

# KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

JULY 2023



*Iban and Téo Riouspeyrous of Domaine Arretxea*

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NEW ARRIVALS FROM DOMAINE ARRETXE  
CORSICAN ROSÉ! • LE BEAUJOLAIS • VALUES OF THE MONTH  
BORDEAUX WITH BALANCE, FRESHNESS, COMPLEXITY

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# CORSICAN ROSÉ

*by Dixon Brooke*

**E**VEN THOUGH JULY is typically one of the coldest months of the year here in the Bay Area, I imagine this will not be the case for most of you! This selection of rosés, arriving fresh from the island of Corsica in the middle of the shimmering Mediterranean, comes in three distinct styles—by all means, you should try every one of them.

## 2022 VIN DE FRANCE ROSÉ “FAUSTINE” DOMAINE COMTE ABBATUCCI



Abbatucci's rosé comes from the decomposed granite ridgelines of southwestern Corsica, near the town of Ajaccio. These ribs of granite descend from Corsica's mountainous interior into the sea, like the exposed skeleton of an ancient reptile. Abbatucci's pampered biodynamically farmed vines cling to them and drink their nutrients from soil and sea. Pale salmon-hued, juicy, and floral, this rosé presents a perfect marriage of round softness and luminous invigoration. Its ripe, peachy flavors both comfort and refresh.

**\$43.00 PER BOTTLE**

**\$464.40 PER CASE**

## 2022 ÎLE DE BEAUTÉ ROSÉ “YL” DOMAINE LECCIA

Electric light magenta, this wine's beautiful hue catches the eye in particularly attention-grabbing fashion. Yves Leccia cultivates the bottling predominantly from Niellucciu, the Corsican cousin of Sangiovese. Bright, savory, and structured, this wine sinks into your teeth a bit more and leaves a strong impression of Corsican identity and flavor. I can easily see it accompanying an entire alfresco meal if desired, from briny anchovies and olives to grilled fish and vegetables to wild herb-rubbed and charcoal-seared meats.

**\$34.00 PER BOTTLE**

**\$367.20 PER CASE**



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## 2022 VIN DE CORSE ROSÉ “GRIS DE MARQUILIANI” • DOMAINE DE MARQUILIANI

Anne Amalric at Marquiliani is our only grower on the eastern coast of Corsica, and she makes the palest rosé we import, easily confused with a white wine until you taste it. It is made from freshly pressed Sciaccarellu, the magical indigenous grape of the island that soaks up its wild aromas and delivers them with freshness and finesse. Think of this as a Corsican thirst quencher on a warm evening.

**\$32.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$345.60** PER CASE



*Anne Amalric of Domaine de Marquiliani*

© Gail Skoff

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# UNRIVALED DIVERSITY OF ITALIAN REDS

## 6-BOTTLE SAMPLER

by Tom Wolf

IF FRANCE, as the source of some of the world's best-known and most beloved grapes, represents comfort and familiarity, Italy, with its impressive dedication to vinous variety, offers nearly endless opportunities for thrilling discovery. On top of the red cultivars you likely know, such as Nebbiolo, Sangiovese, and Montepulciano—all three of which feature in this sampler—hundreds more are planted throughout the country, each adapted to Italy's incredibly rich diversity of terroirs, from the mountains to the sea, and many of them worthy of a regular spot in your ice bucket or on your dinner table.

Take, for instance, Corte Gardoni's joyous and elegant bottling of Corvina, a grape that thrives on the shores of Lake Garda, where the Alps descend into an unexpectedly Mediterranean climate. Corvina has long yielded graceful and highly regarded *rossi*, to the point where a century ago bottles featuring this northern Italian grape regularly appeared on the best wine lists alongside red Burgundy.

At the other end of the country, in Sicily, Nero d'Avola has experienced a surge in interest and esteem lately, inspiring *vignaioli* to produce bottlings of 100% Nero d'Avola, as Riofava does with its Spaccaforno. At its best, this grape yields a dark but lively, spicy, and brambly *rosso*.

We could have made dozens of different versions of this sampler, but these six single-variety wines offer an excellent place to start if you are open to Italy's vast range of charming and terroir-driven reds from all corners of the country.

