

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

SEPTEMBER 2021 HALF CASE- REDS

STEPHANE OGIER 'LE TEMPS EST VENU' 2018, COTES DU RHONE, FRANCE \$18.99 (MIXED) Rhone reds are some of the most finely crafted wines in the old world. Iconic producers such as Guigal and Chapoutier positioned Rhone in the ranks of Bordeaux and Burgundy by creating wines of distinction and style. Both of these producers bought fruit from Ogier so it was a matter of time before this farmer became an icon as well. This rich-but-fresh southern Rhône red is blend is of about 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah. Heady and meaty and very much more an old-vine Grenache than a generic CdR. Admirable freshness as well as all that rich, ripe but subtle fruit with a little fine tannin on the finish. You can pair this wine with French cuisine (coq au vin comes to mind) for a truly old world experience in your own home.

PAOLO SCAVINO VINO ROSSO 2020, PIEDMONT, ITALY \$17.99 (MIXED) The Scavino family distinguishes itself from the beginning by their scrupulous care of the vineyards and passion for terroir. In winemaking minimal and equal intervention are sought, to preserve natural diversities. Rosso is a blend which represents their indigenous varietals (Nebbiolo, Barbera, Dolcetto, and Merlot) so you can expect brilliant cherry red hues with supple structure. The grapes from the younger vines of the Estate combined together, offer an aromatic, charming wine with a Piedmontese character. Nice to combine with vegetarian dishes as well as with light antipasti, white meat, bluefish, fresh goat cheeses.

CVNE ORGANIC RIOJA 2019, RIOJA, SPAIN \$17.99 (MIXED) In 1879, the Real de Asúa brothers arrived in Haro to embark on what would become one of the longest-standing histories in the wine world. A trip initially taken for health reasons led to the creation of Compañía Vinícola del Norte de España (C.V.N.E.) The fertilisers used are organic and plant-based. No herbicides, synthetic pesticides, or any practices that may damage or modify the natural balance in the soil and the environment are used. The wine is aged in oak barrels for 6 months, where it acquires volume and complexity before bottling. Deep ruby red in color with aromas of blackberries, red currants, and forest fruits. Hints of spices lead to a long, balanced finish. Pairs well with Mediterranean foods, pasta, rice, cured ham as well as all types of cheeses and meat dishes.

ALTOS LAS HORMIGAS 'CLASICO' 2019, MENDOZA, ARGENTINA \$12.99 What makes every wine unique? It can be argued it is the terroir- or soil specific to that area. The wine makers at Altos Las Hormigas have created a product that is incredibly soil specific- and you can taste it in every glass! From the fresh soils and semi desert climate of Mendoza, this Malbec is joyful and expressive. Raspberry and plum on the nose and palate, with a soft texture and long finish. Pair with red meats or tomato based pastas. These wines are consistently critically acclaimed and consumer friendly as well. There is no oak aging here; this terroir driven wine is aged in concrete so the personality of the vineyard is allowed to shine.

CAMP ZINFANDEL MENDOCINO COUNTY 2020, \$19.99 Camp Wines were created by the Hobo Wine Co. in 2011 to showcase the quality and value of Mendocino County wine. Working with top growers and vineyard managers, these high quality and responsibly farmed vineyards throughout Mendocino produce very approachable wines. Camp wines employ native yeasts for the primary and secondary fermentations without the use of commercial fermentation aids or additives. The 2019 Zinfandel is 87% Zinfandel, 10% Carignane, and 3% Barbera. Aging in a combination of 3-8 year old French oak barrels this ever bright and juicy Zin is fresh and satisfying without any heavy jammy, overripe characters that so often drag Zinfandel down.

MATTES-SABRAN CORBIERES 'LE VIALA' 2019, \$17.99 Located in the heart of Corbières, Mattes-Sabran crafts full-flavored, seductive wines from the garrigue-covered hillsides of France's Mediterranean coast. This tough terrain is peppered with galets roulés, the large, oval granite stones typical in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Grapes are fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks and aged in tank. Aromas of blackberry, licorice, Asian five-spice. Flavors of red and black plums; juicy and concentrated. Soft supple tannins make this wine dangerously easy to drink. Grilled red meat or game; dishes with black olive or Mediterranean flavors.

