

HIGHLAND FINE WINE MAY 2014 HALF CASE CLUB - WHITE

Paitin Elisa Roero Arneis – Langhe, Italy (Mixed & White Club) \$16.99

Arneis is a grape that hails from the same region of Italy as Nebbiolo (home of Barolo and Barbaresco). This 100% Arneis goes through brief maceration on the skins with fermentation following in steel vats at controlled temperatures after which a six-month maturation on the yeasts wraps up this wine before it's bottled. There's a beautiful straw yellow color with green reflections one can catch in the glass; the perfume is ample, complex – with fresh fruit, golden apple, white peach and acacia flowers following through to a rich, harmonious palate. Pizza with fresh mozzarella cheese is a fun pairing!

Albert Bichot Macon-Villages – Burgundy, France (Mixed & White Club) \$14.99

The vineyard of Albert Bichot is located in the Maconnais region in Southern Burgundy. Here, the soil is composed of clay and sandstone on limestone bedrock, which accounts for the minerality often found in the wines of this appellation. Vinification occurs in temperature-controlled stainless steel vats, which preserve freshness and the fruity, floral characteristics of the chardonnay; aging is essentially carried out in the steel vats to preserve these characteristics. A touch of French oak is added in order to give the wine a discreet and well-blended woodiness. A pale straw yellow color, the wine goes to the nose and exhales beautiful acacia and honeysuckle floral notes with a slight mineral background. The mouth is lively, fruity, and floral with a refreshing finish. Pair with shellfish, seafood, scallops with hazelnut, creamed chicken, or stuffed peppers. Gruyere or Gouda is a fantastic cheese pairing.

Menes Vinho Verde – Lima, Portugal (Mixed & White Club) \$14.99

Anselmo Mendes is one of the leading winemakers from the Vinho Verde region in the north of Portugal. Lourerio is a light-skinned grape varietal grown mainly in the north of Portugal and used to make the popular white Vinho Verde wines of the Minho region. It's also grown in smaller amounts in Galicia, just across the Spanish border to the north. Here it is called Loureira, and is used in the white wines of Rias Baixas, often blended with the district's pre-eminent grape variety, Albarino. This white is a lively one that sets off with youthful aromas of lemon and lime, blending with pine and bay leaf. It's quite aromatic, and the palate offers a minerality and refreshing acidity that allow the lemon to come to the front. Acidity and minerality are evident and they are what make this wine a medium-bodied treat that ends in a crisp finish.

La Scala Pinot Grigio – Veneto, Italy (White Club) \$12.99

With simplicity comes pleasure, and this Pinot Grigio certainly is pleasing. Surprisingly, Pinot Grigio is one of the most famous white grape varieties in Italy and is currently one of the most popular wine styles to drink in the world. Closely related to Pinot Noir and characterized by a grayish blue tint in the grape skins, this white variety is planted throughout the region of Veneto. The vineyards benefit from the elevation and produce a clean, crisp taste while preserving the delicate citric fruits that represent the classic flavor of Pinot Grigio. Dry in style, enjoy with an array of fish dishes or appetizers!

Ca Momi Bianco – Napa Valley, California (White Club) \$12.99

Napa Valley opens her arms wide to people of all backgrounds; in 2006, she birthed the wine of Dario DeConti and two other Italians as a tribute to the land of their birth and the wines that they love. Ca'Momi wines represent the best of both wine worlds: Napa Valley fruit carefully crafted by the heritage and obsessive care of Old World winemaking. This Bianco is a blend with a diverse flavor profile of intense orange blossom and grapefruit on the nose. The palate experiences a perfect harmony that exists between the alcohol and acidity.

Domaine Notre Dame de Cousignac – Luberon, France (White Club) \$15.99

France knows how to have fun with its whites; this beauty is full of fun. 70% Clairette, 25% Grenache Blanc, and 5% Bourboulenc blend to create a harmonious nose of floral fruits with white flowers like hawthorne and acacia. There's stone fruit, peach, and a fresh, bright aromas that are ripe and juicy. This white is fresh and clean and perfect for Spring. Enjoy with seafood and vegetables for optimal pairings.