PER BOTTLE

2020 CORVINA VERONESE "BECCO ROSSO"

CORTE GARDONI . . . . . \$23.00

2019 ELORO NERO D'AVOLA "SPACCAFORNO" • RIOFAVARA . . . . . 27.00

2019 MARCHE ROSSO "BASTIAN CONTRARIO"

LA MARCA DI SAN MICHELE . . . . . 29.00

2021 CANNONAU DI SARDEGNA "RIVIERA" • VIGNE RADA . . . . . 32.00

2020 ROSSO DI MONTALCINO • FERRETTI . . . . . 47.00

2016 BAROLO "BUSSIA CASCINA DARDI" • A. & G. FANTINO . . . . . 66.00

Normally \$224.00

SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE **\$179**

(a 20% discount)

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# VALUES OF THE MONTH

by Chris Santini, KLWM BEAUNE

## 2022 VINO BIANCO • TINTERO

Value of the Month is quite an understatement here. This one needs a central spot in our all-time Value Hall of Fame. It's ridiculously good, and I don't mean "good" as in "good for the price." I mean straight-up delicious, fun, good wine. I don't know how Tintero does it, putting out wines that are artisanally and sustainably made on his small family *azienda* at prices like this. Perhaps it's just a question of priorities. No fancy cars are parked in his driveway, if you catch my drift. This *vino bianco* is as unpretentious as its maker yet is far more than a simple *vino*. Lovely, crisp, fresh fruit aromas abound from the first pour. The wine itself is dry, low in alcohol, smooth, and flavorful, with Tintero's signature *frizzante* touch of just the faintest hint of bubbles to liven it up. You really can't go wrong with this one. My advice is to drink it chilled as can be on a hot summer day for the full experience.

**\$12.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$129.60** PER CASE

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## 2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON LES TRAVERSES DE FONTANÈS

I still recall hearing from Kermit, about fifteen years ago, of his latest find while traveling through the Languedoc. The winemaker at Château La Roque, Cyriaque Rozier, had pulled him aside after tasting through the La Roque range and sheepishly asked if he would like to taste a wine he'd made under his own label from an old-vine parcel of Cabernet Sauvignon he'd recently purchased (just to keep him busy on nights and weekends). They tasted, and I got an enthusiastic phone call shortly thereafter about this Cabernet that had a deep soul and dark *garrigue* fruit of the Languedoc, with a bright shine and lofty aromatics typical of Cabernet in its ancestral home of Bordeaux. When I noted the price, I did a double take and asked again to be sure I hadn't heard wrong. It was, and is to this day, a price totally incongruous with the work behind that bottle (biodynamic farming, low yields, minimal intervention winemaking . . . the whole nine yards, if you will). While Cyriaque has since expanded his wines under the Fontanès label, this Cabernet remains the backbone and star of his production, as unique and tasty as it ever was. He also continues to manage La Roque, keeping his Cabernet as his pet project for fun—and a top-value everyday *rouge* for us.

**\$20.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$216.00** PER CASE

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# DOMAINE ARRETXEA

*by Anthony Lynch*

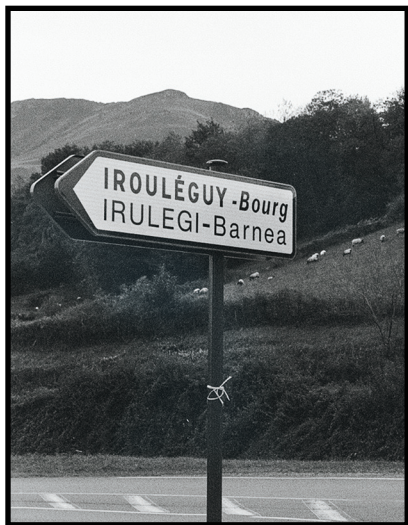
**I**T'S ONE OF THE MOST remote properties in our portfolio, and among the hardest to access. Arriving at Domaine Arretxea, tucked in France's southwest corner twenty miles from the Atlantic coast just north of the Spanish border, feels like entering a completely different world—and in many ways, it is. This is the heart of French Pays Basque, and just a quick glance at road signs, architecture, or some of the locals, with their characteristic jet-black hair, signals you have entered a unique cultural enclave.

The same is true for the wine produced here. Among France's smallest appellations, Irouléguy covers some 240 hectares of sloping vineyard land in the foot-

hills of the Pyrenees. The cool, humid climate resulting from a combination of mountainous and oceanic influences lies in stark contrast to the Mediterranean grape-growing regions also found at this southerly latitude. Consequently, Irouléguy boasts its very own set of grape varieties: Gros and Petit Manseng along with Petit Courbu for the whites; Tannat and Cabernet Franc (which likely originates in Basque Country) for reds. Blended in small percentages, Cabernet Sauvignon is the only import, likely brought long ago by pilgrims on the route to Santiago de Compostela.

