

HIGHLAND FINE WINE AUGUST 2017 HALF CASE - RED

Babylonstoren Babel - Simonsberg, South Africa (Mixed/Red Club) \$18.99

The Simonsberg mountains are in the center of the Cape Wineland region of South Africa. The mountains are surrounded on all sides by wineries, forming a 30 mile loop. The mountains in this region are ancient granite, suspected to be 600 million years old. Babylonstoren is located on the Paarl side of the mountain and the climate creates grapes that produce balanced wine. With this red, you'll get juicy dark red fruit, with hints of blueberry and chocolate on the finish. Medium tannins and medium acidity round it out.

Scarpetta Barbera - Monferatto, Italy (Mixed/Red Club) \$14.99

You've probably noticed that we love Scarpetta around here. The winery is owned by Master Sommelier Bobby Stuckey. He's well known in the food and bev industry with numerous James Beard nominations and a few wins. He focuses the majority of his winemaking in Friuli and branched out to Monferatto solely to make this Barbera. Monferatto is the birthplace of Barbera and produces some of the best in the world. You'll get berries and plums on the palate with a hint of earthiness, and balanced acidity. Pair it with literally any Italian dish or drink it on its own while you wait on your pizza to arrive.

Gregory Perez Tinto - Bierzo, Spain (Mixed/Red Club) \$15.99

Gregory Perez is originally from Bordeaux and attended the prestigious university there before leaving for Spain for an internship. He came to Bierzo in the early aughts and never left. How lucky for us as now we've been blessed with his delicious wines. This 100% Mencia (pronounced men-THEE-ah) is fresh and spicy. Mencias are sometimes compared to Grand Cru Burgandies. Start your evening with a charcuterie board and a couple of glasses of this guy.

Avanti Pinot Noir - Veneto, Italy (Red Club) \$11.99

Avanti was founded in 1928 and is located in the sub region of Veneto called delle Venezie. This region is very well known for their white wine and is heavily regulated, especially for non-native varietals like Pinot Noir. The cool climate there makes for a beautiful wine. Let this wine breathe while you're grilling burgers or steak so that you can experience the most of the dry, herbal palate.

Jean Luc Colombo 'Les Abeilles' - Cote de Rhone, France (Red Club) \$12.99

This is a wine on a mission and that mission is to save the bees. So named after the honeybees that live in hives on the vineyards, Jean Luc has dedicated himself to this important cause (bees, an important part of agriculture, are dying out, if you didn't know!). A portion of the proceeds of this bottle go to research at UC Davis. This southern Rhone blend of Grenache, Syrah, and Mouvedre is fresh and silky with hints of licorice and spice. A glass or two of this would pair beautifully with a rack of lamb.

Mercer Canyons Cabernet Sauvignon- Columbia Valley, Washington (Red Club) \$14.99

Mercer Canyons is located in the sub region of Horse Heaven Hills. Known as one of the top AVAs in Columbia Valley, you can consistently find quality wines coming out of this region. 2014 was one of the hottest years on record; grapes ripened earlier and produced a particularly rich, voluminous wine. Blended with Merlot, Petit Verdot, and Syrah, this Cab has a rich, spiced, smokey flavor profile. Pair it with your favorite red meat and a peppery arugula salad.

HIGHLAND FINE WINE AUGUST 2017 HALF CASE - WHITE

Weingut Frank Grüner Veltliner - Weinviertel, Austria (Mixed/White Club) \$16.99

Weinviertel, which translates to "wine corner", is the largest wine region in Austria - famous for their Grüner Veltliner. It's also amongst driest wine regions in the world, seeing on average less than 20 inches a year. Weingut Frank is a family affair with the winery having been passed down for generations. The whole family heads out into the vines to hand pick during harvest. This delightful white is a bit herbaceous with a slight white pepper palate. Start your evening with a bottle of this and a spread of your favorite antipasto.

Ryan Patrick Naked Chardonnay - Columbia Valley, Washington (Mixed/White Club) \$11.99

Columbia Valley is a massive AVA located in central/eastern Washington, extending down into Oregon, and containing 9 sub AVAs. Although there are microclimates throughout the AVA, the area is mostly dry, seeing less than 6 inches of rain a year. This led vineyard managers to erect intricate irrigation systems, pulling water from the many large rivers that snake throughout Washington. The warm days and cool nights help create a balanced Chardonnay. This unoaked wine is approachable and savory, with stone fruit, lemon and lime on the palate and bright acidity. This is a great wine for those that shy away from the creamier California style. Pair it with some sushi takeout or your favorite shrimp dish.

Chateau l'Orangerie Sauvignon Blanc - Bordeaux, France (Mixed/White Club) \$11.99

Bordeaux, located on the western coast of France, is the birthplace of Sauvignon Blanc, older even than Cabernet Sauv. That's no surprise when you consider that Chateau l'Orangerie dates back to the mid 1700s. Passed down through the family through strategic marriages, the winery remains in the hands of direct descendants of the original owner. The 2015 vintage is known for being elegant and accessible and this wine offers citrus and peach on the nose, with a fresh palate. You'll get hints of lime and honey. Make some homemade guacamole for taco Tuesday and pour this beauty straight from the fridge.

Ken Forrester Chenin Blanc Reserve - Stellenbosch, South Africa (White Club) \$14.99

Chenin Blanc has been planted in South Africa for generations and is sometimes called Steen. There is more Chenin Blanc produced in South Africa than in anywhere else in the world and this wine is an outstanding example of the terroir. It's also a wine well known for pairing well with a variety of foods. The Ken Forrester Reserve is perfectly balanced between fruit and oak and is full bodied enough to hold its own with even spicy food. This would be a good one to have with Asian or Southeast Asian cuisines.

Maculan Pino & Toi - Veneto, Italy (White Club) \$11.99

Founded in 1947 the Maculan winery is a true family affair. Fausto Maculan was born on the property and has been passionate about the family business for as long as he can remember. He first started working at age 13 on his summer breaks. He attended viticulture school and has been running the winery ever since - now has his two daughters to help him. Maculan is located in the sub region of Breganze, known for its mild climate and abundance of Merlot vines. This wine, however, is an interesting blend of Tai, Pinot Bianco, and Pinot Grigio. It would pair nicely with a vegetable risotto.

Vignoble du Rêveur 'Vibrations' - Alsace, France (White Club) \$21.99

Although this wine is a side project, don't underestimate it. It comes from the grandson of Marcel Deiss, and the son of Jean-Michael Deiss. Jean-Michael is a notorious winemaker/troublemaker in Alsace. Widely considered to be a genius, his son Matheiu has clearly inherited some of his talent. Matheiu has devoted his 17 acres to being fully organic and biodynamic and he does not add any sulfur to his wines. Vibrations is a blend of Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, and a touch of Pinot Noir. It's an expressive wine that will pair beautifully with mussels or a nice halibut filet.