

KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

OCTOBER 2014



© Caril Skoff

Harvest festival in Provence

2012 AUGUST CLAPE PRE-ARRIVAL
PETER DIPOLI: A PIONEER FROM ALTO ADIGE
ATYPICAL ALSATIAN SELECTIONS

—NEW DISCOVERY—

DOMAINE LES MILLE VIGNES

by Kermit Lynch

IN A FEW DAYS I'm leaving to visit the domaine again, but at the beginning of the summer I met Valérie Guérin in Paris, a city we both like to frequent, where she sells to seemingly ALL the hippest *restos*. She brought samples—two bottlings (both just arrived in the retail store) and an older sweet Grenache.

Valérie reminds me of Thomas Keller. They can't be more sweet, generous, and wonderful, yet both aim for perfection, cost be damned.

Mille Vignes has only seven and a half hectares (nineteen acres) of vines, by choice. "I could enlarge, but the wines wouldn't be the same," according to Valérie. So, few bottles available, and—like Per Se in New York—not for the budget-minded.

I recommend these three wines separately, but I also find that they make a perfect progression served together.

2013 LE PIED DES NYMPHETTES

This is a dry white. The nose soars from the glass—wildflowers from the Mediterranean basin, if you ask me—with incredible finesse. A nymphette with class? On the palate: round, shapely, a slight bitterness like bay leaf, a salinity from the nearby sea, and great freshness. The flavors penetrate—unusual in white wines. Penetrate with finesse. Not a bad bumper sticker.

Only six hundred bottles for the U.S.A.

\$90.00 PER BOTTLE **\$972.00** PER CASE

2013 CHASSE FILOU

The dry red: cherries, berries, *garrigue*, *réglisse*, all with a Catalan accent and remarkable freshness, again. With all its depth and flavor, it is intended for current consumption. No need to wait!

\$38.00 PER BOTTLE **\$410.40** PER CASE

2000 NOIR DE GRENACHE

The French have their *blanc de blanc*, *gris de gris*, and now this *noir de noir*. For dessert, it takes you into the heart of darkness. Black fig and blackberry. Expensive? It keeps for days after opening, and a little dab'll do ya. Abandon all despair, ye who uncork this raving beauty.

\$250.00 PER 500 ML BOTTLE **\$1,350.00** PER 6-PACK CASE

—PIEDMONT—

TWO FROM FANTINO

by Dixon Brooke

I'M ITCHING WITH EXCITEMENT to introduce these two, from opposite ends of the wide spectrum of vinous wonders emanating from the Fantino vines and cellars in Monforte d'Alba. A starter and a finisher, if you will.

2013 ROSSO DEI DARDI

ALESSANDRO E GIAN NATALE FANTINO

A pure Nebbiolo from younger vines in an eastern-facing portion of the Dardi subsection of Bussia in Barolo, this has to be tasted to be believed! Aromatically, you have the feminine side of Barolo, all flowers and perfume. The wine is just firm enough, with mouthwatering acidity and explosively fresh and energetic fruit. It may be the most delicious Nebbiolo you've ever tasted. And you can afford to do so by the case.



\$19.00 PER BOTTLE

\$205.20 PER CASE

1999 NEPAS

ALESSANDRO E GIAN NATALE FANTINO

Ne + pas is short for Nebbiolo Passito. This style of wine is an increasingly lost art, and here is an example made by its surviving master. Think Amarone meets Barolo. It is decidedly old school, with all the secondary glory you might expect from a fifteen-year-old wine. Almost dry, with only three grams of residual sugar, it displays a wide range of flavors, including nuts, spices, herbs, dried fruit, and smoked meat. The grapes are harvested two to three weeks before the Barolos and then dried until Christmas, after which they are pressed. You will not find another wine like it anywhere in the world (including Piedmont). Open it with good friends toward the end of a meal.

\$60.00 PER BOTTLE

\$648.00 PER CASE

NEW ARRIVALS FROM ITALY

by Anthony Lynch

2013 RIBOLLA GIALLA LA VIARTE

In the past we have offered wines for the jaded palate, so here is another for those who are tired of drinking the same old stuff. This white comes from Friuli, just a stone's throw from the Slovenian border, where Mediterranean and alpine climates converge. Its absolutely bracing vivaciousness will come as a welcome breath of fresh air, and I suspect your jaded palate will also appreciate the crystalline crisp, stony finish.

