

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

APRIL 2021 HALF CASE- REDS

ZINGARA CHIANTI 2017, TUSCANY, ITALY \$14.99 (MIXED) The beauty of Tuscany should be experienced by everyone. Classical architecture surrounded by historical churches all surrounded by rolling hillside vineyards. As much as the wine is world renown, so is the food! Zingara Chianti is the ideal vino tavola for your everyday consumption as it pairs with red sauced pastas and pizza- it's from Italy of course! Sangiovese is a grape of which you are familiar; here, it is blended with Ciliegiolo which provides structure and high toned red fruit (it's translation is literally 'cherry'). Give this lil gem a whirl with your next Varuni Napoli order!

THREE HENRYS 2018, PAYS D'OC, FRANCE \$15.99 (MIXED) As we are still not hosting our community tastings, I present to you a STUDY OF PINOT NOIR this month. Here, Three Henrys represents the lighter side of France...southern France to be exact. Perfectly served with a slight chill (we love that in the South!), this Pinot is full of tart red fruit so think red cherry, cranberry and pomegranate. Easy drinking and incredibly enjoyable, Three Henrys delivers on its promise of great wine at a great price. I found this bottle to be best paired with Chinese food recently when I enjoyed Mongolian beef.

EL PAJARO ROJO 2018, BIERZO, SPAIN \$17.99 (MIXED) Mencía thrives on slate, but when it's grown on clay it can tend toward low-acid wines. That's the case in certain areas of Bierzo, especially around Villafranca, the capital of the D.O. This wine, from 30- to 40-year-old vines, seems to be an exception. With rich flavors of ripe red fruit, earth and spice, this is a complex and juicy Bierzo. Yes, its texture is soft and creamy, but it runs deep into meaty flavors and mineral tannins, a wine that needs oxtail or ropa vieja. Roasted berry and plum aromas include notes of ham and bacon. This wine is grabby and tannic on the palate. Meaty plum and currant flavors set up an extracted finish with hard residual tannins.

THE NED 2016, MARLBOROUGH, NEW ZEALAND \$18.99 While Sauvignon Blanc reigns supreme in New Zealand, Pinot has begun making significant impacts in their wine world. A selection in a STUDY OF PINOT NOIR, this dense wine starts out quite closed, with a distinctly earthy, barnyard funk. After time in the glass, it starts to blow off, uncovering red berry fruit, florals and peppery spice. Things improve on the palate, which delivers a clean line of acidity, drying, grainy tannins and a good lick of oak. An herbal, cranberry note marks the finish. One for roast ham, white meats or even on its own. A crowd-pleasing Pinot Noir!

STORM POINT RED BLEND 2020, W.O. SWARTLAND, SOUTH AFRICA \$14.99 Four ships set sail from Portugal with Vasco de Gama leading this voyage. As the armada reached the Cape, violent storms appeared and de Gama claimed that "an immense shape materialized in the night air, grotesque and enormous stature with heavy jowls, and an unkempt beard." Two ships and more than half of his men were lost at this point and De Gama cried out to this mythological being, stated his intentions and asked permission to pass. The giant vanished, the storms receded and a clear path of passage appeared. It is believed today that this being, known as the Adamastor, continues to protect the Cape. This fantastical, ethereal story is echoed in this vivid red blend of Cinsault, Syrah, and Carignan. Well suited for any occasion, you should expect notes of cranberry and crushed strawberry with wild lavender on the finish.

FOLK MACHINE PINOT NOIR 2018, CENTRAL COAST, CALIFORNIA \$22.99 The Folk Machine Pinot Noir is always fairly light weight and light in color with relaxed tannins and medium acid. 2019 is consistent with the past few vintages and with what we expect from this wine. It is a very lively and an easy wine to serve with most foods. Keep expecting a fun Pinot that is elegant, pretty, and drinkable. Though light in color due to no attempt to extract or over manipulate, the wine does not lack for flavor or body, but rather shows the silky more subtle side of the variety. Drink often, pair with anything (seriously.) A selection for STUDY OF PINOT NOIR.

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QUINTA DAS MAIAS 2019, D.O.C. DAO, PORTUGAL \$15.99 (MIXED) Quinta das Maias is an organic estate owned by Quinta dos Roques, which farms at more than 1,500m in the Serra da Estrela foothills. The estate was originally planted to vines in the late 19th century, and since changes in law which allow producers more freedom to bottle their own wines, quality has improved drastically. This pretty, unoaked white is a blend of old-vine Malvasia Fina with Cerceal, Gouveio and Encruzado. Packed with juicy peach and mandarin flavours on a mid-weight palate, it's a well-priced, food-friendly bottle to have on standby in the fridge.

BOUCHARD AINE & FILS MACON-VILLAGES 2018, BURGUNDY, FRANCE \$14.99 (MIXED) Since the end of the 19th century, the wines of our house Bouchard Aîné & Fils' have been appreciated by domestic and foreign consumers. Practising 'viniculture' which is the contraction for "vinification" (wine making) and "viticulture" (vine growing), it indicates their involvement both in the vineyards and in the cellar. Fermented in all stainless steel, you will experience vibrant citrus fruit bursting with lemon zest. The streak of acidity makes this wine ideal for herb roasted chicken or fish as well as your first glass to begin your evening. A superb value, Bouchard should definitely be in your fridge!

PAVETTE 2019, WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON \$13.99 (MIXED) Washington is well established with their red wine production, arguably rivaling Napa in terms of bang for your buck quality. Here's a fantastic white that stunned everyone! 90% Sauvignon Blanc & 10% Chenin Blanc, these grapes picked early in the season to a cool and slow fermentation in stainless steel tank with no malolactic conversion. Pale straw color with white flower, kaffir lime & thyme aromas. Melon flavors with a nectar texture and clean, zesty finish. Totally crushable. *Pete's Patio Pounder*

K PILOTA 2019, TXAKOLINA, SPAIN \$19.99 This straw-colored wine made from Hondarrabi Zuri grapes opens with a very different canned green bean bouquet with a hint of lime. On the palate, this wine is medium bodied, rather acidic and juicy. The flavor profile is unique as well. It features lots of citrus flavors featuring lemon zest and yellow grapefruit with notes of saline and minerality. The finish is dry and refreshing. Richer and less spritzy than many Txakolinas, but shows characteristically snappy acidity. If you want to try something different, give this wine a try and pair it with grilled swordfish skewers. Enjoy.

LOVE, OREGON 'WHITE SKY' 2018, MCMINNVILLE, OREGON \$17.99 R. Stuart make wines that reflect the character of the land where they're grown, using only naturally cultivated yeast and sustainable farming practices. This wine is a playful blend of white grapes that appeals equally to white-wine-only-please people and all your foodie friends. With its perfect balance of bright fruit, acid and delicate mid-palate, I love this wine for its many cool characteristics. Thoughtfully used Viognier to add aromatics with Chardonnay to provide structure, White Sky is led by Pinot Gris, the darling white grape of Oregon. Get into this!

CHATEAU DE FONTENILLE 2019, ENTRE-DEUX-MERS, BORDEAUX, FRANCE \$13.99 Located in the Entre-Deux-Mers region of Bordeaux, the Château de Fontenille has a long history dating back to the 13th century. Located on the edge of the watershed between the Garonne and the Dordogne rivers, the vineyard is made of gravelly loam soil called "boulbene." Light gold in color, teeming with enticing aromas of citrus fruit and white peaches, Château de Fontenille Entre Deux Mers displays wonderful acidity and freshness on the palate coupled with exotic fruit and citrus flavors. A perfect accompaniment to seafood and salmon, sushi, paella and sauerkraut dishes.