

KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

DECEMBER 2021



© Gail Skoff

2019 DOMAINE TEMPIER BANDOL ROUGES
CHAMPAGNE SALE CONTINUES ■ ROSÉ OF THE MONTH
HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP ❄️ ORDER EARLY!

HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP

by Madison Halvorson

AS IS TRADITION here at Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, we've made it easy to celebrate together—whether in person or in spirit! Our themed gift pack samplers are sure to delight the wine lovers in your life. We also have books, t-shirts, aprons, special bottles, and more. Visit our online Holiday Gift Shop for ideas, *and order early to arrive by Christmas!*



VINTAGE BORDEAUX VERTICAL GIFT PACK \$182 (20% OFF)

Three successive vintages—2014, 2015, and 2016—two bottles each of Lalande de Pomerol from Château Belles-Graves. Open now to enjoy ripe black fruit with supple and approachable tannin; hold for another ten or twenty years and you'll find deep complexity with aromas of black truffle and leather. Fine Bordeaux need not cost a fortune, nor does it need decades of bottle age to be delicious.

CUCINA ITALIANA PACK \$135 (20% OFF)

For the chef! In Italy, fine olive oil is as important at table as fine wine. Here we have three superb olive oils (from Liguria, Sicily, and Tuscany) matched with three versatile wines crafted by the same domaines. Given the array of aromas and flavors in all six of these bottlings, you'll find olive oil tasting can be as thought-provoking and conversation-sparking as wine tasting!

THE APÉRO PACK \$67 (20% OFF)

Richard Olney taught Kermit the virtues of the daily apéro. "We would embrace in the French style, then sit down under his arbor of grape vines for an apéritif. As the sun sank lower and lower, a bowl of black olives would appear, slices of saucisson, and iced radishes with butter and salt. The wine flowed, as did the conversation." Here are two Kermit-approved sparklers and two Vermouths that offer many possibilities at apéro hour, on their own or in various combinations.

WEEKNIGHT WINE PACK \$99 (20% OFF)

A quick survey of the KLWM staff would reveal that while we do, of course, treat ourselves to our most prized offerings, often you'll find us pairing our dinners with a familiar rotation of budget-friendly bottles that we know and love. In this pack, we've included six of these "old reliables": food-friendly wines of tremendous value for guilt-free enjoyment any night of the week.



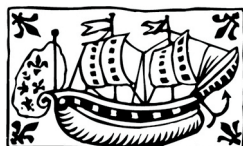
Visit SHOP.KERMITLYNCH.COM
for gift packs, samplers, special bottles, and more!

2019 DOMAINE TEMPIER

by Anthony Lynch

METEOROLOGISTS ARE RIGHT when they say that no two years are alike,” writes Domaine Tempier’s Daniel Ravier in his 2019 vintage report. We can all certainly relate, having lived a year—or is it two now?—unlike any other, and when it comes to wine, nothing could be more true.

After 2018, a nearly tropical vintage characterized by humidity, thunderstorms, and an unusual absence of Provence’s famous mistral, 2019 marked a return to something slightly more familiar in Bandol. The wind came back with gusto, keeping the grapes healthy and concentrating flavors behind thick skins. The rain—



uninvited guest to the party the year before—was nowhere to be seen, with bright Mediterranean sunshine throughout the summer providing perfectly ripe tannins to go with rich, vibrant wild fruit and a deep, intense robe.

Tempier’s wines are alive in every sense of the word. The conversion to biodynamic viticulture nearly a decade ago has ensured the domaine’s clay and limestone soils are teeming with life, staying cool in the hot months and ensuring a fresh balance regardless of what nature may throw its way. In the cellar, the principles championed by Lucien Peyraud long before “natural wine” became a catchphrase—fermenting with vineyard yeast and bottling unfiltered—still govern what is, or rather what isn’t, done to the fruit. And finally, Tempier Bandol is alive in the bottle and in the glass: constantly evolving, always captivating, bestowing pleasure in different forms at every stage of its life.

