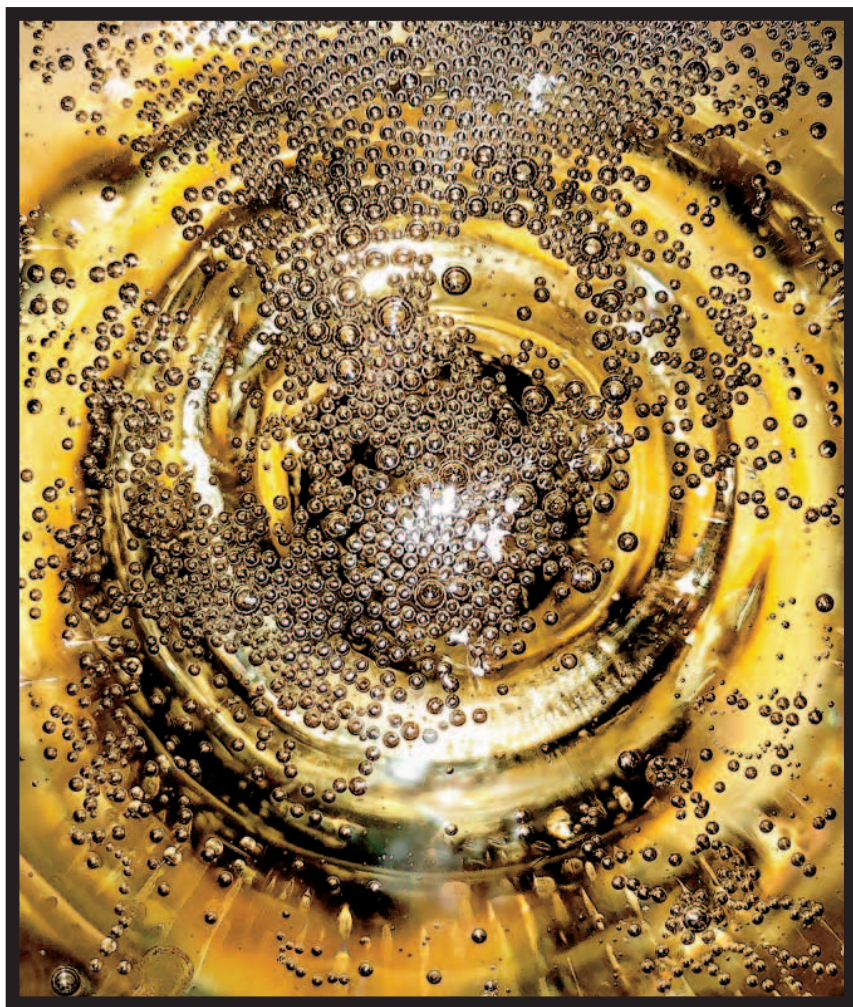


# KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

DECEMBER 2018



© Gail Skoff

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QUINTARELLI NEW ARRIVALS  
PINOT NOIR VALUES & SPARKLING VARIETY  
TOP GIFT ITEMS: SAMPLERS, CLUBS, DESSERT WINES



# HOLIDAY SAMPLER



by Anthony Lynch

**Y**OU ARE PROBABLY ALREADY FAMILIAR with our samplers. But this one is different—our Holiday Sampler was created with the goal of answering the crucial question: How does our holiday wine drinking differ from how we drink the rest of the year?

1. **Quantity** More parties, longer meals, festive reunions with loved ones . . . