

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

FEBRUARY 2021 HALF CASE- REDS

CA'MOMI DI ROSSO 2018, NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA \$11.99 (MIXED) The Rosso di Ca' Momi is a tapestry of bold and balanced flavors. Sourcing fruit from Napa Valley and other AVAs in California, the focus of Rosso is to create a robust, food-friendly wine that compliments a variety of dishes. A combination of French and American oak aging gives the Rosso excellent integration, wrapping an intense wine into a smooth package. Rosso di Ca' Momi boasts structured flavors of blackberry and dark cherry that star on the palate, alongside unashamed notes of toasted pecans and toffee. With 6 months of aging in French and American oak, balanced tannins advance to a smooth, smoky mouthfeel and generous finish of cocoa.

KIR-YIANNI 'PARANGA' 2019, NAOUSSA, GREECE \$17.99 (MIXED) Paranga is a refreshing and jammy combination: a supple Merlot in the background with a touch of a very spicy Syrah under the spell of a light and more easy-to-drink Xinomavro. Its ruby red color and herbal undertones are alluring. Its remarkable acidity gives rise to a complex bouquet of cinnamon, clove, and green pepper, and a long finish. There is high fruit concentration here and balanced ripeness with exquisitely complex and rich aromas. It is made to be consumed young. Served with grilled meats and charcuterie.

LA TORRETTA 2016, VENETO, ITALY \$14.99 (MIXED) La Torretta (The Tower) rises above rolling noble vineyards to stand for the rich Italian winemaking tradition expressed in each bottle. These wines are all estate fruit and hand harvested on small, family-owned vineyards – a testament to the passion and purity of the winemaker. Merlot has found sympathetic accommodations in the picturesque landscape of the Veneto. Rich soil provides plenty of nourishment for this historically soft and sensuous wine. Intense red color with delicate bouquet. Dry, soft taste typical of Merlot. Ideal with pasta dishes, meats, sausages and cheeses. Chill slightly and have a couple of bottles ready for your next pizza night with friends.

CAVALLI 'CENTO' 2018, SICILY, ITALY \$14.99 This real Sicilian gem is from a rather unexpected source, which is to say from a conscientious wine project run by three non Sicilians. A sommelier and two winemakers banded together to make extremely pure, regionally correct value wines. Their Cento Cavalli (named for what is thought to be the oldest tree in Sicily) Nero d'Avola represents just how good simple it can be in the right conditions. Often, in the warm Sicilian climate, the sun-loving Nero vines over ripen, producing black wines with obtrusive tannins and excessive alcohol levels. Cento Cavalli's epitomizes Sicilian freshness, highlighting entrancing notes of red fruit, specifically fresh wild raspberry to highlight its spicier elements.

CHATEAU BOUSQUETTE 'MAS DES HUPPES' 2018, SAINT-CHINIAN, FRANCE \$17.99 Wines from France can be very confusing. The labels are foreign, the prices can be exorbitant, and the history is convoluted. Ch. Bousquette makes this French red EASY to understand and EASY to drink. A blend of Cinsault, Syrah, and Grenache and hailing from southern France, you will definitely rethink what you know about French reds. All three varietals bring something different to the table: Cinsault, florality; Syrah, muscularity; Grenache, brightness. This is one of my 'sneak attack' favorites that will soon become a regular on your table and in your glass.

TENUTA MACCAN 2018, FRIULI, ITALY \$16.99 The origin of Refosco dal Peduncolo Rosso is not completely known but historians give credence to it being indigenous to Italy. While the history may be shrouded in mystery, the reality is Refosco is simply amazing! Enveloping, elegant fragrances with hints of wild berries. Deeply flavored with notes of ripe plums and almonds. Aristocratic and very elegant, powerful and tannic. Pairs well with red meat (short ribs!) and game. A deep, satisfying wine that sips perfectly fireside.

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FEBRUARY 2021 HALF CASE- WHITES

ALSINA & SARDA 2019, PENEDES, SPAIN \$16.99 (MIXED) With grape growing roots that can be traced beyond 1894, the Alsina family makes wine and cava that demonstrate a true knowledge of the land and grapes. Alsina & Sardà is located in the heart of Spain's cava production region, Penedès. Building upon their foundation in still wines, the Alsina Sardà brothers began producing cava in 1980. The estate vineyards have a variety of microclimates due to their proximity to the Mediterranean Sea and different altitudes, so each grape variety is able to find the ideal location to express its best qualities. Floral and aromatic, this white is crisp and refreshing, with zippy acidity!

DOMAINE GIRARD TRADITION 2019, MUSCADET SEVRE-ET-MAINE, LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE \$16.99 (MIXED) Domaine Girard is a family estate located between two rivers (Sèvre & Maine), in the heart of the Muscadet area, coastal Loire. Slow fermentation and significant lees aging (lees= dead yeast cells) adds complexity and depth to this seafood friendly white. The wine is pale yellow with gold reflections. It has an elegant nose with floral shades of acacia and honey, with warm notes of candied citrus and roasted hazelnuts. Mineral driven, salty and bright!

R. STUART & CO. BIG FIRE 2017, WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON \$14.99(MIXED) Let me break this down for you: Pinot Gris and Pinot Grigio are the same varietal. In the most reductive sense, Grigio, from Italy, is lighter in body while Gris, from Alsace, and in this case, Oregon, are fuller and rounder. This Pinot Gris from Rob Stuart is perfect with these colder temperatures of February. On the nose there is honey, peach, lemon zest, baked pear, while the palate supports lemon curd, key lime pie, lots of honey. Enjoy with an oven roasted chicken or salmon. Open this full bodied white on a cold winter night!

CHATEAU LA GRAVIERE 2019, ENTRE-DEUX-MERS, FRANCE \$11.99 A rewarded and reputable chateau such as La Graviere is most welcome in our Highland half case! Three generations of wine makers have created something of great notoriety, both on the page and in your glass. A classic white Bordeaux blend of Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc, and Muscadelle, the name literally translated means "between two seas". Actually it is located between two rivers (the Dordogne and Garonne separating the banks of Bordeaux) but we should not split hairs when the wine is this outstanding. Crisp and lively, this white is your typical lemon, grass, honeysuckle French favorite. Watch the sunset and grab a glass while you enjoy some brie and fruit!

FAMIGLIA CECCHI CASTELLO MONTAUTO 2019, SAN GIMIGNANO DOCG, ITALY, \$15.99 The connection between the Cecchi family and San Gimignano dates back to the end of World War II. Vernaccia is a white wine grape that is found in many Italian wines but is most commonly associated the Tuscan wine Vernaccia di San Gimignano. Although reds reign supreme here, do not sleep on the amazing- and affordable- whites. The most important bottles, rich in structure and spices, excel with baked fish, white meat, rabbit with olives, carbonara pasta, pappardelle with porcini mushrooms. But remember that Vernaccia is one of the excellent white wines also with truffle-based dishes from a glorious risotto with truffles.

THREE HENRYS 2019, PAYS D'OC, FRANCE \$15.99 Poor Chardonnay. This wine has such a reputation for being over worked, stressed out, and oaky. THIS is not that. Approachable and way too easy to drink, Three Henrys is incredibly balanced and mineral driven. I was very impressed with how clean and bright this wine was when I tasted. Often Chardonnay gets over looked especially when Chablis sets the gold standard. However, if you are looking for something not fussy and not complicated, look no further than Three Henrys.