

— Celebrating 50 Years of Fine Wine —

KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

SEPTEMBER 2022



Harvest tools

© Gail Skoff

TEMPIER ROSÉ IS HERE! ■ IN PRAISE OF OLIVES
ALSATIAN EXCELLENCE ■ THE NATIVE GRAPES OF PUGLIA

2021 BANDOL ROSÉ

DOMAINE TEMPIER

by Dixon Brooke

SOMETIMES I love to think back to what it must have been like in the late seventies at Domaine Tempier. Kermit first traveled there in 1977, after having tasted Tempier's wine a year or two earlier with Richard Olney. Chez Panisse was pouring it at their restaurant around the same time. Future great chefs from all over this country were traveling to Provence to soak up the wine and food culture. It could even be said that the region was the gastronomic capital of the world for a brief moment, at least in certain circles (ours!), and Lulu's kitchen was the epicenter. Oh, how the wine and conversation must have flowed with those incredible meals, beautiful scenery, and wonderful people who enjoyed life with simplicity, style, and joviality!

In the time that I have worked here, we have sold the wine made by founder Lucien Peyraud's son, Jean-Marie, up through the 1999 vintage, and then the subsequent vintages produced by Daniel Ravier. I have had the pleasure of tasting wines created by Lucien from Kermit's cellar, including the legendary 1971 Cuvée Spéciale, his first purchase. I also had the great fortune to know Lulu and dine at her table more than once. The cookbook she and Richard Olney put together is one of my all-time favorites and regularly provides such a fun (and delicious!) way to appreciate her legacy.

This past winter I visited the domaine with Anthony, and Lulu and Lucien's grandson, Nirvan Rougeot, welcomed us to a barrel tasting in the domaine's cellars in Le Plan du Castellet. It was moving to witness the third generation telling the story and becoming more involved with the day to day at the winery.



He shared some great history: the house on the property was built in 1834, the cellar in 1880, and their first Bandol red was made in 1948. His grandfather drew the boat on their iconic label to resemble the merchant ships from the Bandol harbor that would arrive after traveling down the Rhône River.

Our tasting began with the 2021 *blanc*, followed by three vintages of their legendary reds in cask and bottle, and finished with the component parts of the new 2021 rosé from tank. The bottled wine has just arrived and is a real beauty, bursting with ripe, juicy Provençal fruit, savory herbs, and perfumed flowers, exquisitely proportioned and guaranteeing total satisfaction. Its arrival is a much-anticipated moment around here every year, and we enjoy continuing to share it with all of you.

\$59.00 PER BOTTLE

\$637.20 PER CASE

From the Archives

TEMPIER ROSÉ THROUGH THE YEARS



1980 BANDOL ROSÉ

Over the years I have drunk my share of rosés, domestic and imported. Since most domestic rosés are sweet I have wiped them off my list. There are good imported rosés but the one I love best is that of Domaine Tempier. It drinks like a red wine except for tannin, and has the fullness and richness associated with reds. The flavor of the Mourvèdre grape is there, and the fruit and the cleanness of a superbly made wine. For something that is more than a good summer rosé Domaine Tempier rosé is my drink.

—Joseph Swan, *California vintner*, October 1981

1991 BANDOL ROSÉ

Winemaker Jean-Marie Peyraud tells me that in France this is the most successful rosé he has made so far. By harvesting a little earlier he obtained brighter fruit, lower alcohol, and livelier acidity. And indeed, the bottle does seem to grow empty quicker than ever before, if that is any indication of quality.

—Kermit Lynch, *June 1992*

1992 BANDOL ROSÉ

Harvested a little early and with a suggestion of *pétillance*, this is quite similar in style to last year's rosé. In other words, lighter in alcohol than it used to be and with a thirst-quenching liveliness on the palate. If the greatest wine in the world is the one you'd rather drink more often than any other, I guess this is my candidate for greatest wine in the world. Lucien Peyraud calls it a "*vin du plaisir*," and I like pleasure.

