

KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

DECEMBER 2023



© Gail Skoff

A NEW PRODUCER FROM CHAMPAGNE!
VALUES OF THE MONTH • BANDOL REDS
HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP • HOLIDAY 12-BOTTLE SAMPLER

A NEW HOLIDAY RULE

12-BOTTLE SAMPLER

by *Dustin Soiseth*

MY DEAR FRIEND Pam recently told me about a rule she has for celebratory meals. Pam is a gracious host and an exquisite cook, and her rule was forged in the crucible of many a large gathering. The rule is: the dirty dishes wait until the following day. This decidedly wasn't the case at the buttoned-up occasions of my childhood, but the more I think about this approach, the more I like it. Why, after preparing and enjoying a once-a-year feast, would you then willingly go stand at the sink for an hour? Wouldn't it be better to remain fully present with friends and family and let the day flow uninterrupted into the postprandial afterglow? I think so, and if you pick up this sampler, you'll have everything you need to carry you through from start to finish. Kick things off with a bottle of Prosecco as your guests arrive, then settle into your repast with crisp, mineral whites like Muscadet and Chablis—whose zinginess cuts through the richness of heavy fare—and reds like Guido Porro's deeply fruited Barbera and Abbattucci's brambly and spicy Faustine *rouge*, with body and heft perfectly suited to the season's traditional main courses. There's even a bottle of Sauternes to pair with dessert. And then, when all is said and done, and you've emptied that last glass, I encourage you to just set it on the counter and leave it for tomorrow.

PER BOTTLE

2020 PROSECCO TREVISO <i>SUI LIEVITI</i> • GREGOLETTO	\$23.00
2022 ROERO ARNEIS • TENUTA LA PERGOLA	18.00
2022 MUSCADET SÈVRE ET MAINE SUR LIE • DOMAINE BRÉGEON	23.00
2022 CHABLIS • FAMILLE SAVARY	34.00
2022 BOURGUEIL ROSÉ • DOMAINE DE LA CHANTELEUSERIE	19.00
2020 BARDOLINO "LE FONTANE" • CORTE GARDONI	17.00
2021 CAHORS • CHÂTEAU LA GRAVE	19.00
2022 PIC-SAINT-LOUP "TOUR DE PIERRES"	
HÉRITAGE DU PIC SAINT LOUP	23.00
2012 HAUT-MÉDOC • CHÂTEAU ANEY	27.00
2021 BARBERA D'ALBA "V.S. CATERINA" • GUIDO PORRO	28.00
2022 VIN DE FRANCE ROUGE "FAUSTINE" • COMTE ABBATUCCI	44.00
2022 SAUTERNES 375 ML • CHÂTEAU ROÛMIEU-LACOSTE	28.00

Normally \$303.00

SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE **\$227**

(a 25% discount)

OLDER-VINTAGE ROUGES

by Jane Augustine, KLWM NEW YORK

2015 CÔTE-DE-BROUILLY • NICOLE CHANRION

What a treat to pull the cork on this gently aged Côte-de-Brouilly from Nicole Chanrion. This is a flattering Beaujolais, with black pepper and peony on the nose, and it's primed to make anything you enjoy it with taste even better. I drank mine with Beluga lentils and slow-cooked sausages, which drew upon the wine's earthier and richly layered qualities. The pairing got me excited about transitioning away from the season of chilled light reds into a more grounding, cozy time of year when meatier dishes abound, with wines to match.

\$47.00 PER BOTTLE

\$507.60 PER CASE

2010 CANON-FRONSAC CHÂTEAU MOULIN PEY-LABRIE

Grégoire and Bénédicte Hubau are outliers among their Bordeaux neighbors: their personable style and commitment to low-intervention, "natural" winemaking are qualities you'd more likely expect from the friendly gangs of vigneron from the Beaujolais, Loire, or off-the-beaten-path Languedoc. Their terroir-driven Canon-Fronsac always satisfies my hankering for something comforting and out of the ordinary. A decade in bottle has softened this *rouge* into an open-knit, unbuttoned style of Bordeaux, beaming with aromas of Bing cherry, anise, and violet. You'll be happy to serve it for a special occasion, or when you simply want to spoil yourself.

