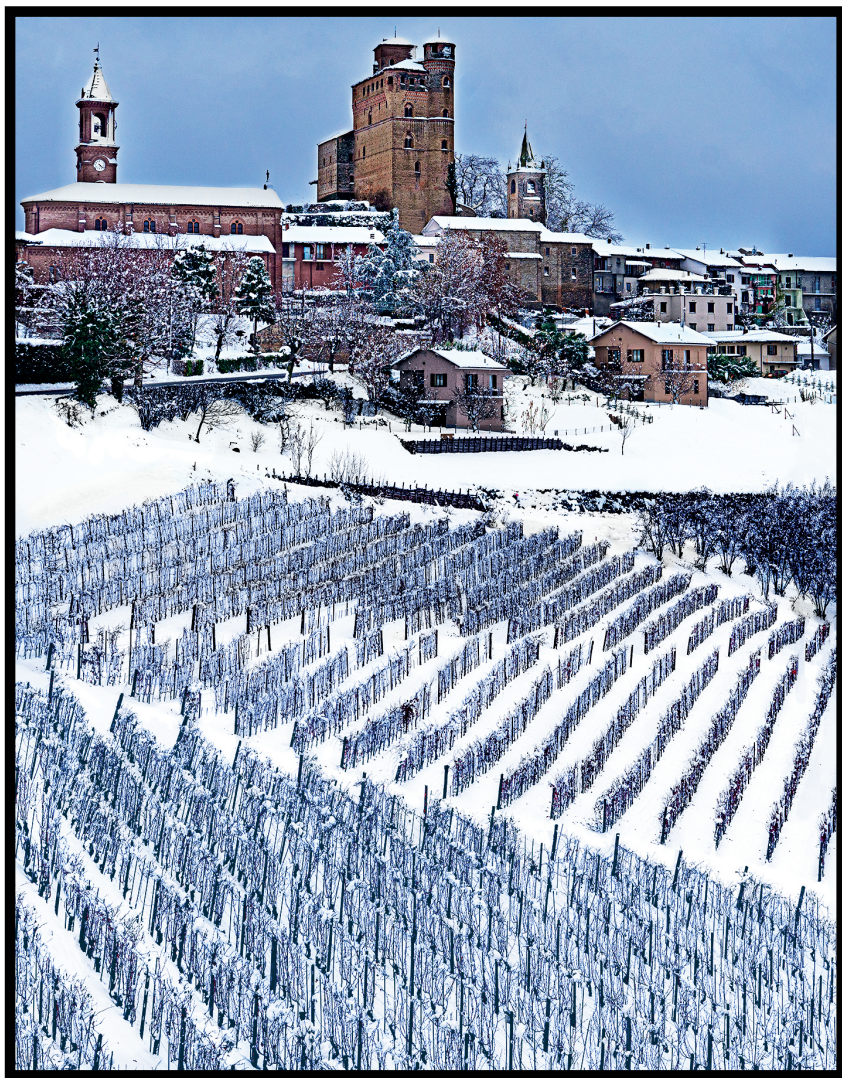


# KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

FEBRUARY 2024



*Serralunga d'Alba*

© Gail Skoff

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A TRIO OF GRAND RIESLINGS • FRENCH VALUES  
SIMMER SEASON ROSÉ SALE • PIEMONTE NEW ARRIVALS  
VIGNAI DA DULINE SPOTLIGHT • LOIRE CABERNET FRANC

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# THE NEVER-ENDING PLEASURES OF PIEMONTE

by Tom Wolf

**E**VEN THOUGH I love wines from all corners of Italy, presenting the wines below feels like laying down a royal flush on behalf of Piemonte. Not only is the region blessed with incredible breadth—these whites and reds can serve pretty much any occasion—but also its loftiest wines, like the Fantino brothers' and Guido Porro's Baroli on the next page, reach the same staggering heights as the best of Burgundy, the Rhône, Provence, or any other great wine region.

## 2022 ROERO ARNEIS • TENUTA LA PERGOLA

Here is the white wine to open the next time you host *aperitivo* hour or bake a white fish and roast potatoes. Floral and zesty, it has enough acidity to pair wonderfully with food but is round and charming enough to enjoy on its own!