The Bandol *rouge*’s youthful vigor and touch of rusticity charm today with promise to blossom into real elegance with time. La Migoua is full of subtlety, while La Tourtine bears a characteristic inky blackness; both are built for long aging. A freshness pervades in every cuvée, just like the gusty mistral breaking through summer’s baking heat. Essentially, the 2019 Bandols are classic Tempier: thick, chewy, savory, and loaded with palate-staining fruit and herbal reminders of the Provençal countryside.

2019 BANDOL ROUGE

\$69.00 PER BOTTLE

\$745.20 PER CASE

2019 BANDOL ROUGE “LA MIGOUA”

\$98.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,058.40 PER CASE

2019 BANDOL ROUGE “LA TOURTINE”

\$98.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,058.40 PER CASE

HOLIDAY TABLE SAMPLER

by Tom Wolf

ONE OF THE THINGS I love most about the December holidays—as opposed to, say, Thanksgiving—is that there is no monolithic meal. There is no tyrannical turkey that will not cede its place at the center of the table, no firmly planted plates of sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce. December is more *laissez-faire*, or, at least, because of its many different celebrations, more varied. It follows, then, that the wide spectrum of festivities at which you might find yourself—or dishes you may be tasked with preparing—is perfectly suited to a mixed sampler of French and Italian wines. Whether you're about to dig into brisket and latkes, a Feast of the Seven Fishes, egg rolls and fried rice, or even, yes, a roast turkey, these wines below will have you covered.

PER BOTTLE

VIN DE FRANCE BRUT “PETIT ROYAL” • LAMBERT DE SEYSSSEL \$22.00
2020 BEAUJOLAIS-VILLAGES “GRANDES TERRES”

QUENTIN HAREL 22.00

2020 COLLI TREVIGIANI VERDISO • GREGOLETTO 20.00

2020 GRAVES *BLANC* • CHÂTEAU GRAVILLE-LACOSTE 21.00

2019 VOUVRAY • CHAMPALOU 24.00

2020 TAVEL ROSÉ • CHÂTEAU DE TRINQUEVEDEL 21.00

2019 CAHORS • CLOS LA COUTALE 17.00

2020 PAYS D’OC CABERNET SAUVIGNON

“LES TRAVERSES DE FONTANÈS” • CHÂTEAU FONTANÈS 17.00

2017 BARBERA DEL MONFERRATO SUPERIORE

“PERLYDIA” • CANTINE VALPANE 22.00

2020 LACRIMA DI MORRO D’ALBA • COLLELEVA 24.00

2019 PATRIMONIO *ROUGE* “CRU DES AGRIATE”

DOMAINE GIACOMETTI 26.00

2016 CÔTES DU VIVARAIS *ROUGE* • DOMAINE GALLEY 29.00

Normally \$265.00

SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE **\$199**

(a 25% discount)



NORTHERN ITALIAN REDS



by Tom Wolf

2020 VIGNETI DELLE DOLOMITI SCHIAVA FERRUCCIO CARLOTTO

Hailing from Italy's northernmost region, called Alto Adige or Südtirol—depending on whether Italian or German is your first language—this Schiava is a dreamy discovery for lovers of ethereal reds with a little spice. If you're looking for a *rosso* to drink at *apéro* hour, look no further.

\$31.00 PER BOTTLE

\$334.80 PER CASE

2019 LANGHE NEBBIOLO “PIAN DELLE MOLE” • GIULIA NEGRI

This might just be Giulia's finest Langhe Nebbiolo yet, and it hints at why we at KLWM have been blown away by her ability to draw beauty out of the Nebbiolo grape. Fine and elegant, this is a knockout red from one of Piedmont's rising stars.

