

KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

AUGUST 2021



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🌀 ROSÉ ARRIVALS—ENFIN! 🌀

PREMIER CRU BURGUNDY ■ VINTAGE GROS 'NORÉ
LOIRE WHITES SAMPLER ■ SUMMER SPARKLING

FIFTY SHADES OF GRIS

by Anthony Lynch

2020 CORBIÈRES ROSÉ “GRIS DE GRIS” DOMAINE DE FONTSAINTE

A bottle of Gris de Gris never disappoints, and there is something to be said for catching the wine in its fresh, lively youth. Although it stays delicious for well over a year, there is an unmatched succulence immediately upon its arrival on our shores, as if the entire citrus family had been squeezed into a juicy nectar of crisp, mouthwatering delightfulness. Few things in life are as satisfying and refreshing as a bracing glass of this benchmark southern rosé—a lesson we happily learn again and again, vintage after vintage.

\$18.00 PER BOTTLE **\$194.40** PER CASE

2020 VIN DE CORSE “LE ROSÉ DE PAULINE” DOMAINE DE MARQUILIANI

Sourced from alluvial foothills just minutes from Mediterranean waters on Corsica’s eastern coast, the Pauline is a blend of gently pressed Sciaccarellu, Syrah, and Vermentinu. You might raise an eyebrow at the hue—somewhere between pink, orange, and completely clear—but fear not: what this *vin gris* lacks in color, it more than makes up for in perfume and flavor. Supple and graceful with just enough grip, it mimics a salty infusion of peaches, herbs, peppercorns, and wet river stones.

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

2020 BANDOL ROSÉ • DOMAINE TEMPIER

The big news in the last few years at Tempier has been the addition of new vineyards tucked away in a cool, high-elevation, late-ripening corner of the Bandol appellation, acquired in response to—and in anticipation of—a warming climate. Vigneron Daniel Ravier has integrated the fruit into the Tempier bottlings little by little as his understanding of this new terroir deepens, and as the vines respond to their new stewardship and biodynamic treatment. The 2020 release suggests an absolutely seamless assimilation of these new parcels: this is textbook Tempier rosé, featuring zippy citrus zest, nectarine and peach, and a cool-fruited finish accented by a biting herbaceousness. The pristine balance, fine-grained texture, density without weight, and class throughout leave no doubt that this remains among the world’s finest rosés.

\$56.00 PER BOTTLE **\$604.80** PER CASE

2020 PIC-SAINT-LOUP ROSÉ ERMITAGE DU PIC SAINT LOUP

The northernmost, coolest appellation of the Languedoc, Pic-Saint-Loup has all the makings of an exceptional terroir for rosé. Its rocky calcareous slopes, covered in *garrigue* and wild pine forest, reach altitudes that favor vivid fruit and a crackling freshness in wines of all three colors. The Ravaille brothers of Ermitage du Pic Saint Loup, who have practiced biodynamics for more than twenty years, steer far from commercial considerations with their rosé, as its deep color attests. Its intense aromatics brazenly translate the Pic's rugged nature, and an almost chewable minerality brings to mind slabs of shattered limestone incarnated as energy, drive, and uncommon length on the palate.

\$21.00 PER BOTTLE

\$226.80 PER CASE

2020 PIC SAINT-LOUP ROSÉ CHÂTEAU LA ROQUE

Just downslope from the Ravailles sits Château La Roque, another historic Pic Saint-Loup domaine and zealous convert to the mystique of biodynamic viticulture. Using a similar blend that highlights Mourvèdre, Cinsault, and Syrah, vigneron Cyriaque Rozier crafts an elegant rosé of total refinement from these impossibly craggy limestone hillsides. Also fermented with wild yeast, it sits on the pale end of the spectrum with corresponding notes of rose water, alpine strawberry, and a delicate creaminess. Savor these two contrasting interpretations of Pic Saint-Loup with a platter of ripe melon and thinly sliced prosciutto.

\$23.00 PER BOTTLE

\$248.40 PER CASE

2020 BARDOLINO CHIARETTO “NICHESOLE” CORTE GARDONI

The Bardolino area, home to Lake Garda's swanky shoreline villages, is where you'll find one of Italy's oldest *rosato* traditions. Made from native grapes like Corvina conducive to fruit-driven, low-alcohol wines with bright acidity, the wine known as Chiaretto has everything to rival France's better-known pink wines. Playful berry fruit and an invigorating crunchiness make this the most gulpable rosé on these pages.

