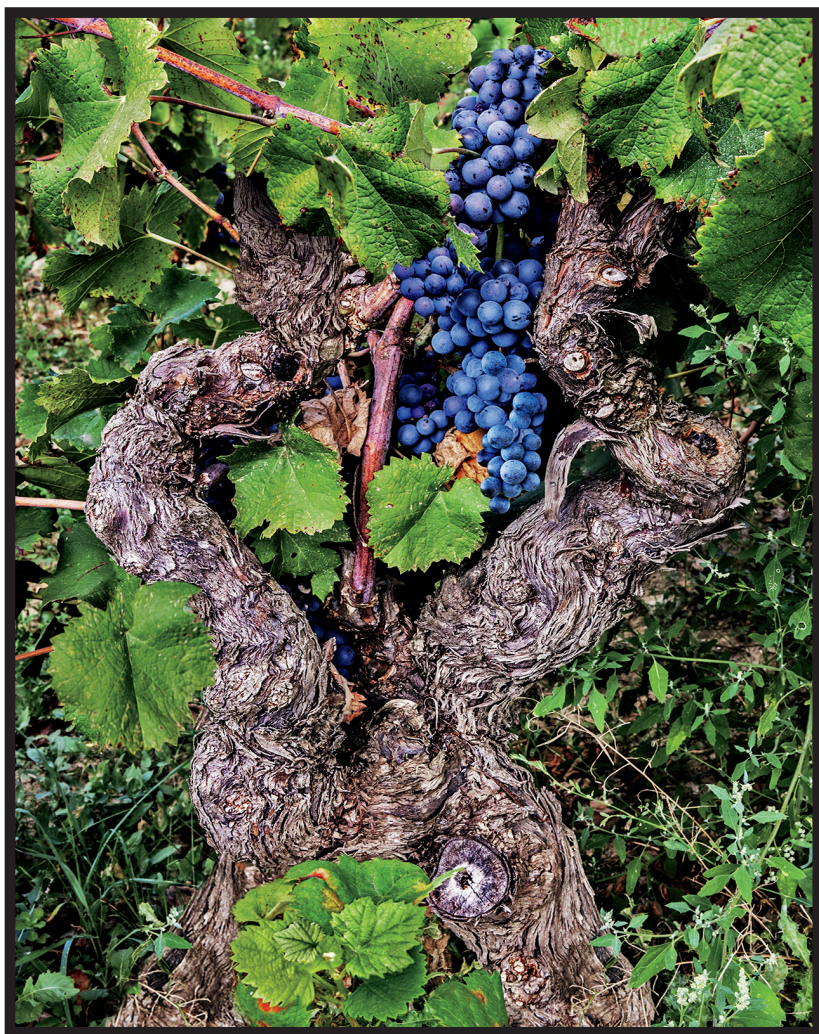


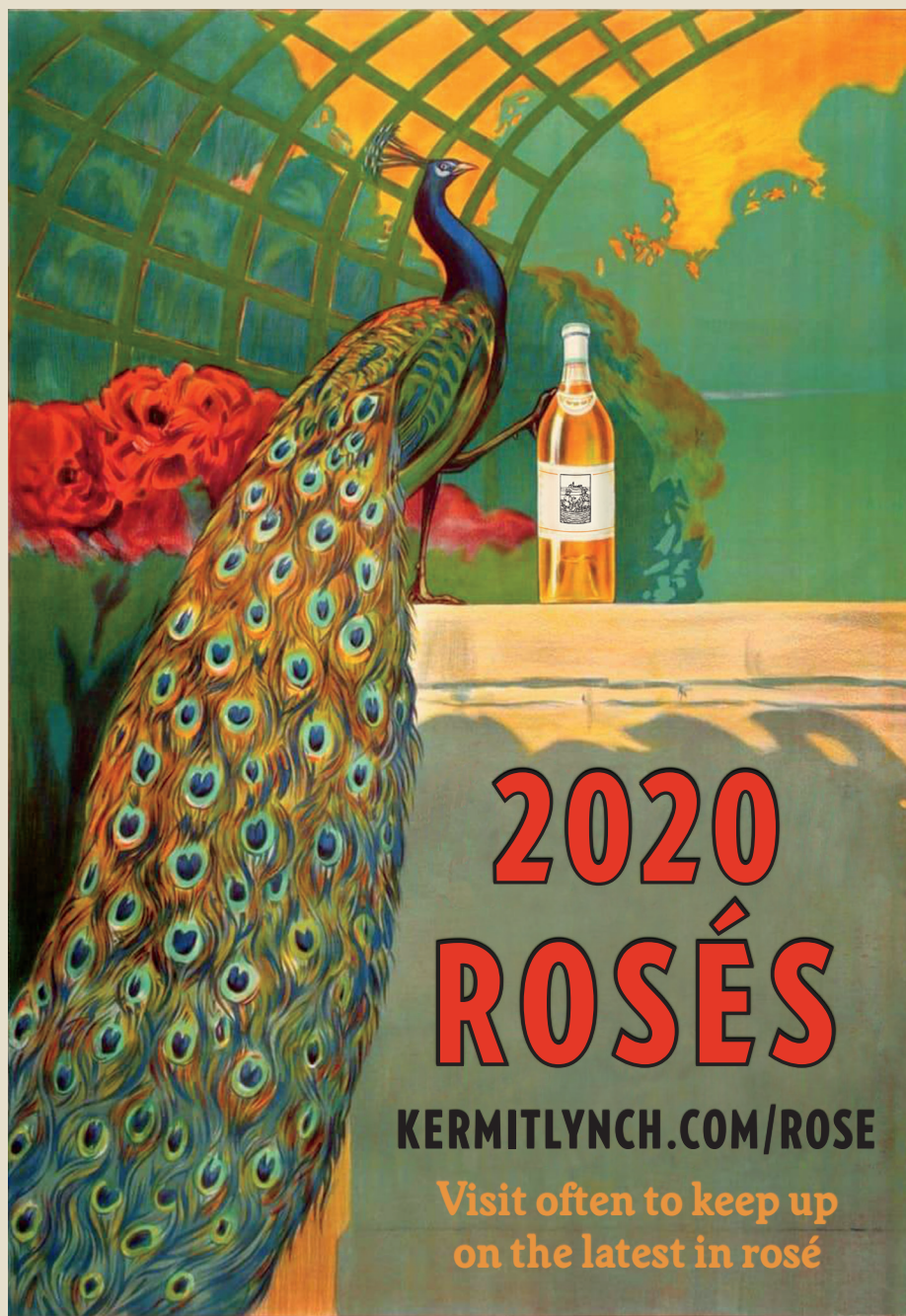
KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

JUNE 2021



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BACK IN STOCK: 2018 MONFERRATO ROSSO
GUIDE TO GRENACHE ■ THREE FRENCH CLASSICS
TUSCAN REDS ■ NEW ARRIVALS FROM BURGUNDY



2020 ROSÉS

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THREE FRENCH CLASSICS

by Tom Wolf

2018 MÂCON-VILLAGES • HENRI PERRUSSET

With this Mâcon-Villages on the table in front of you, you might wonder what compromises it makes. After all, a bottle of outstanding white Burgundy can't be had for less than twenty dollars, right? Well, once you open the bottle, you will be thrilled to find it has sacrificed nothing. Offering flavors of luscious, ripe orchard fruit and citrus, and mouthwatering minerality, this cuvée from the southern part of the region abounds with the traits that make Burgundian Chardonnay so charming.

