the base of the Andes Mountains. With one of the widest diurnal temperature variations in the world, Argentina's summers can hit day temps with nights cooling off quickly. This arid desert-like climate relies on the pollution-free water from the melted glaciers in the Andes in order to naturally irrigate each vineyard. Argentina also has some of the highest altitudes vineyards in the world. These extreme and strenuous geographic characteristics allow Argentina's vines to really struggle and produce lower yields with higher quality and more concentrated wines. Don Rodolfo is one such winery and the truth is in the bottle.

**Nicolis Valpolicella DOC Classico, Veneto, Italy (MIXED)**- Valpolicella has a privileged climate, thanks to its southern exposure and the protection it receives from the nearby Lessini mountains. Nicolis are the proud owners of some of the best Crus in the Valpolicella area. A typical blend of Corvina, Rondinella, and Molinara, this wine is anything but typical! Ruby red colour of medium intensity, which tends to garnet upon aging. It has a characteristic perfume that is pleasant and delicate, with hints of fruit which grow in the area: cherries, maraschas and plums. Dry bodied, savory, and harmonious. You can enjoy this wine with a variety of rustic Italian dishes from weekday pizza and spaghetti to lasagnas and flavorful sauces such as Puttanesca.

**Folk Machine Valdiguie, Mendocino, California**- This grape has exploded onto the trendy wine scene! Predominately used in France (Languedoc region), this varietal has made its way to California where it was given the nickname "Napa Gamay." Although the grape is not related to the star of Beaujolais, it does have very similar characteristics. The Valdiguie grape makes a light to medium bodied wine in a style similar to true Gamay from Beaujolais—a juicy, low-tannin, easy drinking wine. Just like Gamay, Valdiguie can also be slightly chilled to boost the fruit and structure components, making this wine a favorite in the warm spring and summer months ahead.

**Hopler Pannonica red blend, Burgenland, Austria**- Featuring aromas of black cherries and damp spices, Hopler's Pannonica Red Blend sipped perfectly as the sun started to set on a late summer night last week. The cool air complimented the flavors of anise spice, fig, tart raspberry and vibrant cherry while the soft texture, moderate acidity and medium body lingered. An easy drinking blend of Blaufrankisch, Zweigelt, and Pinot Noir, the wine wasn't too complicated, but still made you appreciate its nuances. This wine made such an impression last year so we decided to feature it again! And following in the same trend as the above mentioned Valdiguie, this wine can also be slightly chilled. Think of this as a nerdy alternative to Pinot Noir and enjoy with charcuterie and cheese.

**Osmote Seneca Lake Cabernet Franc, Finger Lakes, New York**- Yes, you read that correctly. Wine from NEW YORK. This was a shocker when we recently tasted! The winery is very young, established in 2014, however the quality is undeniable. Making wine in the Finger Lakes is an opportunity to contribute to the fabric of the region and its permaculture. By adding to the viticulture of Upstate New York, Osmote is helping to ensure that central New York remains a vibrant, green ecosystem and that the Finger Lakes water stays protected by the green filters of the vine rows. This should maintain a natural state around the lakes and firmly root New York as a rising star in the wine scene.

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## **April 2019 HALF CASE - WHITES**

**Casa Girelli La Mura Grillo Sicilia IGT, Sicily Italy (MIXED)**- For thousands of years Italy has been producing high quality wines of several different styles. The ancient Greeks may have been the first to recognize how perfect this island was for viticulture, but today a huge area of Sicily is covered in vineyards growing plenty of different grape varieties. This unique wine region produces a considerable percentage of Italy's overall wines, and it isn't difficult to see how wineries have flourished on the island. With beautiful year-round sunshine, cooling sea breezes helping the grapes reach full ripeness, along with the highly fertile volcanic soil which is typical of Sicily, it should come as no surprise this is one of Europe's oldest and most productive wine regions. Enjoy this wine with a spring Georgian sunset any day of the week.

**Weingut Weszeli Osterreich Rose 'Eden', Kamptal, Austria (MIXED)**- Rose season is here! This warm season will be filled with pink wine so let's start with one of the best we have tried. A blend of Zweigelt and Cabernet Franc, this bottle from Austria is a stunner. Weingut Weszeli can be found in the charming city of Langenlois, a region with a long-standing reputation for wine. This wine maker has some excellent Gruners and Rieslings (yes Rieslings...trust us!) and this Rose does not disappoint. Our only problem with this wine soon it will be gone! There is a limited production for this wine and we have secured most of the inventory. Do not expect this wine to be around in June so if you like it, buy a few bottles!

**Ancient Peaks Sauvignon Blanc, Paso Robles, California (MIXED)**- This estate Margarita Vineyard stands alone and apart as the southernmost vineyard in the Paso Robles region, and as the only vineyard in the Santa Margarita Ranch AVA. The 2017 Sauvignon Blanc exhibits a vivid varietal character that is rooted in Margarita Vineyard. Here, amid one of the Paso Robles region's coolest growing environments, the Sauvignon Blanc grape achieves a fine balance of ripeness and raciness, with crisp acidity and appealing mineral accents. The quality of this brand is real and deep (we featured their flagship Merlot last month). I was overwhelmed by their quality, taste, and consistency! This wine should be enjoyed with fresh seafood or leafy green salads.

**Le Caveau Apremont Vin de Savoyard Jacquere, Savoy, France**- The vineyard of the Savoy is located at the foot of the French Alps. This may be an introduction of this region, or even this grape Jacquard, to you however it is time you get in on this secret. What some of us have known for awhile is this region produces some unique and spectacular wines, perfect for food! Jacquere is the region's most widely planted grape variety. It accounts for 50% of all the plantings. It produces early-drinking, low alcohol, lively dry wines. Flavors range from floral (white flowers) and fruity (pear, white peach, grapefruit) to mineral and flinty.

**Matthiasson 'Tendu' White blend 1L, California**- White Blend is a term Wine-Searcher uses to group together white wines made from uncommon or unusual grape variety blends (see also Rare Red Blend). The category also provides a convenient home for wines whose blend is either unknown or not published by the maker. There is no particular pattern or formula for establishing which grape varieties will feature in these rare blends, nor the proportions in which they will be used. Some will consist of just two components, others may contain ten or more. This wine from famed Steve Matthiasson is mostly Vermentino, a classic varietal of Italy. Also this bottle format is 1L so you can pour a 'healthy' glass after a long day! Crisp and refreshing, this wine has our spring stamp of approval.

**Lagar de Cervera Albarino, Rias Baixas, Spain**- Enjoying a unique microclimate, this Galician winery, Lagar de Cervera, lies at the heart of the Rias Baixas, on the Atlantic coast. In 1988, they took on the task of putting together the largest Albariño vineyard in this wine region. Albariño is a grape of extraordinary quality used to make the single-varietal Lagar de Cervera. Yellow with green hues; clean and bright, highlighted by the typical varietal aromas of the Albariño (ripe apples and pears, stone fruit, particularly apricots) and a remarkable citrus background. Lively, fresh and structured in the mouth, with well-integrated acidity. Very persistent aftertaste, where hints of exotic fruit (lychees) make their appearance.