



Handy Hint: Cut out these notes and tape them to your bottle(s)!

Cellar Notes

January 2021

Cellar Selection - Under \$100

RED - 2017 Conchay Toro, 'Don Melchor' Cabernet Sauvignon, Maipo Valley, Chile - \$99.00 - Don Melchor is perhaps the most iconic red wine of Chile, known for combining power with elegance, with refined tannins and superb balance. Created in 1987, this vintage marks its 30th anniversary. Statuesque and broad-shouldered (98% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc), it offers up an impressive nose of tar, chocolate, and espresso. Try with beef short ribs or slow-braised beef; venison can be great too! **99pts James Suckling** - *"Fantastic aromas of blackcurrants and other dark fruit with crushed stone, iron and oysters, following through to a full body that shows incredible energy and depth, offering ripe yet fresh fruit, together with bright herbs and earth. Layered. Perhaps the greatest Don Melchor ever made. Try after 2022."* **ALSO: 95pts W.Spectator 95pts W. Enthusiast**

Prestige Red - Under \$50

RED - 2016 G.D. Vajra 'Barolo Albe', Piedmont, Italy - \$43.00 Piedmont's Barolo district produces some of the longest-lived red wines in all of Italy. Made from 100% Nebbiolo, this small, family producer made this wine from both sandy and granite-based vineyards that we feel give the wine a lighter color and palate weight along with a remarkable flavor intensity. Match this with braised beef or egg noodles topped with butter sauce and white truffle. Enjoy today - 2030. **94pts & "Editors' Choice" W. Enthusiast** - *"Aromas of woodland berry, new leather, camphor and pressed rose waft out of the glass. Juicy and delicious, the chewy palate doles out succulent Marasca cherry, crushed raspberry and white pepper. Polished tannins and fresh acidity give it an immediate appeal but this also offers several years of drinking pleasure. Drink through 2028."* **ALSO: 94pts W.Spectator 95pts W. Advocate**

Collector Series - Under \$30

RED - 2017 Guardian Syrah "The Informant", Wahluke Slope - \$28.95 - A former Seattle police officer launched his winery with high hopes and 10 years later they are coming true. Each wine made carries a clever law enforcement reference in its name. With 3% Viognier blended in, we found this Syrah's smoky tones combine with sage and roasted dark fruits on the nose. The palate is full-bodied and has a great sense of mouthfeel, weight and texture. Layers of bacon fat, blackberry pie and exotic spices lead to a moderately tannic finish. Aged in 45% new oak, this will pair very well with grilled meats, vegetables, wild game and beef stew. Enjoy today - 2023.

WHITE - 2014 Ottella "Lugana Molceo", Veneto - \$28.95

A "Reserve" version of Lugana, this prestigious winery selects grapes from 50 years old vines. Extended lees stirring and 10% barrel fermentation give this wine extraordinary flavor dimensions. Only their third bottling, each has earned Italy's prestigious "Tre Bicchieri" (3-Glass) award, the most coveted award for an Italian wine. We found honeysuckle, exotic fruit and herbaceous notes joined by grapefruit, pineapple and green melon flavors with a dry, crisp finish. Pair with white meats, salads, vegetable dishes, cold gazpacho, or salmon rillettes. Enjoy today - 2022.

Classic Series - Under \$20

RED - 2017 Milbrandt "Estates" Cabernet Sauvignon, Columbia Valley - \$19.95 - We have championed this wine since its arrival and it is no surprise that it was selected by *Wine Enthusiast* as one of their **Top 14 Cabernets available in the US**. Complete with smooth and weighty textures, there is a peppery quality to the cassis and blackberry fruit that make it immediately appealing and robust. The tannins are firm but not overwhelming, just right for that New York cut. Enjoy today - 2023. **90pts W. Enthusiast** - *"Vanilla, baking spice and dark raspberry aromas are out front. Ripe dark fruit flavors follow, speckled with plentiful barrel accents. A lovely sense of acidity ties it all together."*

WHITE - 2019 Antinori Guado al Tasso Vermentino, Bolgheri, Tuscany, Italy \$19.95 - This Tuscan classic is composed of Vermentino grapes sourced from separate vineyard parcels harvested separately, preserving the complex territorial characteristics of each individual vineyard block. Care and dedication devoted to this varietal delivers a wine with an assertive personality. Due to its mineral richness and creamy pear intensity, you can easily match this wine with shellfish and seafood, but also pork or chicken that are sauced with a wine/citrus combination. Enjoy today - 2023

Award Series - Under \$15

RED - 2018 Cantina del Morellino Sangiovese, Tuscany - \$14.95 - This winery is a cooperative of small and multi-generational family growers who band together to make this blend of Sangiovese and Alicante. We found pleasing impressions of pomegranate, cherry and smoke in a juicy and immediately appealing wine. There is plenty of Tuscan character in the mineral and baking spice notes as well. An overall pleasing reminder of why we love Tuscan wine. Pair with rare steak, roasted game birds, rich chicken or mushroom dishes or anything with tomato sauce. Enjoy today - 2024.

WHITE - 2019 Vignerons de Saumur Chenin Blanc "Les Epinats", Samur, Loire Valley - 14.95 - The combination of the flinty and clay soils on a north-facing slope brings out Chenin Blanc's lively character providing deep texture and rich flavor. Displaying complex green tea, citrus oil and kiwi fruit, it also weaves in white pepper and tangy citrus freshness; this is one home run of a wine. With unanimous enthusiasm from the VINO! Team, this wine deserves a superb dish like Scallops Beurre Blanc, but we would also settle for enjoying a glass with good conversation and good friends. Enjoy today - 2022.

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