\$19.95 PER BOTTLE

\$215.46 PER CASE

2018 MOULIN-À-VENT “VIEILLES VIGNES” • DOMAINE DIOCHON

Compared to the norm these days, with vigneron bottling increasingly wider ranges of cuvées, Domaine Diochon has become an outlier by producing only one bottling each year. This wine happens to be the same cuvée we have imported for nearly forty years: the old-vine Moulin-à-Vent. Today, the wine is made from vines planted in 1920, 1950, and the 1960s, and it remains as true as ever to the Diochon style: wines defined by well-integrated tannins but without heaviness, lifted by fragrant fruit and floral aromas. Soulful and savory, with notes of cherries, iron, and smoke, this gorgeous *cru* Beaujolais is ready to drink now and also built to last.



\$26.00 PER BOTTLE

\$280.80 PER CASE

2018 CORBIÈRES ROUGE “RÉSERVE LA DEMOISELLE” • DOMAINE DE FONTSAINTE

The wine above is labeled “old vine,” but the vines that go into this Demoiselle make Diochon's look like tender, young things. Made mostly from Carignan—much of it planted in 1904—this *rouge* showcases the soul, depth, and polish that often come from century-old vines. Evoking strawberries and blackberries, stones and *garrigue*, and the faintest hint of black olives, La Demoiselle is a late afternoon in the south of France.

\$20.00 PER BOTTLE

\$216.00 PER CASE

RED BURGUNDY

by *Dustin Soiseth*

2018 BOURGOGNE ROUGE • RÉGIS BOUVIER

If we gave out awards to honor outstanding service rendered to American Francophiles, I would nominate Régis Bouvier for heroically supplying us with affordable Burgundy year after year. His wines are consistently delicious and well priced, especially this Bourgogne *rouge*. The 2018 iteration, sourced as always from three parcels near Bouvier's home base of Marsannay, is the best I've had in a while. With pure cherry flavors and a brisk finish, it was supremely refreshing with burgers on a Sunday night. Thanks, Régis, on behalf of American wine budgets everywhere.

\$26.00 PER BOTTLE

\$280.80 PER CASE

2018 MARANGES 1ER CRU "LA FUSSIÈRE" DOMAINE J.-C. REGNAUDOT & FILS

One of our Chablis producers turned us on to Didier Regnaudot's family domaine, tucked away in the hilly southwest corner of the Côte d'Or. It was a decision I'm sure he regretted almost immediately, since we promptly began to buy as much as they'd sell us, jeopardizing the *chablisien's* supply of house red! Not surprisingly, the Regnaudot wines have become staff favorites, prized for their easygoing character and value. Didier's La Fussièrè is robust and delicious, with the ripe fruit that characterizes the 2018 red Burgundies reined in by a subtle earthiness.

\$39.00 PER BOTTLE

\$421.20 PER CASE

2018 GIVRY ROUGE 1ER CRU "A VIGNE ROUGE" DOMAINE FRANÇOIS LUMPP

The 2018 has been hailed by one Burgundian *négociant* as the greatest Burgundy vintage since 1947. While I'm sure many vignerons will take issue with such a bold claim, there is no quibbling over the fact that the 2018 vintage has produced Pinot Noirs of exceptional quality and richness. With its primarily southern exposure and limestone soils, the A Vigne Rouge vineyard is ideally situated to extract the most from this historically warm vintage, and François's heady, spicy version is about as opulent as red Burgundy gets. Do you have childhood memories of eating a bowlful of ripe berries on a hot summer day, juice running down your chin? Here's the grownup version. You might want to consider a bib.

\$62.00 PER BOTTLE

\$669.60 PER CASE

WHITE BURGUNDY

by Jane Berg, KLWM NEW YORK

2018 BOURGOGNE BLANC • LA SŒUR CADETTE

I'd like to nominate this wine as a candidate for your house white: a thirst-quenching, spirit-lifting, and downright delicious white Burgundy that is never not the right bottle to open. The always inspired Valentin Montanet over-delivers with this unfussy, organically made Chardonnay. Sure, it's a Bourgogne, but the lighting need not be perfect, nor should you save it for company (although they would be impressed). A wine for winding down and perking up—treat yourself on any night of the week.