—Kermit Lynch, *May 1993*

TOP VALUES

by Tom Wolf

2021 VINO BIANCO • TINTERO

If you ever need a white wine for a wedding, reunion, or any large gathering, look no further than this Piedmontese white blend from Marco Tintero, a specialist of festive, unpretentious, and hedonistic bottlings from the gorgeous hills of Piedmont. Not only does it deliver flat-out deliciousness and exceptional value, but more importantly—and more fun—it bears a slight effervescence that dials its “festive factor” up to 10. With pure, bright, and fresh notes of citrus and orchard fruit, this *bianco* proves once again that Piedmont is not just about lofty Barolo and Barbaresco, but is home also to some of the country’s great week-night table—and weekend celebration—wines.

\$12.00 PER BOTTLE

\$129.60 PER CASE

2021 BEAUJOLAIS • DOMAINE DUPEUBLE

We receive two shipments from Dupeuble every year, and it’s hard to say whether there’s more excitement in the staff tasting room when their fresh and perfumed Nouveau arrives in the fall or when their fresh and perfumed Beaujolais lands in our shop the following spring. Every year, I’m blown away by the balance the Dupeubles achieve in this wine. They are able to get the most out of Gamay’s prevailing joyousness while simultaneously preserving some complexity and earthiness that make this cuvée so easy to turn to again and again.

\$20.00 PER BOTTLE

\$216.00 PER CASE

2020 LANGUEDOC CABRIÈRES ROUGE SELECTED BY KERMIT LYNCH

Lower your nose into a glass of this inky *rouge*, redolent of dark fruit, black olive, and *garrigue*, and you know immediately where you are: the south of France. More specifically, you are in Cabrières, one of the great, underrated communes of the Languedoc, situated an hour due west of Montpellier and several hundred meters above sea level. Here, in the high-elevation hills, where the days are warm and the nights are cool, Jean-Claude Zabalia crafts this red that displays a sneaky amount of minerality and finesse despite its rustic quaffing soul.

\$16.00 PER BOTTLE

\$172.80 PER CASE

2020 BURGUNDY

by Jane Berg, KLWM NEW YORK

2020 VÉZELAY “GALERNE” DOMAINE MONTANET-THODEN

Valentin Montanet’s wines are the most frequently opened and effortlessly enjoyed white Burgundies in our wine fridge. This vintage of Galerne is slightly more opulent than the typical Vézelay in that its citrus profile leans in the direction of caramelized lemon skin and bitter pomelo seeds as opposed to a puckery acidity. It’s no less mineral, however. The wine was vibrant paired alongside ripe *La Tur*—a soft, funky goat and sheep’s milk cheese. I’m still dreaming of how the cheese’s decadent creaminess enhanced the silky texture of this *blanc*.

\$38.00 PER BOTTLE

\$410.40 PER CASE

2020 CHABLIS PREMIER CRU “VAILLONS” HENRI COSTAL

A long list of growers bottle wines from the slopes of Vaillons, including illustrious vintners such as Raveneau and Dauvissat. But one of the best examples among them is Costal’s version, which is certified organic and hails from several south-exposed plots on the upper and lower slopes of the *cru*, adding dimension to Chablis’ natural tension. This wine is floral with the touch of brine that is so typical and desirable of Chablis, but it is the lovely mouthful of stone fruit and hint of lemongrass that make this *premier cru* so intriguing and fun to drink.

\$47.00 PER BOTTLE

\$507.60 PER CASE

2020 BOURGOGNE ROUGE LA SŒUR CADETTE

Most red Burgundies require your full attention, or at least a moment of reflection: Côte-de-Nuits or Côte-de-Beaune? Whole-cluster or destemmed? Village or *premier cru*? What I love about Cadette’s Bourgogne *rouge* is that none of those details matter. All you need to know is that this wine drinks like a Beaujolais with loads of black, sappy fruit and is ounce per ounce more pleasurable and delicious than anything you’d find in a collector’s stash—unless that collector were a savvy bon vivant who supplemented prized selections with ones they actually wanted to drink!

