

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

MAY 2021 HALF CASE- REDS

DOMAINE LAVIGNE 2019, SAUMUR-CHAMPIGNY, FRANCE \$19.99 (MIXED) Domaine Lavigne is in the moderate climate commune of Varrains, just outside of the town of Saumur. This explains the palm trees found on the Loire Valley property! Domaine Lavigne is a family effort going on its 3rd generation. What started as a mixed agricultural farm with some livestock and asparagus, gave way to vines. Cabernet Franc is the specialty here, and Lavigne's family skilled winemaking expertise shows. Rich, concentrated, with very expressive aromas of violets and dark red fruits. This wine sees no time in oak barrels for a pure fruit expression. Fire up the grill and pop a bottle!

MONTANA RIOJA CRIANZA 2017, RIOJA, SPAIN \$14.99 (MIXED) The 2017 Montaña Rioja Crianza emanates from a traditional blend of 97% Tempranillo and 3% Graciano from the estate's old vines, many of which date to the immediate post-phyllloxera period. Aged for a full 12 months in small oak barrels, Montaña's 2017 Rioja Crianza drinks like a young Rioja Reserva, offering up Rioja Alta's freshness, warmth and precision in a velvet glove. Ripe blackberry and cassis aromas infused with touches of vanilla and exotic spices greet the nose. In the mouth, the wine's forest berry fruit first graces the palate, followed by an intriguing mélange of leather, spice, and hints of cacao.

QUINTA DE RAMOZEIROS 2015, DOURO VALLEY, PORTUGAL \$16.99 (MIXED) The winery and family home are perched on the top of a mountain in the Douro Valley, surrounded by vineyards. Soils are primarily schist, which allows for deep root penetration. The slopes provide the vines with excellent sun exposures, with different plots affording different varietals uniquely suitable conditions. A deep ruby with aromas of ripe, jammy red fruit and fresh, herbal notes. Complex and full bodied in the mouth with good structure and continued ripe red fruit flavors that linger on a long, balanced finish. Pair with poultry, spicy foods, charcuterie.

FOLK MACHINE 'LIGHTS AND CAMERA' 2019, REDWOODS, CALIFORNIA \$23.99 If you haven't experienced Valdigüe, then here's your chance! It's nickname is California Gamay so think of this as a new world spin on Beaujolais- perfect for the cruel summer ahead! Bright, tart red fruit dominate here, cherry cherry cherry! I enjoy drinking red year round but find the big boys are too much in the heat of May. Slightly chilled, this gem is lean and full of acid- making it perfect for food with a punch! Anything covered in herbs (meat, cheese, even a green salad) would pair in the best way possible. We have been crushing on Valdigüe for awhile...now it's time for you to get turned on too!

DOMAINE LES PINS 'LES ROCHETTES' 2018, BOURGUEIL, FRANCE \$14.99 A rich ruby red with notes of violets and red berry fruits, this Cabernet Franc is nicely layered on the palate with brightness running throughout and just a touch of smoke mixed in with some purple fruits. Soft waves of mineral with a nice soft tannin make this a true delight to drink. Domaine les Pins has been family run for five generations. It has an edge of tannins and freshly spicy fruits. Smoky, perfumed and packed with berry flavors, the wine will develop further. Although this is ANOTHER Cabernet Franc in this month's selection, these wines are completely different. And besides, you can't have TOO many Cab Francs!

CASTANO SOLANERA 2017, MURCIA, SPAIN \$16.99 At the foot of Monte Arabi, the Castaño family tends some of the oldest vines planted in the sun drenched DO of Yecla. Under the supervision of Eric Solomon and Jean-Marc Lafage, Solanera is a blend of Monastrell (65%), Cabernet Sauvignon (20%), and Tintorera (15%) which is aged in oak for 10 months. Richly flavored with dark fruit and spices, Solanera captures the warmth and generosity of this rural part of Spain. A dark and intense shiny red, ripe dark berries aromas outstand on the nose (blueberries and blackberries). On the palate, these fruital notes return along a plum jam hint and a very elegant mineral touch. The oak notes are perfectly integrated with sweet tannins and a long aftertaste.