\$49.00 PER BOTTLE

\$529.20 PER CASE

2014 BANDOL ROUGE DOMAINE DU GROS 'NORÉ

In always looking to fine-tune his craft, Alain Pascal may be his own toughest critic. But in striving for perfection, he catches excellence, as they say. His 2014 Bandol *rouge* is a vintage that Alain describes as *gouleyant*—easy-drinking, but also effortless, charming, and laced with nuance. Ideally, we could offer this Bandol, a blend of mostly Mourvèdre with Grenache and Cinsault, along with a jar of gamey wild boar and deer pâté that Alain conserves himself. But until that day comes, we'll savor the opportunity to pair it with other hearty, local delicacies.

\$76.00 PER BOTTLE

\$820.80 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.

Membership benefits include 15% off non-club orders, shipping included on club orders of \$199+ or 12+ bottles, and exclusive, member-only offers.

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

NEWMEMBER2023

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.kermitlynch.com/club
or call [510] 524-1524.

*Join by Wednesday, December 20,
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 CHEVALIER

Celebrate the artisan winegrowers whose achievements Kermit has brought to light over decades of work in France and Italy.

Each package is themed, featuring wines of all styles, including rare and sometimes aged selections.

\$249★ per 6-bottle shipment

*Ships January, March, May, July,
September, November*



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 periodically explore mini-themes, and each 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 bottles

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

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this month only!

To join, visit
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and enter code

NEWMEMBER2023

at checkout.



★ plus applicable tax and/or
shipping charges

DOMAINE TEMPIER'S NOBLE-RUSTIC REDS

by Tom Wolf

IN RECENT YEARS, Provence may have earned a reputation as the cradle of rosé, but if you look in the right places, you will find some of France's most glorious reds here, too. Tempier is at the top of this list, having helped build Bandol over many decades into a revered source of *rouges* that, at their best, show both country soul and refinement. In addition to the domaine's classic and expressive blend of its various terroirs, below you'll find two single-vineyard bottlings that show utterly different sides of Provence's greatest appellation. All three reds represent the pinnacle of what I think of as noble rusticity. Mourvèdre stars in each, meaning there's inevitably some wildness and power in your glass, but these qualities are so expertly composed—especially in 2021—that you can approach them today or in twenty years.

2021 BANDOL ROUGE “LULU & LUCIEN”

Much like 1981 or 2013, 2021 has turned out a beautiful and classically styled Bandol *rouge*, full of finesse and grip. Stony and dark-fruited, this is one to dig into now—after a brief decant—alongside slow-roasted lamb, venison, or a wild mushroom *ragoût*.

\$75.00 PER BOTTLE

\$810.00 PER CASE

2021 BANDOL ROUGE “LA MIGOUA”

In 2021, this cuvée recalls the *classique* above, but with everything dialed up a notch. Savory and structured, it evokes Provençal *garrigue*, licorice, and a hint of black olive. This bottling is a strong candidate for your cellar but also open enough to pair wonderfully with a ribeye today.

\$107.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,155.60 PER CASE

2021 BANDOL ROUGE “LA TOURTINE”

At this stage, La Tourtine is the most open, fruit-forward, and alluring of the three reds here. Zesty and vibrant, with notes of black cherries, blood orange, and iron, this bottle will be hard to keep your hands off now. But do yourself a favor and grab at least a few bottles to revisit in five, ten, and twenty years from now. There are few pleasures like aged Bandol *rouge* from Tempier.

\$107.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,155.60 PER CASE



The old vines of La Tourtine

© Jimmy Hayes

INTRODUCING NICOLAS MAILLART

by Dixon Brooke

IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS since we have introduced you to a new selection of ours from the Champagne region—not for lack of trying! Earlier this year we finally found what we have been looking for in the small Champagne village of Écueil, on the Montagne de Reims, in the cellars of Nicolas Maillart. Nicolas owns and farms vineyards in Écueil, Villers-Allerand, and Bouzy, all just south of Reims. These are among the world's greatest terroirs for growing Champagne grapes, and they have been brilliantly matched chez Maillart to Chardonnay, Pinot Meunier, Pinot Noir, and Petit Meslier in order to extract the best qualities of each grape for both his blended multi-vintage Champagnes and his single-vineyard-vintage bottlings. All of his Champagnes are fermented and aged in wood, minimally sulfured, and bottled unfiltered with very little dosage.