\$32.00 PER BOTTLE

\$345.60 PER CASE

2018 PERNAND-VERGELESSES FOLLIN-ARBELET



If you see Franck Follin's bottling of Pernand-Vergelesses *blanc* on offer, don't dillydally. We only get a few cases, due to a number of factors. For starters, Franck has less than a hectare of this parcel, which is never a vigorous provider. The slope at the base of the hill of Corton is steep and difficult to work, and yields are low and slow to ripen due to a somewhat shady exposition. While this may not sound desirable for a cool climate like Burgundy, in a robust, early ripening and sunny year like 2018, the respite is perfect. Ever the racy and mineral cuvée, this particular vintage is all silk and flesh, and a rare *village* treat from a producer of mainly *premier* and *grand cru* wines.

\$69.00 PER BOTTLE

\$745.20 PER CASE

2018 MEURSAULT-BLAGNY 1^{ER} CRU "LA GENELOTTE" • COMTESSE DE CHÉRISSEY

The tiny Hameau de Blagny is a hidden gem of vineyards that straddle the communes of Meursault and Puligny-Montrachet, where you'll find a handful of *premier cru* sites like La Genelotte. This *lieu-dit* falls on the Meursault side of Blagny yet tastes of pure Puligny to me. It is somewhat quiet on the nose right now, but one sip speaks loudly and clearly of a sturdy, impenetrable limestone subsoil that will grip every bit of your palate and hardly let go. Vignerons Laurent Martelet—whom Kermit describes as having his feet planted firmly in the soil and his head in the stars—is a genuine steward of the land. He pursues purity and truth in his crystalline wines, and La Genelotte communicates nothing less.

\$134.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,447.20 PER CASE

GUIDE TO GRENACHE

by Tom Wolf

A COLLEAGUE OF MINE recently asked Daniel Brunier of Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe to compare the expressions of Grenache from his famed La Crau vineyard in Châteauneuf-du-Pape to those of the Pallières parcels he owns with Kermit in Gigondas, half an hour away. Daniel, who is among the more self-assured vigneron you'll meet, seemed briefly at a rare loss for words. Then he said, "This is the question of my life. Grenache has this incredible ability to be a kind of print of the soil. The Grenache from those places is so different."

When you factor in not only these differences of place but also variations of blend, color, and vigneron, Grenache yields an even greater range of experiences, from dense and soulful to light and more ethereal. And while you might not think of Grenache in the context of white and rosé, Grenache Gris is in fact the foundational grape of our most popular pink wine: Fontsaïne's Gris de (Grenache) Gris.

What ties the wines in this collection together—all of which are at least half Grenache and made in southern France or Sardinia, where the variety is called Cannonau—is the quintessentially "earthbound" quality of the grape: its uncanny ability to convey the soil and the fragrant *garrigue* that rises out of it and so often surrounds the vines in these parts. All these wines are *de la terre*.

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| | |
|--|---------|
| 2019 COLLIOURE BLANC "LES CANADELLS" • LA TOUR VIEILLE | \$24.00 |
| 2019 CÔTES-DU-RHÔNE BLANC "PANTOMINE" • M. F. LAURENT | 26.40 |
| 2019 CORBIÈRES ROSÉ "GRIS DE GRIS" • FONTSAINTE | 14.40 |
| 2018 ROSATO "BARROSU" • MONTISCI. | 47.20 |
| 2019 BEAUMES-DE-VENISE ROUGE • DOMAINE DE DURBAN | 16.00 |
| 2018 COLLIOURE "LA PINÈDE" • LA TOUR VIEILLE | 21.60 |
| 2019 VENTOUX ROUGE "MÉGAPHONE" • F. & D. BRUNIER | 21.60 |
| 2017 CANNONAU DI SARDEGNA "RIVIERA" • VIGNE RADA | 21.60 |
| 2018 TERRASSES DU LARZAC ROUGE • LES VIGNES OUBLIÉES . . | 23.20 |
| 2018 ISOLA DEI NURAGHI ROSSO "FAMILIA" • DEPERU HOLLER | 24.00 |
| 2018 ÎLE DE BEAUTÉ ROUGE • YVES LECCIA | 24.80 |
| 2019 CÔTES-DU-RHÔNE-VILLAGES VISAN "ORPIMENT" M. F. LAURENT | 28.80 |