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ALIANCA 2019, DOC VINHO VERDE, PORTUGAL \$11.99 (MIXED) Vinho Verde is an unique product in the entire world with a blending of aroma and petillance that makes it one of the most delicious natural beverages. It has great digestive properties due to its freshness and special qualities. It is a highly regarded wine, especially for summer drinking. Citrine and pale color. Fruity fragrance with smooth marks of tropical fruits. Slightly acid but fresh on the mouth. This wine is ideal as an appetizer or with a meal. It pairs especially well with Chinese/Thai cuisine, light fish dishes and fresh salads. Due to its freshness it is particularly pleasant in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

TAMELLINI SOAVE CLASSICO 2019, SOAVE, ITALY \$14.99(MIXED) An important Italian white that's loved for its lean, dry style that gains rich tangerine and toasted almond notes as it ages. Garganega is the main grape of Soave in Northern Italy. Try pairing Soave with lighter meats, tofu, or fish. You'll find it's at home around foods flavored with a citrus dressings, tarragon, and other aromatic green herbs. Luminous straw yellow. Varietally accurate and very pure aromas and flavors of white peach, yellow apple, white flowers and delicate herbs. Fresh and well-delineated, this finishes long with sneaky concentration. A truly outstanding Soave!

CASA ROJO 'MUSSO' 2019, CASTILLA Y LEON, SPAIN \$12.99 (MIXED) What would spring time be without Sauvignon Blanc? Made in a myriad of styles, SB is a warm weather darling. Clear tones of the typical fruit aromas from the Sauvignon Blanc: green apple, grapefruit and peach in syrup. A fresh bouquet of freshly cut grass. Very well balanced on the palate with a crisp dry finish. This one is a slam dunk if you have friends coming over to enjoy a day on the patio.

OVUM 'BIG SALT' 2020, DUNDEE HILLS, OREGON \$19.99 Big Salt is a white wine that embodies a day at the beach. It's bright, fresh, dry and a bit salty (although no salt is added of course!) - once it's done you're left wanting more. We achieve this experience by letting mother nature create complexity - that is to say we allow all of the grapes to ferment together, with native yeast..rather than making a blend in the laboratory. Finding the right vineyards throughout Oregon that share the same cool climate is what it's all about. A staff favorite, quality remains consistently high in this proprietary blend of cofermented Muscat, Riesling and Gewurztraminer. Spicy aromas of pear blossoms, ginger and kumquat lead into a lively palate with citrus skin flavor, a dash of sea salt and drying minerality.

PAINTED WOLF CHENIN BLANC 2020, SWARTLAND, SOUTH AFRICA \$13.99 This wine has a bright aroma and flavour. Soft, peach, lemon and guava with an underlying savoury minerality and a whisper of wood. The wine has a great texture and a layered finish with bright acidity keeping it fresh and vibrant. A classic work horse of South Africa, this is beautifully balanced with concentrated flavour. It is a versatile partner at the table complementing classic dishes like coronation chicken, trout with almonds or even macaroni cheese. Great value for good everyday drinking with enough class to share with friends when grilling out!

ANNE AMIE RIESLING 2015, WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON \$19.99 Forget what you think you know about Riesling. Not all Rieslings are sweet and fruit forward. Dry as advertised, this aromatic, food-friendly wine brings palate- drying flavors of citrus pith and rind, ameliorated by fruit flavors of grapefruit and lemon with juicy acidity. It's the sort of wine that demands fresh oysters or trout or even halibut. There's a mineral base, with a light whiff of petrol, that extends the pleasure. Anne Amie is a name we trust for all things Pinot Noir. Now discover what they can do with Riesling!