

April 2024

Half Case and Premier Club Tasting Notes

Cass GSM 2022, Paso Robles, CA \$26.99

(Red)

The perfect balance of fruit, spice, savory, and sweet flavors. The nose is a sensory journey through the Mediterranean with aromas that include strawberry and rose petal jam and Herbs de Provence. The aromas of dry earth, dry rock, new saddle leather and wild rosemary conjure the image of the cool coastal fog blanketing the warm vineyard in summertime Paso Robles. The palate reflects these flavors with long notes of baking spices, red fruit jam and vanilla cake. A crowd-pleasing wine to be enjoyed with an array of foods.

Arienza de Marques de Riscal Rioja 2018, Italy \$15.99

(Red)

Fresh, fruity wine with a lovely attack, reminiscent of red fruit mingled with the coconut and vanilla aromas from the oak. Full and supple with a long finish. A wine with character which showcases the quality of the grapes used to make it. Ideal match for grilled white and red meat, oily fish such as emperor fish, and cured cheese. Blend: 96% Tempranillo, 4% Graciano

Castelvero Barbera 2022, Italy \$14.99

(Red)

Castelvero Barbera is a ruby red in color. The wine has a fresh nose with plum and blackberry notes. Medium structure, easy drinking with fresh notes of wild berries and a clean finish. Ideal with simple pasta or pizza and grilled sausages - serve slightly chilled.

Chemistry Cabernet Sauvignon 2021, Washington \$24.99

(Red and Mixed)

The 2021 growing season was warmer than average, with a dry heat throughout the summer. In the Columbia Valley, this resulted in the fruit ripening earlier in the season, giving us grapes full of vibrant and focused flavors. On the palate, this wine is as soft and supple as they come. Silky, luxurious tannins integrate with flavors of ripe black plum, dark chocolate, and spice notes of nutmeg and clove.

Opaque Zinfandel 2018, Paso Robles \$29.99

(Red and Mixed)

Blackberry, cherry, soy and hints of damp oak show on the lush nose of this bottling. Soft tannins make for a voluptuous palate, where roasted black cherry and smoky oak leads to a familiar caramel-laced finished. (Rated 91 Points Wine Enthusiast).

Cap Royal Bordeaux Superieur 2020, France \$15.99

(Red and Mixed)

Cap Royal 2020 is a great value. Dry, full-bodied, it is a rich and concentrated blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon fragrant with ripe blackberry, plum, earthy violets, cola, nutty and cake baking spice flavors creamy, harmonious and lingering on the palate. Tannins are fine-grained.

Saracina Sauvignon Blanc 2022, California \$24.99

(White and Mixed)

The 2022 Sauvignon Blanc really pops with lemon verbena, chamomile, lime leaf and musk melon aromatics. The palate is electrifying, with great natural acidity striking a balance with texture gained from lees contact. It's a delicious, mouth-watering and complex version of Sauvignon Blanc.

Sortesele Pinot Grigio Valdadige 2022, Italy \$13.99

(White and Mixed)

Straw yellow hue, accompanied by a close-focused nose of pear, apricot and white flowers. The fruity palate, with top notes of stone fruit, shows ripeness and roundness well supported by an elegant acidity and savoriness, ensuring a long, lingering finish.

Argyle Chardonnay 2022, Oregon \$23.99

(White and Mixed)

This white gold colored Chardonnay from Oregon opens with a fragrant lemon and grapefruit bouquet with hints of pineapple, jasmine, and gardenia. On the palate, this wine is medium bodied with medium plus acidity. The mouthfeel is balanced, silky smooth, and bright. The flavor profile is a lemon-lime and saline blend with notes of chalky minerality, white peach, and gentle pineapple. We also detected hints of white pepper and white tea. The finish is dry, and its flavors and acidity are nicely extended. We would pair this refreshing Oregon Chard with chicken francese or with fried shrimp.

Ronchi di Pietro Friulano 2021, Italy \$19.99

(White)

Yellow straw color with beautiful greenish tinges. Its intense aroma recalls wild flowers, hay and almond. Fine, delicate, full-bodied and fat, with a remarkable scent of bitter almond. Excellent as an aperitif and with lean starters. Ideal with first courses prepared with vegetable-based sauces, fish dishes accompanied by sauces, white meats and cheeses.

Lucien Albrecht Pinot Blanc 2021, France \$19.99

(White)

The 2021 Cuvée Balthazar Pinot Blanc shows a refined nose with orchard fruit aromas of peach, pear and mirabelle plums. The palate is crunchy and fresh. The finish reveals flavors of white peach and wildflowers. Pair with savory tarts, salads, smoked fish, maki, vegetables tian, or fresh goat cheese. (Rated 91 Points Wilfred Wong)

Cass Mr. Blanc 2023, Paso Robles \$24.99

(White)

The bouquet of Cass Mr. Blanc Paso Robles White Blend highlights essence of golden delicious baked apple, poached Asian pear and crushed Yellow Rose. Focused acidity and subtle minerality create a multidimensional palate, delivering flavors of ripe golden apple, spiced quince and Chamomile Tea weave through a full yet refreshing palate with a soft minerality that lead to a polished, lingering finish.

Guy & Yvan Dufouleur Santenay "Clos Genets" 2021, France \$55.99

(Premier)

Domaine Guy & Yvan Dufouleur was established on the slopes of Nuits-Saint-Georges in 1596 and is currently managed by Yvan Dufouleur and his uncle Xavier. The Dufouleur family sold the negociant arm of their business, "Dufouleur Père et Fils," in 2006, wanting to focus exclusively on estate bottled wines. Four hundred years is a long time for any winery, and through the centuries the family has acquired a whopping 28 hectares of prime vineyard sites extending from Fixin to Santenay. This portfolio includes the exclusive ownership of Fixin Clos du Chapitre Premier Cru. Farming is natural, and cellar work is hands-off. These sensory, revelatory wines are a must for anyone interested in distinctive Burgun Dark purple in color. Its bouquet is reminiscent of rose petals, peony, violet, red fruits on a hint of liquorice. Intense attack on the palate, firm tannins, smooth body and robust. Nice aromas of blueberry on a lingering finish.

Hamel Stratum Estate Red Blend 2020, France \$65.99

(Premier)

Dark ruby swirling in the glass, the bouquet reveals dark cherry, plum and cassis, complemented by notes of violets, cedar and iron. Dark fruit flavors envelop a sanguine mineral core on the palate, framed by fine, supple tannins and a refreshing vibrancy. Balanced and classically poised, the wine shows an intricate, chalky minerality that brings elegance and persistence. Accessible in the near term, the wine will continue to develop over the next ten years. The 2020 vintage began with substantial rainfall in December of 2019, which re-filled our soil's water table and allowed for beneficial mineralization of nutrients throughout the early part of winter. Below average rainfall in the first quarter of 2020, combined with above average temperatures, led to an early bud break across our four estate vineyards. Despite the low rainfall, and the historically warm spring, summer and fall, we were able to dry farm 68% of our vineyards. The dry and warm year yielded smaller berries showing a high degree of intensity and concentration. This allowed for our earliest harvest dates on record beginning on August 14th and finishing on September 22nd.