\$23.00 PER BOTTLE

\$248.40 PER CASE

la Viarte

**RIBOLLA
GIALLA**

**FRIULI COLLI ORIENTALI
DENOMINAZIONE DI ORIGINE CONTROLLATA
RIBOLLA GIALLA**

2012 MONTELECCIO • SESTI

My favorite thing about this Sangiovese is its amazing ability to enhance simple cuisine. It perfectly complements the kind of food we are privileged to enjoy here in California: roasted summer veggies throughout the fall, tomato-based

pasta dishes, anything sautéed in extra-virgin olive oil and sprinkled with dried herbs, or the best cuts from your local butcher—raised sustainably, just like this red. Its bright red fruit, fresh earthiness, and mouthwatering acidity cleanse the palate in a way that makes everything more delicious.

\$25.00 PER BOTTLE

\$270.00 PER CASE



— ALTO ADIGE —

INTRODUCING PETER DIPOLI

by Dixon Brooke

HOPEFULLY this isn't an introduction for all of you, as Dipoli has certainly made his presence felt in the wine world for a good many years now. A pioneer not hesitant to challenge the status quo, he has succeeded in doing what many thought wasn't possible: making world-class wines on the steep mountain slopes of his youth that compete with the greats from anywhere.

2010 VOGLAR

Voglar is Dipoli's incredible Sauvignon Blanc dell'Alto Adige, as interpreted from his native soils. Grown on near-vertical, high-altitude dolomitic limestone slopes, his Sauvignon can mature at a glacial pace and obtain perfect ripeness while preserving the freshness and vibrancy that is the variety's trademark. For the final touch, it is aged patiently in large acacia casks until release. The result is one of the world's mightiest Sauvignon Blancs, in my opinion. I try to resist the urge to compare it to any others, however, as I like to think of it as its own category of "Mountain Sauvignon." Ripe and luscious aromatics lead to a graceful, concentrated palate with an intense and lengthy finish that is bracingly and deeply mineral. Sauvignon dell'Alto Adige indeed. Please don't miss it.



\$32.00 PER BOTTLE **\$345.60** PER CASE

2009 IUGUM

Dry Northern Italian Cabernet. That is how I think of this masterpiece. Peter planted this parcel—one of the warmest in the zone—after thoroughly studying where Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot might thrive. It is a saddle of land rich in limestone and clay perched on the side of one of Alto Adige's many rugged peaks. The Bordeaux varieties ripen slowly and methodically, and in the end you have ideal ripeness but no heat or stewed flavors, and nothing vegetal. You can tell it is a mountain wine, but in the best sense. It is full-bodied yet effortless and pleasant to drink, refreshing even. Reminds me of Quintarelli in that way. *Buon appetito.*

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

CORSICAN WHITES

by Anthony Lynch

2013 CORSE CALVI BLANC “E PROVE” DOMAINE MAESTRACCI

The nose of this Vermentinu is beautifully expressive, reminiscent of white flowers and sea mist. Crisp, vibrant, and bright, it carries some flesh on the palate along with a tangy salinity. Yum!!!

\$19.95 PER BOTTLE \$215.46 PER CASE



2012 ILE DE BEAUTÉ BLANC • YVES LECCIA

With suggestions of seashells and fleshy white fruit, here is a white that is best enjoyed outdoors. It worked quite well for me on a camping trip to California's Lost Coast, where it paired to perfection with Pacific sea breezes coming off the rolling waves. This blend of Vermentinu with Biancu Gentile refreshes and stimulates, though I guess it could do that in the comfort of your home, too. Wherever you may be, this is a white you will appreciate most by way of big sips.

\$26.00 PER BOTTLE \$280.80 PER CASE

2012 PATRIMONIO BLANC “HAUT DE CARCO” ANTOINE ARENA

If Patrimonio is the greatest *terroir* for Vermentino, this might be the greatest *terroir* in Patrimonio. A steep slope littered with hunks of chalky limestone, Haut de Carco gives Vermentino's grandest expression: a generous perfume of honeysuckle and ripe pear, richness of flavor kept in check by a nervy mineral lift, and a sustained finish accented by Mediterranean brine. The depth and complexity here leave no question that this is *grand cru* material.



