

HIGHLAND FINE WINE FEBRUARY 2018 HALF CASE - RED

Cembra Pinot Nero, Trentino, Italy - (Mixed/Red Club) \$12.99

Pinot Nero is what Italians call a grape you're already quite familiar with - Pinot Noir. Originating in Burgundy, France, Pinot Noir is notoriously difficult to grow and actually does well in places with temperature fluctuations. Northern Italy is definitely one of those places, thanks to the cool air that comes down off the Dolomites. Cembra is located in Trentino, a region located in the upper right hand corner of the country, nestled around the town of Trento. This Pinot is bright and clean with fresh field strawberry notes.

Domaine de Fondrèche - Rhône, France (Mixed/Red Club) \$21.99

We've really hopped on the natural wine train here at the shop and we're excited to present this one in the Club. The domaine is run by a mother and son team and is certified organic. They abide by biodynamic practices - no added sulfites and minimal intervention in the wine making process. This blend is 30% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 30% Mouvedre, and 10% Cinsault, resulting in a smooth, beautifully aromatic wine. The winery lies right in the line of the Mistral, a strong wind pattern that flows down through the Rhône Valley toward the Mediterranean. The breeze keeps the grapes cool in the hot sun, slowing maturation and creating a freshness in the wine.

Paolo Scavino Vino Rosso - Piedmont, Italy (Mixed/Red Club) \$13.99

Some of you probably know that Scavino is one of our favorite producers so we're thrilled to be able to offer one of their wines in February's club. Originally started by Paolo Scavino and his father, Lorenzo, in 1921. It's now run by Enrico (Paolo's son) and his daughters, Enrica and Elisa. The winery well known for producing high quality, age-worthy Barolos. This Rosso, however, is meant to be consumed young while it's still fresh and bright. If you're one of those folks who is always looking for a red to pair with a meal that traditionally calls for white wine (white fish, vegetarian dishes), this bottle is for you. Or just have it on its own - it's a fantastic sipper.

Don Rodolfo 'Art of the Andes' - Mendoza, Argentina (Red Club) \$11.99

Mendoza is easily the most famous wine region in Argentina and for good reason. Nestled in the foothills of the Andes, the area sees sun 300 days a year. With so much sun comes very little rain so the locals created an intricate system of channels to gather and distribute the unpolluted water that comes from snow melt of the Andes. The area is also known for its extreme diurnal temperatures - it can be as hot as 104 degrees during the day but plummet down to 50 degrees in the evening. Yield is typically low in the area but the quality is high. Don Rodolfo is known for his commitment to the artistic community in Mendoza and a portion of the proceeds from this wine go to a non-profit that supports Argentinean artists. Art of the Andes is a fun, fruity wine that we just love.

Escarlata - Colchagua Valley, Chile (Red Club) \$11.99

Escarlata, which translates to "scarlet," is 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Syrah, 20% Carmenere, and 20% Malbec. Sourced from vineyards in the Colchagua Valley subregion of the Central Valley in Chile, this wine has a bright red fruit and spice nose, medium minus acidity, and firm tannins. A quarter of the wine is aged in oak for 10 months, lending the wine a depth and complexity. Reasonably low alcohol (13%) makes this a great aperitif wine.

Apreciado - Castilla, Spain (Red Club) \$10.99

All throughout Spain, it seems that each region has its own version of Tempranillo. In Castilla, a large region surrounding Madrid, it's called Cencibel (sin-ci-bell). Organically grown with no sulfites added, this easy drinking table wine exhibits bright, fresh strawberries and freshly cut rose petals on both the nose and the palate. It has great acidity and a pleasantly zippy finish. We think this would pair quite nicely with an easy weeknight dinner of sausages and potatoes.

HIGHLAND FINE WINE FEBRUARY 2018 HALF CASE - WHITE

Bailly-Lapierre Saint-Bris - Burgundy, France (Mixed/White Club) \$15.99

Saint-Bris is a teeny, tiny appellation (clocking in at only 250 acres or 100 hectares) located in northern Burgundy, very close to Chablis. There are a few things that make Saint-Bris remarkable - first being that it's the only AOC in Burgundy that is allowed to grow Sauvignon Blanc. It's also quite famous for its extensive network of caves and cellars that run under the appellation. Bailly-Lapierre is a traditional Burgundian coop of 70 families that combine their strengths to make outstanding wine. This 100% Sauvignon Blanc is perfect for stimulating your tastebuds prior to dinner or paired with goat cheese and crackers.

Bellingham Citrus Grove - Western Cape, South Africa (Mixed/White Club) \$12.99

South Africa has a long history of wine making, dating back to the mid 1600s. This particular winery sits on land that's been farmed since 1693 and was renovated back to a winery in 1943. The grapes are sourced from the Agter-Paarl subregion, which is found in the Coastal Region, which is a subregion of the Western Cape region (got all that?). Agter-Paarl sees very little rainfall and therefore produces a wine with concentrated flavor. This 100% Chenin Blanc (still occasionally called Steen by locals) is citrusy and zesty with good minerality and medium acid. This wine would pair quite nicely with sushi takeout.

Broadbent - Vinho Verde, Portugal (Mixed/White Club) \$10.99

Bartholomew and his father Michael Broadbent are considered by some to be wine royalty (less United Kingdom royal family and more Kingdom of Denmark royal family but royalty nonetheless). Bartholomew has deep roots in Portugal and set out to make a Vinho Verde that is accessible in the States but drinks like you just bought it locally in Portugal. He achieved this in several ways but primarily through using refrigerated shipping containers. His effervescent wine is 50% Loureiro, 40% Trajadura, and 10% Pedernã. The Trajadura gives the wine it's lemon lime component while the Loureiro imparts a rich melon aspect. This wine is bright, fresh, spritzy and exhibits the trademark green apple and peach flavors commonly associated with Vinho Verde. At only 9% alcohol, this is a great Sunday afternoon wine.

Getränk - Österreich, Austria (White Club) \$15.99

We've featured several Grüner Veltliners over the last few months because we just find them to be the perfect winter white. Now we're bringing you a traditional Austrian Grüner in a 1 liter bottle. One liter bottles of Grüner are a staple in Austrian households and are meant to be drunk young and with friends. Getränk translates to "drink," so the intention is pretty clear with this one. Austrians are known for their commitment to the land and the environment and this bottling keeps with that tradition of sustainable farming. Pop the cap on this beauty and enjoy with friends.

Domaine des Gerbeaux - Burgundy, France (White Club) \$18.99

Maçon is one of the 5 regions of Burgundy and the one that produces the most approachable whites. Located where north and south France meet, the region is large with diverse culture and architecture. The winery has run by a husband and wife team since 1979, farmed sustainably, and with no pesticides or herbicides used in their vineyards. This is what you could call craft production - they only make 250 cases of this wine a year. This 100% Chardonnay (unoaked!) bottling features subtle notes of lemon, melon, and pineapple, with baking spice on the nose.

Senda Verde - Rias Baixas, Spain (White Club) \$11.99

Following the 43rd Parallel from Galicia eastward along the coast, Senda Verde is a collection of small wineries in the lush "Green Spain" region. This bottling is 100% Albariño and exhibits so many of the textbook traits we love in that grape. On the nose, you'll find it highly aromatic so swirl and take in a deep breathe. On the palate the wine is crisp and lush with green apple and zippy acidity. This would pair nicely with a tomato based dish or crispy fried chicken.