\$17.00 PER BOTTLE

\$183.60 PER CASE



6-BOTTLE LOIRE SAMPLER

A FULL SPECTRUM OF WHITE WINES

by Jane Berg, KLWM NEW YORK

THE LOIRE VALLEY is a one-stop shop of sorts for all wine styles. Weightless and intensely mouthwatering Muscadets made from the Melon grape are particularly well suited to sea critters and shellfish. Brégeon's Réserve, included in this pack, has added complexity thanks to his gabbro terroir and several years of bottle age. Crisp and peachy whites produced from Sauvignon Blanc are vividly electric and unmatched for their distinct cassis-bud and orchard fruit aromas. Salvard's Unique, for example, is so bright and refreshing, you'll feel hydrated while sipping on it! A classic appellation like Vouvray—which can be vinified dry, sparkling, or sweet—has a wildly different profile than other Chenin-based appellations. Champalou's full-bodied and seductive Vouvray Le Portail is beaming with luminosity and could elevate rich dishes such as buttery salmon or shrimp scampi. But Chenin Blanc, planted in Savennières, channels Chablis with its steely backbone and the hint of lanolin you taste in Épiré's Cuvée Spéciale.

To round out our Loire *blanc* top picks, we've included a library release of an heirloom variety called Fié Gris. In its youth, it's all flint and green grass, but years later we're left with ripe melon on the nose and a gravelly minerality on the palate. I drank it alongside an arugula salad topped with pear, gorgonzola, and caramelized walnuts, which brought out a dynamic side I didn't think possible for such a humble bottling.

PER BOTTLE

2020 VAL DE LOIRE SAUVIGNON BLANC "UNIQUE"

DOMAINE DU SALVARD \$17.00

2018 MUSCADET CÔTES DE GRAND LIEU SUR LIE

"CLOS DE LA BUTTE" • ERIC CHEVALIER 20.00

2013 VAL DE LOIRE FIÉ GRIS • ÉRIC CHEVALIER 24.00

2018 SAVENNIÈRES "CUVÉE SPÉCIALE" • CHÂTEAU D'ÉPIRÉ 33.00

2017 MUSCADET SÈVRE ET MAINE "RÉSERVE"

DOMAINE MICHEL BRÉGEON 35.00

2016 VOUVRAY "LE PORTAIL" • CHAMPALOU 40.00

Normally \$169.00

SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE **\$143**

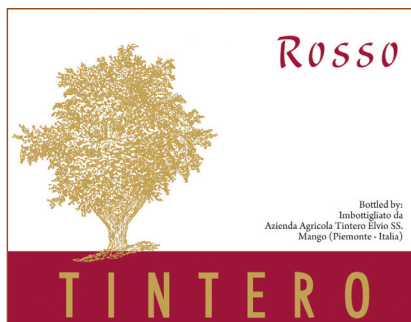
(a 15% discount)

VALUE REDS

by *Dustin Soiseth*

2020 VINO ROSSO • TINTERO

What's the most classic pairing you can think of? Maybe it's Fred and Ginger, or peanut butter and jelly, or gin and tonic. But what about Tintero's light, juicy *rosso* and a plate of antipasti? It's probably not the first thing that comes to mind, or the tenth, but when I have a slice of *soppressata* and a handful of cured olives and then chase it with a tumbler of this aromatic, pleasantly tart blend of Dolcetto, Barbera, Nebbiolo, and Cabernet, I can't imagine a better pairing in all the world.



\$9.95 PER BOTTLE

\$107.46 PER CASE

2020 BEAUJOLAIS • DOMAINE DUPEUBLE

Wow, what a nose! The faint scent of herbs on the evening breeze, the aroma of fresh raspberries, the smell of an afternoon rain on sun-warmed earth, all wafting from a glass of Dupeuble's perennially delicious Beaujolais. It's a classic for a reason, folks. Grab it by the case and inhale the scents of summer all year long.

\$18.00 PER BOTTLE

\$194.40 PER CASE

2019 LANGUEDOC CABRIÈRES ROUGE SELECTED BY KERMIT LYNCH

I love this wine because it's a darker counterpoint to our Côtes du Rhône. Take two parts smoky Syrah, one part ruby-red Grenache, a pinch of meaty Carignan, and a dash of violet-tinged Cinsault, then vinify them all separately in a mix of tank and barrel. This is the simple recipe our old friend Jean-Claude Zabalia uses to make our Languedoc Cabrières. Kermit picks the final blend, *et voilà!* Hearty southern French goodness.