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

SEPTEMBER 2021 HALF CASE- WHITES

AZUL Y GARANZA 2020 1L, NAVARRA, SPAIN \$14.99 (MIXED) These folks are doing some very fine work in Navarra, and their Viura shows the fresh, tasty and acid forward quality of this fine Spanish grape. Less aromatic than the great Galician whites, so if you are a fan of white Burgundy or crisp Loire Muscadet, this wine, in the popular one liter format (one-third more wine for you) ought to really hit the spot! Fresh, dry and revitalizing. Viura (you may know as Macabeo, or maybe as the white wine of Rioja) can tend to be somewhat neutral, but the naturally low yields here preserve and bring out lively citrus and pear fruit flavors on a balanced backbone of acidity.

MOHUA 2020, MARLBOROUGH, NEW ZEALAND \$12.99 (MIXED) Generations in the making, Mohua Wines was founded in 2009 to create delicious wines from some of New Zealand's highest quality regions. The wines are carefully selected from two of New Zealand's most famous grape-growing regions, Marlborough and Central Otago, both located on the South Island. Named in honor of the beautiful Mohua, one of NZ's rarest birds found only in some of the most remote parts of the rainforests, Mohua Wines play an active role in their conservation. This is a winner! Why? Because it tastes unique. Sure, it has the bell pepper, lime, and honey — crazy smells typical of this style — but it's pleasantly muted by a salty, minerally mouthfeel. It quenches the thirst instead of attacking the senses. And it's cheap. Win-win.

BABYLONSTOREN 'CANDIDE' 2020, SIMONSBURG, SOUTH AFRICA \$16.99 What is the secret to happiness? If you were to ask Candide, the protagonist in Voltaire's satire, it is that we 'must cultivate our own garden'. What this really means is subjective; some see it as literally getting your hands dirty in the earth, while others see it as a metaphor for leading a good and wholesome life. Whatever its true intended meaning, it is the proverbial seed that planted the idea of Babylonstoren, and it is this inspiration that is paid homage to with the farm's first new wine in 3 years! A white blend of Chenin Blanc, Viognier, Chardonnay and Sémillon, Candide is a worthy expression of the versatility of the varieties. It is best enjoyed alongside a harvest plate of just-pulled-from-the-earth vegetables and a medley of yellow fruits, paired with a light fish dish, or simply enjoyed whilst watching the sun set on your back porch.

MARCO FELLUGA 'JUST MOLAMATTA' COLLIO BIANCO 2018, \$16.99 One of the most interesting hotbeds of white-wine production in Italy is Collio Goriziano, a stretch of the hilly border of Friuli with Slovenia. Good growing conditions for white grape varieties, a penchant for experimentation, and talented winemakers combine to put this out-of-the-way area on the wine map. The Felluga family traces its wine industry lineage to the late 1800s! This single-vineyard Collio Bianco is a blend of three well-established white grape varieties of the area: Friulano, Pinot Bianco, and Ribolla Gialla. The name comes from an old watermill (mola) that sits near one of the vineyards. The water flow was so strong that it kept moving the millstone even when the mill was not working, and local farmers called it crazy (matta). Super fresh and zippy!

AIRFIELD ESTATES SAUVIGNON BLANC 2020, YAKIMA VALLEY, WASHINGTON \$16.99 The 2020 vintage will go down as a very memorable year. The growing season was exceptional with a mild winter, warm spring, and moderate summer. These optimum conditions produced grapes that were ready to go from vine to bottle! Vibrant and refreshing, this Sauvignon Blanc displays flavors of zesty lime and passion fruit with a hint of granny smith apple and lemongrass. The palate is balanced with bright acidity and ends with a clean, crisp finish. Try this with a summer salad with strawberries or chilled gazpacho.

REYNEKE 'VINEHUGGER' 2018, STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA \$16.99 Reyneke was the first farm in South Africa to achieve certification by Demeter International, the largest, and arguably, the most widely acknowledged biodynamic accreditation body in the world. Notes of quince, sweet pineapple, persimmon, and star fruit are apparent on the nose, with hints of pear and passion fruit. The palate is fresh and vibrant, showing flavors of lemon zest and apple. The wine has well-integrated acid, a reasonable structure, and a beautiful long finish. Quite polished and sophisticated for a white wine under \$20.