**\$18.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$194.40** PER CASE

## 2022 ERBALUCE DI CALUSO "LE CHIUSURE" CANTINA FAVARO

For years, the Great Piemontese *Bianco* has been our white whale—the majority of the region's most profound wines are red—but finally, we've found it. Hailing from the northern edge of Piedmont, at the foot of the Alps, and made with the Erbaluce grape, this gorgeous bottle courses with energy and bursts open with notes of citrus, pear, white flowers, and a faintly saline finish. Despite the weather, it makes me want to go outside and fire up some fish or shrimp on the grill.

**\$39.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$421.20** PER CASE



*Erbaluce, ready for harvest*

© Joanie Bonfiglio

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**2021 DOLCETTO DI DIANO D'ALBA**  
**“SÖRÌ SANTA LUCIA” • IL PALAZZOTTO**

Depending on where it's grown and how it's raised, Dolcetto can range from bright and tangy to dark and structured. From one of the grape variety's great terroirs, this vintage of Sörì Santa Lucia combines the best of both ends of the spectrum. It's joyous enough for pizza night but also has enough complexity and depth to stand up to your favorite winter stew.

**\$23.00 PER BOTTLE      \$248.40 PER CASE**

**2020 BARBARESCO “VICENZIANA”**  
**SILVIO GIAMELLO**

That Silvio Giamello's exquisite Barbaresco costs the same now as what Eric Asimov and his *New York Times* “Wine School” panel paid for it in 2010 speaks to the incredible value you can still find in Piedmont. They named that wine—the 2005 vintage—their favorite Barbaresco of the bunch, judging that “its structure was evident, yet so was its delicacy.” The same is true in 2020. This bottling is a master class in how to produce Nebbiolo that is simultaneously lithe and full of character.

**\$45.00 PER BOTTLE      \$486.00 PER CASE**

**2017 BAROLO RISERVA “BUSSIA**  
**CASCINA DARDI” • A. & G. FANTINO**

Like Giamello in Barbaresco, the Fantino brothers epitomize Nebbiolo traditionalism, and their sixty-year-old, south-facing vines in the historic *cru* of Bussia give them the perfect raw material to realize their vision of what Barolo can be. Deep, rich, and soulful, this Riserva teems with notes of roses, cherry, spice, and leather and is begging to be paired with a ribeye.

**\$85.00 PER BOTTLE      \$918.00 PER CASE**

**2018 BAROLO “VIGNA RIONDA” • GUIDO PORRO**

Don't finish that ribeye without first pouring yourself a glass of this enchanting Barolo from one of the region's most hallowed vineyards, Vigna Rionda. Already elegant, this Barolo shows astonishing poise and a different mesmerizing feature of its kaleidoscopic personality every time you take a sip. It is majestic now and will become more transcendent over time.

**\$193.00 PER BOTTLE      \$2,084.40 PER CASE**

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# SIMMER SEASON ROSÉ SALE

by Madison H. Brown



I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD to these wet, cold-weather months when my kitchen windows steam up from hours of slow-cooking something rich and brothy on the stove. This season is when I dig into my rosé stash, and not because it tastes like “liquid sunshine” or promises to fill my head with visions of a seaside vacation on the Med. No, it wasn’t until I began pairing blush-hued bottles with soul-warming winter recipes that I became a true believer in Kermit’s “rosé year-round” mantra. With just the right balance of structure and refreshing acidity, rosé is a sublime match for meaty stews, rich consommés, or whatever hodgepodge of ingredients I’ve thrown into a pot. Though a red may seem the obvious choice to spar with heartier fare, rosé has an uncanny ability to invigorate the taste buds, elevating and enriching flavors at table (rather than rivaling them). There is a distinct playfulness in pairing bright rosés with winter’s deep, diverse flavors, and since all rosés are 30% off during the month of February, now’s the time to stock up! Here are a few of my favorites on sale now.