\$38.00 PER BOTTLE

\$410.40 PER CASE

I PÁSTINI

NEWLY ARRIVED FROM PUGLIA

by Anthony Lynch

IN THIS SEGMENT, we have done our best to highlight what we think are the most exciting developments of the wine world, viewed through the microcosm that is the KLWM portfolio. Young rising stars, new domaines, and the most progressive minds of farming and winemaking have been featured, and now I'd like to turn your attention to an entire region, both in appreciation of its captivating wines and as a precursor to more great things still to come.

We have reached a land where olive trees extend as far as the eye can see, their silver leaves glittering in a light breeze against a backdrop of bright blue sky. On a limestone plateau a few hundred meters above the Adriatic, occasional plots of vines break up the olive monotony, with curious white stone huts sporadically poking through the greenery.

We are in central Puglia, gazing at the *trulli*—old conical structures built from the local limestone, once commonly used for storage and lodging—in part responsible for making the heel of the boot one of Italy's top tourist destinations. But we have come to this area, known as the Valle d'Itria, for another regional specialty: crisp, aromatic wines, mostly white, made from indigenous grapes. Truly delicious ones, and quite reasonably priced at that.

The vineyards and winery of I Pástini sit just outside the historic center of Locorotondo, a hilltop village distinguished by its white-washed façades and quaint little alleys. Mere miles from the sea, the Carparelli family farms three local white grapes: Verdeca, Bianco d'Alessano, and Minutolo. The trio comes together in their Locorotondo *bianco*, a breezy medley of herbs, citrus, and sea salt that's surprisingly light on its feet. You may sample Verdeca on its own, either as an ethereal, floral sparkler or in the form of a still white, the charming, gulpable "Faraone."

Minutolo, a native variety the Carparellis saved from extinction, is perhaps the star of the show: delicate and perfumed, scented of candied lime, chamomile, and sea mist, "Rampone" delivers intrigue and finesse we never expected from such a southerly latitude. Finally, the Carparellis bottle an elegant *rosato* with a deep, vibrant hue and alluring scents of *frutti di bosco* from the rare red Susumaniello grape.

While we have dabbled in the riches of southern Italy, proudly representing two small family farms in Campania, an assortment of Sicilian gems, and a treasure in Molise—ask about these on your next trip to the shop—the wines of I Pástini have opened our eyes to the unrivaled character and value to be found in Italy’s Mezzogiorno. Beautiful terroir and fascinating native grape varieties abound; I Pástini’s fragrant creations offer an eye-opening and lip-smacking taste of what is possible in the areas home to western Europe’s most ancient winemaking civilization. Given the increasing number of serious producers, you can bet we have not said our last word with regards to southern Italy. In the meantime, a frosty glass of a lemony, flowery Puglian *bianco* will keep us more than satisfied.

PER BOTTLE

2021 VALLE D’ITRIA SPUMANTE BRUT	\$27.00
2021 LOCOROTONDO “ANTICO”	21.00
2021 VALLE D’ITRIA VERDECA “FARAONE”	24.00
2021 VALLE D’ITRIA MINUTOLO “RAMPONE”	30.00
2021 VALLE D’ITRIA SUSUMANIELLO ROSATO “LE ROTAIE”	26.00



Locorotondo, Valle d'Itria, Puglia. Painting by Laurenzia Crescenzo.

ROSÉ AND MORE ROSÉ

by Anthony Lynch

2021 BEAUJOLAIS ROSÉ DOMAINE DUPEUBLE

A simple Beaujolais in name and in price, Dupeuble's rosé (and red . . . and white, for that matter) should not be mistaken for a basic bottle of wine. Sure, it is supremely thirst-quenching, as any self-respecting rosé should be, and it is darn fun to drink—we *are* talking about Beaujolais, after all. But consider that the Gamay vines here are up to seventy years old, and they grow in an intricate mix of granite, clay, and sandy soils. The outcome is a wine of real substance, with an extra dimension of depth along with an array of delightful flavors and textures.