\$30.00 PER BOTTLE

\$324.00 PER CASE

2020 VALLE D'AOSTA ROSSO “FUMIN” • CHÂTEAU FEUILLET



The French on this label reflects the linguistic and cultural overlap of the Italian-French-Swiss border, only fifty miles from Château Feuillet in the stunning Valle d'Aosta. This *rosso*, made mostly from the local variety called Fumin and a splash of Syrah, is one of northern Italy's most distinct—and delicious—red wines.

\$40.00 PER BOTTLE

\$432.00 PER CASE

VERMOUTH DI TORINO “ROSS DA TRAVAJ” • BÈRTO

This is by far the most versatile wine in our portfolio. Okay, that's not exactly fair, as this Vermouth is technically a fortified wine, aged with more than a dozen herbs and spices like gentian, cardamom, mint, and cinnamon. The result is a stellar, artisanal red Vermouth whose uses are endless.

\$18.00 PER 1-LITER BOTTLE

\$194.40 PER CASE

\$16.00 PER 500-ML BOTTLE

\$172.80 PER CASE

ROSÉ OF THE MONTH

by Emily Spillmann, KLWM BEAUNE

2020 CÔTES DE PROVENCE ROSÉ CLOS SAINTE MAGDELEINE

This rosé hails from a single-parcel vineyard tucked back a bit from the coast and hidden among pines, wild lavender, and citrus trees. Dark red clay and an insulating layer of limestone rocks harbor the entire diverse collection of Grenache, Cinsault, Mourvèdre, and Syrah vines used in the field blend. Winemaker Jonathan Sack's father has called Clos Sainte Magdeleine's wine "Provençal sunshine

in a glass," but I'd add that this rosé has real depth. It's a terroir-driven wine that evokes the very earth of Provence. As if the grapes were infused with that salty sea air and wild sagebrush, there are hints of each, along with crisp lemony nuances and a whole lot of those ripe little strawberries for sale at the roadside markets.

\$29.00 PER BOTTLE

\$313.20 PER CASE

© Jonathan Sack



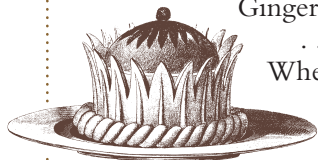
*Clos Sainte Magdeleine's
Côte de Provence vineyard*

ANNUAL DESSERT WINE SALE

*20% off during the month of December at shop.kermitylynch.com,
or visit our Berkeley shop.*

Gingerbread cookies, yule logs, pumpkin pies
... Sauternes, Banyuls, Muscat ...

Whether you prefer your treats baked or
fermented, no holiday meal is
complete without the final
flourish of dessert.



Indulge in our decadent selection of dessert wines, on sale this month.

DOMAINE DE DURBAN

by *Chris Santini*, KLWM BEAUNE



2020 VIN DE PAYS DE VAUCLUSE ROUGE

A blend of Grenache, Syrah, Merlot, and Marselan may sound like an odd mix of bedfellows, but there is a method to this madness. Hailing from a parcel of co-planted vines adjacent to the family home, these varieties were planted together with the express purpose of making the house *rouge*, the everyday vibrant and juicy drink you'd bring to the table in a jug and drink out of a cup. While the wine was never meant to be exported, thankfully Kermit convinced the family many years ago to let us share in the experience. Jug and cup are not included, yet highly recommended.

\$14.00 PER BOTTLE

\$151.20 PER CASE

2020 BEAUMES-DE-VENISE ROUGE

You may want to get out your proper wine glass to fully enjoy the sunshine, spice, and good vibes coming from this bottle. Durban's specialty, in my humble opinion, is their ability year in and year out to make reds that are dense, full, rustic, and incredibly drinkable all at once.

\$21.00 PER BOTTLE

\$226.80 PER CASE

2020 GIGONDAS

The high-altitude vineyards at the southern end of the appellation, an unheralded sector, gives this Gigondas finesse and high acid purity. From their impeccably tended grapes and gentle winemaking, Durban does here what they do best, keeping the focus and precision of the terroir as well as loads of fruit and pleasure. Another feather in their cap of *rouges*, for sure.

