

## **HIGHLAND FINE WINE**

### **JUNE 2021 HALF CASE- REDS**

**VAJRA ROSSO 2019, PIEDMONT, ITALY \$16.99 (MIXED)** G.D. Vajra is one of the foremost producers in the Piedmont, and their wines have dotted our Italian selection prominently for years now. The Rosso, essentially the back pocket, house wine meant for drinking with gusto while the Baroli age, is among the most out-and-out attractive red wines in the shop. Primarily Nebbiolo, Dolcetto and Barbera, this wine marries quality, comfort and value. A nose of tobacco, plums and roses gives way to soft, plump notes of black cherry and ripe pomegranate with lithe acidity and supple tannins. The deep dark fruit of Dolcetto is at the table, but is offset by the delicate aromas and complexities of Nebbiolo, with the Barbera's acidity carrying through in the finish. High quality wine with an affordable price tag!

**LONE BIRCH 2018, YAKIMA VALLEY, WASHINGTON \$14.99 (MIXED)** This wine is handcrafted in a balanced, approachable style that showcases the quality of fruit from Washington State. The warm days and the cool nights provided by the high desert environment allow the vines to produce exceptional balance with ripe fruit flavors and plenty of natural acidity. This allows the grapes to hang on the vines much longer to achieve optimal ripeness for flavor development and sugar content. This Syrah imparts a bouquet of dark berries and toasted oak leading to a smooth finish with soft lingering tannins. Showing some reduction initially, the palate is deft and up front, trailing a bit toward the finish but overall showing good balance. There's plenty of value to be had here!

**ELENA WALCH 'PRENDO' 2018, ALTO ADIGE, ITALY \$14.99 (MIXED)** The vineyards of the Wilhelm Walch estate lie in the heart of the Alto Adige wine region. They extend largely on extremely steep locations; a fact that shows in the fresh, precise fruit of the wines. The soil is characterized by Dolomite rock and this bottling of Pinot Noir fermented in stainless steel at, followed by aging in large Slavonian oak casks. Mouth filling and velvety, rich and elegant body with mild tannins. A fine aroma, delicious and fruity on the nose.

**MASSAYA 'LE COLOMBIER' 2018, BEKKA VALLEY, LEBANON \$17.99** The Bekaa Valley is the heartland of modern Lebanese wine. Almost 90 percent of Lebanon's wine is made here! The mountains are the key factor in the terroir here providing protection from the deserts to the east and the maritime rains to the west. The vineyards benefit from the rain shadow cast by Mount Lebanon. Massaya is located in the northeast of the Bekaa Valley and is one of Lebanon's most prominent wine producers, making wines from classic French varieties. Here is a powerful and spicy blend of Cinsault and Grenache with the rest Syrah and Tempranillo. Full and chunky with lots of ripe red-berry fruit. A big wine looking for grilled meats!

**BODEGAS DIAZ BAYO ROBLE 2017, RIBERA DEL DUERO, SPAIN \$14.99** The modern bodega includes conical oak, cement and steel tanks for fermentation of the distinct parcels and according to the type of wine being produced. Barriques are of primarily French oak, from various producers. Extreme altitude and soil types combine with sensitive winemaking to express the deep minerality of the region, highlighted by freshness and balance. This is another rich Ribera. Lots of ripe blackberry character with earth and walnut undertones. Full body, fine tannins and a juicy, pretty finish. Shows complexity, depth and character. Drink now at your next backyard BBQ.

**LES TRAVERSES DE FONTANES CABERNET PAYS D'OC 2017, LANGUEDOC, FRANCE \$14.99** More complex than the price would suggest! The nose holds fresh, crunchy black currants, blackberries, and black raspberry, with notes of peppers and damp, turned earth. More of the same follow across the palate, with tart, ripe fruit, and savory, leathery earth, and assertive but well integrated tannins. Classically styled, French Cabernet, minus the Bordeaux price tag. Old-vine Cabernet Sauvignon organically made, farmed biodynamically, fruit-driven and juicy, at an eye-popping price. Teeming with juicy wild fruit, with an herbaceous element, its dusty tannin is yet another lens for that earthy Languedoc terroir to shine through.