\$19.00 PER BOTTLE

\$205.20 PER CASE

2021 CORBIÈRES ROSÉ “GRIS DE GRIS” DOMAINE DE FONTSAINTE

Due to an unfortunate spring frost that singled out budding Grenache Gris and Grenache Noir vines, the new edition of the Laboucaré family's beloved Gris de Gris features a higher proportion of Carignan and Mourvèdre in the blend than in previous years. As a result, vintage 2021 shows an ever-so-slightly more vinous character than in the past—there is wine in the wine, if you know what I mean. You'll find a touch less tangy citrus and a bit more bright red fruit in the aromatics, but worry not: this delicate rosé is just as mouthwateringly crisp and eminently quaffable as we've come to expect over the last forty years.

\$20.00 PER BOTTLE

\$216.00 PER CASE

2021 BANDOL ROSÉ DOMAINE DE TERREBRUNE

It's summer in Provence, and it is HOT. The swimming pool and an electric fan are my best friends, and come mealtime, it's all about cool salads starring some combination of chilled cucumbers, tomatoes, garden lettuces, and just-plucked basil. To ensure refreshment, a bottle of Terrebrune rosé is in the fridge, the ideal match for a summery diet and the perfect antidote to the scorching sun. Its savory, herbal perfume echoes scents wafting in a gentle breeze outside, while the saline finish is an enticing reminder of the Mediterranean waters within view of Terrebrune's vines.

\$43.00 PER BOTTLE

\$464.40 PER CASE

CORSICA

by *Chris Santini*, KLWM BEAUNE

2021 PATRIMONIO BLANC • YVES LECCIA

Year in and year out, the vintner's signature on this cuvée is its salty sea-breeze finish. It's that finish that makes most great "island wines" so alluring in the first place. When you add to this some notes of exotic fruit and a round mouthfeel, you've got the special sauce that is Patrimonio *blanc* at its finest: fresh, full, and floral all at once.

\$49.00 PER BOTTLE

\$529.20 PER CASE

2021 VIN DE FRANCE ROSÉ "FAUSTINE" DOMAINE COMTE ABBATUCCI

Jean-Charles AbbattuCCI has shown time and time again he is a man of determination and resilience. Having taken over the domaine much earlier than planned, due to the untimely passing of his father (who did not have the opportunity to pass along his *savoir faire*), Jean-Charles learned from his missteps, listened to his vines and land, and came to soar on his own. New challenges now abound, notably a fire last year that tore through his winery, destroying a good part of it and many wines. After spending the night battling flames, Jean-Charles the next day was heartbroken by the devastation but already moving and mapping a path out of the mess. Refrigerated trucks were parked in the ruins, work began immediately to salvage parts of the winery that could still be used, and the 2021 vintage was miraculously vinified on the heels of the fire. You'd never know it tasting the vintage, as this rosé is one of his best ever—lovely and pure, with a filtered-over-granite finish. A wine, a vintage, a vigneron, all of determination and resilience.

\$43.00 PER BOTTLE

\$464.40 PER CASE

2018 CORSE CALVI ROUGE "E PROVE" DOMAINE MAESTRACCI

A timeless favorite that somehow keeps getting more delicious each release. Only grapes from the estate's oldest vines—all from the E Prove plateau—find their way into this cuvée. A slow fermentation is followed by more than a year in cask and another in bottle before this *rouge* hits the seas for our shores. The long process tames the meaty and chewy tannins, opens the structure, and removes any hard edges, letting loads of red fruit and maquis shine.

\$29.00 PER BOTTLE

\$313.20 PER CASE

ALSACE GRANDS CRUS

by Tom Wolf

NESTLED ALONG France's easternmost flank, near the country's borders with Germany and Switzerland, lies the region of Alsace, home to some of the country's most idyllic villages brimming with vividly colored, half-timbered houses. Standing in the middle of such towns as Ribeauvillé, Katzenthal, or Turckheim—on the outskirts of Colmar—you behold rows and rows of vines that cascade down steep, dazzling hillsides toward you. Kermit once wrote, "Hermitage is that one majestic hillside tilted south like a solar receptor. If there is any single vineyard that the Creator obviously designed expressly for wine production, it is Hermitage." Gazing up at Alsace's magnificent hillside vines—reserved for the region's *grand cru* sites—you realize you could make a case for their divine creation, too. Then you taste the wines that come from them and the case is closed.

