

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

JANUARY 2021 HALF CASE- REDS

AIRFIELD ESTATES MERLOT 2018, YAKIMA VALLEY, WASHINGTON \$17.99 (MIXED) In 2004, a small independent movie single handedly became responsible for the dismantling of Merlot. This once highly planted and much respected varietal has been gaining in popularity lately, re-establishing itself as one of the Noble grapes in the wine pantheon. This Merlot delivers an inviting bouquet of black cherry, vanilla, clove, and nutmeg leading to a round mouthfeel and lingering tannins on the finish. If you want to start drinking ahead of the curve, then start drinking more Merlot!

DIAZ BAYO CRIANZA 2016, RIBERA DEL DUERO, SPAIN \$17.99 (MIXED) The Diaz Bayo family is one of the perennial growers in the Ribera del Duero region. Blending modern wine making techniques (cement tanks) with a classic style, Diaz Bayo wines are expressive, fresh, and balanced. This inky purple colored Tempranillo from Diaz Bayo opens with a musty oak and root beer bouquet with hints of cherry and violet. On the palate, this wine is medium plus bodied, very smooth and nicely balanced. This Tempranillo is very food friendly so enjoy with a Sunday roast.

MAISON BROTTE 'ESPRIT BARVILLE' 2017, COTES DU RHONE, FRANCE \$15.99 (MIXED) The winemaking know-how for Châteauneuf-du-Pape 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. Medium intensity with aromas of small stone fruits and delicately spicy hints of pepper, thyme and garrigue (bush land). On the palate, this wine is smooth, warming and elegant. Its aromas recall wild red fruits, dark cherries, forest floor and licorice. The tannins are soft yet precise.

CHATEAU BELLEVUE CLARIBES BORDEAUX SUPERIEUR 2018, BORDEAUX, FRANCE \$16.99 Chateau Bellevue Claribes is a large estate in the bucolic countryside of the Entre-Deux-Mers region of Bordeaux. Here proprietor Bruno Fontana's meticulous work in the vineyards ensures that his grapes ripen fully to express their maximum flavor. He makes outstanding red Bordeaux wines in a modern, fruit-driven style that represents the finest in modern Bordeaux winemaking. Their "Prestige" presents itself with enticing aromas of ripe dark fruits – blueberries and black currants – followed by a rounded, layered texture on the palate and a lush, exuberant finish that is immediately pleasing and immensely satisfying. Enjoy Ch. Bellevue Claribes "Prestige" with bistro favorites such as steak frites, lamb chops or roast chicken.

PASANAU 'CEPS NOUS' 2017, PRIORAT, SPAIN \$21.99 Finally we are in full bodied red wine season. This wine shocked me in terms of power and bold flavors! The peppery and fresh 2017 Ceps Nous is a blend of 70% Garnacha, 21% Merlot and 9% Syrah from young vines produced in a fresh and fruit-driven style. It fermented in stainless steel and matured in used French oak barrels for some four to six months. It's 16.2% alcohol but quite juicy and balanced, and the alcohol is not noticeable, although it's clearly not a shy wine. This wine needs a fatty meal in the short term. I would pair it with braised short ribs.

LACRIMA DI MORRO D'ALBA 2018, LE MARCHE, ITALY \$16.99 I enjoy tasting obscure or lesser known varietals. Typically I have no expectations and almost always surprised! Italy has hundreds of indigenous grapes which offer outstanding value and flavor. Lacrima di Morro (Lacrima di Morro d'Alba in full) is a distinctively scented red wine from Marche, central Italy. It is produced from the ancient Lacrima grape variety, in the area surrounding the hilltop village of Morro d'Alba. The wine's floral bouquet recalls lavender, roses and violets, over heavier notes of stewed strawberries.

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MASTROBERARDINO 'MASTRO' GRECO 2017, CAMPANIA, ITALY \$12.99 (MIXED) There's an amazing wealth of extraordinary Italian white wines out there that can rock your world as well as quench your thirst. Sadly, most are super undervalued or completely overlooked. But savvy wine consumers can take advantage of that! The ancient varietal Greco grows in many places throughout Campania, but its home turf is in the ancient area known as Irpinia around the town of Tufo. Tufo is also the Italian name of a porous rock composed of compressed volcanic ash prevalent in the area. On the palate this wine shows white blossom, dried apricot and turned earth aromas. Crisp, bone dry, even astringent at first sip. Enjoy with light seafood fare.

VINA LES PERDICES 2019, MENDOZA, ARGENTINA \$12.99 (MIXED) Mendoza may be world renowned for Malbec however some solid Sauvignon Blancs are coming out of this region and should not be missed. Pale yellow color with green hues. Intense aromas of passion fruit, mango, pink grapefruit with mineral notes. In the mouth, good attack, well balanced acidity, with prolonged finish, highlighting the notes of tropical fruits. Ideal as an appetizer or in combination with seafood, fish and salads. Or MY favorite way to drink this wine is while I cook dinner!

LA FERME DE GICON 2018, COTES DU RHONE, FRANCE \$14.99 (MIXED) Living in the shadow of its red counterpart, Grenache Blanc produces wines with pillowy textures. Because of its full bodied quality, it is often used in blends to provide texture and complexity. The Grenache Blanc variety yields aromas and flavors of Asian pear, apricot skin, tangerine, honey blossom, hibiscus & spices with a clean, thirst quenching palate. Serve as an aperitif or with seafood, white meats and fine French cheeses.

FRANCOIS MARTENOT VIN DE BOURGOGNE BLANC 2018, MACON-VILLAGES, FRANCE \$17.99 A specialist of Burgundian wine, the Maison Francois Martenot has been producing high quality wines for generations. Under its clear yellow color, quite bright, the Mâcon Villages reveals itself. Its nose very expressive with a fruity dominance will charm you. On the palate, its white rose and acacia aromas are liven up by fresh citrus notes. This Chardonnay is completely UNOAKED so there is a streak of acidic freshness that carries this wine from your table to your heated porch! Ideal with honey chicken or oven roasted fish.

WEINGUT FURST ELBLING 1L TROCKEN 2019, MOSEL, GERMANY \$16.99 Elbling is enjoying a small renaissance among German importers these days... but I have had this grape in my back pocket for years. A great old Germanic wine grape with a long history traceable to imperial Roman times, it was Germany's most cultivated variety until the early 20th century. Today its range is limited to the cool, steep banks of the Obermosel (southern Mosel) river valley and neighboring Luxembourg—where the Mosel discreetly becomes the Moselle. Academic geography aside, Fürst Elbling Trocken is jazzy and expressive, true to the variety and exciting to drink with just 10.5% alcohol. AND it's a larger sized ONE LITER!

CANTINA SANTA MARIA LA PALMA 'ARAGOSTA' 2019, SARDINIA, ITALY \$14.99 Continuing with the 'obscure' varietal trend here, I present to you a Vermentino from Sardinia. The Lobster is the symbol of the gastronomy of Alghero and this white wine made from Vermentino di Sardegna grapes, is the ideal match. Straw yellow color with light greenish reflections, this wine is balanced and well expressed with a fresh fragrance reminiscent of ripe apple. Dry without harshness, fresh and slightly lively, very harmonious, with a measured and persistently almond bottom. Very interesting interpretation of Vermentino and I am here for it!