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| 2019 CÔTES DU RHÔNE “LA SAGESSE” • DOMAINE GRAMENON | \$37.60 |
| 2019 GARD ROUGE “CLAUSUS” • LUDOVIC ENGELVIN | 38.40 |
| 2014 LES BAUX DE PROVENCE ROUGE “CORNALINE” | |
| DOMAINE HAUVETTE | 44.00 |
| 2018 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE “TÉLÉGRAMME” | |
| VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE. | 44.80 |
| 2018 CANNONAU DI SARDEGNA “BARROSU” • MONTISCI | 52.00 |
| 2016 CORBIÈRES ROUGE “CUVÉE ROSE” • MAXIME MAGNON | 58.40 |



© Les Vignes Oubliées

Freshly harvested Grenache from Les Vignes Oubliées

TUSCAN REDS

by Anthony Lynch

2016 TOSCANA ROSSO “BRENDINO” • CUNA



You might not expect to find elegant, nuanced Pinot Noir in Tuscany. But Cuna, Federico Staderini's tiny winery in the remote Apennine foothills of eastern Tuscany, defies common logic. By planting Pinot Nero in limestone at high elevation, he has found an unlikely home for the grape, yielding a singular *rosso* that is anything but international in style. Brendino is Federico's highest parcel at 1,800 feet above sea level, where

cool nights temper the blazing Tuscan sun and harvest often stretches deep into October. The interplay of perfectly ripe, pure Pinot fruit with fine, chalky tannins makes this a mind-bending outlier for both the grape and the region.

\$65.00 PER BOTTLE

\$702.00 PER CASE

2015 CHIANTI CLASSICO PODERE CAMPRIANO

Few wines are as complementary to the earthy flavors of simple Mediterranean cuisine as traditionally styled Chianti. Take this quick recipe for Tuscan pesto, shared by Elena Lapini of Podere Campriano: In a mixer or mortar, blend a large bundle of sage, some mint leaves, and a handful of pine nuts or walnuts. Add a healthy portion of grated Parmesan and/or Pecorino, and then incorporate

everything with a generous amount of your favorite extra-virgin olive oil. Mix with *al dente* pasta, adding a splash of cooking water if the sauce gets too thick. Grate more cheese over the top and serve with one of Elena's Chiantis. Just beginning to mature, her 2015 is in its sweet spot—pungently savory with herbaceous reminders of the Tuscan countryside, it is the perfect foil to this fragrant pasta that only takes a few minutes to whip up!



\$32.00 PER BOTTLE

\$345.60 PER CASE

2016 CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA “TERRAZZE” • CASTAGNOLI

Glimpsing the dramatic “terraces” for which this Chianti is named, you might wonder if you boarded the wrong flight and landed in Côte-Rôtie. Trained vertically at a single vine per stake (known as *échalas* training in France), these vineyards have much in common with those of the northern Rhône. However, when you look around, you notice olive trees separating the vineyard rows, their silver leaves waving lackadaisically in the afternoon breeze. The brilliant sunshine and crystalline skies have an undeniable Mediterranean accent, and a rustic stone farmhouse encircled by cypresses at the top of the hill confirms: you are indeed in Tuscany.

But the Côte-Rôtie comparison may not be so far-fetched, after all. Thanks to its high elevation and thin, rocky soils, this is a decidedly bright, aromatic, almost exotic Chianti, with aromas of black olive, violets, iron, and smoked meat, that nonetheless boasts the firm structure and aging potential of Tuscany’s memorable 2016 vintage. Decanting is advised; pleasure is assured.