Irouléguy's unparalleled combination of climate, grapes, and complex geology is responsible for some truly singular wines, without equal in France or anywhere else.

If the area boasts an ancient history of winemaking, dating back to Roman times and veritably developed in the twelfth century by monks providing for passing pilgrims, one cannot speak of the modern era without mentioning Domaine Arretxea. Since their first harvest in 1993, Michel and Thérèse Riouspeyrou have risen to prominence as ardent defenders of Basque terroir as well as pioneering experts in biodynamic viticulture, which they began practicing in 1998. Now run by their sons, Iban and Teo, Arretxea remains one of France's hidden gems. The few bottles they produce express this special corner of the world with style, precision, and lots of soul, along with the strong-willed character for which the Basque people are known. We are lucky to be able to offer a few cases of their exceptional cuvées.



© Madison Brown

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## 2021 IROULÉGUY BLANC “HEGOXURI”

Arretxea’s flagship white, blended from the three local white grapes and raised in a combination of *demi-muids* and *foudres*. Bone-dry and bracingly tart, with notes of lime, ginger, and salted caramel. Decant it to best enjoy it young; with time, its edginess will soften and develop into something truly spectacular.

**\$55.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$594.00** PER CASE



## 2020 IROULÉGUY ROUGE “CUVÉE HAITZA”

One of France’s great *vins de garde*, Haitza is opaque, dense, deep, and noble. Wild black fruits on the nose, along with pepper, spice, and a kiss of oak. A full-throttle Tannat (with a splash of Cabernet Sauvignon) to be treated like a great Bordeaux growth.

**\$54.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$583.20** PER CASE



## 2020 IROULÉGUY ROUGE “BURDIN HARRIA”

In Basque, the name means *fire stone*, a reference to the rare volcanic terroir called *ophites* in which the Tannat, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon are planted. Compare it to an old-vine Cornas from Clape or Allemand: lean, muscular, savory, and mineral-driven, with the potential to age and improve for many years.

**\$64.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$691.20** PER CASE



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# BORDEAUX BALANCING ACT

## CHÂTEAU GOMBAUDE-GUILLOT

*by Dustin Soiseth*

**I**F IT AIN'T BROKE, don't fix it. This adage has been mostly ignored in Bordeaux over the last thirty-five years as many producers have abandoned their individuality in exchange for critical acclaim and prestige. Bucking this unfortunate trend, Château Gombaude-Guilgot faithfully expresses its unique Pomerol terroir in an authentic way vintage after vintage. "The Bordelais dream of having a Mediterranean climate," says Claire Laval, whose family has owned Gombaude-Guilgot for generations. "They want over-the-top concentration, whereas our real potential in Bordeaux are wines with balance, freshness, complexity—characteristics we owe to our cooler, oceanic climate."

Situated in the heart of the Pomerol plateau, Gombaude-Guilgot is ideally suited to carry on the tradition of classic Bordeaux. Its vineyards are planted on deep, gravelly clay soils and have been farmed organically since the early 1990s. The château achieved organic certification in 1999—the first in Pomerol to do so—and biodynamic practices are now employed, too. The winemaking is straightforward, with little in the way of modern tomfoolery or intervention. At Gombaude-Guilgot, the grapes are allowed to speak for themselves.

Their Pom 'N' Roll is a cuvée for early drinking, vinified in stainless steel and aged in amphora to highlight the vibrancy of the château's organic fruit. The flagship Pomerol ferments in a mix of stainless steel tank and cement vat, followed by aging in about 50% new oak. The 2019 is developing beautifully in bottle. The vintage was warm, yielding perfectly ripe fruit, but with counterbalancing acidity and tannins that set the wine up wonderfully for the long haul. Cellaring is recommended, but while you're waiting for it to come into its own, you can pull the cork on the ready-to-drink 2014. From a cooler vintage, it is the perfect example of the "balance, freshness, and complexity" prized at Gombaude-Guilgot.

