



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

Cellar Notes

April 2020

Cellar Selection - Under \$100

RED - 2012 Corliss Red Blend - \$92.00 - A leading Walla Walla premium wine producer, Corliss releases three labels from their dramatic, handsome winery. This Corliss labeled 'Red' consistently wins top critical accolades and features their best Bordeaux-inspired creations. This would make a classic combination with rack of lamb. Enjoy today through 2027. **94+pts Robert Parker's Wine Advocate** - *"The 2012 Columbia Valley Red Wine is another rock star Bordeaux blend that's made from 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Cabernet Franc, 13% Merlot, and the balance Petit Verdot and Malbec. It was aged 28 months in 65% new French oak. Notes of cassis, tobacco leaf, lead pencil shavings and black currants all emerge from this rich, full-bodied and concentrated effort that has a big, layered texture, no hard edges and impeccable balance."*

Prestige Red - Under \$50

RED - 2015 Gunpowder Creek Cabernet Franc, Conner Lee Vineyard, Columbia Valley, WA - \$44.00 - Former assistant winemaker at Woodward Canyon, and later owner/winemaker at the prestigious Buty winery in Walla Walla, Caleb Foster teamed up as winemaker in 2014 with Bookwalter Winery in Richland, where he's created Gunpowder Creek as his own project. This Cabernet Franc shows dense blueberry jam and blackcherry aromas, delivering dense, chocolaty and dark berry fruit-driven flavors with a great balance of acid, fruit, and spice. Try matching with grilled meats or vegetables, and hard or soft cheeses. Enjoy today through 2025. **99pts & Editor's Choice** - *"Aromas of fresh herb, sliced green pepper, flower, orange peel and cherry are followed by soft sumptuous pure cherry flavors. The finish carries."*

Collector Series - Under \$30

RED - 2016 Canvasback by Duckhorn, Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Mountain, WA - \$29.95 - The renowned Duckhorn Winery of Napa Valley invested in Red Mountain vineyard property to produce their version of a Washington-grown, Bordeaux-styled red, and it's a big hit! A terrific match for pepper crusted Ahi Tuna, enjoy today through 2028. **90pts Robert Parker's Wine Advocate** - *"The 2016 Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon has also been blended with 8% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. It has a nose of healthy red and black fruit along with the dusty Red Mountain minerality. Medium to full-bodied, the palate reveals a well-made wine with precision and balance and evolving expressions of red flowers, dusty minerality and balancing tannins on the long, well-structured finish."*

WHITE - 2017 Ramey Chardonnay, Russian River, CA - \$29.95 - Crafted from ripe fruit grown in the Russian River Valley north of San Francisco, this Chardonnay underwent whole cluster pressing, 'native yeast' fermentation, and went through full native malolactic in barrel, then rested on its lees with frequent stirring. All this adds up to a marvelously rich wine with layers of aromatic complexity and great depth of flavor. Reminiscent of a fine Burgundian Meursault, showing shades of vanilla on ripe granny smith apple with touches of lemon and pear on the extensive finish, you'll find this an excellent match for a wide range of chicken or fish-based meals. Enjoy today through 2023.

Classic Series - Under \$20

RED - 2018 Garnatxa de Cervoies 'Les Garrigues', Catalonia, Spain - \$19.95 - Spain's Mediterranean coastal city of Barcelona is surrounded by the vineyard-rich land of Catalonia where this 'Garnatxa' (Grenache) wine was produced. Showing dark raspberry, black pepper, hedonistic juicy minerality and superbly supple texture and depth, we were very impressed with this showy red. Unlike many other Grenache based reds, this delivers a rich and vibrant mouthfeel, very fine precise tannins, and an extensively lengthy finish. A sure match for spicy foods and wild game. Enjoy today through 2025.

WHITE - 2018 Villa Sparina Gavi, Piedmont, Italy - \$19.95 - From the northern reaches of Italy near their border with France the wine called Gavi is produced from their native Cortese grape. Generally exhibiting a citrusy sharpness, this version brings a notably richer, more supple experience showing floral and marzipan notes along with suggestions of bright lemon and pear, with an intriguingly creamy finish. This will pair nicely with herby pasta sauces like pesto, white fish, vegetable dishes, fried foods, scallops, or baked trout with a cream sauce. Enjoy today through 2022.

Award Series - Under \$15

RED - 2016 Chateau Paret, Bordeaux, Castillon - \$14.95 - It's rare to find red Bordeaux that carries a substantial expression of what that famous region is most noted for, but we found one and here it is! Located on the 'right bank' just east of St Emilion and Pomerol, this Merlot-dominant blend arrives somewhat bold, expressing black cherry, shades of cocoa, and showing hints of leather, humidior, and crisp blackberry. Its layers of complexity by far outpace its price. Try matching with dishes featuring mushrooms or garlic, blue cheeses, or grilled chicken. Enjoy today through 2024.

WHITE - 2018 Contini Vermentino, Sardinia, Italy - \$12.95 - Our tasters excitedly described this vibrant white as 'Big, bold, and mouth filling!' From the Italian island of Sardinia, Contini's Vermentino offers generous citrus-laced apple, minerality, and notes of salinity. Because of its bold nature, it should be reserved for richer seafood like halibut and trout. It also pairs nicely with shellfish like clams, crabs, and lobster. Vermentino is a perfect complement to pork, particularly when it has been seasoned with fennel. Enjoy today through 2023.

April 2020

April 2020