



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

Cellar Notes

April 2021

Cellar Selection - Under \$100

RED - 2015 Poliziano Vino Nobile di Montepulciano “Le Caggiole”, Tuscany - \$99.00 (Reg. \$108) - This 2015 Vino Nobile (“*vee-no no-bee-lay*”) is a pure expression of Sangiovese from a single vineyard that since 1994 has been used in blends. This superior vineyard designated wine has been resurrected with this vintage. The warmth and heat of 2015 delivered 15% alcohol with dark fruit tones of blackberry and dried cherry. Nicely complex with beautifully integrated spice, we found suggestions of cured tobacco and bitter chocolate. Le Caggiole spent 16 months in French tonneaux. It comes on like gangbusters, boasting ample complexity and power. Enjoy from 2024 to 2035. *94pts Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate* - “*Bright black cherry, blackberry, graphite, earth and sweet spice aromas and flavors highlight this firm yet expressive red. Everything is in the right place and lingers with a complex aftertaste.*”

Collector Series - Under \$30

RED - 2016 Farmstead Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley, CA - \$29.95 (Reg. \$35) - Ruby and garnet in appearance, this wine jumps out of the glass with ripe fresh strawberry, raspberry, and cranberry fruit aromas and subtle oak spice. Packed with mushroom, toasted oak and grilled plum flavors, this is an earthy, complex wine that shows the savory side of Pinot Noir. Full body and moderate tannins give it an appetizing grip on the palate. The palate is generous and supple reflecting the long gentle ripening conditions of the season. Pairs well with BBQ pulled pork or smoked ribs with green apple coleslaw. Best from 2022 to 2026.

Classic Series - Under \$20

RED - 2017 Truth Teller Syrah “The Cynic”, Walla Walla - \$19.95 (Reg. \$23.50) - Chris and Dawn Loeliger created this Syrah from the Patina Vineyard in the Walla Walla Valley. It spent twenty months of aging in new and “experienced” French oak barrels bringing out the deeper aromas of blackberry jam, blueberry, licorice, Chukar Cherry and just a little smoky tobacco for complexity. It is approachable and fruit-forward, led by flavors of black cherry and blueberry with a late burst of tannin. We love it alongside grilled lamb for a spicy fruit balance to a rich, flame-broiled presentation. Best from 2021 to 2025.

Award Series - Under \$15

RED - 2019 La Reserve Saint Dominique Ventoux Rouge, France - \$14.95 (Reg. \$17.50) - Eric Bonnet, a respected winemaker in Chateaufort-du-Pape, decided to create La Réserve Saint Dominique in order to offer a selection of Rhone Valley wines to complement the current range he produces. This cuvée offers accessible fruit, easier tannins and good balance, in short, sheer pleasure for the palate. Mostly aged in stainless steel tanks to favor the crunchiness of wines, this highlights the typicity of the terroir and is a delicious early drinker. We would choose a charcuterie board complete with a few hard cheeses and quince. Best from 2021 to 2026.

Prestige Red - Under \$50

RED - 2018 Darioush Cabernet Sauvignon “Caravan”, Napa Valley - \$49.00 (Reg. \$55) - From the winery - Made in an approachable style, “Caravan” supports winemaking experimentation and vineyard enhancement. Holding true to its reverent style as a rich and supple, Right-Bank influenced blend, 2018 “Caravan” entices with decadent flavors of plum, fig jam, blackberry compote, and chocolate ganache on a silky, sleek frame. Notes of spiced chai, dried currants, and cinnamon add intrigue, harmonizing with the wine’s core profile of Cabernet Sauvignon. Bright, energetic, and exceptionally round and concentrated – this is a remarkable wine from a textbook growing season. Try with roasted or grilled lamb with fresh herbs like rosemary and thyme. Best from 2022 to 2030.

WHITE - 2018 Jacques Dumont Sancerre, Loire Valley - \$29.95 (Reg. \$35) - Jacques Dumont Sauvignon Blanc is grown on the hills just southeast of Sancerre and thrives on the soils of clay-limestone and flint. The wine is fermented gently to ensure maximum fruit flavors, then aged on its lees to develop complexity and body. This beautiful Sancerre expresses brilliant lime and mild minerality with gooseberry and lemon rind on the nose. Some cut grass and pineapple show up with a plush mouthfeel despite bright acidity. Nicely straddles Old World balance with New World fruit. Great with scallops beurre blanc, goat cheese and fire-roasted vegetables. Best from 2021 to 2024.

WHITE - 2019 Conde Valdemar Rioja Blanco, Spain - \$19.95 (Reg. \$23.50) - Bodegas Valdemar is a well-known Rioja family winery with a century-old wine-making tradition. Conde Valdemar Blanco is a blend where the white Viura grape dominates and is complemented by the Verdejo, Sauvignon Blanc and Tempranillo Blanco. We loved the lime blossom aromatics and the bright acidity that eludes most warm climate winemakers. On the palate, the medium texture and white stone fruit richness make it an ideal match for a fruit-based vinaigrette over Mizuna salad and topped with fire-roasted chicken. Best from 2021 to 2025.

WHITE - 2019 Rivera Sauvignon Blanc, Puglia, Italy - \$14.95 (Reg. \$17.50) - Sauvignon Blanc grape is not commonly grown in southern Puglia as the heel of Italy’s boot gets so warm. A shady vineyard site, now 15 years old, produced this delicious and bright Sauvignon brought up on chalk-limestone soils. We found creamy citrus notes and a touch of flinty minerality on the palate showing acacia and lime florals. Definitely some warm weather texture to this wine but the zingy lime citrus lifts the impression to marry well with seafoods as diverse as mussels, halibut or trout. Best from 2021 to 2024.

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