### 2019 POMEROL "POM 'N' ROLL"

**\$76.00** PER BOTTLE      **\$820.80** PER CASE

### 2019 POMEROL

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

### 2014 POMEROL

**\$115.00** PER BOTTLE      **\$1,242.00** PER CASE

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# WHITE WINES FROM ITALY

*by Jane Augustine, KLWM NEW YORK*

## **2021 COLLINE SAVONESI LUMASSINA PUNTA CRENA**

Winemaker Paolo Ruffino says his cliff-side hometown of Varigotti is known for three things: “sea, sun, and rock!” This thirst-quenching, slightly prickly bottling of the native Lumassina grape captures all of those things and offered me respite from the fiery Szechuan food I ordered one night. It has a melony, jasmine scent, a frothy texture, and when paired with spicy wontons, dry-pepper chicken, and sesame noodles—though untraditional—was revelatory! It’s playful, low in alcohol, and a versatile complement to a range of cuisines.

**\$25.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$270.00** PER CASE

## **2021 VERMENTINO DI GALLURA SUPERIORE “FRIA” • DEPERU HOLLER**

Deperu Holler’s lovely Fria is a dazzling addition to the handful of zesty Vermentinos we import from other regions like Corsica and Provence. This one from Gallura, in Sardinia, offers a whole new take on the variety, proudly displaying classic notes of green almond and lime blossom while painting the portrait of an enviable summer’s eve on an island in the sea: sunny citrus, savory whiffs of wild herbs, and hints of chestnut give this Vermentino a characterful and unique personality all its own.

**\$37.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$399.60** PER CASE

## **2021 FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA FRIULANO “LA DULINE” • VIGNAI DA DULINE**

Considering how winemaker Lorenzo Mocchiutti approaches his work—his passion—a bottle from Vignai da Duline is a glimpse into his soul. He works with such intention: following a rigorous personal philosophy honed from years of practical experience and observation in nature to care for his vines, maintaining the region’s traditions of using Slavonian oak casks, and allowing his white wines to finish their malolactic fermentation, which brings balance and complexity. This invigorating bottle of La Duline blends local Tocai Giallo and Tocai Verde and will transport you to a wilder place where Mother Nature is queen, her essence captured in a wine.

**\$48.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$518.40** PER CASE

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# LE BEAUJOLAIS

by Anthony Lynch

## 2022 BEAUJOLAIS “LE BEAUJOLAIS”

M. & C. LAPIERRE

Simple “Beaujolais” does not justify this new cuvée by sibling duo Mathieu and Camille Lapierre. It tastes more like top-class Morgon, with loads of bright cherry and silky violets, only it’s made from parcels just beyond the Morgon AOC boundaries. A testament to the greatness of whole-cluster Gamay from sandy granitic soils, it is a more affordable—and available—opportunity to experience the magic that makes Lapierre an iconic producer not just in Beaujolais, but in all of wine.

**\$32.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$345.60** PER CASE

## 2021 RÉGNIÉ “GRAIN & GRANIT”

JEAN PAUL & CHARLY THÉVENET

After an internship with the Lapierras just up the street, a teenaged Charly Thévenet convinced his father, Jean Paul, to abandon herbicides and start plowing his vineyards. More than twenty years later, Charly continues to carry the family domaine forward, honing farming and winemaking to produce *cru* Beaujolais that is purer and more delicious with each passing vintage. His Régnié has always had an intensity and concentration from ninety-year-old vines planted directly into granite bedrock, but in 2021 it is also lithe, juicy, and dangerously thirst-quenching. A change to all-tank aging, lower sulfur, plus a Beaujolais vintage for the ages has resulted in one of his finest releases to date.

**\$39.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$421.20** PER CASE

## 2021 CÔTE DE BROUILLY “CUVÉE ZACCHARIE”

CHÂTEAU THIVIN

If you’re familiar with the Geoffroy family’s Côte de Brouilly, a mainstay of our portfolio for thirty years now, you know it’s consistently among the region’s most classy, terroir-driven, age-worthy releases. This rare cuvée, named after the Geoffroy ancestor who purchased the château back in 1877, represents a selection from ancient vines in two of Thivin’s best vineyards. Raised in Burgundy barrels rather than *foudres*, it delivers extraordinary power and breadth that make it an ideal candidate for cellaring. The deep complexity of mature bottles matches that of much fancier Burgundy, but with a joyous freshness you can only get in top Beaujolais.

**\$69.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$745.20** PER CASE

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U P C O M I N G

## CLASSICS SALE!

Visit our retail shop or [shop.kermitlynch.com](http://shop.kermitlynch.com) between  
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