

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

JANUARY 2020 HALF CASE- REDS

TEMBO PINOT NOIR 2018, CLARKSBURG, CALIFORNIA \$13.99 (MIXED) Sourced from Herringer Vineyards in Clarksburg, California, the Herringer family are pioneers of sustainable agriculture and believe like we in treating the earth responsibly. Their passion for viticulture and soil science is reflected in this high quality, approachable, affordable Pinot Noir. Clarksburg AVA is located in Sacramento Valley. Fog and cool breezes from San Francisco Bay keep the Clarksburg area cooler than nearby Sacramento, making this AVA ideal for the finicky Pinot Noir varietal.

BROADSIDE MARGARITA VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2018, PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA \$15.99 (MIXED) Broadside produces wines focused on purity and true varietal expression. Favoring balance and simplicity, this gives consumers a window to the promise of the central coast and varietal character. Their winemaking employs a natural approach in that Broadside's wines are minimally handled to best express the grape, site and vintage. Harvesting at lower sugars with little to no new oak creates a wine of balance and finesse that make sense on the dinner table. Enjoy with full flavored entrees and peppered charcuterie.

KLINKER BRICK OLD VINE ZINFANDEL 2016, LODI, CALIFORNIA \$18.99 (MIXED) The most rich, intense and multi-dimensional zinfandel tends to be produced from "Old Vines", vines that are at least 50 years old. "Old Vines", also known as Ancient Vines, Gnarly vines, Old Timer Vines, Old World Vines or Old Twisted Vines are in decline, mature in age, with low vigor. They tend to have fewer clusters of grapes with smaller berry size, yielding more intense sugars, color and concentration of flavors typically producing wines that are generally better balanced with more body and structure. Lodi vineyards enjoy longer hang time so the grapes have a chance to balance pH and acidity. This full bodied, opulent Zin is ideal for the cooler months ahead.

BODEGAS DIAZ BAYO ROBLE 2017, RIBERA DEL DUERO, SPAIN \$17.99 Tempranillo from a 30-year-old clay and limestone parcel at relatively higher elevation. Aged for six months in used French oak and six months in bottle prior to release, bright red fruit is backed by ample palate richness, finishing mineral and long. Reminiscent of the wines that originally impelled the Ribera del Duero phenomenon! This wine is critically awarded and represents a new wave of Spanish wines not from Rioja. Extreme altitude and soil types combine with sensitive winemaking to express the deep minerality of the region, highlighted by freshness and balance.

J. LOHR ESTATES LOS OSOS MERLOT 2017, PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA \$14.99 Since the 60's, Jerry Lohr was instrumental in shaping the landscape of Central Coast California wine. Using his Dakota agricultural background, Lohr established himself as a winemaker/explorer, creating opportunities in the the up and coming region. Merlot is a favorite varietal of mine. And due to a glitch in pop culture (thank you Sideways!), Merlot fell out of popularity and is need of a much needed re-brand. This Merlot is easy and approachable, classic with a California twist. Varietal aromas of black plum and violet meld with a barrel signature of hazelnut and brown baking spices. Firm tannins and lively acidity cascade to a lengthy red-fruit finish

MOTTURA NEGROAMARO DEL SALENTO 2015, PUGLIA, ITALY \$14.99 Negroamaro is a grape of remote origin grown in southern Puglia since the 6th century B.C., when it was practically the only grape known in the area. It grows all along the Ionic coast, enjoying dry spring and summers. Translated to "black bitter" this varietal is surprisingly not as aggressive as its literal name. Brilliant ruby red with generous and persistent aromas of ripe red fruit, licorice and spices. Harmonious flavors with good freshness and smoothness, plus well balanced tannins. Open a bottle with a red sauced pasta and enjoy!

HIGHLAND HALF CASE

JANUARY 2020 HALF CASE- WHITES

CHATEAU TASSIN BORDEAUX BLANC 2018, RIONS, FRANCE \$14.99 (MIXED) Let's be honest: Bordeaux is confusing. With their fussy labels, multi varietal blends, and infamously high price tags, Bordeaux has a reputation that proceeds itself. Like it's red sibling, this white comes from Rions, a medieval village on the right bank of the Garonne River. The region benefits from an oceanic climate with clay and gravel soils. It does not take much to enjoy the bright citrus fruit and pear notes rolled into this surprisingly complex package. Chateau Tassin Bordeaux Blanc is a dry white wine of 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Semillon. Uncomplicated and laid back, this wine is the best Bordeaux introduction!

BOTIJO ROJO GARNACHA BLANCA 2018, ARAGON, SPAIN \$17.99 (MIXED) Cooler weather is here to stay and with that comes a white wine redux! Fuller bodied whites are ideal to pair with the style of comfort food we all love. Garnacha Blanca can tend toward the heavy, oxidative side but with meticulous care in the vineyards (organic, dry farmed), harvesting early and a non-interventional approach in the winery, the Botijo Blanco coaxes out the vibrant citrus side of the varietal. A fresh, elegant surprise for sure and one that will stump even the best blind tasters. Pro-tip: enjoy with family recipe chicken and dumplings!

BORELL DIEHL MULLER THURGAU 2018, PFALZ, GERMANY \$14.99 (MIXED) Although this is a relatively young vineyard, the binding family ties are strong and deep. Their strength is white varietals: Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, and Muller Thurgau. What is a Muller Thurgau exactly? Simply put, this is a white cross varietal (Riesling + Madeleine Royale = MT) created by Hermann Muller of Thurgau, used mostly in Germany, Austria, and northern Italy. It is now the most widely grown grape in Germany. Borell-Diehl makes it in the classic style: fresh, crisp, limey, and ridiculously easy to drink. A modest 12% alcohol with great acids and no oak (of course), it beats Pinot Grigio at its own game, offering great refreshment in a dry style but also the unique fruitiness of a cool climate aromatic grape.

LANDRON MUSCADET 'AMPHIBOLITE' 2018, MUSCADET SEVRE ET MAINE, LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE \$18.99 From the same region that includes Sancerre and Chinon comes this zesty white wine. The varietal is Melon de Bourgogne and that is all they do in Muscadet Sevre et Maine (or simply Muscadet). Full of ocean spray salty air, you can open a bottle of this with seafood, seafood, and more seafood. It is no surprise, then, this wine is nicknamed 'the oyster wine' by insider vino nerds. Their style is typified with texture due to extended contact with lees (dead yeast cells rich with flavor). If you want to drink with the hip sommeliers are enjoying, then get on this!

BROTTE COTE DE RHONE 'ESPRIT BARVILLE' 2017, RHONE VALLEY, FRANCE \$14.99 Using their winemaking know-how for Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Brotte expresses itself in the production of this prestigious Côtes du Rhône. The word "Barville" evokes the history of their ancestors in Châteauneuf-du-Pape since 1880. A great wine that shows character and elegance, and honors the historical grape varietal, king of the southern Rhône: Grenache. To get the best out of Grenache, sustainable viticulture is applied, with a strict winter pruning in order to limit the yield in favor of concentration. Hand picked at good maturity, pair this shellfish and citrus salads.

MAISON LES ALEXANDRINS VIOGNIER 2017, RHONE VALLEY, FRANCE \$14.99 Maison Les Alexandrins came into being with the collaboration of three figures of the Northern Rhône Valley. Viognier ("vee-on-yay") is a full-bodied white wine that originated in southern France. Most loved for its perfumed aromas of peach, tangerine and honeysuckle, Viognier can also be oak-aged to add a rich creamy taste with hints of vanilla. If you love to brood over bolder white wines like Chardonnay, this is definitely something you'll like to swirl.