

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

JULY 2021 HALF CASE- REDS

VAJRA 'CLARE J.C.' LANGHE NEBBIOLO 2020, PIEDMONT, ITALY \$21.99 (MIXED) "Claré J.C. is a Nebbiolo made according to a 1606 note by Gian Battista Croce, the jeweler of the House of Savoia. This wine is a time-capsule into an era when Nebbiolo wines tasted fresher, slightly crisp and smooth. This is a wine for people who are young at heart and curious about the forgotten past of Piemonte." This direct from Giuseppe Vajra best encapsulates this beautifully perfumed wine. While Nebbiolo is the grape of Barolo and Barbaresco, this iteration is more ethereal and vibrant, meant to be enjoyed young. Aromas of cherries, cherry stones, wild strawberries and pomegranate nectar on the nose. The silky tannins make this wine ideal to be served slightly chilled during the warmer months- so enjoy this stunner NOW.

PIETRA MAJELLO MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO 2020, ABRUZZO, ITALY \$9.99 (MIXED) Montepulciano d'Abruzzo is one of Italy's most famous wines- classic and well-rounded. This plum-scented Italian red is made from Montepulciano in the Abruzzo region, on Italy's Adriatic coast. It is quite distinct from Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, which is a Sangiovese-based wine from Tuscany. Montepulciano has thrived in Abruzzo since the middle of the 18th Century. A plump grape, which gives good yields of easy-drinking wine, it is popular with producers and consumers alike. Gullible and smooth with medium body and blackberry fruit notes. The light tannins make this wine ideal for all foods, with the obvious being Italian. Try this on your next pizza or spaghetti night!

CASA ROJO MUSSO TEMPRANILLO 2018, CASTILLA Y LEON, SPAIN \$14.99 (MIXED) Tucked in the north east corner of Spain is the autonomous Castilla Y Leon. Things are a little different there, and that is exactly how the locals want it. Casa Rojo's beginnings in 2009 were also a little different- no land, just a dream to make good wine. By utilizing Tempranillo, the darling grape of Spain, but approaching it differently is certainly on brand here. As BBQ season is upon us, I cannot think of anything better than this gem! Stripped of the confines of oak aging, this wine is more approachable to the everyday palate. And that price tag is also approachable since you will definitely want TWO bottles at your next cookout!

RADO REFOSK 2018, BRDA, SLOVENIA \$15.99 We might not consider Slovenia prime real estate for winemaking, but the country's unique microclimate and geological history beg for further exploration. The eastern Mediterranean nation is positioned between the Adriatic and the Alps, meaning it's ideal for producing ripe grapes with fresh acidity. Much of the landscape is a former marine bed, lending mineral complexity to the wines grown there. From 100% Refosk, this wine is dark violet in the glass. Though the color and the powerful nose suggest a big wine, it's all finesse on the palate, with lively wild berry fruit, fresh herbs, and a fine mineral finish. Firm tannins give structure without overwhelming the elegance of the expression.

TERRAZAS DE LOS ANDES RESERVA 2018, MENDOZA, ARGENTINA \$17.99 Argentina's long-standing excellence in wine production is undeniable: as a winemaking country, Argentina enjoys the possibility of cultivating quality vineyards across the whole country. Mendoza and Salta are among the leading wine provinces in the country. Mendoza is regarded as the leader of the vast majority of wine production, and Salta is home to some of the world's highest elevated vineyards. Malbec reigns supreme here and thrives in the Argentinian landscape. Don't be fooled by the fruit forwardness and softness of this Malbec as it's structure is undeniable. Terrazas is also a critical favorite, consistently scoring in the 90's with Suckling and Decanter, with its violet florality and notes of tobacco and coffee.

BRISCA 2020, NAVARRA, SPAIN \$15.99 The region of Navarra is located northeast of the Rioja border. It's a region that enjoys three distinct climatic influences: Atlantic, Continental and Mediterranean, as well as a great variety of soils types and elevations. This makes Navarra one of the most interesting regions for viticulture in Spain. It presents a red color of middle layer with violet tones. The nose is an elegant wine with aromas of Mediterranean red fruits that denote his youth. It presents a powerful entrance expressing all the characteristics of the Garnacha, fruit and mineralized with a long and soft finish. It also highlights its acidity. Brisca Garnacha is an easy wine to drink, very pleasant and punchy.