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Tuffe Chateau du Hureau Saumur-Champigny – Saumur, France (Mixed & Red Club) \$19.99

This “Tuffe” was formerly called a grand cuvee and is the largest of the estate. The wine comes from about 15 plots of young and old cabernet franc vines and is a blended cuvee that comes from different soils near Saumur to Souzay Champigny. Vineyard age and exposure are other differences that the cuvee experiences; this mosaic is typical of Saumur Champigny as it aims to show the most charming side of the appellation. On a very serious basis of ripe cabernet franc grapes, this wine just doesn't take itself too seriously. It's tasty and fruity and able to be a wonderful companion for the entire meal or until the end of the night. Enjoy!

La Madonna “Fonte Nova” – Tuscany, Italy (Mixed & Red Club) \$14.99

Madonna Nera was born from a brilliant passion for wine. Famed Siena restaurateur, Michele Incarnato and Tuscan superstar winemaker Carlo Ferrini found a tremendous plot of land on the towering slopes of Montalcino for which to build their vision. This wine is an expression of that vision. Fresh and lively in style and entirely fermented and aged in stainless steel, there is a hint of the “garrigue” of southern France in this wine. The ripeness is refreshing and sure to please! It's supple, velvety, and concentrated. Ready for a meal!

San Cristo Garnacha - Campo de Borja, Spain (Mixed & Red Club) \$10.99

Made from old vine Grenache grown on the cool upland plateau of Campo de Borja between Rioja and Catalonia, the “Seleccion” is specially selected to emphasize bright, ripe fruit and cool, perfumed aromatics without any oak influence. There's wild raspberry evident on the nose and palate, vanilla, spice, and black pepper. The palate is gripping and full, but it doesn't lose its intoxicating balance with a great expression of fruit and full, manageable tannins. Enjoy this with any Spring barbeque!

Mountain View Pinot Noir – North Central Coast, California (Red Club) \$12.99

Mountain View Winery was established in 1978, and since then, it prides itself on hand selecting premium grapes from some of California's finest wine growing regions to produce distinctive, high quality wines. The growers of the vineyards are located in regions that offer strong varietal character and exceptional value. These areas include Monterey, Amador, Carneros, Lake County, and the Central coast. The Pinot Noir is a prime example of an expressive wine from this region; matured for twelve months in American oak barrels, the wine offers loads of bright cherry, plum, and raspberry flavors, accented by hints of vanilla and earth. The balanced acidity and moderate tannins make for a wonderful food pairing wine. Enjoy with a pork loin or fried chicken!

Domaine Cazes Le Canon du Marechal – Languedoc-Roussillon, France (Red Club) \$12.99

A blend of 50% Merlot and 50% Syrah, this French red is a product of great history. Since Cazes was created in 1895, the family company has been dedicated to the production of quality wines from Roussillon. Cazes has cultivated organically in 220 hectares following biodynamic principles for 12 years. Their approach is based on the use of natural preparations in order to improve the capacity of resistance of the plant and its ecosystem by applying the preparations at a specific time in the lunar cycle. The richness of the wine is a mirror of the land from which it came. Enjoy with a Shepherd's Pie or roasted chicken.

Verso Rosso Salento – Puglia, Italy (Red Club) \$14.99

This full-bodied, luscious wine made with a small percent of “appassimento,” or raisined grapes, comes from the same winemakers who make Casa Contini. The grapes are grown on two non-contiguous crus with about 1500 cases made in total. A blend of 60% Negroamaro, 35% Primitivo, and 15% Malvasia Nera, this bold red is aged in Slovenian oak. Rich and dark in color with vibrant spice flavors, the experience of drinking this wine showcases the polished side of Negroamaro and Primitivo. Duck breast, olive tapenade, and figs with a soft, creamy cheese are superb pairings.