

HIGHLAND FINE WINE

SEPTEMBER 2019 HALF CASE- REDS

CHATEAU PIZAY CRU MORGON 2018, BEAUJOLAIS, FRANCE- \$14.99(MIXED) The word "Cru" is defined as 'a vineyard or group of vineyards, especially one of recognized quality.' Beaujolais has ten Crus and they are significantly unique and different. While Moulin-a-Vent is the most structured, Morgon is a close second with its weight and minerality. The terrain is granite, covered with a light sandy soil, ideal for the Gamay grape. Winemaking combines tradition with the use of stainless steel, semi carbonic fermentation and modern temperature control methods to ensure preservation of the fruit and freshness in the wines.

COPERTINO RISERVA BLEND 2010, PUGLIA, ITALY- \$16.99 (MIXED) Largely inspired by Puglia in the peninsula's southernmost reaches, ancient Greeks called Italy "Oenotria" – land of the vine. Today, Puglia is home to 25 production zones, most significantly the DOC Copertino. This medium-bodied, brick-red Copertino offers seductive aromatics of blackberry, spice, Maduro cigar leaf and smoked meats. Surprisingly complex with well-integrated layers of leather, wild berries, cedar, tar, vanilla and soft spices. The long finish shows dried cherry and Port-like nuances. Here is another reason to love Italian wine!

CHATEAU DU TRIGNON COTES DU RHONE 2016, RHONE VALLEY, FRANCE- \$14.99 (MIXED) Côtes du Rhône is among the oldest vineyard regions on the planet. Today, the men and women of the CDR, always experimenting with blends and vineyard techniques, are proud to nurture these ancient grapes into your glass. Authenticity and diversity are the keys. People who like good wine know CDR is simply the best place to source true and original tastes that define quality wines. A true chameleon, you can enjoy this wine with a slight chill, accompanied by anything. CDR wins best supporting actor in the wine world!

MAS QUE VINOS 'ERCAVIO' TEMPRANILLO 2015, LA MANCHA, SPAIN- \$14.99 Here is your Tempranillo that offers body AND lift. Following classic vinification techniques (fermentation in stainless steel, 6 months aged in oak), this wine checks off all the boxes. On the nose, there is a nice combination between berry and spice with subtle oak. It has a commercial profile in a very pleasant way. The palate shows very good volume and a fine texture with elegant tannins. It tastes like a much more expensive wine! This is superb value and a faithful representation of Tempranillo from La Mancha in a good vintage.

CHATEAU GUILHEM 'POT DU VIN' MERLOT, LANGUEDOC, FRANCE- \$16.99 Natural wine is on trend in the wine world- and I am not the biggest fan. In my opinion, wine needs to be 'man-handled'. Winemakers are artists, creating differential landscapes in each bottle. This wine, however, is a stunner! 100% Merlot from the south of France shows off with dark plum and cherry. The silky tannins make this wine super approachable- and a slight chill would give this wine a degree of elegance appropriate for the most discerning palate. While I am still skeptical of most natural wines, here is a solid choice for the cooler temps of fall.

PRINCIPE DE VIANA GARNACHA 2016, NAVARRA D.O., SPAIN- \$12.99 From Garnacha vines typically 50 years and older, harvested by hand and lightly extracted to retain aroma without excess astringency. Deep ruby red color and bright strawberry on the nose and in the long, juicy finish. Aged three months in used oak barrels. Spanish wines offer extreme value! While Tempranillo is the darling grape, Garnacha has more flexibility and approachability. Soft tannins and bright acidity equal perfect food wine! Enjoy the softer side of Spain with Garnacha!

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SEPTEMBER 2019 HALF CASE- WHITES

CAMINO DOMITIA PICPOUL 2018, LANGUEDOC, FRANCE- \$14.99 (MIXED) One of only two exclusively white wine AOCs in the Côteaux de Languedoc, Picpoul de Pinet overlooks the salt water lagoon of the Bassin de Thau, where oysters and mussels are farmed. Affectionately referred to as the “Muscadet” of the south, the name ‘Picpoul’ means ‘lip-stinger’ in Occitan, referring to its naturally high acidity levels. The wine shows surprising complexity with notes of spring flowers and a streak of minerality that provide a beautiful framework. Because the wine finishes with such clean and bracing acidity, the rich mid-palate of melon and stone fruit is a delightful surprise. This charming wine begs for warm & sunny days, shellfish & seafood.

MILOU CHARDONNAY 2018, LANGUEDOC, FRANCE- \$12.99 (MIXED) Milou Chardonnay strikes a perfect balance with rich white peach & pineapple fruit flavors, zippy citrus notes of lemon zest, a streak of minerality, and satisfying length and finish. Grown on the plateau of Aspères, on marl soils with clay and limestone, much like those found in Chablis this fantastically surprising wine is grown from extraordinary terroir and enjoys bracing maritime influence. Vinification and élevage (the progression from fermentation to bottling) in stainless steel tanks with stirring of the lees (dead yeast cells).

LA FERME DI GICON CDR BLANC, RHONE VALLEY, FRANCE (MIXED) Close your eyes. RHONE WINE. Now open your eyes. What wine did you conjure? CDP- absolutely. CDR- of course (we have one in this month’s half case!) White wine is not even on your radar! This month we are exploring Grenache Blanc with THIS wine. The Grenache Blanc variety yields aromas and flavors of Asian pear, apricot skin, tangerine, honey blossom, hibiscus & spices with a clean, thirst quenching palate. Serve as an aperitif or with seafood, white meats and fine French cheeses. Open a bottle and expand your palate!

BENITO SANTOS ALBARINO 2018, RIAS BIASAS, SPAIN- \$16.99 Albariño is easily a contender for one of the world’s best whites. It takes over about 75% of this river valley’s vineyards. The elegant, steely, mineral, and fragrant wine is Rias Baixas’ claim to fame. Benito Santos is a central figure in the modern history of Albariño and the Rías Baixas D.O. He was instrumental in the creation of the Rías Baixas D.O. in the 1980s! Santos wines are salty, mineral, and structured, with ample fruit but none of the overly tropical flavors of many industrially-produced Albariños.

BAGLIO DI PIANETTO CATARATTO 2018, SICILY, ITALY- \$16.99 Once upon a time in western Sicily, Marsala wine was king. It was crafted from assorted white grapes which were blended anonymously, after which the wine was aged oxidatively (and fortified) like Sherry. These days, the Marsala ‘industry’ is a shadow of its former self, but the vineyards—and those well-adapted white grapes—remain. Today’s 2017 from Baglio di Pianetto is a varietal Catarratto, a grape which has kindred qualities to Malvasia, Chardonnay, and Roussanne. It is by no means a neutral, light-bodied “quaffer” nor is it the kind of super-ripe, luscious style of white you might expect from such a southerly latitude. Taste for yourself!

GIOCATO PINOT GRIGIO, GORISKA BRDA, SLOVENIA Ask around, and you’re likely to discover that one of the most coveted wine destinations on planet earth is Slovenia! Leading the way is winemaker Aleks Simcic, head winemaker of the Edi Simcic estate, a man of exceptional talent and devotion to his territory. His micro-production estate wines have reached true cult status, eliciting a fervent following and fetching some of the highest prices in the region. From hand selected grapes along the Italian border in Slovenia. It is bright and crisp, with aromas of delicious green apple, acacia flower, and almonds. Ready to enjoy now.