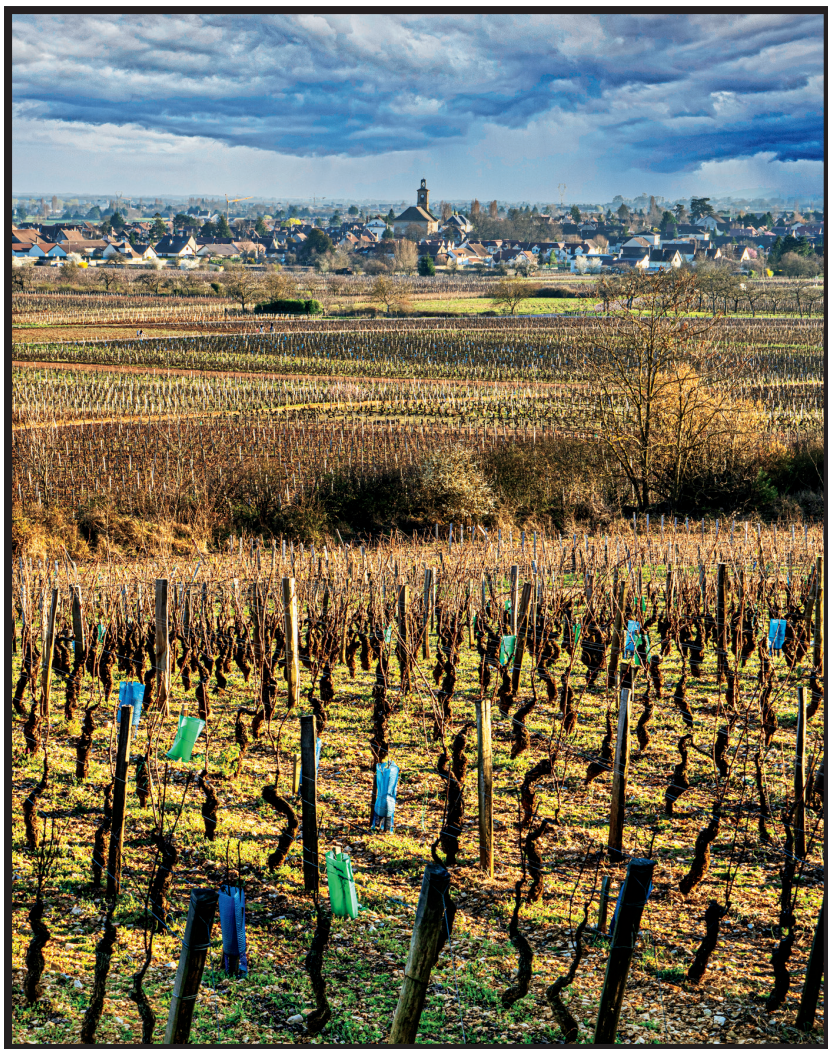


KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

MARCH 2021



Marsannay, Burgundy

© Gail Skoff

THE LOIRE HAS IT ALL SAMPLER
NEW ARRIVALS FROM ETNA: VIGNETI VECCHIO
2019 KL CÔTES DU RHÔNE ■ RED & WHITE BURGUNDY

RED BURGUNDY

by Jane Berg, KLWM NEW YORK

2018 BOURGOGNE “EN MONTRE CUL” REGIS BOUVIER

Only five single vineyards in all of Burgundy are allowed to be mentioned on a bottle of Bourgogne *rouge*, and “En Montre Cul” is one of them. On the outskirts of Dijon, in the northern Côtes-de-Nuits, this historical parcel gets its appropriately cheeky name—which loosely translates to the “fanny flaunter”—for its steep slope that presumably offers a peek up harvesters’ skirts. As for the wine itself, it’s loaded with brambly black fruit and *réglisse*, and finishes firmly with a dusting of chalky tannins. A bottle of Burgundy with a sense of place, and a sense of humor.

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

2018 SAVIGNY-LES-JARRONS 1^{ER} CRU DOMAINE PIERRE GUILLEMOT

Some growers of Les Jarrons, including Guillemot, farm a portion of this eight-hectare *lieu-dit* known as La Dominode, a name that indicates the plots once belonged to a local lord. As you can imagine, lords liked to keep the very best plots to themselves, and this is one of the village’s best sites. Out of all their *premier cru* bottlings, Les Jarrons is the domaine’s most tangy and supple, bursting with that juicy *griotte* (sour cherry) quality we love about Savigny, and have come to expect from Guillemot’s most elegant, time-honored style of Pinot.