Take, for instance, the Geisberg parcel outside Ribeauvillé, whose south-facing Riesling vines benefit from ideal sun exposure and the regular, local Tahlwendala winds that refresh the vineyard and allow for slower, more even ripening. One of just a few domaines to make wine from Geisberg, Kuentz-Bas is blessed with two hectares of seventy-year-old Riesling vines that produce a zesty, mouthwatering, impeccably balanced *grand cru* with notes of peach, Meyer lemon, and chalk.

Wineck-Schlossberg, by contrast, sits along the rim of a more enclosed valley and just beneath the ruins of a thirteenth-century castle, and its vines are divided among many different grape varieties. Meyer-Fonné cultivates both Gewurztraminer and Riesling here, but the featured cuvée is made exclusively from one hectare of Riesling planted as early as 1958. Powerful and age-worthy, Meyer-Fonné's Wineck-Schlossberg yields a rotating cast of aromas and flavors including ginger, bergamot, honey, and stones, among so much more.

Finally, while Riesling may be Alsace's star grape, Pinot Gris is also among the region's four "noble" varieties. Rarely does it show a nobler side than in the hands of Jean Boxler, who crafts this off-dry cuvée from the Brand parcel along the steep slopes outside of Turckheim. It delivers in spades the layered, regal, and exquisite profile we expect of the *grand cru* label, with its long and kaleidoscopic notes of plum, baked pear, spring flowers, and orange zest.

PER BOTTLE

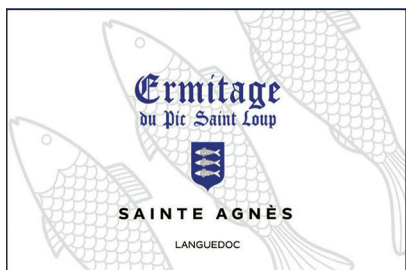
2016 RIESLING GRAND CRU "GEISBERG" • KUENTZ-BAS.	\$54.00
2019 RIESLING GRAND CRU "WINECK-SCHLOSSBERG"	
MEYER-FONNÉ	52.00
2017 PINOT GRIS GRAND CRU "BRAND" • ALBERT BOXLER . . .	82.00

SOUTHERN FRANCE

WHITE BEFORE RED

by *Chris Santini*, KLWM BEAUNE

2021 LANGUEDOC BLANC “CUVÉE SAINTE AGNÈS” ERMITAGE DU PIC SAINT LOUP



Here's one of those white wines that leave you wishing the south of France had planted more white grapes back in the day. This cuvée is the sole *blanc* of the estate, production is tiny, and the wine is gone in a flash. The new vintage is freshly arrived, so grab your chance to enjoy its smooth, round, southern texture, with an herbal, ver-bena, white fruit expression that is

tough not to love. Perfect with a light chill on its own, or with small bites, Sainte Agnès serves as the ideal segue before you reach for a rounder *rouge*.

\$31.00 PER BOTTLE

\$334.80 PER CASE

2019 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE “TÉLÉGRAMME” • FAMILLE BRUNIER

At what age do you stop calling a kid a kid? At what age do you stop calling a young-vine cuvée a young-vine cuvée? Here at KLWM we've been referring to this cuvée as the Bruniers' young-vine Châteauneuf for so long that those vines have gone and grown up right under our noses. Their average age is now well over forty. The style is adult and mature, a robust manifestation of fine tannins, dark fruit, and licorice that proves it no longer needs to sit at the kids' table.



\$57.00 PER BOTTLE

\$615.60 PER CASE

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Fifty years into our adventure, there have been countless memorable bottles, but perhaps none more iconic than a certain rosé we are thrilled to welcome back in stock. The new vintage inspired us to look back at a few noteworthy past editions of the same wine, which we celebrate fondly in “From the Archives” (p. 3).

Less recognized, but just as exciting, is our recent foray into southern Italy, where we have uncovered some truly special wines we couldn’t be more delighted to share with you. As we profile a new grower in Puglia (pp. 6–7), we invite you to savor our new finds from the heel of the boot, all while looking forward to future discoveries from this less-traveled part of the wine road. —*Kermit, Anthony, and Dixon*

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