



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

# Cellar Notes

March 2021

## Prestige Red - Under \$50

**RED - 2017 Kanonkop Pinotage, Simonsberg-Stellenbosch, South Africa - \$49.95** - A cross of Pinot Noir with Cinsaut, this distinctive wine is made in open-vat containers. Kanonkop has created a lush, opulent style that will reward patience. It delivers extracted flavors of currant, iron, plum, charred cedar and a deep bouquet with vanilla and clove accents gliding along the edges. Firm but well-integrated tannins provide balance and support. We suggest Ribeye on a searing hot grill; our vegetarian friends may prefer the exotic balance of well-made Berbere over rice. Enjoy 2022 - 2030.

**94pts - Tim Atkin** - "Still youthful and showing its 80% new wood, this is a very ambitious Pinotage from a fantastic Cape red wine vintage, exhibiting considerable color, structure and concentration, fine-boned tannins and layers of raspberry and black cherry fruit. Give it time." **93pts James Suckling** - "Intense but really attractive... with chewy tannins and razor-sharp acidity that brings it through to a mouthwatering finish. Really well done."

## Collector Series - Under \$30

**RED - 2015 Poggio del Moro Chianti Colli Senesi Riserva, Tuscany, Italy - \$29.95** - In the heart of Tuscany, Poggio del Moro produces this 'Riserva' wine we found to be a darker version of Chianti displaying a brick-purple color, spicy nose, silky textures and juicy with lively Sangiovese plum. At 90% Sangiovese with 10% Syrah and 24 months in barrel, it delivers complex, intense earthy blackberry, plum soy, spicy tobacco, cardamom, dried blackberry and fine tannins that linger through the beautiful finish. Grilled sausages, cured meats, and hard cheeses would be a fine match. Enjoy 2022 - 2028.

**WHITE - 2018 Frog's Leap Chardonnay 'Shale and Stone', Napa Valley California - \$29.95** - This 'Shale and Stone' Chardonnay comes from a vineyard heavily shale-based, giving the wine deep minerality as well as the 'shale' reference in its name. Following harvest the juice sees less than five days in oak before long sur lie aging in concrete preserving its freshness - which represents the "stone" part of the wine. The result is this stunning 2018 Chardonnay: taut but generous, full yet bright on the palate. This will be a great match for that lemon-y Caesar salad and lightly grilled Salmon. Enjoy today - 2023.

## Classic Series - Under \$20

**RED - 2017 Acústic Celler, Montsant, Spain - \$19.95 (Reg. Price \$23.95)** - Albert Jane Ubeda has produced his wines organically since his first vintage in 2004. His blend of 70% Cariñena and 30% Garnacha is hand-picked, crushed in small wooden presses, and vinification employs minimal use of oak. All wines are bottled without fining or filtration, making this the most exciting and expressive, powerful and long-lived organic wine we have ever tasted. The texture is silky, and its spicy black character with a caramelized lilac/raspberry note sealed the deal for us. It will definitely match well with hard cheeses, roasted sausages, goat cheeses, and roasted vegetables. Enjoy today - 2024.

**WHITE - 2019 Domaine Barons de Rothschild 'Legende Blanc', Bordeaux, France - \$19.95 (Reg. Price \$23.95)** - Yes, THE Barons de Rothschild - their team at the chateau are sourcing fruit from other areas in Bordeaux to craft memorable wines at a fraction of the cost of their main wines. We benefit from their expertise while saving a bunch of money. At 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Semillon it brings pale color with glints of straw. We found deep expressive citrus and tropical florals before the textbook mineral finish of white Bordeaux. Charming and bright, this wine is ready to drink with seared Sole or soft cheeses. Enjoy today - 2023.

## Award Series - Under \$15

**RED - 2017 Elouan Pinot Noir, Oregon - \$14.95 (Reg. Price \$19.95)** - Created by Charlie Wagner's team (of Caymus fame) from Oregon Pinot Noir grapes, this gem is the quintessential easy-drinking Pinot. Bolder and riper, fresher and livelier than most, this 'Elouan' displays a beautiful dark scarlet color, aromas of dried cherries and blackberry, high fruit notes with hints of vanilla and clove-y spice. Focused flavors deliver dark red raspberry, cherry, and boysenberry jam, all full bodied and complex with a smooth lingering finish. Perfect for casual drinking alongside a full combo pizza or with candlelight and fire-grilled beef. Enjoy today - 2024.

**WHITE - 2019 La Lisse "Soie d'Ivoire", Haute Vallee de l'Aude, France - \$14.95 (Reg. Price \$15.95)** - About an hour's drive inland from France's southeast Mediterranean coast in the foothills of the Pyrenees, quality vintners are focused on single-variety bottlings like this Chenin Blanc. With bright acidity and a creamy smooth texture we found Chenin's signature ripe dusky pear fruit, lemongrass bouquet, and zesty lime citrus impressions to be an ideal match for a beurre blanc over Scallops and lightly roasted vegetables. Enjoy today - 2023.

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