Nicolas has made wine at his family estate since 2003 and has had two decades to hone and perfect his house style. He controls, farms, and manages all of his vineyards himself, working all of his soils. His Champagnes are pure, elegant, terroir-transparent, stylish, and delicious! Tasting through his lineup of *vins clairs* is like tasting through a cellar of young wines in Burgundy, and he has figured out how to transform the magic he has in barrel into his resulting Champagnes that emerge years later. Nicolas Maillart is sure to be a household name in Champagne in the near future, and I know you will enjoy getting to know these as much as I have.



© Nicolas Maillart

	PER BOTTLE	PER CASE
NV CHAMPAGNE EXTRA BRUT 1ER CRU “PLATINE”	\$84.00	\$907.20

Very pale rosé color from the high percentage of Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier in the blend. Beautiful perfume of orange blossom, very fine with an incredibly soft mousse.

NV CHAMPAGNE ROSÉ EXTRA BRUT GRAND CRU . . .	98.00	1,058.40
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A blend of four vintages plus a solera, this Bouzy-dominant blend of Pinot Noir with 2% still red and 1 gram of dosage is bright, expressive, incisive, and chalky.

2019 CHAMPAGNE EXTRA BRUT 1ER CRU		
“MONTCHENOT”	120.00	1,296.00

This pure Pinot Noir from Villers introduces the trio of Blanc de Noirs that form the foundation of Nicolas’s range of single-vineyard bottlings presented on this page. Planted on a base of chalk, this is a dry, focused Champagne with real class.

2019 CHAMPAGNE EXTRA BRUT 1ER CRU		
“MONT MARTIN”	158.00	1,706.40

Pure Pinot Meunier from Villers, from massal-selection vines planted in the 1970s, this impressive bottling shows great freshness and finesse allied with smooth, silky roundness and completed with a long, chalky finish. Gorgeous Champagne.

2019 CHAMPAGNE EXTRA BRUT GRAND CRU		
“JOLIVETTES”.	183.00	1,976.40

Pure Pinot Noir from the grand cru of Bouzy, a great terroir that makes its presence felt with a more structured and serious Champagne, built to age. I strongly recommend buying some to drink now and some for the cellar.

Nicolas also produces Champagnes from Chardonnay and Petit Meslier in much smaller quantities, plus a small cuvée from *franc de pied* Pinot Noir vines and another from Pinot Noir without added sulfur, and finally an exciting Coteaux Champenois still wine from Chardonnay. Tenth, magnums, and 3-liter and 6-liter bottles are also available. Please inquire about our tiny quantities!

BOURGOGNE

BLANC ET ROUGE

by *Chris Santini*, KLWM BEAUNE

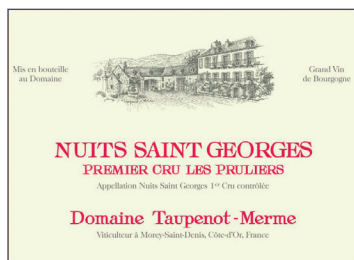
2021 BOURGOGNE HAUTES-CÔTES DE BEAUNE BLANC • BRUNO COLIN

Considering that some appellations in Burgundy are no larger than a small hill, the Hautes-Côtes de Beaune is an exceedingly vast one for the region. It stretches over many villages (twenty-two, to be precise) and all kinds of geology and soils, with a variation of quality to match. There are some stunning wines being made these days in those hills, and some disappointments, too. Relatively affordable land has made the appellation a bit of an El Dorado for newcomers, as well as for established producers like Bruno Colin looking to grow. Bruno has found what may just be the greatest real estate the Hautes-Côtes has to offer, a plot square and center at the top of the hill where the *premiers crus* of Saint-Aubin and Chassagne-Montrachet connect. The wine is surprisingly serious for the appellation, gold colored, rich, open, and expressive. It has a lot of Saint-Aubin flair, with an added touch of citrus and quince from the slightly higher elevation. This one will contribute to pushing the Hautes-Côtes de Beaune reputation to new heights.

