

## **HIGHLAND FINE WINE**

### **JULY 2020 HALF CASE- REDS**

**LOS CONEJOS MALDITOS 2018, CABANAS DE YEPES, SPAIN \$14.99 (MIXED)** Who doesn't love Tempranillo from Rioja? Especially this time of year with various meats coming off the grill. Here is a different, more fresh approach to that Spanish favorite. Unoaked AND carbonic (the grapes naturally pop with the pressure of tank CO2 rather than pressing for juice), this is a lively, summer time edition of Tempranillo. Even the name of the wine does not take itself too seriously- the bad rabbits refers to the rabbits that destroy the vineyards! You should enjoy this wine with a slight chill as well for your next BBQ!

**PIERRE-MARIE CHERMETTE 'GRIOTTES' 2018, BEAUJOLAIS, FRANCE \$16.99 (MIXED)** I love red wine! However in these hot summer Georgia days, drinking heavy reds can be challenging. For this month, I have included some reds to be served slightly chilled. This Beaujolais is one of those! Les Griottes means 'the small cherries' in reference to the grove of cherry trees that flank the vineyard. Also employing carbonic maceration (see above) the aim here is to produce something light-bodied and cherry-fruited with reach-for-another-glass deliciousness. The juicy-crunchy, overachieving 2018 nails this with grace. It's a buoyant and textural red that goes down dangerously easily.

**E. GUIGAL COTES DU RHONE ROUGE 2017, COTES DU RHONE, FRANCE \$16.99 (MIXED)** The Guigal family owns some of the most hallowed vineyards in the Rhône Valley and makes some of the most sought-after wines in the world. Yet you are undoubtedly more likely to spend time with them speaking about their CDR Rouge. This offers tremendous warmth, spice but in a decidedly individual fashion. It is, unlike virtually every other CDR, based on Syrah, a Northern Rhône approach that lends greater aromatic intensity and structure, though is far more difficult and costly to produce in the Southern Rhône. The palate is full, round and sexy. Round and smooth tannins, this is a full bodied, ample wine.

**VEGA TOLOSA '11 PINOS' 2018, MANCHUELA D.O., SPAIN \$14.99** Bobal is a dark-skinned grape variety planted predominantly in eastern Spain around Valencia. It can also be found in small quantities in the southwest of France and on the island of Sardinia in Italy. And while it is the third most planted grape in all of Spain, it is little known outside that country. In a similar storyline to many other grapes, it has traditionally been used only in small amounts in red blends to add some color and acidity. Today; however, many winemakers in Spain are rediscovering this native grape and making some excellent single varietal wines. Dark, meaty, and darn good!

**AIRFIELD 2015, YAKIMA VALLEY, WASHINGTON \$19.99** Airfield Estates is a family owned and operated winery and vineyard situated in the heart of the Yakima Valley – Washington State's oldest established AVA. As the name suggests, Airfield Estates has ties to aviation. Prior to their farming days, a portion of the property operated as a training base for hundreds of WW2 Army Air Corps. After the war, they began farming in the outlying area and continue to use a few of the original airplane hangars as farm storage facilities. This dark, concentrated Syrah possesses flavors of dark berry, clove, and white pepper coating the palate with a plush round mouthfeel and leading to silky, smooth tannins on the finish.

**MONT GRAVET 2018, PAYS D'HERAULT, FRANCE \$16.99** Carignan (also known as Mazuelo and Carinena) is a red grape variety of Spanish origin that is more commonly found in French wine. Perfect with a slight chill as well! This delicious red wine is produced from old Carignan vines grown in vineyards high in the hilly Herault region of the Languedoc in SWFrance. The calcareous soil with a sandstone base rich in nutrients and minerals that is found in this part of France is ideal for the Carignan grape. Deep, dark color and lovely aromas of blackberries and figs. The wine is full bodied and rich in flavor but elegant with a long fruit forward finish.

## HIGHLAND HALF CASE

### JULY 2020 HALF CASE- WHITES

**DOMAINE SAINT MARTIN 2017, MUSCADET SEVRE ET MAINS, FRANCE \$16.99 (MIXED)** To understand the Muscadet region, one must understand the idea of 'Sur Lie' – with lees. The 'lees' are the dead yeast cells after they have converted the grape sugar into alcohol. This fine powdery silt rests on the bottom of the tank or barrel and slowly gets absorbed into the wines. It is a natural preservative which helps white wine age longer, as well as accentuates a mineral character in the wine. This minerality is expressed through salty, savory notes that we associate with the rock minerals in the soil. It also creates a richer, crunchier texture and offers up hints of fresh baked bread, green orchard fruit and melon on the nose and in the finish.

**JOLIE FOLLE 2018, VAL DE LOIRE, FRANCE \$14.99 (MIXED)** This liter of wine so crushable. It lands on the stone fruit and pear side of Sauvignon Blanc and less on the New Zealand grapefruit. Jolie Folle will make you feel just as it sounds, it is so easy and at only 11.5% abv, you can drink more. Try with an asparagus and goat cheese tart. This Sauvignon Blanc is light, crisp, and soaring with acid. A sophisticated white wine suitable for any pallet with notes of ripe citrus and fresh white peach with subtle minerality on the finish. This classically styled Sauvignon Blanc delivers silky texture, citrus candy, subtle kiwi and lilac framed by a snappy mineral finish. This is low alcohol easy drinking wine that shows it's Loire roots on the dry, stony finish.

**LEGADO DEL CONDE 2018, RIAS BIASAS, SPAIN \$16.99 (MIXED)** Rias Biasas only does Albarino- and they do it very well! This light straw colored Albarino opens with a fragrant lemon bouquet with the hint of banana and green apple. On the palate, this wine is light bodied, lively, bright and pleasantly acidic. The flavor profile is primarily lime with notes of pink grapefruit and gentle minerality. I also detected some hints of saline and a touch of mango. The finish is dry and very refreshing. I would pair this Albarino with a grilled swordfish sandwich. Enjoy!

**THE WONDERLAND PROJECT 'WHITE QUEEN' 2015, SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA \$24.99** California Chardonnay has a bad reputation. The over oaked, over worked, fussy style is slowly being replaced with amazingly structured wines rivaling that of high dollar Burgundies. This Chardonnay was crafted by former-Sommelier Matt Ahern with fruit from some of Sonoma's best vineyards. Matt's goal was to create a balanced, wine with some nerve, to pair with food and this wine fills that void very well. Forget what you think you know about Cali Chard and open a bottle of something classically contemporary.

**SANGUINHAL 'SOTTAL 2018, LISBOA, PORTUGAL \$12.99** In the landscape of consumer wine, Portugal too often is forgotten. Although globally recognized for Port, Portugal competes with France, Spain, and Italy for commercial success. The reds from Portugal are well structured and for the most part, inexpensive. If the reds are not well known, the whites are virtually non-existent to most drinkers. Perfumed Moscatel is cut by crisp Arinto and Vital in this lively wine with its light frizzante character. It is fruity, crisp with citrus and with an edge of sweetness. Drink the wine immediately.

**BORELL DIEHL MULLER THURGAU 2018, PFALZ, GERMANY \$14.99** Although this is a relatively young vineyard, the binding family ties are strong and deep. Their strength is white varieties: Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, and Muller Thurgau. What is a Muller Thurgau exactly? Simply put, this is a white cross varietal (Riesling + Madeleine Royale = MT) created by Hermann Muller of Thurgau, used mostly in Germany, Austria, and northern Italy. It is now the most widely grown grape in Germany. Fresh, crisp, limey, and ridiculously easy to drink. A modest 12% alcohol with great acids and no oak (of course)!