

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

MARCH 2021 HALF CASE- REDS

ZINGARA MONTEPULCIANO 2017, ABRUZZO, ITALY \$12.99 (MIXED) Abruzzo is known as the greenest region in Europe, with more than one-third of its nearly 4,200 square miles set aside for national parks and nature preserves. The remaining public lands have a reputation for diverse agricultural production – and notably cultivation of Montepulciano. The grape ranges widely throughout its native turf of Tuscany and, ironically, is not grown in the vineyards around the village of Montepulciano. Zingara is big – leading one to think it spent some time in oak. Not the case: this all stainless steel production shows off the power and character of Montepulciano with intense aromas of red fruits and spices. The palate is full, dry and harmonious with pleasant tannins.

SANGUINHAL CEREJEIRAS TINTO 2018, LISBON, PORTUGAL \$12.99 (MIXED) One of the oldest wineries in Lisbon, Portugal, Agricola Sanguinhal was founded In 1926, by Abel Pereira da Fonseca. He was an innovator, with a passion for his family, grape-growing, and winemaking. He planted Sanguinhal's first vines on virgin land, which has been farmed without the use of any harsh chemicals ever since. Blend of Castelão, Aragonez (local name for Tempranillo) and Touriga Nacional. Rustic and approachable, this dark gem is full of crisp and floral plum, blueberry and herbal notes.

VICUS AGLIANICO 2015, IRIPINA, ITALY \$17.99 (MIXED) Italian wines are recognized around the world, but it is the specific personality of each region and commune that makes them all exciting to explore. It is here, in the Irpinia region, where the ancient Greeks began cultivating grape varieties suited to the volcanic soils before the Roman Empire had even begun. Vicus, in Latin, means "village," a fitting name for these unique, small production wines. If you love the structure of Nebbiolo then you should try this approachable version of what many people refer to as the 'Barolo of the South'. Aglianico has a deep color with aromas of blackberry, currant, and cherry. The minerality from volcanic soils leads to a pleasant spice, like anise, and a firm mineral structure with easy tannins and a satisfying finish.

FOLK MACHINE 'AVIAN SCIENCE' 2018, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA \$21.99 Carignan wines have long been known for value, however as the world's vineyards age it has finally become known for quality. Its fruit-forward red fruit and baking spice flavors, along with subtle notes of umami, make it the perfect food wine. If you love the lighter-styled wines of Zinfandel, Merlot or perhaps a CDR blend, then this should be on your radar! Since Carignan vines are naturally so productive, you'll notice that the best wines tends to come from old vines where the productivity of this grape is low. With its bold red fruit and earthy-meaty notes, Carignan is ideal with richer poultry dishes (turkey, duck), roasted pork, or even a meaty beef brisket.

JEAN LUC THUNEVIN 'PRESIDIAL' 2016, ST EMILION, BORDEAUX, FRANCE \$21.99 Jean Luc Thunevin started the whole "garage" movement back in 1989. Garage wines are small production wines from tiny parcels of vineyards that are tended to as preciously as orchid gardens. Jean Luc bought a tiny parcel on the "wrong side of the tracks" in St Emilion. The big three Bordeaux varieties are featured here with Merlot leading the blend (Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc provide support and structure). Bordeaux is arguably the blue chip of France and this wine definitely delivers on that! Elegant and refined, you should enjoy this on your next special occasion.

SEMAPHORE 7 2018, DOC ALENTEJO, PORTUGAL \$12.99 Semaphore 7 is made in the Alentejo region of Portugal. The proximity to the Atlantic Ocean and the cold air descending from the Serra de Portel allow for a longer ripening of the grapes and contributes to the reputation of the vineyards for its red indigenous blends. Semaphore 7 is a blend of the local varieties in the Alentejano region of Portugal- Alicante Bouschet, Aragones and Trincadeira. Its only aged for 3 months in American oak and shows medium ruby color, black fruit notes and a fresh finish. Good intensity with elegant and complex finish.

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MARCH 2021 HALF CASE- WHITES

FOLK MACHINE 'WHITE LIGHT' 2018, NORTH COAST, CALIFORNIA \$16.99 (MIXED) Spring is almost here! With the warmer weather comes lighter white wines. This blend from California is easy drinking and fresh. The 2018 is 39% Tocai Friulano from Mendocino, 30% Riesling from Arroyo Seco, 11% Verdelho from Suisun Valley, 18% Sauvignon Blanc from Potter Valley, and 2% Muscat from Suisun Valley. Each variety is vinified separately so they retain their specific character before blending. That's ALOT in one bottle but the end result is a wine that tastes like spring time! Served chilled with a fruit and cheese plate on your back patio.

MACCAN SAUVIGNON BLANC 2017, FRIULI GRAVE DOC, ITALY \$17.99 (MIXED) The Maccan family is a beacon of excellence in the Friuli, Grave region with strong, sustainable practices and high-quality fruit for maximum drinkability and freshness. From their estate vineyards they focus on crafting accessible wines with bright fruit and perfect balance. Through properly limiting yields, this region's chalky limestone and gravel soils are perfect for making white wines that are lively, light, and fresh on the palate.

CARLOS SERRES BLANCO 2018, RIOJA, SPAIN \$12.99 (MIXED) Tempranillo Blanco is a minority indigenous white grape variety which is exclusive to the DOCa Rioja. It is the result of a natural mutation of Red Tempranillo found in a vineyard in Murillo de Rio Leza in 1988. With smaller clusters and berries than the red variety, it offers wines of intense fruity, floral aromas, with a great personality. Bright, pale yellow colour. Fresh aromas of apple and pineapple with subtle white floral characters. Fresh, fruity and lasting finish, a great balance between fruit and acidity in the mouth. Can you tell by now I am ready for spring??

PEZA DO REI GODELLO 2018, DO RIBEIRA SACRA, SPAIN \$21.99 Relegated to complete obscurity in the mid-20th century, the once-staple white grape of Galicia was ripped out in favor of higher-yielding grapes so that wine production could be boosted. We all know what happened next: the resulting wine was insipid and anonymous, and an area's unique identity within the world of wine was nearly wiped out. In fact, my first sip of Godello triggered thoughts of Chardonnay! Both are full-bodied yet zesty in a citric kind-of-way, and both offer winemakers a mutable palate. Though light-bodied, this white shows impressive energy, with quince and tangerine flavors mingling with floral and mineral notes. Pure, lively and expressive.

FRATELLI GRASSO LANGHE BIANCO 2019, LANGHE, PIEDMONT, ITALY \$17.99 Italy has some of the most powerful and prestigious red wines in the market. Although their whites may not carry the same street cred, they absolutely SHOULD. From the Langhe (near Barolo, another red wine dominant region), this blend of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc is solid. Clearly the brothers Grasso love what they do. You can tell by the way they smile and laugh while they work. They have been making wine together, none stop, for 50 years! Wine making from the heart you can taste in each glass. Enjoy this wine with cream based pastas and leafy green salads.

PAUL MAS ESTATE 2018, PICPOUL DE PINET, FRANCE \$14.99 Rounding out this selection of spring time favorites is Picpoul. Due to its mouthwatering acidity that the Picpoul grape produces, it is no wonder that "Picpoul" translates to "stings the lip." Elegant notes of white pear and citrus with mineral and herbaceous tones. Balanced with good acidity and fruit driven notes on the finish. This wine is extremely enjoyable on it's own or with seafood dishes.