\$45.00 PER BOTTLE

\$486.00 PER CASE



Castagnoli's terraces

© Castagnoli

OSTERTAG

by *Chris Santini*, KLWM BEAUNE

2019 PINOT BLANC “LES JARDINS”

Pinot Blanc, rare and exciting in Burgundy, its homeland, sometimes comes off as a bit ordinary and yawn-inducing to many in Alsace. There, where it is often over-cropped and planted in ill-suited terrain, bottlings can be bland. In contrast, the Ostertags long ago took to working their six small Pinot Blanc plots—or “gardens,” as they refer to them—biodynamically and by hand. Plus, in a nod to the grape’s Burgundian roots, they ferment and raise their Pinot Blanc in old barrels sourced from friends in the Côte d’Or. The result is, well, rare and exciting, to say the least. Floral and peach aromas give way to a rich, mouthwatering structure. Best to drink it now, given its vibrancy.

\$28.00 PER BOTTLE **\$302.40** PER CASE

2018 SYLVANER “L’EXUTOIRE SVV3”

This experimental Sylvaner cuvée—unlike any I’ve ever tasted before—is the result of a single parcel picked ripe, yet with loads of acidity still present, and left to ferment slowly but surely for the next eighteen months on its lees. While the rest of their 2018 Sylvaner was in bottle and shipping around the world, this bit remained bubbling away in tank. The wine is raw, unusual, unrefined, with high acidity and richness all at once. For those who like to explore, it offers a nice foray off the beaten path for Sylvaner.

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

2018 RIESLING GRAND CRU “MUENCHBERG”

Ostertag’s “Mountain of the Monks” parcel has absolutely everything going for it: nine centuries of uninterrupted grape cultivation, an insane swirl of lava and sandstone in the ground, perfect southern exposition, steep, horse-plowed slopes, old vines, and a pristine location in an undeveloped hidden valley, far from the rattle and hum of modern society. What more could a *grand cru* want? The wine reflects that swirl in the soil, with the sandstone’s discreet sensuality and charm rolling in the glass along with the volcanic lava’s strength and fire. If you can’t wait to drink it now, consider decanting it for a few hours to settle that fire. If you have the patience, give it five years to see where it will go.

\$80.00 PER BOTTLE **\$864.00** PER CASE

— VALUE OF THE MONTH —

2018 MONFERRATO ROSSO TENUTA LA PERGOLA

by Jane Berg, KLWM NEW YORK

WE RECENTLY PUBLISHED a short guide to our custom French bottlings, suggesting that the tradition began when “Kermit, with his customers back home in mind, asked certain producers if he could blend his own cuvée, often to be bottled unfiltered at his request.” We have since been able to offer a terroir-driven, diverse collection of “Selected by KL” blends from southern France, and have applied the same scrupulous criteria for typicity, pleasure, and value to our Italian blend from just east of the Langhe, in the Monferrato region of Piedmont. The area provides an unmatched variety of local grapes to choose from, and in the hands of Alessandra Bodda of Tenuta La Pergola, we hit the jackpot. When blended together—in this case, 50% Barbera, 30% Bonarda, with a splash each of Dolcetto and Freisa—the sum cuvée is much greater than any one of its parts, offering fruit, earth, acidity, and plenty of joy. What we have here is a knockout bottle of *vino rosso* for under fifteen dollars that embodies the spirit of our entire Italian portfolio at a fraction of the cost.

\$14.00 PER BOTTLE

\$151.20 PER CASE



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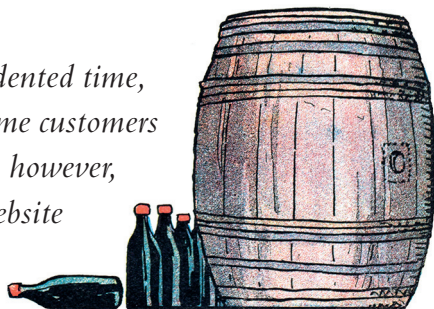
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