\$57.00 PER BOTTLE **\$615.60** PER CASE

2017 NUITS-SAINT-GEORGES 1^{ER} CRU “LES PRULIERS” DOMAINE LUCIEN BOILLOT & FILS

Nuits-Saint-Georges has a reputation for robust wines with coarse tannins, but there are plenty of exceptions to the rule. Take Pierre Boillot’s Les Pruliers, which is quite the opposite—it’s floral, finessed, and delicately detailed, thanks to vines that are more than a century old, planted in 1911. In its youth, budding aromatics of rose and black cherry stand out, but over time, it will mature into a woody, truffled beauty with a long, mineral finish. Pair with rosemary lamb chops and a silky potato purée.

\$143.00 PER BOTTLE **\$1,544.40** PER CASE

WHITE BURGUNDY

by *Chris Santini*, KLWM BEAUNE

2017 PULIGNY-MONTRACHET 1^{ER} CRU “HAMEAU DE BLAGNY” COMTESSE DE CHÉRISEY

Don't be fooled by the “Countess” in the estate name here. There may be some noble blood in the Martelet family, but you won't find any lords idling around an old château. You will find, however, one of the hardest-working families in Burgundy. The Martelets keep the more arduous (and often most important) vineyard tasks for themselves and lead by example with an old-school Burgundian work ethic that is reflected in the distinction of their wines. Their Puligny from the high-altitude hamlet of Blagny is rich and full, yet energetic and mineral, all balanced out just perfectly. Noble is as noble does.

\$120.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,296.00 PER CASE

2018 VÉZELAY “LA PIÈCETTE” DOMAINE DE LA CADETTE

Much remains for us to discover in the coming years from the youngest *cru* of Burgundy, Vézelay. In that spirit comes the Piècelette cuvée, from a single parcel that is swirled with every single soil type you can find in the appellation. The domaine keeps it separate—a sort of Vézelay microcosm in a bottle, if you will—a show-piece of what could be considered a reference point of typicity for the region. It has all the best of Vézelay: a fresh, floral, citrusy attack, followed by warm and textured charm.

\$35.00 PER BOTTLE

\$378.00 PER CASE



2018 SAINT-AUBIN 1^{ER} CRU “SOUS ROCHE DUMAY” • DOMAINE LARUE

I refer to this bottling from Larue as their “gunsmoke” cuvée, and you'll see what I mean as soon as the cork is out. It must be something about the fossil-laced white marl rock, which infuses a flinty, smoky note to the juice here. Sous Roche Dumay is one of those standout wines that gets your attention right off the bat and keeps it through to the end of the bottle.

\$52.00 PER BOTTLE

\$561.60 PER CASE

— TOP VALUES —

WHITE BEFORE RED

by Tom Wolf

2018 PINOT BLANC • KUENTZ-BAS

Year in and year out, Kuentz-Bas proves that you do not need to pay a premium for wines steeped in tradition. Olivier Raffin ferments this dry and generous white wine in *foudres* assembled in 1894, during the construction of the domaine's "new" cellar. Given their age and how many vintages of wine they have held, these massive wooden casks no longer impart flavor to the wine. Their main purpose is to allow a slow exchange of oxygen between the inside and outside of the vessel, which enhances fermentation and adds complexity to the aromas. Floral and honeyed, this Pinot Blanc has everything you want in a weeknight white wine and more.



\$17.00 PER BOTTLE

\$183.60 PER CASE

2019 CÔTES DU RHÔNE SELECTED BY KERMIT LYNCH



One of the things I love about this bottling is that while we get to choose our blend every year after tasting samples from roughly twenty different tanks, we still allow the conditions of the vintage to guide us, giving us a fresh, honest, and pure entry point to the Rhône's great reds. This 2019 reflects a relatively warm year in the southern Rhône Valley, rendering this cuvée a little more *solaire* than its 2018 counterpart. Still, it bears all of

the trademark qualities that we look for in a weeknight *rouge* from this slice of France: the dark fruit, wild herbs, stony spirit, and, most important, deliciousness that you want to savor again and again.

\$12.95 PER BOTTLE

\$139.86 PER CASE

NEBBIOLI

by Emily Spillmann, KLWM BEAUNE

2019 LANGHE NEBBIOLO • PIERO BENEVELLI

Tasting this bottle is like being in on a secret or having a foretaste of the future. It is the most approachable of the *azienda's* compelling Nebbioli, aged in stainless steel and extremely pure, with smooth tannins, freshness, and a touch of austerity that hints of its serious terroir. In this way, the Langhe Nebbiolo points to the evolution of Massimo Benevelli's more massive Baroli: it's ready to be enjoyed now, but is sure to pique your curiosity for the other wines in this promising producer's lineup (which might already be aging in your cellar). Try it with a super-simple *risotto alla salsiccia* garnished with full fat butter, *parmigiano*, and browned sausages, plus as much freshly ground white pepper as desired.