WITH 30%  
DISCOUNT

2021 BANDOL ROSÉ • DOMAINE DE TERREBRUNE . . . . . \$25.90

*With a bit of age under its belt, Terrebrune’s complex and invigorating 2021 has opened up beautifully: lush fruit beneath garrigue-scented aromatics and a chalky core. Try it alongside bouillabaisse for a très Provençal experience.*

2020 VINO ROSATO “SUPERLUNA” • MASSERIA DEL PINO . . . . . 41.30

*Patient and meticulous, Cesare Fulvio and Federica Turillo allow their wines ample time to rest in bottle. After three years spent slumbering, the 2020 is at the apogee of its orbit, bursting with crushed strawberry and savory balsamic aromas. Italian wedding soup with Sicilian sausage or a Tuscan ribollita would pair well.*

2022 PINOT GRIS • DOMAINE DE REUILLY . . . . . 18.20

*Citrusy aromatics, bracing salinity, and a mineral backbone make it a mouthwatering match for tangy, fresh-herb-laden soups like tom kha gai or phở.*

*Dozens of rosé selections are 30% off this month  
in our Berkeley shop and online.*

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30% off

**ROSÉ SELECTIONS FROM FRANCE AND ITALY**

Now through March 5, visit our Berkeley shop  
or [shop.kermitlynch.com/rose](https://shop.kermitlynch.com/rose) and  
use coupon code **ROSE2024**.



*Lulu Peyraud's bouillabaisse*

© Gail Skoff

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# FRENCH VALUES

by Jane Augustine, KLWM NEW YORK

## 2022 BORDEAUX BLANC • CHÂTEAU DUCASSE

Before working for Kermit, I hadn't really considered white Bordeaux as a category. I knew about Sauternes, but in my mind I could only conjure the elite reds that were so integral to the wine lore of the times. Red wine may have made the region famous, but even the Bordelais need white wines in their repertoire (they live close to the Atlantic, after all!). We've proudly imported the Château Ducasse *blanc* for decades, and among our value picks, it consistently draws in customers who end up requesting cases full of it. I guess it's tough to tire of such a buoyant, joyful, and vibrant white: zingy passion fruit, ripe grapefruit, and salty minerality combine to create this perennial crowd-pleaser. It's simply a leader in its class.

**\$20.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$216.00** PER CASE

## 2022 VIN DE PAYS DE VAUCLUSE ROUGE SELECTED BY KERMIT LYNCH

Third-generation winemaker Henri Leydier is in charge of vinifying this rugged and inviting red from the south of France, and you can tell it's made by experienced hands. The fruit used for this cuvée was previously destined for the family's personal bottling to make the wine they'd drink at home—their *vin des amis*, of sorts. Vinified like a Beaujolais, it never spends time in oak, which preserves the fresh and youthful quality of the fruit. This food-friendly, mouthwatering blend of grapes like Grenache, Syrah, and little-known Marselan surpasses anyone's expectations for a humble Vin de Pays.

**\$14.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$151.20** PER CASE



Henri and Gaëtan Leydier

© Joanie Bonfiglio

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# A TRIO OF GRAND RIESLINGS

by Anthony Lynch

**I**N ALSACE, Riesling undoubtedly holds the title for noblest of the region's "noble varieties." But even among dry Rieslings—the predominant style—the grape takes on myriad forms, primarily due to Alsace's rich mélange of soils including granite, *Muschelkalk* limestone, sandstone, marl, and volcanic sediment, just to name a few. Vintage character and each vigneron's unique touch further distinguish one Riesling from the next. This impressive trio demonstrates not just the diversity, but the utter class Riesling expresses in Alsatian soils.

## 2021 RIESLING "RÉSERVE" • ALBERT BOXLER

The brisk 2021 vintage gave taut, linear wines with mouthwatering acidity, and that is certainly the case in this young-vine cuvée from Alsatian maestro Jean Boxler. He bottles the Réserve from declassified *grand cru* fruit from Sommerberg and Brand, two of Alsace's legendary vineyard sites, so there is serious terroir pedigree to go with the stimulating citrus and spring flowers. Tart and crystalline, it has the zip to quench one's thirst with verve and grace.

**\$68.00 PER BOTTLE      \$734.40 PER CASE**

## 2020 RIESLING GRAND CRU "WINECK-SCHLOSSBERG" • MEYER-FONNÉ

Nearby in Katzenthal, Félix Meyer's crown jewel is his acreage on the imposing slope of the *grand cru* Wineck-Schlossberg. Born from the warmer 2020 harvest, this Riesling offers ripe yellow fruits along with notes of bergamot, ginger, and gunflint. Despite the rich mouthfeel, there is a purity to the saline-tinged finish—a hallmark of granitic soils—that keeps things perky and fresh. Appreciate how it cuts through the creaminess of a *tonkotsu* ramen, or hold it for five to eight more years before indulging.