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



Corsican charcuterie

© Gail Skoff

— PRE-ARRIVAL OFFER —

2012 A. CLAPE

by Dixon Brooke

CLASS, TRADITION, MODESTY, excellence, mastery, steadiness: a few of the words that come to mind when I consider the great cathedral of wine that is Domaine Auguste Clape. Auguste is currently joined by his son Pierre-Marie and his grandson Olivier in producing what few would dispute is the world's finest traditional Cornas, and what I believe to be one of the world's finest Syrahs. Their track record for aging, their unflappable Cornas-ness, and their seamless marriage of elegance and rusticity are the main yardsticks I use to arrive at my judgment. And the fact that the Clapes have not changed the old tried-and-true methods gives me a great deal of confidence that these will be wines I can drink with my children when both are of the proper age. An added bonus is that I'll be able to start enjoying this vintage while my boys are still in elementary school, as it will be one of the most approachable young Clapes in years.

2012 CORNAS "RENAISSANCE"

\$67.00 PER BOTTLE

\$804.00 PER CASE



2012 CORNAS

\$103.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,236.00 PER CASE

Pre-arrival terms: Half-payment due with order; balance due upon arrival.



The vines of Auguste Clape

© Gail Skoff

CRU BEAUJOLAIS, 2013 EDITION

by Anthony Lynch

2013 JULIÉNAS “BEAUVERNAY” DOMAINE CHIGNARD

What in the world, you might ask, is a Juliéna? Here are some fun facts I unearthed while researching this mysterious *cru* of Beaujolais: The village is named after Julius Caesar. Legend has it that the Romans planted the region’s first vineyards here. The Chignard family’s plantings date back to 1946. A low-yielding vintage, the 2013 gives succulent, concentrated flavors. The wine has beautiful, high-toned fruit along with floral and spice notes. It can be gulped now or pondered in five years.

\$25.00 PER BOTTLE

\$270.00 PER CASE

2013 CÔTE DE BROUILLY • CHÂTEAU THIVIN

Thivin is an institution in the Côte de Brouilly appellation: the splendid château dates back to 1383, and the Geoffroy family has a long history of producing fabulous wines from this *terroir*. The 2013 edition has a tempting perfume of little berries—tempting you to down the contents of your glass, that is. Before doing so, take a moment to savor its exceptional complexity. I find a touch of sanguinity, plus some grit and tannin—a peppery crunch reminiscent of the côte’s rocky blue schist. According to the Geoffroys, this wine “knows how to have charm and liveliness in its youth, just as it will become noble and elegant after three to eight years.”

\$25.00 PER BOTTLE

\$270.00 PER CASE

2013 MOULIN-À-VENT • DOMAINE DIOCHON

WARNING: BARGAIN CELLAR SELECTION! From what is undoubtedly the biggest and baddest *cru* of Beaujolais, Diochon’s Moulin-à-Vent makes the wines described above look wimpy. It certainly has the edge in terms of raw power: despite its lovely floral tones, its rustic feel and chewy tannins suggest it can go the distance. Novice wine collectors, listen up: this is the Gamay you want to lay down, as it doesn’t break the bank and is sure to provide future thrills. Veteran wine collectors: you may need a case or two.

\$23.00 PER BOTTLE

\$248.40 PER CASE

ATYPICAL ALSACE

by *Chris Santini*

IN WINE, AT LEAST, stereotypes sometimes hold true. If Alsace conjures up images of Germanic-styled villages, sauerkraut, and Riesling, there is definitely good reason for that. The exposed-beam architecture is impeccably maintained, Riesling is by far the dominant grape, and the sauerkraut is simply the best—slow-cooked overnight in a healthy dose of Riesling, no less. Yet as with all stereotypes, there’s always more to the picture than meets the eye.

2012 PINOT BLANC • KUENTZ-BAS

Pinot Blanc in Alsace may have a bad rap, but don’t forget that it’s a pure Burgundian grape, a genetic albino mutation of the noble Pinot Noir. A well-crafted Pinot Blanc can have all the complexity and pleasure one expects from the Pinot family. So forget about Riesling-like petrol notes here, and instead enjoy the hints of lemon and rocks with a Burgundian-like build and loads of character.

\$17.95 PER BOTTLE **\$193.86** PER CASE

CRÉMANT D’ALSACE • MEYER-FONNÉ

These days it seems many regions (and even England) are digging up old texts to prove the title of inventor of “Champagne”-style sparkling wines. Alsace makes no such claims, but with a sparkler like this one (at a fraction of the price of many big-brand Champagnes), it doesn’t matter who did it first, only who does it better. This rich, gastronomic *crémant* with fine and elegant bubbles will have even the Champagne purist singing its praises.

