

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

AUGUST 2021 HALF CASE- REDS

CINCINNATO 'POLLUCE' NERO BUONO 2018, LAZIO IGT, ITALY \$15.99 (MIXED) A sophisticated, elegant wine that embodies its terroir. It is named after one of the mythical Dioscuri, venerated in the ancient Temple of Castor and Pollux, whose imposing ruins are among Cori's archaeological treasures. A wine with a strong personality and a deep hue, Polluce is 100% nero buono, an ancient grape variety with an age-old tradition, It was recovered and given a new lease of life thanks to research and experimentation that documented its distinctive traits. Ruby red colour with purple highlights; intense and fragrant nose with scents of red fruits; delicate fruity palate, harmonic, with an elegant complexity; suitable to be paired throughout the meal with strong tasting dishes- think red sauced pastas or grilled meats.

AIRFIELD 'DAUNTLESS' 2019, YAKIMA VALLEY, WASHINGTON \$17.99 (MIXED) 2019 was challenging for Washington winemakers. Only a skilled winemaker (and a patient one at that) could have survived all the obstacles on the way to harvest. Airfield, with its generations of famers, did just that. A thoughtful Bordeaux blend, each hand selected varietal is given the 'star' treatment in terms of vinification. You can taste the gentle craftsmanship in each mouth full. Rich purple fruit (think prune and plum) on the palate, with gracefully elegant tannins (thank you Merlot!) and a touch of soft oak to add complexity. Black cherry leads the way to a long, well balanced finish. Pair with something rich and decadent.

DIT CELLAR 'CABIROL' 2019, D.O. MONTSANT, SPAIN \$15.99 (MIXED) From the first certified organic winery of Montsant comes Dit Cellar's Cabirol. Garnacha and Tempranillo is a hugely popular blend that combines two of Spain's core red-wine varieties to produce both red and rosé wines from various areas of the country. It is essentially a simplified form of the classic Rioja Blend. Silky, sweet, and fresh - juicy raspberry and cherry flavors that are vibrant and intense with some floral notes and peppery spice. The jammy fruit elements are lifted with racy acidity and held together with harmonious tannins. Great complexity with impressive evolution and length from start to finish.

LIFELINE 2020, WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON \$14.99 'Clean' wine is the new buzzword of 2021. Many wineries are being more transparent about what goes in their wine, which is ideal for consumers looking to decrease alcohol or sugar levels. If you are looking for something LOWER in sugar (this has NONE) here you go! The wine presents a dark ruby color with deep density and hues of purple. Plum and blueberry aromas jump from the glass, while hints of vanilla, iris and blanched almond remain restrained. On the palate this dry wine offers copious dark berries and plums, with savory fresh oregano and the faint richness of maple syrup and graham cracker. The texture is round, rich and bright, while the balanced tannin and complex finish suggests a far more mature Pinot Noir.

PORTELLI CERASUOLO DI VITTORIA 2015, SICILY, ITALY \$17.99 In the southeastern corner of Sicily, the town of Vittoria is the home of Sicily's sole DOCG (Italy's strictest form of wine certification), known as Cerasuolo di Vittoria. Cerasuolo is an enlightened blend of Frappato and Nero d'Avola, and the two grapes when blended create a harmonious symphony of flavor and texture. Well-made Cerasuolo has a medium-bodied, sensual, seductive personality, and the Portelli family has mastered this fine example of southern Sicilian charm. The wine is intensely fruity with concentrated blackberry and black cherry flavors, a dusty mineral undertone and suave yet firm structure. Enjoy with braised rabbit with rosemary and mushrooms or a Penne all'Arrabbiata. ****Pro tip!**** Give this wine a slight chill. You're welcome!

PEZA DO REI 2019, RIBEIRA SACRA, SPAIN \$19.99 Ribeira Sacra must be counted among the world's most spectacular wine regions. Upon visiting, there is no choice but to be convinced of the region's potential to produce supremely expressive and individualistic wines. The modern bodega is excavated into a hillside for complete temperature insulation! This opaque, dark ruby colored Mencía opens with a black raspberry bouquet with a hint of old oak. On the palate, this wine is light to medium bodied, well balanced and easy to drink. The finish is dry and its mild tannins and flavors linger nicely. Pair it with a pulled pork sandwich made with a root beer barbecue sauce- a truly Southern inspired dish!