\$14.00 PER BOTTLE

\$151.20 PER CASE



VINTAGE GROS 'NORÉ

by Chris Santini, KLWM BEAUNE

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE ESSENCE of Bandol? As delicious as it may be, I would argue that it's not the rosé, which has a long list of merits but, historically speaking, is a relatively modern addition to the range. It's not the *blanc*, despite its lusciousness and perfume, since it is always only a minor player, its percentage of the appellation's production countable on a single hand. I say the heart and soul of Bandol—which put it on the map and sent it sailing to shores around the world long ago, and in the 1940s inspired Lucien Peyraud to replant Domaine Tempier and begin a regional renaissance—is its aged reds. To this day, there is something truly remarkable and unique about a well-made and properly aged Bandol *rouge*, with its herbal notes, the classic dried rosemary

and thyme of a hot Provençal hillside, and its mellowed tannins. The dark fruit of youth has become softer, while developing notes of tobacco and spice make the whole thing more elegant. In my experience of visiting and dining with our growers in Bandol, I've noticed that the festivities usually begin with a cold *blanc*, a great way to refresh the whistle, and then move on to the rosé, also served quite cold, and often in the rays of the sun to really set the mood. However, when it's time to sit and eat, a series of aged *rouges* invariably comes to table, a way for the domaines to remind us of what is truly important here, and what is worthy of being at table with local fare, which (needless to say) has its own worldwide reputation.

While this tradition is visibly alive and well locally, recreating it elsewhere is not always easy, as most of the reds are shipped

around the world, sold, and consumed shortly upon release. Thankfully, Alain Pascal at Gros 'Noré likes to hold special vintages aside until he feels they are ready to offer something more, something different and exciting. His most recent selection, fresh from the depths of his cellar, is a simultaneous release of both the 2012 and the 2013 reds. The 2012 is at peak, perfect for drinking now—open and elegant and a prime example of what Alain would bring to his table at



a meal today. The 2013 is broader, powerful, right at that tipping point where ebullient notes of youth blend with the more subtle aspects of age. Thank you, Alain, for giving us a rare opportunity to experience the essence of Bandol in our own homes.

2013 BANDOL ROUGE

\$68.00 PER BOTTLE

\$734.40 PER CASE

2012 BANDOL ROUGE

\$71.00 PER BOTTLE

\$766.80 PER CASE



*Alain Pascal celebrating the twentieth anniversary
of Domaine du Gros 'Noré in 2016*

© Gail Skoff

CLASSIC ITALIAN REDS

by Tom Wolf

2017 ROSSO DI MONTALCINO • SESTI

Everything the Sesti family produces punches above its weight. This is the result of Giuseppe and his daughter Elisa's experience and also their selection of high-quality fruit for all of their bottlings. Their Rosso di Montalcino, for example, consists of Sangiovese that would qualify for their Brunello di Montalcino. Additionally, they've farmed it with organic and biodynamic methods and aged it in massive oak *botti*. In other words, the grapes are treated with the utmost care and respect from vine to bottle, and it shows in this extremely classy and charming *rosso*.

\$40.00 PER BOTTLE

\$432.00 PER CASE

2015 CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA PODERE CAMPRIANO

When I tasted Campriano's 2015 Riserva recently, I thought it had entered middle age, with its notes of soil and black tea. But, upon further consideration, the freshness, succulence, and vigor on display suggested that the wine is still very much in its youth. Then I remembered the earthy notes that stood out in the first place are actually a marker of this particular bottling's terroir. The Riserva is their most woody wine, transporting you to the Chianti forest nearby through a glass of outstanding Sangiovese.

\$44.00 PER BOTTLE

\$475.20 PER CASE

2015 BAROLO "VIGNA LAZZAIRASCO" GUIDO PORRO

Pour this Barolo from Guido Porro into your glass and you'll notice you can peer through to the other side. The color alone makes the wine look like a thing of delicate beauty. It is beautiful, but rather in a baritone, broad-shouldered kind of way. The sunny 2015 vintage combined with the terroir-driven power of Guido's Lazzairasco vineyard to give this cuvée even more depth and intensity than usual. What hasn't changed is the wine's excellent value and its ability to evolve gorgeously over the next twenty years.

\$54.00 PER BOTTLE

\$583.20 PER CASE



AN EFFERVESCENT SUMMER

by Anthony Lynch

2016 CRÉMANT D'ALSACE BRUT ALBERT BOXLER

Jean Boxler's expert touch extends from the epic, long-lived *grand cru* Riesling and Pinot Gris bottlings for which he is best known all the way down to his most humble *cuvées*. To call his Crémant humble is perhaps doing it a disservice, given that it could easily outclass all but the finest Champagnes, and yet the value here is such that it remains one of the domaine's "entry-level" bottlings. Vintage 2016 is a bone-dry Pinot Auxerrois-based sparkler characterized by a delicate mousse and the purity of a mineral spring. Truly a gem—don't miss it!

\$36.00 PER BOTTLE

\$388.80 PER CASE

NV BLANC DE BLANCS BRUT 1ER CRU VEUVE FOURNY & FILS

If, like me, you gravitate toward drier Champagnes with laser focus, then you will love the wines of Veuve Fourny. Their old Chardonnay vines suck up the chalky essence of the *premier cru* slopes of Vertus, and their winemaking is all about preserving the magic of their terroir without artifice. They refuse to inoculate, add no sulfur throughout the vinification process, work with very low dosages, and bottle their creations unfinned and unfiltered—rare feats in the world of wine, and virtually unheard of in Champagne. No need to wait for the perfect moment to enjoy a bottle; popping the cork on their Blanc de Blancs is a special occasion unto itself!

