

## **HIGHLAND FINE WINE**

### **MARCH 2020 HALF CASE- REDS**

**DOMAINE DE SALVARD ROUGE 2018, CHEVERNY A.O.C., FRANCE \$17.99 (MIXED)** The appellation of Cheverny extends along the left bank of the Loire and its symbol is the castle of Cheverny. Family owned and operated since 1890, the latest generation is dedicated to conscientious vineyard management. This is a juicy blend of Gamay and Pinot Noir with a small percentage of Cot (regional name for Malbec!). Designed to be drunk young and great with a plate of charcuterie. A bright garnet-red in the glass. Scents of red cherries, cloves and earth. Fresh and lively on the palate. Flavours of strawberry and licorice dominate. Great acidity and well balanced tannins leading to a crisp finish.

**ALTAMENTA MONASTRELL 2017, JUMILLA, SPAIN \$16.99 (MIXED)** Monastrell, also known as Mourvedre in France is a black-skinned variety that has been grown in vineyards all around the western Mediterranean for centuries. Thought to have originated in Spain, it is now grown extensively throughout the Iberian Peninsula, southern France, California and South Australia. Monastrell likes warm, dry climates and has small, thick-skinned berries – the textbook combination for making wines with intense color and high tannin levels. The varietal's meaty, herby aromas are very distinctive, as are its strong tannins. This is a serious, compelling red wine!

**LES TRAVERSES DE FONTANES CABERNET PAYS D'OC 2017, LANGUEDOC, FRANCE \$14.99 (MIXED)** More complex than the price would suggest! The nose holds fresh, crunchy black currants, blackberries, and black raspberry, with notes of peppers and damp, turned earth. More of the same follow across the palate, with tart, ripe fruit, and savory, leathery earth, and assertive but well integrated tannins. Classically styled, French Cabernet, minus the Bordeaux pricetag. Teeming with juicy wild fruit, with an herbaceous element, its dusty tannin is yet another lens for that earthy Languedoc terroir to shine through.

**RADO REFOSK 2018, BRDA, SLOVENIA \$16.99** We might not consider Slovenia prime real estate for winemaking, but the country's unique microclimate and geological history beg for further exploration. The eastern Mediterranean nation is positioned between the Adriatic and the Alps, meaning it's the ideal climate for producing ripe grapes with fresh acidity. Additionally, much of the landscape is a former marine bed, lending incredible mineral complexity to the wines grown there. From 100% Refosk, this wine is dark violet in the glass. Though the color and the meaty nose suggest a more powerful wine, it's all finesse on the palate, with lively wild berry fruit, fresh herbs, and a fine mineral finish. Firm tannins give structure without overwhelming the ultimate elegance of the expression

**ARLANDINO GRIGNOLINO 2017, ASTI, ITALY \$19.99** Grignolino is a red Italian wine grape variety commonly grown in the Piedmont region. It makes light colored wines and rosés with very fruity aromas, strong acidity and tannins. The name Grignolino derives from the word grignole which means "many pips" in the local Piedmontese dialect of the Asti region. The abundance of pips, or seeds, contributes to the strong, bitter tannins associated with the wine. Modern winemakers try to avoid this with gentle, slow pressings. Producers in the Asti region try to model Grignolino on the wines of Beaujolais. These light bodied, pale colored wines are made to be consumed young! Serve slightly chilled!

**SUSANA BALBO SIGNATURE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2014, MENDOZA, ARGENTINA \$17.99** The 2014 Susana Balbo Signature Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from a specific plot in the Valle de Uco. The objective here is to avoid green aromas, so the grapes have to be picked ripe but at the same time keep acidity. As in most of these wines, there is a small percentage of other varieties, in this case 5% Merlot. The oak is almost imperceptible, the ripeness is near perfect, with some black olive-like aromas and a balanced, elegant palate with the textbook Cabernet tannins.

## HIGHLAND HALF CASE

### MARCH 2020 HALF CASE- WHITES

**J. DUSI PINOT GRIGIO 2018, PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA \$15.99 (MIXED)** From winemaker Janell Dusi comes this spring time favorite. Her passion may be Zinfandel but you would not know that after you try this beautifully balanced white! A summer bouquet of freesia on the nose of this crystal clear and stainless steel fermented Pinot Grigio. As the wine swirls around, a hint of wildflowers pop, creating a fresh and delightful palate full of honeydew melon, pear and passion fruit. Enjoy with seafood pasta, quiche or antipasti any day!

**BEDOUET 'LE DOMAINE' MUSCADET SUR LIE 2018, MUSCADET SEVRE ET MAINE, FRANCE \$12.99 (MIXED)** Melon de Bourgogne, or simply Melon, is a variety of white grape grown primarily in the Loire Valley region of France. Melon de Bourgogne has flown under the radar for years. Though it's native to Burgundy, it struggled and failed to compete with Chardonnay in the region. Eventually adopted by winemakers along the western edge of the Loire Valley, this wine is ideally paired with oysters! With crisp acidity and silky texture, this wine is emblematic of the coastal region- salty ocean spray!

**VINA LA PLAYA WHITE BLEND 2018, COLCHAGUA, CHILE \$11.99 (MIXED)** Viognier is for those who love to stop and smell the flowers. Viognier ranges in taste from lighter flavors of tangerine, mango and honeysuckle to creamier aromas of vanilla with spices of nutmeg and clove. Depending on the producer and how it's made, it will range in intensity from light and spritzzy with a touch of bitterness to bold and creamy. If you like Chardonnay you'll like the weight of Viognier and notice it's often a little softer on acidity, a bit lighter and also more perfumed. Chardonnay is blended here to refine structure. A perfect spring wine!

**GERTIE & MAX GUTEDDEL 2018, BADEN, GERMANY \$15.99** Here's a wine we are REALLY excited about! The Gutedel grape, also known as Chasselas, is a local specialty in Germany, Switzerland and Alsace. Its home turf in Germany is the tiny sub-region of Markgraflerland located within Baden, Germany's warmest growing region. It sits at the edge of the Black Forest which protects the area from inclement weather. A gentle, dry, pale-colored, aromatically nutty wine for cheeses, cream sauces, baked seafood and fondue. Looking for a new, interesting white? Here it is!

**DOMAINE DE LA PREBENDE BEAUJOLAIS BLANC 2018, BEAUJOLAIS, FRANCE \$16.99** Beaujolais is known for light and fruity reds. While not as popular as their Gamay brother, this Chardonnay is a stunner! This ripe and fruity wine has rich yellow and white-fruit flavors that are full and refreshing. Zingy orange zest adds bite to the soft, generous texture. The finish is clean and super refreshing. Such a good value! It is ready to drink NOW. Begging for warm weather and a cozy patio, you will need to have a second bottle ready to go!

**CASAL FARNETO FONTEVECCHIA VERDICCHIO DEI CASTELLI DI JESI CLASSICO SUPERIORE 2017, MARCHE, ITALY \$15.99** Verdicchio is a white Italian wine grape variety grown primarily in the Marche region of central Italy. The name Verdicchio derives from verde (or "green") and refers to the slight green/yellow hue that wines made from the grape can have. Verdicchio can produce wines that are virtually colorless with noticeably high acidity that can come across on the palate with citrus notes. Fontevicchia is one of the most popular wines produced by CasalFarneto Wine Estate. The subtlety of this grape makes it perfect to pair with almost anything.