**\$55.00 PER BOTTLE      \$594.00 PER CASE**

## 2018 RIESLING GRAND CRU "GEISBERG" KUENTZ-BAS

Over five years old, this 2018 shows off the elegance and depth Riesling achieves in limestone-marl terroirs. Suggestions of white lilies, acacia, and white peach provide a gentle complexity, while the generous, yet laid-back texture contrasts with the zestier Rieslings above. The Geisberg speaks softly but has a lot to say; a delicately prepared white fish is the perfect backdrop for it to express its subtleties.

**\$54.00 PER BOTTLE      \$583.20 PER CASE**

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# VIGNAI DA DULINE

## FRIULIAN REVOLUTIONARIES

by Anthony Lynch

**W**HEN LORENZO MOCCHIUTTI AND FEDERICA MAGRINI inherited some vineyards in 1997 and made the choice to become full-time vigneroni, it meant more than just making wine. They adhere to the idea that a winegrower is a custodian of the land, and the bottles they produce incarnate a sensible and calculated worldview that rejects industrialized agriculture while honoring Friuli's farming and winemaking traditions. None of that would matter if their wines could not go toe to toe with the very best, but their creations stand tall among the most characterful wines we import from any region. Made of low yields from indigenous grape varieties, their wines concentrate mineral essences from the rocky soils of Friuli's verdant foothills. These new releases represent the pinnacle of artisanal craftsmanship, offering stimulating refreshment and a delicious sense of place from the first pour to the last drop.

### 2022 FRIULI COLLI ORIENTALI PINOT GRIGIO "RONCO PITOTTI"

Ronco Pitotti is a terraced amphitheater planted to old clones of local varieties including nearly four acres of Pinot Grigio up to eighty years in age. The juice is intensely mineral, hinting at wet stone and almonds, with a textural fullness and depth acquired through barrel aging and malolactic fermentation. A stark contrast with generic, mass-produced examples of Pinot Grigio, this wine is an ideal companion to shellfish.

**\$49.00 PER BOTTLE      \$529.20 PER CASE**

### 2020 FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA BIANCO "MORUS ALBA"

*Morus alba* is the botanical name for the white mulberry tree, which was commonly grown in Friuli for the once thriving textile industry (the leaves are used to feed silkworms for commercial silk production). Grapevines were often trained high on the trees, a traditional system known as *vite maritate* ("married vines") that is immortalized on the label. Duline's Morus Alba is a different kind of marriage, wedding two grape varieties—Malvasia Istriana and Sauvignon—from two distinct vineyard sites. United in bottle, they create a captivating medley of lush citrus and florals, at once creamy and slightly briny. Richly textured and built to age, it is the ultimate match for a seafood risotto.

**\$63.00 PER BOTTLE      \$680.40 PER CASE**

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## 2018 FRIULI COLLI ORIENTALI REFOSCO DAL PEDUNCOLO ROSSO “MORUS NIGRA”

Morus Nigra, named for the black mulberry, is the red counterpart to Morus Alba. Produced from a local biotype of the Refosco grape (*peduncolo rosso* denotes its characteristic red stalks), it is also the union of Duline’s two terroirs. Federica and Lorenzo planted mulberry trees and other native vegetation all around the vineyards to foster an oasis of biodiversity isolated from the outside world, the symbiosis with local fauna and flora keeping their vines healthy and vibrant. The energy is palpable in this red’s vivid perfume of tart wild berries, iron, and plums. Lovely now with a slight chill, their Refosco has a stimulating, stony backbone that ensures a slow evolution through the years.

**\$60.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$648.00** PER CASE



*Lorenzo and Federica of Vignai da Duline*

© Gail Skoff

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# LOIRE REDS

*by Dustin Soiseth*

**L**AST MONTH we explored Loire Valley whites, and now it's time for the reds, with a trio of Cabernet Francs from benchmark domaines. Recent vintages characterized by milder winters and longer growing seasons, though not without their own unique challenges, have given Cabernet Franc the time it needs to ripen fully. If you enjoy nervy reds with a balance of fruit and earthiness like Pinot Noir or Gamay, then you'll assuredly be a fan of Cabernet Franc.

## **2021 CHINON "LE DOMAINE"**

**BERNARD BAUDRY**

Sourced from a mix of gravel and limestone terroirs, Le Domaine displays the attributes of both: freshness from the gravel, minerality and structure from the limestone. With generous red fruit and a hit of wildness that I always associate with Baudry, it's a classic—and very tasty—Chinon from one of the appellation's best.