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

AUGUST 2021 HALF CASE- WHITES

SASSOREGALE 2020, MAREMMA, TUSCANY, ITALY \$13.99 (MIXED) Sassoregale is born in the untamed vineyards of Tuscany's rugged La Maremma region. Handcrafted with centuries-old methods, these wines are civilized and sophisticated without ever losing that wild essence. This unmistakably bold soul comes through in the style and flavor. Vermentino is sun, wind and sea, captured in a bottle. Their vines are nurtured by the natural environment of southern Tuscany. The elegant and expressive nose is dominated by citrus and stone fruits framed by wild herbs and minerality. Robust and round on the palate with generous concentration of fruits. It tastes rich but is utterly fresh with a persistent mineral-driven finish. Incredibly versatile pair with strong herbal notes (like pesto or salsa verde) or citrus (like ceviche or mussels in a lemon---butter sauce).

MILE POST 71 2020, WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON \$15.99 (MIXED) What's the difference between Pinot Gris and Pinot Grigio? Pinot grigio, undoubtedly the most popular of the two, is lighter-bodied, crisp, clean, and vibrant with citrus flavors, according to Wine Spectator. Pinot gris, on the other hand, is sweet, and has spicy tropical fruit aromas. It generally has low acidity, higher alcohol levels, and a rich texture. Mile Post Pinot Gris is made by two dear friends who enjoy wine with a sense of place. One of their favorite locations is the Willamette Valley appellation in Oregon. This Pinot Gris has fresh apple, lemon and pear notes, with bright acidity and a crisp finish. Spectacularly fresh, this 2020 has outstanding acid and beautiful fruit!

FRENCH POOL TOY, VIN DE FRANCE \$11.99 (MIXED) Looking for a bottle of wine to take to the pool, beach or lake but worried about the glass container? Here you go! Pool Toy is packaged in recyclable plastic, making it THE ideal wine for any outdoor occasion! Blended from Picpoul and Terret Blanc, you can expect zippy acidity with fresh, ripe citrus fruit. And the plastic container is a bonus! Lighter in weight than a bottle, throw some Pool Toy in your summer bag for easy transportation. The citrus blossom florality offers lift on the palate so pair with anything seafood (shrimp tacos!). Take a couple of 'bottles' of Pool Boy to your next picnic!

FOLK MACHINE 2019, CLARKSBURG, CALIFORNIA \$19.99 Inspired by the wines of Loire Valley's Vouvray, Folk Machine's Chenin Blanc is your new favorite summer white. Its high acidity means it can be used to make everything from sparkling wines to well-balanced dessert wines, although it can produce very bland, neutral wines if the vine's natural vigor is not controlled. There is a generous mouth feel to this wine yet refreshing acidity and crispness. For most of its history in the California wine industry, the grape was considered a "workhorse variety" that could be used anonymously in bulk and jug wine blends. It wasn't till close to the turn of the 21st century that producers in Sacramento Valley's Clarksburg AVA started to make quality varietal Chenin blancs a specialty; Chenin blancs from these producers tend to show a characteristic musky melon aroma and have the potential to age well. Open a bottle on your back porch and watch the sun set!

NEBOA 2020, RIAS BIAXAS, SPAIN \$17.99 2020 was a smaller but outstanding vintage, especially for white wines in Spain which show brilliant, bright acids. Neboa Albarino first strikes with a nose of just-ripe stone fruits, white honeysuckle and a splash of salt air. On the palate, the wine dances between strength and levity. Flavors of green guava, key lime and a light Diesel-y minerality. Outstanding length! Albarino is extremely versatile as well! Serve this to a Pinot Grigio drinker and you will have a new convert on your hands! A floral, blossomy nose with peach and apricot aromas which carry through on the palate with taut structure, complex fresh fruit, understated mid-palate weight, all on a strong backbone of mineral acidity.

BECKMAN VINEYARDS 2020, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY, CALIFORNIA \$16.99 One of the best known "international" varieties originally cultivated in France and considered the parent of, with Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon. Sauvignon's wonderfully distinctive aromatics generate some of wine's most colorful descriptors, among them grapefruit, lemongrass, grassy, white peach, pink peppercorn. We have all had SB so there is no need to extoll its virtues. However, this wine left a distinct impression on me! Very well crafted (family owned and operated), Beckman is very approachable. Santa Maria and Santa Ynez make up the two AVAs of Santa Barbara County, an area known for its natural beauty and temperate climate. The usually aggressive acidity is kept in check and the fruit is ripe and fantastic.