



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

Cellar Notes

December 2020

Prestige Red - Under \$50

RED - 2017 Lucienne Pinot Noir "Doctor's Vineyard", Santa Lucia Highlands - \$49.00 - Hahn Family Wines from California's Central Coast focuses on estate vineyards in both the Santa Lucia Highlands and the Arroyo Seco Valley. All of their best Pinot Noir fruit goes into their limited-production, single vineyard releases under their Lucienne label. Everything is destemmed and aging occurs all in French oak. Beautiful aromas of blackberry and cherry accented with hints of sagebrush and clover are lifted by the wine's vibrant acidity and smooth tannins, leading to a silky structure and lingering finish. Enjoy this beautiful Pinot Noir with salmon or other fatty fish, roasted chicken or pasta dishes. Enjoy today - 2024.

Collector Series - Under \$30

RED - 2019 Alvaro Palacios Priorat "Camins del Priorat", Spain - \$28.95 - Priorat's rugged growing area is south of Barcelona, where the soils welcome heartier red grapes to produce rich, full bodied wines. This blend consists of 35% Garnacha, 24% Syrah, 17% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cariñena, 10% Merlot along with 3% other varieties. The grapes were destemmed, lightly crushed and then fermented with the natural yeasts. After fermentation it matured in barrel and oak vats for four months. Balsamic aromas from the Bordeaux varieties combine with notes of licorice and sweet tobacco. This is juicy and powerful with muscle and intensity but with great balance and purity. Try this with grilled steaks, game, or roasted potatoes and dried herbs. Enjoy today - 2027.

94pts James Suckling - "Gorgeous, bright fruit with raspberries, black cherries and lavender with some schist. It's medium-bodied with very polished and integrated tannins that go on and on. Drink or hold."

WHITE - 2018 Idiot's Grace Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon 2018, Columbia Gorge, WA - \$28.95 - Idiot's Grace Wines are the production of a small, diversified farm and estate winery in the Columbia Gorge. Their several vineyard plots - established since 2003, overlooking the Columbia River on both the Oregon and Washington sides - are farmed organically. Their wines go through wild-fermentation, seeking originality from this dramatic growing region. The combination of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon is mostly a Bordeaux-white style tradition and here brings a lively freshness displaying citrus and floral notes along with a rich, velvety texture. A great match would be Angel Hair Pasta with Basil Pesto, Yellowtail Sushi with Avocado, or Cod or Halibut with Beurre Blanc. Enjoy today - 2022.

Classic Series - Under \$20

RED - 2015 Cune Rioja Reserva, Rioja, Spain - \$19.95 From Spain's most renowned production area in the north of the country, this Rioja blend is comprised of Tempranillo 85%, the balance from Garnacha, Graciano and Mazuelo. With a beautiful ruby color and a pink shading at the rim, the wine's aromas show good intensity with hints of fresh wild berries and licorice which are typical of wines made from Tempranillo grapes. Additional sweet spice aromas come from barrel aging. The palate is soft and marked by silky tannins and a long, fruity and youthful finish. This wine pairs well with roast pork, chorizo and aged cheeses. Enjoy today - 2024.

90 Pts Wine Advocate "The 2015 Cune Reserva is the classical blend of Tempranillo with 15% Garnacha, Graciano and Mazuelo. It's approachable and easy to drink without being banal, the entry-level wine of the Reserva range if you like. It has a mixture of red and black fruit and good ripeness without excess. In fact, it feels quite fresh for the natural conditions of the year, which was very warm and dry."

WHITE - 2019 Shaya Verdejo, Rueda, Spain - \$18.95 Shaya Verdejo is a white wine from the Rueda district of Spain. A pure 100% varietal Verdejo, the grapes were harvested from 70 year old vines providing a very low yield resulting in a wine of superior quality. Partially fermented in barrel, it remains in contact with the lees (yeast cells) for a few months before being bottled and marketed. A truly exciting white that's a sure match for vinaigrettes, olives and other sharp foods, as well as with simple omelets, seafood and shellfish. Enjoy today - 2023.

Award Series - Under \$15

RED - 2014 Noble Tree Grenache, Russian River Valley, CA - \$14.95 - The Russian River Valley is noted for producing wines of intense flavor, varietal purity, and excellent flavor from its cool growing area. Noble Tree was originally founded as a passion project by two sommeliers/restaurateurs to produce wines for their fellow industry friends. Grenache is a well known variety used widely across the south of France, and here displays its combination of red cherry and bright berry characteristics. It's a terrific match for slow-roast lamb, stews, and meaty fish like grilled tuna steak. Enjoy today - 2021.

WHITE - 2018 Foliette Sauvignon Blanc, Loire Valley, France - \$14.95 - The Loire River Valley stretches from central France to the Atlantic Ocean. This delightful Sauvignon is made by three brothers at their winery very near the Atlantic. This beauty is brisk and fresh made only in stainless steel vats to preserve and enhance the natural fruit intensity of the wine. Classic food combinations include chicken, pork chops and turkey, as well as softer more briny and sour cheeses like Goat cheese, Yogurt, and Crème fraîche. Enjoy today - 2022

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