

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

MARCH 2019 HALF CASE - WHITE

DOMAINE DE BALLAD COTES DE GASCOGNE BLANC '18- \$11.99 (MIXED)

Tucked in the picturesque landscape of southwest France lies Gascony. And while not a new wine making region, it may be new to you. White wines are dominant here so you can expect these wines to be something of note. A blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Colombard, this tight, steely white wine should be consumed NOW and in copious amounts! This is the wine to open when you entertaining friends on your patio. Extremely quaffable, there are notes of citrus lemon and grapefruit, leaving your palate feeling refreshed and ready for the next sip! This wine is value driven and does not disappoint with freshness.

BROTTE PERE ANSELME COTES DE PROVENCE ROSE '17- \$15.99 (MIXED)

One of my favorite wine quotes is "good wine does not have to be expensive but expensive wine has to be good." Rose, the darling wine of warm weather, has always been good. With rose sales increasing exponentially, one can expect the prices to do the same. Provence is a prime example of rising prices yet is also known for well made wines worth every penny. This wine benefits from all the freshness brought by the Saeinte-Victoire mountain to its terroir. Anselme may be pale in color however it is full of flavor! Intensely floral and fruity, there are strawberries and white peach on the palate. While you may be paying more for Provencal rose this season, just know that you can always depend on its quality and consistency. Money well spent!

MACON-LUGNY 'LES CHARMES' VIN DE BOURGOGNE '16- \$13.99 (MIXED)

There is nothing more classic than Chardonnay from France. This month we are highlighting not only the biggest producer of wine in the Maconnais but all of Burgundy as well. With 'Les Charmes' you are tasting the most authentic representation of the crown jewel of France- Chardonnay! Apricot, lemon, and spice come together to make this wine a spring stunner! Since this wine originates from a specific 'lieux-dit' (individual vineyard area) you can bank on wine that is consistently quality driven. Pair with literally anything! Versatile, economical, consistent...all of those words sound as good as this wine tastes.

TERRE D'ORO CHENIN BLANC/VIIGNIER '17- \$12.99

Amador County, California may be well known for the gold rush however it is reinventing itself as a region for wine making. Sierra Nevada was revived in the 1970's after the decline of the mentioned gold rush as well as Prohibition. The warm maritime climate is ideal for growing wine, especially in the case of Chenin and Viognier. Chenin is typically high acid with tropical fruit. Viognier is intensely aromatic, a characteristic quality supported by high elevation, and warm days/cool nights of this region. Blended together to create a wine of balance and harmony, enjoy with shellfish, ceviche, sushi (spicy tuna roll!), and shishito peppers.

CASA DO VALLE VINHO VERDE '17- \$12.99

The warm spring weather calls for wines that are superbly chilled and refreshing. Vinho Verde is exuberant, created almost specifically for moments like that. A blend of the Portuguese indigenous Arino and Alvarinho, this wine hails from the eastern sub region of Basto. The vineyard is located spread out across a river's hill side, protected by mountain terrain. Basto is warmer and less humid so the grapes are full of beautiful vibrant juice. There is also a spark of effervescence in Vinho Verde so do not be surprised if you are opening another bottle quickly after the first.

YARDEN MOUNT HERMON WHITE BLEND '16, GALILEE, ISRAEL- \$13.99

Golan Heights is significant in its role concerning the development of quality Israeli wine. The triple threat of climate (cool), soil (rocky volcanic) and altitude (high) lends itself to almost ideal growing conditions. In fact, Galilee has almost the identical growing conditions of the world renowned and highly regarded Bordeaux and Tuscany. As this wine is a blend of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, you can expect the typical freshness that is commonly associated with those varietals. This wine follows in the Kosher tradition so there is a methodical approach to the wine making that makes it unique and special.

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

MARCH 2019 HALF CASE - RED

ANCIENT PEAKS MERLOT '16- \$19.99 (MIXED)

The southernmost vineyard in Paso Robles, Ancient Peaks is the ONLY vineyard in Santa Margarita Ranch AVA. A complexity of soil types (there are FIVE) adds texture and dimension to this Merlot, which has the added distinction of being an "origin" wine; Ancient Peaks has featured this Merlot since day one. The growing conditions nurture grapes that are slow ripened and developed. Merlot has the unfortunate characteristic of being a wine most do not drink. Whether that is due to the commercialized jug or box format or the movie "Sideways" which influenced a generation of wine lovers, Merlot has been the long suffering grape. However, this classic grape is enjoying a renaissance with critics. So get ahead of the curve and enjoy a glass of this dark and silky offering.

CHATEAUMAR CUVÉE VINCENT SYRAH '17- \$16.99 (MIXED)

One of the most curious things about the world of wine is how some grapes gain favor while others fade. See the above review of Merlot for reference. Some grapes never seems to generate much traction from consumers. Syrah has never developed a determined following which is truly a pity as Syrah can function as a desirable alternative to Cabernet- for a fraction of the price. It has the heft, nuance, and aging possibility of Cabernet yet sells for less. And no where is Syrah done than the French Rhone Valley. Syrah needs a good deal of sun which Southern Rhone delivers in spades. As this vineyard is located just outside of the prestigious Chateauneuf-du-Pape, you can expect quality in every bottle.

MAS DE ETOILE 'PETITE ETOILE' CAHORS MALBEC '15- \$14.99 (MIXED)

Most wine drinkers know and love Malbec, specifically Argentinian Malbec. It should be noted, though, Malbec's home is France, specifically Cahors. Located in southwest France, Cahors Malbec needs no oak. These flavors are developed in the vineyard, not manipulated in the cellar. Fresh red and dark fruit, these vines are grown in gravel soil, which absorbs heat. This creates wines that are more developed than they typically would be from this region. Soft, well integrated tannins are the hallmark of these solidly structured wines. Fun fact- the grape Malbec is also known locally as COT. Uncork a bottle of this "little star" today.

ALOIS LAGEDER SCHIAVA '17- \$16.99

Alto Adige is Italy's most northern wine producing region. Nestled in the Alps, Lageder has been committed to a more holistic, sustainable approach to wine making while retaining a high level of quality. The diversity of soil variations offer a broad spectrum of creativity when it comes to the classical grapes of this region. Schiava is delightful! Despite its rarity, Schiava is affordable and more importantly FUN. Notes of rose and potpourri, flavors of strawberry and cotton candy, this wine is best served with a slight chill. And the added bonus...this wine is low in alcohol! Enjoy as an aperitif or with a variety of tomato based sauces with pasta.

MONTEFRESCO MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO '16- \$11.99

Southern Italy produces some extremely easy to drink and affordable wines. This is one of them. Named for its ideal position on a hillside with a gentle breeze, this wine has both volume and texture, balanced acid and smooth tannins. Dark plum and blackberry jam are supported by coffee and cocoa. I could write paragraphs about how incredible this wine is- or you can open a bottle and experience it for yourself!

VERAZ GARNACHA '15- \$11.99

The Spanish DO Campo de Borja is located near Aragon. The benefit of a continental climate produces wines that are persistent and fresh. Dark cherry red in color with berry fruit on the palate, this wine migrates through the cooler temperatures that will soon be warmer. The chalky and sandy soils here create wines with aroma and intensity. Garnacha is simply the Spanish iteration of the French Grenache. While there are some stylistic differences, Garnacha is a winner across the board! And at that price point, you can afford a few bottles for your weekday drinking pleasure.