\$24.00 PER BOTTLE **\$259.20** PER CASE

2012 MUSCAT “FRONHOLZ” DOMAINE OSTERTAG

Muscat may be an ancient Mediterranean variety, but it’s no stranger to Alsace. It first took root in the region in the sixteenth century and in this particular vineyard on a memorable day in 1969—at the same moment Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Enjoy this one for its ebullient aromatics and dry, saline finish, a unique mix of deep-rooted old-vine *terroir*, fresh fruit, and a bit of bio-dynamic mystique.

\$37.00 PER BOTTLE **\$399.60** PER CASE

THE REAL LOIRE

by Anthony Lynch

2013 SANCERRE “CLOS DES BOUFFANTS” DOMAINE ROGER NEVEU

Look out—there’s a new Sancerre in town! The Neveu family has deep roots in the Loire Valley, so it is only fitting that they produce wines as closely tied to the land as they are. Their Clos des Bouffants is an extremely steep vineyard with an abundance of rocky limestone. It yields a Sancerre with unctuous fruit pierced by a shining ray of zippy citrus, with a chalky *terroir* note somewhere in the mix. Quaff discerningly.



\$24.00 PER BOTTLE **\$259.20** PER CASE

2012 SAVENNIÈRES “CUVÉE SPÉCIALE” CHÂTEAU D’EPIRÉ

At first, a hint of honey may incite you to dig your nose a bit deeper into your glass. But don’t be fooled: this Savennières is not out to charm. On the contrary, it is a stubborn—albeit fascinating—Chenin Blanc. Upon sipping, you’ll encounter hard slate, a steely austerity that is perhaps not inviting but most definitely stimulating.

This cuvée is raised in large chestnut casks, by the way. You can age it, but you don’t need to in order to admire its unique qualities.

\$30.00 PER BOTTLE **\$324.00** PER CASE

2009 MUSCADET SÈVRE ET MAINE DOMAINE MICHEL BRÉGEON

A mind-blowing Muscadet from Michel Brégeon. The ripe 2009 vintage—along with eighteen months’ lees contact in subterranean glass-lined tanks—gave unforeseen amplitude to this bone-dry white. Lime zest, grapefruit, quince, and cool oceanic winds comprise the nose. On the palate, classic Muscadet traits emerge despite its unusually broad structure: zingy acidity, sublime freshness, a plethora of minerals. You might even consider it for your cellar, as I imagine even more distinctive, unique flavors will emerge with time.

\$35.00 PER BOTTLE **\$378.00** PER CASE

2012 CHINON “LES PETITES ROCHES” CHARLES JOGUET

This Chinon, from gravelly vineyards that lend it its name, is a product of solely the free-run juice from the fermentation. In other words, the rough tannins released from pressing are left behind, leading to this sophisticated cuvée driven by delicacy and finesse. Floral aromas dominate—rose petals, to be precise, plus a hint of fresh raspberries. It is an elegant expression of Cabernet Franc, with faint earthy undertones.

\$23.00 PER BOTTLE \$248.40 PER CASE

2012 CHINON • BERNARD BAUDRY

Baudry’s “Domaine” bottling could very well be the perfect introduction to the estate, or to the wines of Chinon, or even to the Cabernet Franc grape in general. Delightful in its forwardness, it does not ask much but rather lays its cards right down on the table for all to see. Smooth red fruit flavors and a very friendly texture are the name of the game. On top of that, it unquestionably tastes like it comes from Chinon—something I value strongly in a Chinon.

\$23.00 PER BOTTLE \$248.40 PER CASE

2010 BOURGUEIL “LES PERRIÈRES” C. & P. BRETON

When a great *terroir* is in the hands of a skilled vigneron in a classic vintage, the results can be magical. The aroma of this Bourgueil alone communicates the majestic depth of the wine, enticing in its total purity and intricacy. Still tightly wound, it conveys cool earth, taut minerality, and fine tannins over a bed of velvety dark fruit. Vintages like 2010 don’t come around too often, and the Perrières bottling has a track record of long aging. Try a bottle now, and set several more aside in a very safe place.