\$31.00 PER BOTTLE

\$334.80 PER CASE



WINE CLUBS



*Our clubs provide something for all wine drinkers.
Consider them for yourself or as gifts this holiday season.
Here's how they work:*

- ◆ Receive our hand-selected imports in your club package.
- ◆ Enjoy the club bulletin with profiles, tasting notes, and a recipe or food-pairing recommendations.
- ◆ Pick up your wines at our retail shop in Berkeley, California, or have them shipped directly to your door.
- ◆ Access member-exclusive offers and special selections.

*During the month of
December, receive 50% off
your first club package by
using this code at checkout
(online and phone):*

NEWMEMBER2021

CLUB ROUGE

Delve into the top wines
and appellations of
France and Italy.

This club features only reds,
focusing on complex
cellar-worthy wines.

\$69★ per 2-bottle shipment

*Ships each month,
12 shipments per year*

ADVENTURES CLUB

Named after Kermit's first book,
Adventures on the Wine Route.

Discover our best values
from France and Italy.

\$39★ per 2-bottle shipment

*Ships each month,
12 shipments per year*

To join, visit
shop.kermitlynych.com/club
or call [510] 524-1524.

*Join by Wednesday, December 15,
and receive your first package
the first week of January.*





CLUB BIANCO

Discover white wines, and the occasional sparkler, hailing from France and Italy's most pedigreed terroirs, as well as off-the-beaten-path gems.

\$89★ per 2-bottle shipment

*Ships each month,
12 shipments per year*

CLUB GOURMAND

Embrace the abundance of France and Italy's vineyards with a mixed case sure to quench your everyday thirst and enhance your best meals. The club will occasionally explore mini-themes—a few bottles that highlight a producer, variety, or region. Each Club Gourmand collection will contain twelve bottles: six reds plus a mix of whites, rosés, sparkling wines, and the occasional dessert wine or apéritif—all at 20% off.

\$250–299★ per 12-bottle shipment
every even month

*Ships February, April, June,
August, October, December*



★ plus applicable
tax and/or
shipping charges

JOIN NOW and take 50% off your first club package, this month only! Visit shop.kermitlynch.com/club and enter code **NEWMEMBER2021** at checkout.

PREMIER CRU BURGUNDY

by *Dustin Soiseth*



2019 CHABLIS 1ER CRU “VAILLONS” HENRI COSTAL



Chablis from Vaillons, the *premier cru* vineyard on the left bank of the Serein river stretching southwest from the village of Chablis, are often characterized as more aromatic and lighter-bodied than their more steely counterparts from vineyards across the river. The Costal Vaillons is gently tart, nutty, and bracing, like a bite from a green apple. It exemplifies this vineyard's refreshing, approachable style.

\$45.00 PER BOTTLE

\$486.00 PER CASE

2018 RULLY BLANC 1ER CRU “RABOURCÉ” • DOMAINE DE VILLAINÉ

Rabourcé is considered one of the top *premiers crus* in Rully. Its old vines sit on a steep clay and limestone slope and yield a complex, powerful wine. The domaine only recently acquired this historic parcel, though you wouldn't know it. The 2018 Rabourcé is a tightly wound, structured white with notes of lemon zest, herbs, and French oak—serious white Burgundy that needs a few years to unfurl.

\$96.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,036.80 PER CASE

2018 POMMARD 1ER CRU “LES FREMIERS” DOMAINE LUCIEN BOILLOT & FILS

Les Premiers lies at the southern end of the Pommard appellation, right on the border with Volnay. Pommard has a reputation for big, muscular, gamey Burgundies, while Volnay is known for some of the Côte d'Or's most elegant, gossamer Pinots. Perhaps not surprisingly, Pierre Boillot's Les Premiers strikes a balance between these two styles. It has a vivid magenta color, abundant cherry and raspberry fruit, an exotic spice note, and subtle oak. Not too chewy, not too delicate—just right.