\$60.00 PER BOTTLE

\$648.00 PER CASE

NV ROSÉ BRUT 1ER CRU • J. LASSALLE

Raise your glass high: this year marks the fortieth anniversary of our collaboration with J. Lassalle! Some of the house secrets—and keys to such longevity—include using an ancient, vertical, wooden basket press to extract only the most delicate juice, permitting malolactic fermentation to occur naturally for all wines, and aging the wines extensively in their cool cellars so that each *cuvée* achieves maximum refinement at release. Lush and plush, with aromas of strawberries and cream, this wine is so elegant that it can make an immature boor such as myself feel like a sophisticated gentleman.

\$80.00 PER BOTTLE

\$864.00 PER CASE

PREMIER CRU BURGUNDY

by Tom Wolf

2018 GIVRY BLANC 1^{ER} CRU “CRAUSOT” DOMAINE FRANÇOIS LUMPP

François Lumpp does not make wine within the Côte d’Or, but many talented vignerons who *do* produce wine in Burgundy’s more famous villages greatly admire him. One taste of this *blanc* will tell you why. Arguably Givry’s best terroir for Chardonnay

and one of François Lumpp’s highest-elevation parcels, the *lieu-dit* Crausot gives a stony but generous wine with notes of ripe orchard fruit and citrus. The class of this white Burgundy might bring to mind Meursault or Puligny-Montrachet.



\$65.00 PER BOTTLE

\$702.00 PER CASE

2018 PULIGNY-MONTRACHET 1^{ER} CRU “HAMEAU DE BLAGNY” COMTESSE DE CHÉRISEY

Speaking of Puligny-Montrachet, this is the stuff of Puligny dreams: a perfectly chiseled Chardonnay coming from high up on the hill above that exalted

village and just below the Blagny forest. No one knows the Hameau de Blagny (hamlet of Blagny) better than Laurent Martelet of Domaine Comtesse de Chérissey, whose Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines stretch out across the forest’s eastern flank. This cuvée is sublime today, and if experience of aged Chérissey is any indication, it will continue to evolve beautifully over the next fifteen to twenty years.



\$134.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,447.20 PER CASE

2018 SAVIGNY-LÈS-BEAUNE 1^{ER} CRU “SAVIGNY AUX GRAVAINS” DOMAINE PIERRE GUILLEMOT

If you can believe it, we have never extolled this wine in these pages. Not because it isn't worthy of high praise—it is—but because we never get very much from the domaine. Compared to Guillemot's flagship *premier cru*, Serpentières—of which they own 1.7 hectares—the domaine farms only .27 hectare of Aux Gravains. Even though Aux Gravains is the next-door neighbor of Serpentières, its terroir is highly distinct. This cuvée is always among the more earthy and savory of Guillemot's lineup. Vintage 2018 of this *rouge* is succulent and concentrated with a magnificent grain. Once again, we didn't receive very much, so order soon if you would like to experience another side of this outstanding Savigny-lès-Beaune specialist.



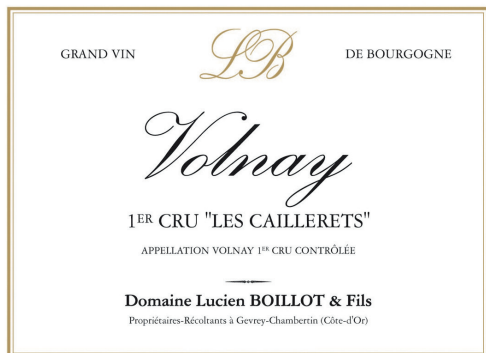
\$57.00 PER BOTTLE
\$615.60 PER CASE

2018 VOLNAY 1^{ER} CRU “LES CAILLERETS” DOMAINE LUCIEN BOILLOT & FILS

In last month's newsletter, I wrote about Boillot's village-level Volnay, a luscious and vibrant bottling you should avoid if you don't want to be seduced by Volnay. From one of the best *premier cru* sites in the AOC, this Caillerets is a step up in complexity and refinement.

Like the Gravains above, it features a stony, savory undercurrent, above which float gorgeous notes of strawberries and plums. I expect this bottling will age gracefully for fifteen years or more.

\$123.00 PER BOTTLE
\$1,328.40 PER CASE



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"Once upon a time I took a flying leap and imported twenty-five cases of rosé, the 1975 Bandol rosé from Domaine Tempier. Few of my customers were willing to try one. It took over a year to sell the 300 bottles, even though I drank a good share of it. The attitude was, 'No, I like good wines, I wouldn't be caught dead drinking rosé.' My, my, the arms I twisted."

KERMIT LYNCH July 2000 newsletter



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