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OINOZ VERDEJO 2019, RUEDA, SPAIN \$12.99 (MIXED) From the Northwest region of Spain comes this contemporary style of Verdejo. This grape was previously used for Sherry- like wines however today's style is aromatic and spring fresh. Intensely fragrant yet harmoniously balanced, Verdejo is an every day drinking wine. The grape also pairs with almost anything- from fresh vegetables off the grill to chilled Gazpacho. Verdejo may not have the international popularity of Pinot Grigio or Sauvignon Blanc although it drinks just as well as those darling varieties. Get into this wine while it is still a secret!

MAISON ANTECH 'BOOM SHUCKA' 2020, LIMOUX, FRANCE \$16.99 (MIXED) Wine should never take itself too seriously. This selection is quite playful and is a perfect match for the heat of July in Atlanta. Never known to be a shy grape, Chenin Blanc is lively and loveable. This wine bursts with aromatics of bountiful lime peel, melon, lychee, and golden apple. White flowers, ginger, and chalk whisper around the edges. A zing of citrus and kumquat moves effortlessly with waves of Bartlett pear and almond. Layers of flavors to the finish – apple, pear, nuts, chalk, and even a touch of mint.

NAIPES 'MUS' 2019, NAVARRA, SPAIN \$14.99 (MIXED) White grape variety Garnacha Blanca may have nothing on its better known and more abundant red counterpart Garnacha tinta, but in recent years this Spanish grape has been carving out a niche for itself by way of uniquely exquisite single-variety wines, while also continuing to play a supporting role in blends from regions like Catalonia, Aragón, Rioja and, in this case, Navarra. In general, Garnacha Blanca produces golden-hued, full-bodied wines with a generous alcohol content, which lends them a soft and unctuous palate. Its aromas include orange citrus blossom, as well as notes of ripe stone fruit like apricots. This full-bodied, Mediterranean wine is excellent when paired with oily fish; and stands up well to fried and pickled foods, providing the perfect contrast to the latter's biting acidity.

HOBO WINE CO. 'CAMP' CHARDONNAY 2019, SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA \$17.99 It's time to drink Chardonnay again. The over-oaked, buttered up styles made famous in the 80's are gone. Made by the folks at Hobo Wine Co, Camp Chardonnay is all about delivering great value Chardonnay at an everyday price. Winemaker Kenny Likitprakong sources organic and sustainably farmed grapes primarily from Sonoma County. Fermented in stainless steel followed by a small stint in neutral old oak, this is a fresh, fruit-forward Chard with pineapple, lemon, lime and a hint of creamy vanilla balanced by juicy acidity. A dash of Viognier in the 2019 adds aromatic lift. Great for entertaining and a lovely compliment to roast chicken and salads!

MARQUES DE CACERES 2020, RUEDA, SPAIN \$11.99 I know, I know...TWO Verdejos in this month's bag. Hear me out though...they are VERY different while at the same time appropriate for July. Made from the Verdejo grape, this lovely white offers aromas of melon and lemon that are match on the palate with delicate vanilla and spice from the judicious use of oak. It is with this use of oak that separates these two wines. Caceres utilizes oak to give subtle nuance, body and texture. Crisp and tasty fruit unveil balance, freshness and a fine touch of grapefruit that that lingers on the mouth. Great by itself but weighty enough for a variety of foods, including cheeses and flavorful charcuterie. Plan on being surprised by this wine...and plan on opening a second bottle immediately!

JORDANOV RKACITELI 2019, MACEDONIA, GREECE \$12.99 Finding good, inexpensive, crisp whites is getting increasingly difficult. Finding something with distinctive character is even harder. A vibrant, thick-skinned, cool climate grape, Rkaciteli originally hails from the Republic of Georgia. In the case of Jordanov, what we find most fascinating is the ironic planting in one of Europe's hottest, driest regions. The Baltic continental front and Mediterranean front collide in Tikveš, North Macedonia, creating a pocket with virtually no rain. The result is a study in paradox: lush, fruit-filled weight combined with a zinging finish. What does it taste like? The most workable description would be that it is similar in demeanor to a Muscadet or a Gruner Veltliner. The nose shows melon and white stone fruits along with some florality. In the mouth it is round and ample. It's strangely familiar, yet ultimately distinctive and different. It's also bright and tasty, and delivers far beyond the modest fare. Tired of the same old thing? Try THIS!