\$121.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,306.80 PER CASE

2018 AUXEY DURESSES ROUGE 1ER CRU DOMAINE TAUPENOT-MERME

Though Romain Taupenot is the winemaker at his family's domaine, he'll tell you his primary focus is on farming the domaine's impressive collection of vineyards. For Romain, more work in the vineyards means beautiful, ripe, healthy grapes and less work in the cellar. A blend of two *premier cru* vineyards, Les Duresses and Les Grands Champs, this bottling has a gorgeous nose with cherry, savory bacon fat, and a faint smokiness. Each sip gives red berries, earthiness, and the balanced richness that is the hallmark of the domaine.



\$79.00 PER BOTTLE

\$853.20 PER CASE



Auxey Duresses

© Domaine Taupenot-Merme





GRAND CRU ALSACE

by Anthony Lynch



2018 RIESLING GRAND CRU “KAEFFERKOPF” • MEYER-FONNÉ

Aromatic fireworks and pinpoint precision are hallmarks of the Meyer-Fonné house style, and from a *grand cru* site such as Kaefferkopf, an extra gear of power and drive raises things to a new level of intensity. Dense and chiseled, this is serious Riesling, a wine whose deep complexity has only just begun to emerge beneath layers of chewy flesh, stone, and steely acidity. If you can, let it breathe or revisit in two to five years.

\$59.00 PER BOTTLE

\$637.20 PER CASE

2016 PINOT GRIS GRAND CRU “SOMMERBERG WIPTAL” • ALBERT BOXLER

Not only does Jean Boxler farm some of Alsace’s most prized vineyard sites, but he goes a step further, isolating micro-terroirs within these parcels and bottling them separately. One of three such subzones he has identified from his holdings in the *grand cru* Sommerberg, Wiptal is a tiny plot situated at the highest point of this precipitous slope. The elevation and thin granite soil—the vines practically cling to the bedrock—result in perhaps his finest Pinot Gris bottling, its ambrosial fruit balanced by a gripping *goût de terroir*. Just off-dry, it is surprisingly versatile with wintry fare and makes for an exceptionally cozy apéritif on a cold evening.

\$82.00 PER BOTTLE

\$885.60 PER CASE

2016 GEWURZTRAMINER GRAND CRU “BRAND” • ALBERT BOXLER

Foie gras, blue cheese, spicy food, curries. This is what Alsatian vignerons typically recommend serving with their Gewurztraminers. Of course, Alsace is not exactly teeming with Thai or Indian joints, but it certainly inspires some mouth-watering imagery—these wines’ exotic perfume of tropical fruits, blossoming flowers, and spices, plus a gentle touch of sweetness, works wonders with dishes originating far from northeast France. How a wine can be so boldly scented, yet simultaneously so delicate, remains a total mystery, but Boxler’s Brand exudes pure class, and is worth a swirl no matter what you choose to serve it with.

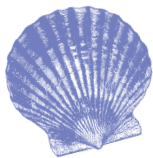
\$82.00 PER BOTTLE

\$885.60 PER CASE



Jean Boxler

© Gail Skoff



ITALIAN WHITES

by Anthony Lynch

2018 VENEZIA GIULIA MALVASIA • KANTE

That Edi Kante has been described as a madman is no surprise considering his . . . unconventional . . . way of doing things. Blasting a two-story-deep cave into the Carso region's limestone to house his barrels is just the tip of the iceberg; his manic attention to detail and relentless pursuit of perfection guide every step of farming and winemaking to yield an incomparable set of wines. Edi's bottling of the local Malvasia Istriana grape, with its fragrance of fresh herbs, spice, sea mist, and orange blossom, is a delightful way to get to know the wind-whipped slice of Friuli that hugs the Slovenian border.

