



Handy Hint: Cut out these notes and tape them to your bottle

# Cellar Notes

December 2011

## ***Prestige Red - Under \$50***

**RED - 2009 Belle Glos Pinot Noir, Las Alturas Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands, Monterey County, CA - \$50.00** Winemaker Joseph Wagner chose the name Belle Glos (pronounced BELL GLOSS) to honor his grandmother, Lorna Belle Glos Wagner, a co-founder of Caymus Vineyards. When planting the 15-acre vineyard, Las Alturas, they matched various Pinot Noir clones to individual slopes and soil attributes of the land. Handsomely packaged in a heavily red-polymer-dipped custom bottle, its dramatic presentation matches its contents. *Wine Spectator* gave this rich red **92 points**: "Bold, rich and layered, exhibiting dense dark berry fruit that shows touches of spice, wild berry and blackberry, with attractive floral scents. Full-bodied, this expands on the finish, where the flavors fan out. Best from 2012 through 2020." This classic would match well with wild mushroom ravioli or a nice Comté cheese.

## ***Collector Series - Under \$30***

**RED - 2008 Brian Carter Cellars Corrida, Columbia Valley, WA - \$29.95** - Brian Carter Cellars focuses exclusively on an array of hand-crafted European-style blended wines like Corrida, a Spanish-style blend. Known for his adept hand at blending, Brian Carter assembled this complex red from 66% Tempranillo, 17% Merlot, 11% Cabernet and 6% Garnacha, from a wide ranging host of vineyards in central Washington. Corrida emits vivid aromas of black cherry, cedar, coffee and baking spices. The wine arrives silky smooth with dark black cherry, light notes of cola, coffee and spice flavors. The lush finish lingers nicely. Enjoy this wine with grilled meats or vegetables, such as marinated pork loin or eggplant. Drink now through 2015.

**WHITE - 2008 Rocca del Principe Fiano di Avellino, Campania, Italy - \$29.95** - Fiano is a grape found almost exclusively in southern Italy that produces rather rich white wines that age well. They are naturally endowed with notes of honey, and hazelnuts that gain intensity with aging. Fiano di Avellino is a very pretty version of this unique white wine. Scents and flavors of flowers, nectarines, citrus, and creamy minerals are some of the nuances that flow from this soft-textured, generous Fiano. Delicate and elegant the flavors linger nicely. Serve slightly chilled as an aperitif or with potato-leek soup or artichokes in butter. Drink today through 2013.

## ***Classic Series - Under \$20***

**RED - 2008 Tre Donne Barbari Nebbiolo, Piedmont, Italy \$19.95** - From the incomparable ladies of Tre Donne comes Barbari, meaning "Barbarian," a delicious ode to the history of Piedmont. The words "Barbera" and "Barbaresco" derive their names from barbarians, which played a big part in local history and language development. Made from 100% Nebbiolo, the wine features earthy scents with spicy blackberry. Barbari is juicy with loads of cherry and berry flavors, dusty tannins and a good acid balance. This will make an extraordinarily terrific match with pork medallions, Porcini mushroom risotto or spaghetti Carbonara. Drink now through 2018.

**WHITE - 2010 Condes de Albarei Albarino, Rias Baixas, Spain - \$19.95** - Rias Baixas [REE-ahs bi-SHAHS] is in northwestern Spain's Galicia region, adjacent to Portugal's northern border. The grape, Albarino, is indigenous to Galicia and Portugal. Grape specialists believe there may be some genetic connection between this grape and Riesling of Germany, the resemblance is most evident in the aromas. Happy scents of candy, fruit cocktail and minerals introduce the wine. The flavors in this deliciously dry wine deliver an immediate hit of nectarine, citrus and mandarin flavors balanced with good acid. Lots of fruit flavors on the end keep them going. Serve slightly chilled with a nice white bean soup enriched with pesto and parmesan! Drink today through 2013.

## ***Award Series - Under \$15***

**RED - NV St. Cosme Little James' Basket Press, France \$14.95** - Little James' is a wonderful surprise of a wine, blended from several vintages of 100% Grenache going all the way back to 1999. Located in the Gigondas district of southern France, the winemakers call it, "...the wine of freedom." Apparently that means freedom from constraints of a single-vintage wine. Violets, spice, red plum and tar scents greet your nose. Flavors feature Bing cherry, plum and hints of anise with brisk tannins. Lots of fruit and a smooth texture linger through the end making it an ideal match for simple roasted vegetables or hearty stews. Drink today through 2013.

**WHITE - 2009 Bodega Naia, Las Brisas, Rueda, Spain - \$14.95** - Rueda [roo-AY-dah] is an important district northwest of Madrid near Portugal's northeast corner and is best known for its quality white wines made from Verdejo. Made from 100% Verdejo, Las Brisas is racy, lively and clean. Citrus dominates the vibrant aromas that jump from the glass. Juicy and zippy, the wine displays tangerine and lemon with hints of flowers and mineral. Serve slightly chilled with salads laced with goat cheese or spinach and cheese ravioli. Drink today through 2012.

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