\$24.00 PER BOTTLE

\$259.20 PER CASE

2017 BARBARESCO "VICENZIANA" SILVIO GIAMELLO

Silvio and Marina Giamello make fewer than a thousand cases of wine each year, and the care that goes into them is obvious upon opening this bottle. A beautiful, old-world garnet color is pleasure for the eyes, and the soul, character, and complexity of this textured Nebbiolo fills the mouth with flavors as delicate as rose petals. Marina calls the 2017 "very young," with a tannin and acidity that pair seamlessly with their typically Piemontese Sunday dessert, *bonet*. "It is not particularly sweet," she says of the pudding made with cocoa and amaretti cookies. "And in our family we add two little spoonfuls of rum."

\$45.00 PER BOTTLE

\$486.00 PER CASE

2016 BAROLO "GIANETTO" • GUIDO PORRO

In a land known for its fog (*nebbia*), this Barolo has the full force of sunshine. Thanks to the perfect south-southwestern exposure of Guido's vineyards, the 2016 already has softer tannins and riper fruit than might be expected from a wine that almost always improves with age. The marl and sandstone soils of Serralunga d'Alba produce a decidedly bold Barolo style, which Guido tactfully finesses to allow room for all those sunbaked black cherry flavors. Excellent balance, and talk about bang for your buck!

\$53.00 PER BOTTLE

\$572.40 PER CASE

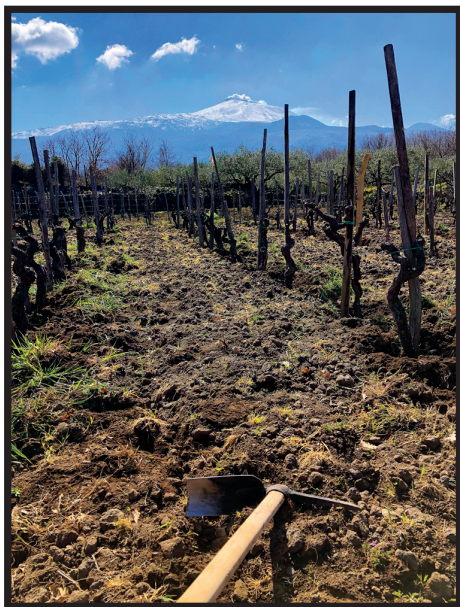
VIGNETI VECCHIO

by Anthony Lynch

VIGNETI VECCHIO is a decidedly young estate, 2016 being the first vintage released by husband-wife team Carmelo Vecchio and Rosa La Guzza. And yet, tasting their hand-crafted creations from the weathered lava fields of Etna's northern face, one senses a certain maturity beyond their few years in business. It could certainly be due to Carmelo's extensive experience in these very vineyards, where he began working at a young age for one of the local wineries. It might be thanks to the ancient vines they farm—many of them over a century in age—releasing their acumen acquired over countless seasons in the form of palpable aromas, flavors, and textures. And, of course, there is the aura of Etna itself: millenia of winemaking history that have not been lost on Carmelo and Rosa, guiding their every decision as they seek to harness the rumbling energy emanating from the depths of the red-hot magma chamber beneath their feet.

As Rosa puts it, “the alternance and coexistence of ancient and modern” is a constant theme for them. While newcomers from far and near settle Etna looking to make their mark, bringing studied enologists and fancy technology in their suitcases, Vigneti Vecchio looks to the past for inspiration. Carmelo's father can still be found working their *alberello*-trained vines by hand, without chemicals, echoing his own father and countless generations past. Each cuvée is a field blend consisting of a smattering of indigenous grapes, reflecting the increasingly rare practice of co-planting. And in the cellar, they adhere to traditional methods like skin maceration for whites, wild yeast fermentations, and bottling unfiltered.

At the same time, Carmelo and Rosa go to great lengths to avoid the rustic, alcoholic character that afflicted many wines of Etna's past, exercising precision in their calculated approach to viticulture and winemaking. Their deft touch has resulted in naturally produced wines of purity and elegance with polished fruit and silky tannins that still have their share of volcanic grit. Here are their new releases, straight from the heights of Etna's charcoal slopes.