**\$43.00 PER BOTTLE
\$464.40 PER CASE**



BURGUNDY

by Dixon Brooke

2012 BOURGOGNE ROUGE DOMAINE LUCIEN BOILLOT & FILS

This is ultra-classic Burgundian Pinot Noir from one of the most ardent traditionalists in the region. Pierre Boillot crafts this poised beauty from his holdings in Gevrey-Chambertin and Volnay. Due to the catastrophic hailstorms in Volnay in 2012, this Bourgogne is more Gevrey than usual, with a bit more bass and growl. Earthy, bright, and pure, it sings as only Burgundian Pinot can.

\$34.00 PER BOTTLE **\$367.20** PER CASE

2012 SAINT-ROMAIN BLANC CHRISTOPHE BUISSON

Kermit has long sung the virtues of Chardonnay from these parts. The limestone cliffs around the quaint village of Saint-Romain form a spectacular amphitheater of vineyards that are neatly concealed from the *route nationale* view, just behind Meursault and Auxey-Duresses. Buisson fashions a wine with both ample flesh and stoniness. It has pretty good staying power as well, as I'm discovering these days with his 2007s and 2005s in my cellar.

\$40.00 PER BOTTLE
\$432.00 PER CASE



2012 CHABLIS "LES TRUFFIÈRES" DOMAINE COSTAL

There is Chardonnay and then there is Chablis. We are unabashed Chablis fans at KLWM—it is hard to think of a wine more appreciated and loved around here. We like drinking them young, old, and in between. The marriage of golden Chardonnay with Kimmeridgean limestone is simply the eighth wonder of the world. We vertically taste Les Truffières every year, and confirm that you can confidently tuck this away for three to five years if you wish.

\$27.00 PER BOTTLE **\$291.60** PER CASE

2011 SANTENAY ROUGE 1ER CRU
“LE BEAUREPAIRE” • JEAN-MARC VINCENT

Jean-Marc Vincent is hitting his stride and has just made the best red wines of his career with his beautiful 2011s. Le Beaurepaire is the most elegant of his trio of red Santenays, and hence the most approachable young. You will get your Santenay typicity nonetheless, in a rush of briary fruit and tannin. Vincent has also committed himself to whole-cluster fermentation every year, bringing an added dimension of aromatic interest and texture. This is one of our top Burgundian value cellar selections, by the way.

\$50.00 PER BOTTLE \$540.00 PER CASE

2012 CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE GRAND CRU
DOMAINE FOLLIN-ARBELET

It is always a pleasure to present some *grand cru* Burgundy on these pages. Follin-Arbelet has been a huge success story for us, as our clients have come to fully appreciate the depth of the man and his wines. The domaine may just be one of the (formerly) best-kept secrets in Burgundy. Follin's Corton-Charlemagne is one of the great examples of this noble and historic vineyard site. This white will need ten years to truly blossom and will live for many more.

\$160.00 PER BOTTLE \$1,728.00 PER CASE

2012 CORTON BRESSANDES GRAND CRU
DOMAINE FOLLIN-ARBELET

From one of the top three *lieux-dits* of the unusually large *grand cru* that is Corton, Bressandes is in the sweet spot right in the middle of the hill and enjoys perfect southeastern exposure. Frank Follin is patient and meticulous with everything he does, and his wines reflect this. They speak softly, with a depth to discover and appreciate if you know how to listen. Follin's 2012 reds were some of my favorites in all of Burgundy, and this Corton will make a magnificent addition to any cellar. It is an exercise in finesse and class, along with the power and depth you expect from this top *terroir*.

\$125.00 PER BOTTLE \$1,350.00 PER CASE

KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT—TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All wines purchased from Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant are deemed sold in California and title passes to the buyer in California. We make no representation relative to the customer's right to import wine into his/her state. In placing an order, the customer 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.

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VIVE L'AMITIÉ FRANCO-AMÉRICAINÉ!

by Julia Issleib

2012 CROZES HERMITAGE "TIERCEROLLES" BLENDED BY KERMIT LYNCH

After seventeen years of meticulous work, a replica of the *Hermione*, the ship on which Lafayette sailed to the United States in 1780, finally hit the sea. The striking three-masted vessel resembles the one on this Crozes Hermitage label and makes you wonder if the original *Hermione* carried a few *tiercerolles*—as barrels were called back then—of French wine across the Atlantic.

In a very different Franco-American cooperation, Louis Barruol vinifies small batches from the rare slopes of Crozes Hermitage. Then Kermit arrives and tastes each barrel and makes his blends, a liquid homage to time, patience, tradition, and to the past masters of the northern Rhône.

\$35.00 PER BOTTLE

\$378.00 PER CASE