\$35.00 PER BOTTLE

\$378.00 PER CASE

2020 VERDICCHIO DEI CASTELLI DI JESI • COLLELEVA

Call it a palate cleanser, a breath mint, mouth rinse, or whatever you like: Colleleuva's Verdicchio is a thirst quencher on an elemental level, the crisp white wine that always delivers when it's time to kick off an evening, a reliable workhorse to wash down light meals and provide unconditional refreshment. Zesty and citrusy, with a peppery spritz on the palate, it could be considered the Adriatic's response to Muscadet. The price makes it all the easier to stock up and gulp down.

\$12.00 PER BOTTLE

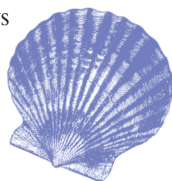
\$129.60 PER CASE

2020 VERMENTINO DI SARDEGNA "STRIA" • VIGNE RADA

My first wine trip to Sardinia five years ago yielded many pleasant surprises: not only is the island home to diverse and incredibly qualitative terroirs for growing grapes, but the wines produced vividly translate the alluring elements that make it a veritable Mediterranean paradise. In this bracing Vermentino, grown in rocky soils outside the charming coastal town of Alghero, you'll taste the sappy *macchia mediterranea* (aromatic wild brush) and lush wildflowers that decorate the Sardinian landscape, plus briny suggestions of the breeze that blows in off the shoreline. All that's missing is a plate of spaghetti filled with your favorite *frutti di mare*.

\$27.00 PER BOTTLE

\$291.60 PER CASE



OUR BEST VALUE IN CHAMPAGNE

by *Emily Spillmann*, KLWM BEAUNE

NV BRUT 1^{ER} CRU “CACHET OR” • J. LASSALLE

The label may be a festive gold, but this Champagne is pure peach-colored charm. That beguiling hue, those fine bubbles, and the stone fruit bouquet make me feel like dancing, and that’s before I’ve taken the first sip! Beneath this initial allure—and thanks to its equal parts Pinot Meunier, Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir, plus full malolactic fermentation—a rich intensity allows Cachet Or to stand up to meats, cheeses, and holiday fare as well as stand in for the simplest of starters. This Champagne reminds me of a big, classy dinner party that opens with candlelight and Grandma’s china and ends with guests waltzing on the table. Elegant and refined, but oh so much fun.

DECEMBER SPECIAL **\$35.00** PER BOTTLE



Champagne Sale Continues!

20% OFF CHAMPAGNE

NOW THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR

Use promo code **CHAMPAGNE2021** online,

or visit our Berkeley store.

Sale ends Friday, December 31.

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 11882

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

KERMIT LYNCH
WINE MERCHANT
1605 SAN PABLO AVENUE
BERKELEY, CA 94702-1317
WWW.KERMITLYNCH.COM



TO PLACE AN ORDER

Visit us online: SHOP.KERMITLYNCH.COM

Call us on the phone: (510) 524-1524

Retail shop: Open Tuesday–Saturday 11 A.M. to 6 P.M.

SPECIAL DECEMBER HOURS

OPEN

Monday–Thursday, December 20–23
11 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Friday, December 24
10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Tuesday–Friday, December 28–31
11 A.M. to 6 P.M.

CLOSED

Saturday, December 25
Saturday, January 1



VISIT US AT

1605 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, CA

SHOP.KERMITLYNCH.COM

OR CALL [510] 524-1524



KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT—TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant makes no representation as to the legal rights of anyone to deliver or import any alcoholic beverages or other goods into any state. Buyer warrants he or she is solely responsible for the transport of the purchased products and for determining the legality and the tax/duty consequences of bringing the products to the buyer's chosen destination. In placing an order, the buyer represents to Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant that he/she is at least 21 years of age and the person to whom delivery will be made is at least 21 years old.