© Vigneti Vecchio

Old vines at Contrada Donna Bianca

2019 TERRE SICILIANE CARRICANTE “SCIARE VIVE”

Three days of skin contact and aging in neutral barrels for this field blend of Carricante with other native grapes including Cattanatto, Grecanico, Inzolia, and Minnella. The aromas of wildflowers, saffron, beeswax, and Mediterranean herbs could only come from Etna. Rich, fleshy, and focused, all at just 11.5% alcohol.

\$40.00 PER BOTTLE

\$432.00 PER CASE



2019 ETNA ROSSO “SCIARE VIVE”

Pre-phylloxera vines in fine volcanic sand yield Vigneti Vecchio’s “entry-level” red. It features roughly 10 percent white varieties co-fermented with Nerello Mascalese and other local reds, helping to soften a generous tannic presence. Lingering flavors of black pepper and ripe dark fruit.

\$38.00 PER BOTTLE

\$410.40 PER CASE

2019 TERRE SICILIANE ROSSO “DONNA BIANCA”

Planted in 1950, this vineyard scattered with large lava stones sits at 850 meters above sea level, receiving ample winter snowfall and significant nighttime temperature drops in summer. About one quarter of the blend is Alicante, the local name for Grenache, a variety imported centuries ago that can still be found in abundance on this part of Etna. Delicate floral perfume, medium body, velvety tannin.

\$52.00 PER BOTTLE

\$561.60 PER CASE

2018 ETNA ROSSO “CRASÀ CONTRADA”

You’ll find whiffs of both Burgundy and Barolo in this single-vineyard bottling from vines planted in 1930, but it is unmistakably Etna: smoky and suave, with radiant cherry fruit and gripping tannins fine as ash.

\$58.00 PER BOTTLE

\$626.40 PER CASE



THE LOIRE HAS IT ALL

12-BOTTLE SAMPLER

by Tom Wolf



I HAVE NEVER ASKED VIGNERONS outside of the Loire Valley how they feel about the region, but I imagine many of them look upon winemakers there with envy: given its breadth of territory and depth of talent, the Loire combines some of the best aspects of every other wine region into one. To start, it produces Cabernet Francs and Chenin Blancs that showcase the seriousness and age-worthiness of reds and whites made in Burgundy and the Rhône Valley. Many teem with the down-home soul of wines made in the south of France. The region boasts Alsace's wide range of styles as well as the potential to make sparkling wines that reach the heights of many Champagnes. Some of the most talented Loire Valley vignerons—and their wines—share the *joie de vivre* of their peers in the Beaujolais or the experimental spirit of the Jura's tinkerers. As you'll taste in this sampler, in which no cuvée is quite like the next, the Loire Valley is home to some of France's greatest and most diverse wines.

PER BOTTLE

VOUVRAY BRUT "LA DILETTANTE"

CATHERINE ET PIERRE BRETON	\$31.00
2019 BOURGUEIL ROSÉ • DOMAINE DE LACHANTELEUSERIE . . .	17.00
2019 REUILLY PINOT GRIS • DOMAINE DE REUILLY	22.00
2017 MUSCADET SÈVRE ET MAINE "RÉSERVE"	

DOMAINE MICHEL BRÉGEON	35.00
2019 SANCERRE • DANIEL CHOTARD	30.00
2017 QUINCY • DOMAINE TROTTEREAU	22.00
2019 VOUVRAY "LES FONDRAUX" • CHAMPALOU	26.00
2019 BOURGUEIL "CUVÉE ALOUETTES"	

DOMAINE DE LACHANTELEUSERIE	18.00
2018 BOURGUEIL "TRINCH!" • CATHERINE ET PIERRE BRETON	30.00
2019 VAL DE LOIRE ROUGE GROLLEAU	

CATHERINE ET PIERRE BRETON	29.00
2018 CHINON "LE DOMAINE" • BERNARD BAUDRY	29.00
2016 CHINON "CLOS DU CHÊNE VERT" • CHARLES JOGUET	66.00

Normally \$355.00

SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE **\$284**

(a 20% discount)

ITALIAN WHITES

by Jane Berg, KLWM NEW YORK

2018 FRIULI COLLI ORIENTALI CHARDONNAY “RONCO PITOTTI” • VIGNAI DA DULINE

Don't focus on the grape variety here, which may mislead you into thinking you're in for a basic Chardonnay. On this historic, undulating site in Friuli, where vineyards have been terraced and harvested since the sixteenth century, the fruit acts as a mere vehicle for something greater than the sum of its parts. The *ponca* soil, for example, Friuli's signature limestone, marl, and sandstone earth, in combination with Lorenzo Mocchiutti's loving, holistic touch, create a wine with otherworldly vitality and inviting aromatics. The result is generous and intricate, with pulsating acidity. Expect the unexpected when popping the cork.