**\$29.00 PER BOTTLE**

**\$313.20 PER CASE**

## **2020 BOURGUEIL "NUITS D'IVRESSE"**

**CATHERINE & PIERRE BRETON**

If I had to recommend a single Loire Cabernet Franc to share with someone unfamiliar with the region's reds, it would be this vintage of this wine. The fruit is ripe, fleshy, and vibrant. The finish is sumptuous, pleasantly chalky, and lingering. The Nuits d'Ivresse is a special cuvée, harvested, fermented, and bottled without any sulfur whatsoever. Store it carefully and enjoy it now. It is a treat.

**\$40.00 PER BOTTLE**

**\$432.00 PER CASE**

## **2020 SAUMUR-CHAMPIGNY "LES MÉMOIRES"**

**THIERRY GERMAIN**

The 2020 vintage was excellent for Cabernet Franc. The long, warm growing season was mostly drama-free, the resulting fruit ripe and abundant. This bottling is sourced from a small parcel of 110+-year-old vines, a good portion of which are ungrafted, and as you'd expect from well-tended old vines in a strong vintage, the wine is dense with promise. The fruit is very fine, almost silky, with intense minerality on the finish. Upon opening, it was quite closed but showed its potential the following day. Patience is needed—and will be rewarded.

**\$80.00 PER BOTTLE**

**\$864.00 PER CASE**

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# BORDEAUX

by Jane Augustine, KLWM NEW YORK

## 2021 BORDEAUX BLANC “DÉFINITION” DOMAINE DE L’ALLIANCE

We’ve long considered the tenacious Daniel Alibrand to be one of the most talented vigneronns we work with. He’s a no-frills, no-nonsense guy with a wine-making style to match. In Sauternes, it’s unusual to craft razor-sharp, bone-dry whites from Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon that are electrifying, stimulating, and complex. But Daniel delivers every vintage. The moniker for this wine reveals his pursuit: to make a focused and precise *blanc* that tastes “defined.” The resulting cuvée is bright, salty, and brimming with peachy, citrusy fruit. It’s just the antidote to moody days and gray February skies.

**\$48.00** PER BOTTLE      **\$518.40** PER CASE

## 2020 FRONSAC “LES PIVERTS” CHÂTEAU MOULIN

A *pivert*, in French, is a woodpecker. The name of this wine alludes to the nagging feeling in one’s temples after overindulging, akin to the incessant drilling of a woodpecker. I can’t claim to know the cure for a hangover, but I do practice prevention! Staying hydrated is key, and choosing wines that are well made and balanced seems to work wonders. Hubau’s Les Piverts has zero added sulfur and is like a big bowl of brambly fruit with a touch of graphite and a splash of violet. An affable wine, full of charm, it is easy to pair and has a revolutionary’s spirit: it’s uncommon to find “natural” wine in Bordeaux as transparent as this one, but someone had to pave the way.

**\$33.00** PER BOTTLE      **\$356.40** PER CASE

## 2017 POMEROL • CHÂTEAU GOMBAUDE-GUILLOT

Organically grown, pedigreed Bordeaux? Say no more. Olivier Techer, who learned to make wine from his pioneering mother, regales us time after time, never missing, with his slightly rustic, always alluring Pomerol from his family’s storied outpost on the right bank. A touch of Cabernet Franc lends a peppery accent to this Merlot-based blend that’s both curvy and firm, with tangy red fruit and woodsmoke on the nose. After a few years in bottle, it now reveals a more savory, velvety quality. Bordeaux as luxurious as this one makes an apt pairing for a banquet of dishes ranging from grilled flank steak to lamb chops to charred and herby chicken hot off the grill.

**\$123.00** PER BOTTLE      **\$1,328.40** PER CASE

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NEW FROM PIEMONTE  
**CANTINA FAVARO**

The Favaros are true *garagistes*, crafting their wines under their home in a subterranean cellar just next to their vineyards. They work organically in the vines, and all their efforts support coaxing the maximum expression of their land out of the wine. Their Erbaluce (see page 2) is a benchmark for the appellation, and these white wines are capable of aging beautifully.

—Joanie Bonfiglio, KLWM NATIONAL SALES

*Quantities of the Favaros' reds and whites are tiny. Contact our retail shop to learn more about the wines and secure a few bottles for yourself.*

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