



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

Cellar Notes

July 2021

Cellar Selection - Under \$100

RED - 2018 Blueprint Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, CA - \$99.00 - Celebrated consultant Philippe Melka (Quintessa, Long Shadows Pirouette, more...) blended this remarkably impressive red blend of pure Napa Valley Cabernet with 5% of the muscular Petit Verdot which spent 18 months in oak. Rich and generous, it shows inky dark fruit, chocolate, new leather, spice and lavender. Enjoy today - 2035. *96pts & "Cellar Selection" Wine Enthusiast* - "...this wine has 5% Petit Verdot and spent 18 months in French oak, half of it new. Black olive, pencil shaving, sage and cedar provide a savory context against which concentrated black cherry and plum play. Coffee makes an appearance on the finish. Enjoy 2028-2035. *94pts Jeb Dunnuck* - "sports a dense purple color as well as classic Cabernet notes of blue and black fruits, green tobacco, graphite, and spring flowers. With a more fruit-forward style, it's still rich, medium to full-bodied, has classy tannins, and is a seriously good bottle of wine." also: *94pts JS, 93pts Vinous*

Prestige Red - Under \$50

RED - 2017 Bookwalter 'Conflict' Red Blend, Columbia Valley, WA - \$48.00 - Coming from Dionysus Vineyard, one of the state's oldest, this rich blend of 50% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 5% Syrah yields a wine of great intensity and lushness. Full-bodied and dark in color, we found it expressing shades of dark cherry liquor and hints of chocolate. Ideal with rich, meaty dishes. Enjoy today - 2030. *91pts Robert Parker's Wine Advocate* - "...With a ripe and juicy nose, the wine opens with aromas of dark cherry, blackberry, juicy redcurrant and crème de cassis, with a dusty rockiness and elegant sweet oak spice. Full-bodied, the wine is juicy, rich and full of flavor, showing firm tannins and juicy ripe fruit, before lingering onto a long finish with persistent flavors of potpourri spice, vanilla and bitter dark chocolate. Yum!"

Collector Series - Under \$30

RED - 2017 Hightower Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Mountain, WA - \$29.95 Comprised of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Petit Verdot, and 6% Malbec, we were very impressed with its expressions of fresh sage, boysenberry, vanilla, and cassis. With fairly dusty tannins and balanced acidity you'll find the characteristic, firm structure we see from Red Mountain fruit here handled with deft care. Try this with slow cooked pork roast. Enjoy today - 2028. *90pts Wine Spectator* - "Structured and tightly focused, with dense currant and black olive flavors, laced with stony minerality and built toward fine-grained tannins. Best from 2021 through 2028."

WHITE - 2020 Cairdeas 'Nellie May' Viognier-Roussanne, Columbia Valley, WA - \$29.95 - Cairdeas ("car-dis") has created a fresh and lively blend of Viognier and Roussanne, with the Viognier displaying lush floral tones and juicy tropical fruit. The Roussanne adds complexity, texture and weight to this medium-bodied wine. It has a clean and crisp focus that develops into a pleasingly long, lingering finish. Bright aromas of lemon zest, mineral and ripe peach make it well suited to lighter meats or white fish dishes. Enjoy today - 2026.

Classic Series - Under \$20

RED - 2018 Proletariat Cabernet Sauvignon, Columbia Valley, WA - \$19.95 - Walla Walla's Proletariat Wine Company has been at the forefront of the wine-on-tap industry, and now produces wines in bottles for everyone. This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from Columbia Valley, shows undertones of dark cherries & blackberries on the nose. The ripe palate follows with plummy cherry, shades of licorice, fragrant cassis, maple, dark boysenberry and spice with fine tannins. Try with grilled meats or roasted veggies on the grill. Enjoy today - 2024.

WHITE - 2019 Fraga do Corvo Godello, Monterrei, Galicia, Spain \$19.95 - From 100% estate-grown Godello fruit, it was aged in stainless steel on its lees for 7 months, and is unfiltered and unfinned. We noted aromas of gentle jasmine, pear and lemon, with flavors showing apple, pear and a lovely citrus zest. Try with salmon, trout, pasta, chicken, turkey, or light cheeses. Enjoy today - 2024. *90pts Vinous* - "Light, bright yellow-gold. Fresh pear, Meyer lemon and pungent flowers on the nose. A zesty mineral flourish adds lift to bitter pear skin, lemon zest and honeysuckle flavors"

Award Series - Under \$15

RED - 2015 Viña Século Mencía, Vinos de Arganza, Bierzo, Spain - \$14.95 - The Mencia grape here displays black cherry and plum flavors mingling with coffee, black olive and smoke notes in this plump but lively red. Bright acidity and light tannins give this focus. Generous and fresh. Try with lighter dishes such as grilled chicken or mushroom risotto. Enjoy today - 2023. *91pts Wine Enthusiast* - "This Mencia smells more ripe than fresh, with aromas of prune, raisin and spice cake. A jammy palate is a touch overweight, while mocha, spice, raisin and cassis flavors finish rich and chocolaty. Drink now for its ripe friendliness."

WHITE - 2020 Domaine Lafage, Côte Est, Cotes Catalanes, France - \$14.95 - This is a lively blend of old vine Grenache Blanc (50%) with Chardonnay (30%) and Roussanne (20%). Floral and aromatic, it is an excellent example of open and friendly whites common to the southwestern coast of France. A high level of natural acidity in the grapes is preserved from summer Mediterranean breezes, coming just a few miles inland from the sea. Try with oysters, clams, or crab! Enjoy today - 2025.

July 2021

July 2021