\$77.00 PER BOTTLE

\$831.60 PER CASE

2019 NUITS SAINT GEORGES 1^{ER} CRU “LES PRULIERS” • TAUPENOT-MERME



From one of the largest appellations, we move on to one much more typical of Burgundy: a small, single plot carved mid-slope on the *côte*. Also typical of the region is that the plot is divided among numerous growers, some owning several rows, and some but a few bits and pieces no larger than a garden. To look at who owns land in Les Pruliers is to look at a “who’s who” of the Côte de Nuits, which speaks vol-

umes on the quality of this sought-after terroir, celebrated for its potency and complexity. Romain Taupenot refers to his Pruliers as a “festival,” with spiced notes of black pepper and nutmeg jiving with hints of truffles and cherries. A true festival indeed.

\$195.00 PER BOTTLE

\$2,106.00 PER CASE



Bruno Colin

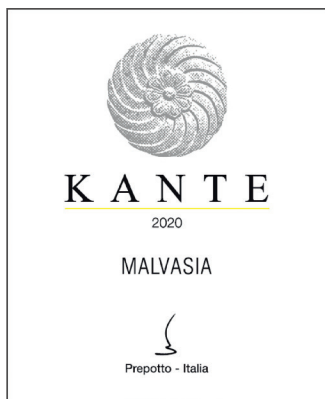
© Joanie Bonfiglio

NORTHERN ITALIAN WHITES

by Anthony Lynch

2020 VENEZIA GIULIA MALVASIA • KANTE

The white wines of Friuli's Carso region, grown on a wind-battered plateau overlooking the Adriatic city of Trieste, remind me of Chablis in that it's easy to forget the grape variety when there is such a strong soil signature. In this bottling from Friuli all-star Edi Kante, Malvasia Istriana's trademark notes of white pepper and aromatic herbs take a back seat to the purity and precision conferred by its cool, stony terroir. You may also find subtle hints of orange blossom, a whisper of lemon oil, and a creamy note punctuated by a salinity that will make you salivate. This wine is designed for simply prepared seafood, but you'll have trouble finding a better partner for warm Castelvetro olives marinated with citrus zest and herbs.

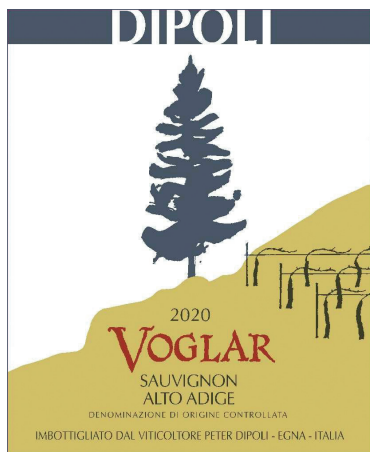


\$43.00 PER BOTTLE

\$464.40 PER CASE

2020 ALTO ADIGE SAUVIGNON "VOGLAR" PETER DIPOLI

This Alpine white spends several months resting in large acacia casks, where it sheds any overtly varietal notes and instead comes to manifest the nuances of the breathtaking site where the fruit is grown. Dipoli picked a spectacular hillside high in the Dolomites to plant his Sauvignon vines, and the combination of this otherworldly terroir with a unique aging regimen yields a rendition of this grape unlike any other. Coursing with energy, it is akin to a lightning bolt of ripe citrus, fleshy yellow fruit, and gunflint that will make for a thrilling drink throughout the next decade.



\$39.00 PER BOTTLE

\$421.20 PER CASE

VALUES OF THE MONTH

by Madison H. Brown

2022 ALSACE BLANC • KUENTZ-BAS

Most Kermit Lynch devotees will recognize the domaine and the wine in question but not the “new” look. Our man Dixon Brooke discovered this historic



label on an ancient, dusty bottle tucked behind a glass case in Kuentz-Bas's tasting room. The artwork depicts the three châteaux cresting the hillside behind the village of Husserenles-Châteaux, and much of the fruit for this bottling comes from the steep vineyards painted in the castles' shadow. This ethereal cornucopian blend of Pinot Auxerrois, Sylvaner, Riesling, Gewurztraminer, and Muscat is comforting and exhilarating all at once, evoking a medley of orchard fruits and candied citrus. It will add a sunny splash of color to even the most austere winter day.