\$74.00 PER BOTTLE

\$799.20 PER CASE

2017 VENEZIA GIULIA VITOVSKA • KANTE

I am amazed at and in awe of Vitovska, an indigenous grape that tastes inextricably linked to its environment in the most authentic way. The grapes, grown in the Carso district of Italy near Trieste, between mountains (the Alps) and sea (the Adriatic), marry the identities of these climatic forces effortlessly. One sip brought to mind the pure, breezy whites I love from other Alpine regions like Savoie and Alto Adige, as well as the warm, salty air you can taste in Mediterranean whites from Corsica and Cassis. If any of these qualities appeal to you, you're in for a treat with Kante's Vitovska.

\$35.00 PER BOTTLE

\$378.00 PER CASE

2019 BIANCO SECCO “CA' DEL MERLO” GIUSEPPE QUINTARELLI

If you can snag a bottle of this beguiling blend from such a storied estate before it's sold out, you'll have given yourself the gift of foresight. That feeling will be fleeting, however; once you taste it, you'll wish you'd bought a case. Native varieties like Garganega, Trebbiano, and Saorin deliver boldly floral aromas laced with volcanic smokiness from the basalt soil upon which they're grown. How dull and dreary life would be without this *bianco* to cheer me up. It just never gets old.

\$48.00 PER BOTTLE

\$518.40 PER CASE

DOMAINE GRAMENON

by Anthony Lynch

DOMAINE GRAMENON needs no introduction: vigneronne Michèle Aubéry and her son, Maxime-François Laurent, are at the very top of their game, creating wondrous cuvées each year according to the principles of biodynamic farming and natural winemaking that launched the domaine to stardom across Parisian wine bars more than twenty years ago. Situated in the northeastern reaches of the southern Rhône, their vines—primarily Grenache, most of it quite old—sit at elevation on a plateau of fractured limestone slabs and feathery decomposed sandstone. These latest releases from Michèle and Maxime-François (bottled under his own label) showcase the brilliance attainable when top-notch terroir falls into the right hands.



2019 CÔTES DU RHÔNE ROUGE “SIERRA DU SUD” DOMAINE GRAMENON

A pure Syrah bottling from the land of Grenache. Syrah soaks up its surroundings as if it were at home, offering wild flavors of the Provençal countryside gently wrapped in a thick coat of tooth-staining deep purple fruit. The cool nights at elevation confer lovely freshness to this unhindered expression of southern sunshine.

\$36.00 PER BOTTLE

\$388.80 PER CASE

2019 CÔTES DU RHÔNE ROUGE “LA SAGESSE” DOMAINE GRAMENON

Three terroirs make up this cuvée you would be sage to decant, or hold up to ten years in a cool place. A sandy parcel brings lively floral aromatics and elegant fruit, clay contributes depth and fleshiness, and a third plot on rocky limestone makes its presence felt on the tightly wound, almost salty finish. A masterpiece of old-vine Grenache.

\$47.00 PER BOTTLE

\$507.60 PER CASE

2019 CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES VISAN “ORPIMENT” • MAXIME-FRANÇOIS LAURENT

A glorious ruby robe with purplish glints prefaces this blend of old Grenache with some Syrah from the Visan subzone of the Côtes-du-Rhône. The nose follows with evocative scents of Provence: sun-ripened blackberries, lavender, black olive, *garrigue* . . . A dusting of earthy tannins gives this plump, generous red just enough texture and grip.

\$36.00 PER BOTTLE **\$388.80** PER CASE

2019 CÔTES DU RHÔNE *BLANC* “PANTOMINE” MAXIME-FRANÇOIS LAURENT

This new white to the lineup, a marriage of Bourboulenc and Grenache Blanc, clocks in at a refreshing 12.5% alcohol. You’ll find the classic perfume of a good southern Rhône white, including stone fruit, hay, and fragrant mimosa blossoms. With no rough edges, it beckons you to follow Maxime-François’s advice: “Drink it when you are very, very thirsty!”

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



Old-vine Grenache at Gramenon

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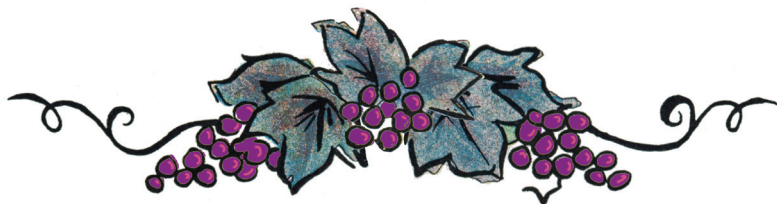


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