



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

Cellar Notes

April 2022

Cellar Selection - Under \$100

RED - 2017 Aquilini Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon, - \$99.00
From the largest vineyard-holder in Washington's highly regarded Red Mountain AVA, Aquilini has captured the essence of what this site does best: full ripening of Cabernet. This 100% version comes on like gangbusters, boasting ample complexity and power. Enjoy from 2025 to 2040. **97pts Robert Parker's Wine Advocate** - "...the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain is immediately impressive and displays a beautiful dark purple color and a good core of fruit with a lovely density and rocky, dusty expression under the fleshy and robust fruit. Blueberry, black cherry and blackberry all waft from the glass with notes of currant and crème de cassis. Full-bodied, the palate is rich and sturdy with a lovely bold expression that balances the oak spices and compact tannins that will settle with time. The finish is bright, bountiful and focused, with a long, mineral expression of crushed rock and black cherry. YUM"

Prestige Red - Under \$50

RED - 2017 Domaine de l'Edre Carrement Rouge, Côtes du Rousson, France - \$49.00 - This southern French blend consists of 50% Syrah, 30% Grenache, 15% Carignan, and 5% Mourvèdre. The winery says, "Incredibly intense, layered, dark fruit aromas of plums, cassis, and black cherry on the nose, with light spiciness and undertones of herbs and minerals. Juicy, yet firm and well-structured on the palate." Our tasters called it "bold and well-structured with deep spicy fruit. Yummers! Serve with grilled lamb, game, or prime cuts of beef. Best from 2022 to 2030. **92pts Wine Spectator** - "... Lots of blackberries and black raspberry fruits, spice, dried earth, and garrigue notes all give way to a medium to full-bodied, layered, beautifully concentrated red that has sweet tannins and loads of charm."

Collector Series - Under \$30

RED - 2014 Boyanci "Inspire" Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, CA - \$29.95 (Reg. \$50) - Unlike many top-end Napa Cabs sourced from a single vineyard, InSpire is sourced from two rockstar Napa Valley Vineyards: Stagecoach and Red Barn Ranch in Rutherford. Fruit and oak combine in this young, sensuous wine to make for immediate drinkability, but it's ageable. We found lush ripe, forward flavors of blackberry pie with notes of cola, black currant liqueur and baking spices. This is a very fine, elegant Cabernet, with superfine tannins. It would match perfectly with grilled meats, or pasta with a mushroom sauce, or a wide selection of cheeses such as Cambozola or Parmigiano. Best from today - 2025.

WHITE - 2020 Caravaglio Malvasia Bianco Secco, Salina, Italy - \$29.95 - Salina is one of the Aeolian Islands north of Sicily, in southern Italy. Our tasters were completely "Wow!d" by this fascinating white. Malvasia grapes deliver a beautiful golden color, strong orange notes, and a similar intensity in the glass. Displaying aromas of flowers, butterscotch (*ask Tina*), and orange zest, flavors show tart apple along with shades of grapefruit, altogether a bright and lively impression. It was easy to decide to add this as a club selection. It will be terrific alongside goat cheese, scallops Beurre Blanc, oysters, or other seafood-based dishes. Best from now through 2025.

Classic Series - Under \$20

RED - 2017 Barone Ricasoli "Brolio" Chianti Classico Riserva, Tuscany, IT - \$19.95 - From the most original of all Chianti districts, this combination of 80% Sangiovese, 15% Merlot, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon spent an extra year at the winery developing its awesome finesse. We love it alongside grilled lamb or any rich, flame-broiled presentation. Best from today to 2030 **93pts Vinous** - "The 2017 Chianti Classico Riserva Brolio is rich, expansive and super-expressive. Black cherry, spice, leather, espresso and a kick of Merlot richness all build in the glass. Creamy, open-knit and inviting, the 2017 is a terrific choice for drinking now and over the next decade or so."

WHITE - 2020 Alexandria Nicole "Shepherds Mark" White Blend, Destiny Ridge Vineyard, Horse Heaven Hills, WA - \$19.95 After winning "Double Platinum 96-Points" from Great NW Wines and "Double Gold 98-Points" from Sunset Int'l, plus it completely knocked our socks off, you'll understand why it had to go into our monthly selection! A sleek and delicious combination of Rhône varieties Roussanne, Viognier and Marsanne, it delivers a lively, fresh flavor intensity showing honeysuckle, lemon, and melon balanced by a bright flash of acidity and touch of minerality. Served chilled alongside poultry, rich fish, or sautéed chicken. Enjoy today through 2024.

Award Series - Under \$15

RED - 2019 Poggio Vignoso Chianti, Tuscany, Italy - \$14.95 This medium-bodied red is classically stylized for early drinking, John says, "An excellent intro to Chianti!" Pure and elegant, we found it to have a soft plummy texture showing highlights of red cherry and youthful spice which highlights the typicity of the terroir and is a delicious early drinker. We would choose a charcuterie board complete with a few hard cheeses, or nearly any pasta combination with red or white sauces. Best from now through 2026.

WHITE - 2020 Eola Hills Pinot Gris, Willamette Valley, OR - \$14.95 - "Really amazing!" said one of our staff, after tasting a small sample at our tasting bar. Not as lean as some from Italy, this shows what Oregon does best with the variety imparting gentle pear and honeysuckle aromas along with a clean, crisp, and fruity flavors. Try alongside seared or grilled fish or simple oven-roasted chicken. Best today - 2024. **91pts Wine Enthusiast** - "From the winery's classic series, this estate grown and bottled wine is fresh and crisp and true to variety. Cut pear, apple and lemon skin components combine with juicy acids for an impressively concentrated and long finish."

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