\$18.00 PER BOTTLE

\$194.40 PER CASE

2022 BEAUJOLAIS • DOMAINE DUPEUBLE

Approachable and unpretentious, this wine was my springboard to our Beaujolais portfolio when I first started working for Kermit in 2015. Back then, the painless price point made it a no-brainer weeknight wine for me and my roommates. On my way home from work, I'd pop into the Berkeley shop to grab a bottle (and usually a baguette from Acme) to slurp alongside whatever was on the menu that night: takeout Chinese, homemade pizzas loaded with toppings, Brie and salami . . . Washed down with a cool glass of Dupeuble's fresh and juicy Gamay, the simplest of suppers was guaranteed to hit the spot.

Even after experiencing renowned *crus* from the region's most storied domaines, I continue to come back to this wine vintage after vintage. For the purity of fruit and bliss-inducing drinkability of each bottle, the Dupeubles' wines are in a league of their own. Extraordinary value awaits those bargain-hunting pleasure seekers.

\$20.00 PER BOTTLE

\$216.00 PER CASE

PIEDMONT REDS

by Tom Wolf

2021 ROSSO DEI DARDI ALESSANDRO E GIAN NATALE FANTINO

A famously fickle variety, whose perfect balance of acidity and ripeness is hard to achieve, Nebbiolo is also known to be one of the world's most tannic grapes, making it especially difficult to coax into a charming and exuberant young wine. Alessandro and Gian Natale have done just this, preserving Nebbiolo's bright acidity and beautiful aromas of rose petals and crushed cherries, but delivering them through an approachable red that would pair beautifully with a mushroom or braised-pork polenta.

\$24.00 PER BOTTLE

\$259.20 PER CASE

2021 DOLCETTO DI DIANO D'ALBA "SÖRÌ CRISTINA" • IL PALAZZOTTO

You may be familiar with Nebbiolo's great sites in Barolo and Barbaresco, but what about the noblest terroirs for Dolcetto, Piedmont's most unabashedly charming red grape? North of Barolo, the little hilltop village of Diano d'Alba is known for producing Dolcetti that are among the region's most perfumed and fruit-driven reds. Sörì Cristina comes from a vineyard rich in limestone that sits at a relatively high elevation, and the result is delightfully supple, elegant, and refreshing. With its notes of blackberries, dried cherries, and a hint of herbs, this might be the ultimate *rosso* for roast chicken.

\$18.00 PER BOTTLE

\$194.40 PER CASE

2019 BAROLO "LE COSTE DI MONFORTE" PIERO BENEVELLI

I recently sat with Massimo Benevelli at a belated KLWM 50th anniversary celebration, where several aged bottles emerged from Kermit's cellar. When one of Massimo's 2014 Baroli was poured, he seemed slightly anxious at first. It was not, he told me, an easy year in the region. But as we sniffed and tasted it, he relaxed and smiled. The wine was spectacular—as my colleagues and I knew it would be because, like all great producers, Benevelli is able to consistently make great reds even in challenging vintages. Vintage 2019 was much more favorable in Barolo, and while charming now, Le Coste di Monforte will reward you for many years to come.

\$75.00 PER BOTTLE

\$810.00 PER CASE



HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP

Visit shop.kermitlynych.com or our Berkeley shop
for samplers, special bottles, and our annual Dessert Wine Sale!

YOUR SIX-BOTTLE HOLIDAY SURVIVAL GUIDE

THE HOLIDAY SEASON brings a rush of parties, visits from family and friends, and perhaps even a snow day. This six-bottle sampler will supply your pantry and cellar so you can focus not on the prep but on the celebration. We've included a delicate, sparkling *rosato*, a Châteauneuf-du-Pape *blanc* boasting delightful minerality, a perfectly aged Bordeaux that's as delicious on its own as it is at table, and a rich and beautifully aromatic Barolo. There's also a bottle of Banyuls vinegar and a staff-favorite olive oil to stuff in a stocking or drizzle over fresh bread. So whether you're facing a gift-giving dilemma, hosting a special holiday meal, or looking for a few bottles to help make the season bright, this six-pack will ensure you're ready for a holiday full of cheer.

—Meghan Foley

Normally \$262.00



SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE **\$209**

(a 20% discount)

GIFT CARDS

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card in any denomination you desire. The lucky
recipient can redeem it online or in our shop.

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people are very happy to receive one!



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SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

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Monday, December 18
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CLOSED

Sunday, December 24
Monday, December 25
Sunday, December 31
Monday, January 1

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