



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

# Cellar Notes

August 2021

## Prestige Red - Under \$50

**RED - 2017 Justin Isoceles, Paso Robles, CA - \$49.00**  
Justin Winery maintains an outstanding reputation for their top reds. They concentrate on two Bordeaux styled wines: **Isoceles**, which is a 100% estate blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, and **Justification**, a blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot. This beautiful vintage of Isoceles arrives bold and rich expressing dark boysenberry and plummy black pepper with shades of maple, cedar, cassis, and dark mocha. Frequently a standout selection on many respectable wine lists, it serves as an ideal companion for roast lamb, veal, or game as well as rich flavored cheeses. It will continue to mature gracefully for 6 to 9 more years. Enjoy today - 2030

## Collector Series - Under \$30

**RED - 2018 Folktale "Le Mistral", Monterey, CA - \$29.95**  
This Grenache/Syrah blend from California's Central Coast area displays a gorgeous ruby color in the glass, and is generously aromatic showing bright notes of wild boysenberry, floral hibiscus, with rich notes of black cherry. These are followed by dense flavors of bold black raspberry wrapped in fine dusty tannins, making for a deliciously balanced and lengthy finish. With juicy red fruit qualities and a medium-full bodied texture, this wine is bolder than a Pinot and more delicate than a Cabernet; perfect for any occasion. Enjoy as a lovely companion for grilled foods, or serve alongside Cambozola cheese for a real treat. Serve today - 2025.

**93 points Wine Enthusiast** - "There's a wondrous array of herb and game aromas on the nose of this Grenache and Syrah blend, including charred beef, lavender and Dr Pepper alongside elderberry fruit. There is zippy acidity on the sip, where the licorice and lavender elements wrap around the brisk black-raspberry and plum core."

**WHITE - 2017 Contador Predicador Blanco Rioja, Spain - \$29.95** - Predicador, or "Preacher," named after Clint Eastwood's everyman character in the 1985 film Pale Rider, is a wine composed of three native Spanish white varieties Viura, Garnacha Blanca and Malvasia. After barrel fermentation this wine was aged for eight months in wood, 30% new. Wood ageing gives this complex and smooth-textured white an exciting yet lightly honeyed lime and grapefruit impression with a respectful nod to warm sherry-like notions. This will pair nicely with Rotisseri Chicken or a peas-and-basil summer pasta salad. Enjoy today - 2023.

## Classic Series - Under \$20

**RED - 2018 Rasa Vineyards "Occam's Razor", Columbia Valley, WA - \$19.95** - William of Ockham's 'rule of thumb', known today as Occam's Razor, suggests that if all things are equal, the simplest answer to a problem tends to be the correct answer. This compellingly delicious wine comes from a wildly complex blend of Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Touriga Nacional and Petit Verdot. Remarkably flavorful, it delivers a mouthful of pleasure showing black cherry and vanilla with notions of cocoa, tobacco, cedar and spice with moderately grippy tannins. Pair this with preparations of beef, lamb or roasted vegetables. Enjoy today - 2027.

**WHITE - 2018 Herdade Do Esporao Reserva White, Alentejo, Portugal - \$19.95** - Greeting you with grapefruit and white peach aromas with subtle toasty oak integration, fresh spicy and herbal notes, its creamy, complex and balanced palate with elegant fruit and minerality leads to an intense and persistent finish. The grapes for this wine are picked in the early, cooler hours of the morning, vinified separately and partially aged for 6 months on the lees in French and American oak barrels. Roast chicken or a savory onion tart would be appropriate on the menu. Enjoy today - 2021. **95 points Decanter** - "A stunning blend of aromatic orange bitters, rich honeyed citrus and desiccated pineapple, with a soft, crunchy texture and a persistent note of peppery grapefruit on the finish."

## Award Series - Under \$15

**RED - 2016 Castillo de Mendoza Vitarán Crianza, Spain - \$14.95** - 100% hand harvested and sorted Tempranillo grapes from 45 year old vines in the La Rioja Alta are at the core of this flavorful red. Ageing for 12 months in American and French oak and another 12 months in bottle enhances its flavors of dried cherry, tangy pomegranate, and suggestions of cedar and coffee on brisk feeling tannins, inviting roasted pork and chorizo sausage, or nearly anything lamb will do well. Enjoy today - 2025.

**WHITE - 2018 Martin Ray Sauvignon Blanc, Russian River Valley, CA - \$14.95** - Light, crisp and bright, this lively white has nice balance and nuance. Notes of guava, ripe kiwi, honeydew melon and citrus finish with a macadamia smoothness. Its bright minerality and brisk finish call for shellfish specialties like scallops, mussels, or clams. Enjoy today - 2023.

**91 points J Suckling** - "Fresh and tangy white with lemon-rind and green-apple aromas and flavors. Medium body. Clean finish. Drink now."

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