

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

FEBRUARY 2020 HALF CASE- REDS

EL TUERTO CRIANZA RIOJA 2015, RIOJA D.O.C., SPAIN \$15.99 (MIXED) From the vineyard to the glass, this wine represents the values and quality from a very special region as it is La Rioja. 12 months vintage Tempranillo in french oak barrels, complemented by old high Garnacha. Resting 6 more months in the bottle to get rounded, this modern styled red is where fruitiness stands on a slightly toasted background. With its black cherry color, it's got an amazing and complex smell: very ripe black fruits, toasted and balsamic scents, cocoa, licorice. In the mid-palate it's robust, long and pulpy. A wine that makes you think.

LA SAGRESTANA SANGIOVESE ROMAGNA SUPERIORE 2016, EMILIA-ROMAGNA, ITALY \$14.99 (MIXED) This product line owes its name to the first estate that Poletti family planted with vines, which was in fact known as "La Sagrestana". After starting with locally grown grapes such as Sangiovese, Chardonnay, Cabernet, Albana and Trebbiano, the range has expanded and now includes about 25 different wines from other major Italian wine growing regions. The cuisine of this area is known for famous foods and ingredients such as Parmigiano Reggiano, balsamic vinegar, prosciutto and pasta like lasagne, tagliatelle, tortellini and stuffed tortellini. Pair this with any of the above! Who wants Italian tonight?

BIELER 'LA JASSINE' COTES DE RHONE 2016, VALREAS (SOUTHERN RHONE), FRANCE \$15.99 (MIXED) All the fruit comes from Valréas, which is distinctive for its hilly location on the east side of the Rhône, which means much cooler nights and gentler ripening relative to the valley floor. It's also the traditional breaking point in the Rhône where you see a shift to more Syrah than Grenache. Grenache is more heat loving than Syrah, so for this reason you will notice the blend is more traditional (2016 was not as warm and ripe as 2015). Thanks to a cooler fall, it allowed for more harmonious balance. The milder growing season and lighter extraction during fermentation delivers a silkier structure and more approachable wine in its youth.

CORA MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO 2018, ABRUZZO, ITALY \$11.99 Cora is an exciting proprietary label made for David Bowler Wine with fruit sourced from vineyards in the Abruzzo region of Italy. These are great value wines that are fresh, fun, and uncomplicated, yet satisfy our exacting standards! Montepulciano is universally loved for its overall delivery in the glass while being appreciative of your weekly wine budget. Typically rustic and black fruit juicy, Cora is perfect for Monday night spaghetti dinner or Friday night pizza.

CHATEAU DE VILLENEUVE CABERNET FRANC 2017, SAUMUR, FRANCE \$17.99 A reference point for top-level Saumur Champigny, Chateau de Villeneuve has been continuously producing wine since 1577! A vibrant Cabernet Franc with bright varietal notes of raspberry and green pepper (**pyrazines**), bursting with ripe fruit and acidity. Higher acidity makes it possible to pair Cabernet Franc with tomato-based dishes, vinegar-based sauces (smoky BBQ anyone?), or rich legumes like black beluga lentils.

DOMAINE PRAL BEAUJOLAIS 2018, BEAUJOLAIS, FRANCE \$15.99 In the most southern tip of the Beaujolais region, Domaine Marion Pral practices ecological farming on their 45 acres of vines. All vineyards are located on granite based soils, all on hillside, facing south and southwest. Harvests are done by hand. Ripe cherry and strawberry dominate in the nose and on an exuberantly ripe palate with hints of fruit pit bitterness offering counterpoint. Attractive suggestions of salt and stone, and a soft texture.

HIGHLAND HALF CASE

FEBRUARY 2020 HALF CASE- WHITES

BALANCE CHENIN BLANC 2018, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA \$12.99 (MIXED) When most wine people think of wine from South Africa they immediately think of Shiraz, bulk wine labels, and overly jammy fruit bombs of wine. But the South Africa wine scene started to change in the early 2000s and now these producers in the Western Cape of South Africa are making world-class vino. Chenin Blanc has such a rich history in South Africa and finally, the best versions of their wine are making it to the US. The Balance Chenin Blanc is tropical and vibrant much like a limited edition Starburst inspired by the Caribbean passion fruit, guava, and star fruit!

WEINGUT STADT KREMS GRUNER VELTLINER 2018, KREMSTAL, AUSTRIA \$17.99 (MIXED) Grüner Veltliner is the signature grape of Austria and produces a dry white wine with savory aromas, spicy flavors, and good acidity. Young GV is fresh-tasting with notes of green apple, lemon, radish, and arugula. Lighter styles are intended for immediate drinking, while more structured examples can age for many years. GV's bright acidity and savory character make it an ideal partner to mildly spiced Vietnamese, Thai, and Chinese dishes. Fish and shellfish are accented by this wine's citrus and mineral profile while its acidity cuts the richness of pork or ham. It can also work well with foods that are difficult to pair such as bitter greens and asparagus.

UPSHOT WHITE BLEND 2018, CENTRAL COAST, CALIFORNIA \$14.99 (MIXED) Introducing Upshot White Wine Blend, a new and innovative blend from Rodney Strong Vineyards. Upshot is the end result of our winemaker's passion for blending flavorful, deeply nuanced and unique wines. Exclusively from vineyards in Sonoma, Monterey and Mendocino County, our White Blend offers an unexpected, almost magical outcome of the growing season and winemaking process. The varietal blend is a who's who of the wine world- Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier, even Pinot Noir! Melon, white citrus and jasmine finishing with crisp acidity.

CHATEAU REYNON SAUVIGNON BLANC 2016, BORDEAUX, FRANCE \$14.99 White Bordeaux has always had a special place in my heart- and on my table. These wines have the stark, crisp acidity of Sauvignon Blanc balanced with the nutty, textured Semillon. Of all the Sauvignon Blancs in the world, White Bordeaux tends to be more citrus and floral vs. grassy and herbal. This style has zip and vigor! Pair with asparagus risotto, yellowfin tuna, pasta with pesto/basil. Enjoy the lighter side of France!

MATANZAS CREEK ALEXANDER VALLEY SAUVIGNON BLANC 2018, SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA \$17.99 For the past four decades, Matanzas Creek Winery has focused on creating site-expressive wines. Throughout the years their methodology has remained the same: utilize a range of vineyard clones and fermentation vessels, and explore new farming and winemaking techniques, to produce thoughtfully crafted, expressive, and balanced wines. This Sauvignon Blanc is more on the grassy and herbal side (see above for another version of SB). Enticing floral and white fruit notes with bursting, vibrant aromas of prickly pear, lime, pomelo, and fresh mango. Flavor notes of lemon blossom, ginger white tea, fresh Lemon Verbena and a long finish with saline and minerality.

LAFAGE 'COTE D'EST' 2018, COTES CATALANES IGP, FRANCE \$16.99 Cote d'Est, as the name suggests, comes from vineyards planted on the gentle slopes facing the Mediterranean just a few kilometers inland from the sea. Benefiting from the thermal breezes that refresh these vineyards every afternoon in the summer – which preserves a high level of natural acidity in the grapes – this is a lively blend of Grenache Blanc with smaller percentages of Chardonnay and Marsanne. Floral and aromatic, it is an excellent example of the open and friendly whites you can find all along the Catalan coast from Perpignan to the Penedes.