



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

Cellar Notes

May 2021

Prestige Red - Under \$50

RED - 2017 Southern Sojourn Malbec, Mendoza - \$49.00 - Our VINO! team loved this project from Washington winemaker Andrew Januik, who found a place to make his wine and some incredible vineyard sources near Mendoza, in the Uco Valley. This deep violet wine offers intense aromas and flavors of dark chocolate covered cherries, dark fruit, coffee, mild black pepper and an expressive note of minerality. A blend of 75% Malbec and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, it has a finely textured palate with immense structure and classic Malbec characteristics. Sourced from high elevation vineyards, this well-composed red has fine full tannins with a spicy herbal note on the lingering finish. Drink now or age in your cellar through 2037. We would choose a Ribeye steak in the first ten years of aging and a leaner Filet in the last 10. (*Shelf price \$54.00*)

Collector Series - Under \$30

RED - 2018 Guado al Tasso "Il Bruciato", Tuscany - \$29.95 - A quintessential Super-Tuscan wine. Immediate appeal and earthy baking spice notes jump out of the glass of this robust example. The Antinori's have been making this for almost 2 decades and we are always glad to have a bottle in the cellar ready to go. The wine drinks well now and will only improve through 2025 and beyond with rustic preparations of game and tame red meats, charcuterie and hard cheeses. (*Shelf price \$34.00*)

92pts Vinous - *"The 2018 Il Bruciato is a gorgeous wine that captures the essence of the Antinori family's Guado al Tasso estate in Bolgheri. Rich, creamy and ample on the palate, Il Bruciato is an absolute delight today. Blackberry jam, chocolate, spice and licorice are front and center. This opulent, heady Tuscan red has so much to offer. I would prefer to catch it on the young side. Drinking window: 2020 - 2028"* **92+pts R Parker's W. Advocate**

WHITE - 2018 Thenevot Hautes Cotes de Nuits, Burgundy - \$29.95 - Nicolas Thévenot-Brun represents the 5th generation of the family at the helm of this innovative Burgundy estate. Located in Marey-lès-Fussey, in the higher altitude areas of Nuits-Saint-Georges where Chardonnay struggles, Pinot Blanc is legally allowed to make a part of this blend. The inclusion offers a white Burgundy with more texture and hedonistic, supple character. We also found impressions like lanolin, pear-sauce and almond in our tasting notes. Enjoy through 2025 with semi-hard cheeses, lighter mushrooms and creamy pasta preparations. (*Shelf price \$31.00*)

Classic Series - Under \$20

RED - 2016 Carlos Moro Oinoz Crianza, Rioja - \$19.95 - This 100% Tempranillo was raised in the calcareous and fresh soils of San Vicente de la Sonsierra, north of the Ebro River in the vicinity of Spain's Rioja Alta. Enologist Carlos Moro oversees the hand harvesting process required in these head-trained vineyards that are between 25 and 80 years old, making limited production, small, intense grapes. With dense and compact flavors, aged for 12 months in barrels and a minimum of 12 months in the bottle, we are impressed with its brambly blackberry notes, white and black pepper, mild licorice and friendly, spicy tannins. It represents a new style for Rioja and a delicious one. Enjoy through 2026 with fire-roasted vegetables or bacon-tinged Paella. (*Shelf price \$24.00*)

WHITE - 2018 Miner Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley, CA - \$19.95 - This solar-powered winery in Napa Valley produces a range of beautiful wines and this crisp Sauvignon Blanc is no exception. Fermented and aged in stainless steel, Napa Valley's warm climate makes wine with no unripe characters, focusing on aromas of stone fruit and freshly cut herbs followed by grapefruit-melon flavors on the palate. We would enjoy this before 2024 with goat cheese, shellfish and light vinaigrettes. (*Shelf price \$24.00*)

91pts Wine Enthusiast - *"Light in color this is an effervescent expression of peach, apricot and pear, delicate flavors that are balanced and lovely on the palate. A finishing touch of lime keeps it bright."*

Award Series - Under \$15

RED - 2017 Aia Vecchia "Lagone", Bolgheri, Tuscany \$14.95 - Aia Vecchia is a newer winery established in 1996 in Tuscany's Bolgheri district by the Pellegrini family who have grown grapes in the area for several generations. Lagone is a blend of 60%Merlot, 30%Cab Sauvignon and 10% Cab Franc. Opening with aromas of sweet spice, chocolate, cherry and tobacco, we enjoyed the light smoky note to the wine alongside its dusky berry, mocha and spicy cherry impressions. The texture is bright and invites food like grilled sausages, hamburgers and red-sauced pizza. Enjoy today - 2023. (*Shelf price \$17.00*)

90pts Jeb Dummuck - *"The more Merlot-dominated 2017 Lagone (there's 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc) is a larger production cuvée and offers a wonderfully plump, fruit-forward style as well as notes of darker berry fruits, scorched earth, graphite, and a touch of leafy herbs. It's balanced and medium-bodied, has ripe tannins, and is a beautiful wine, especially at the price."*

WHITE - 2018 St. Francis Chardonnay, California \$14.95 - Estate-grown Chardonnay grapes from Sonoma Valley are blended with carefully selected fruit from Carneros, Alexander Valley and Russian River Valley to create a classic CA wine. Grapes from each vineyard are handpicked in the cool of night to preserve their delicate aromas, flavors and bright acidity. This Chardonnay fits right down the middle of the oak and fresh fruit spectrum. There is plenty of pear/citrus curd and a zing of ripe pineapple acidity before the smooth graham cracker/vanilla of the very brief oak aging becomes apparent. A creamy mouthfeel greets a touch of minerality on the long, crisp finish. Enjoy before 2024 as an aperitif or with light seafood, poultry and salads. (*Shelf price \$16.00*)

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