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### **JUNE 2021 HALF CASE- WHITES**

**BERGER 2020, KREMSTAL, AUSTRIA \$14.99 (MIXED)** Eric Berger farms his Gruner Veltliner vines on steep loess terraces, which characterize the eastern part of Kremstal. With Erich Berger's guidance, the winery has implemented methods to produce wines that focus on varietal character and terroir. The terraces are instrumental in producing the varietal character in the wine as they store needed heat during the day and reflect heat to vines at night, resulting in fresh and bright fruit in a normally cold area. In the winery, slow, temperature controlled fermentations keep the wine fresh and light. Berger Gruner Veltliner has flavors of citrus, celery root, and white flowers. Try with roasted pork and grilled asparagus.

**BLACK COTTAGE 2020, MARLBOROUGH, NEW ZEALAND \$16.99 (MIXED)** As a family run winery, sustainability is at the core of everything they do. In Marlborough, their backyard is vineyard country and they see it as their duty, as custodians of this land, to boost biodiversity, increase habitat for native bird life and improve soil health. This release has a complex nose of honeydew melon, lemongrass, golden kiwifruit and a touch of elderflower. The zesty palate is packed full of blackcurrant, cucumber and lime flavours with a lick of salt. Fantastic structure, crunchy herbs and chalky acidity complete this lively wine. A refreshing Sauvignon Blanc totally in demand in the hot days of June! Guest friendly too!

**RADO 2018, BRDA, SLOVENIA \$15.99 (MIXED)** We might not consider Slovenia prime real estate for winemaking, but the country's unique microclimate and geological history beg for further exploration. Perfectly positioned between the Adriatic and the Alps, meaning it's the ideal climate for producing ripe grapes with fresh acidity. Additionally, much of the landscape is a former marine bed, lending incredible mineral complexity to the wines grown there. Although Rado chooses not to certify organically, he refuses the use of copper to treat his vines and rarely cuts the grass or plows in order to promote a healthy ecosystem. Sulfur usage is also kept to a minimum! This wine is crisp and refreshing, showing generous citrus and berry fruit with an elegant, mineral backbone.

**YALUMBA "Y" VIOGNIER 2017, EDEN VALLEY, AUSTRALIA \$14.99** Six generations strong, Yalumba has a history with the tricky Viognier. In the press there's no deliberate attempt to allow skin contact, because phenolics can be an issue. This said, phenolics are an important part of Viognier's flavour spectrum. The juice is not clarified and no sulfites are added. Acidification is not the rule, but can be used. This award-winning Viognier is on the fresher, lighter end of the Viognier spectrum. It shows all the unique characteristics of this exotic variety, without being too rich on the palate. Generous and fragrant, with orange blossom, melon, pear and ripe peach flavors that are succulent, refined and very refreshing.

**PRINCIPE DE VIANA 2019, D.O. NAVARRA, SPAIN \$14.99** Príncipe de Viana's philosophy is founded on the sustainable vineyard management as a guarantee to obtain good-quality grapes in an environmentally-aware manner. They strongly believe that wine is made on the vineyard, so every single part of the winemaking process in their cellars is focused on respecting this. Indulging the fruit so that the final result, the actual wine itself, is no more than the pure reflection of terroir. Here the Chardonnay has seen very little oak manipulation so it is a fresher, more approachable version of the classic variety. Expressive, bright varietal, with fleshy fruit and some subtle and elegant notes of smoke from the oak aging. Dried peach and green apple aromas. The palate really opens up, with plenty of stone fruit, citrus, creamy and toasty notes.

**GOOD HOPE BUSH VINE CHENIN 2019, STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA \$16.99** Chenin Blanc is now South Africa's signature white grape but it wasn't always that way. In fact, not that long ago Chenin was primarily used for low-quality, bulk wine. As the wine industry in South Africa re-emerged on to the world scene, many vineyards were ripping out Chenin Blanc in place of more well-known grapes. other. This wine is actually made from old bush vines – vines that were prevented from being ripped out and are some of the relatively few remaining old vines containing Chenin Blanc in the country. This stunner is a wonderfully lively, intense, fruity and beautifully balanced dry Chenin Blanc. Aromas of green apples and white peach invite the juicy, yet taut palate.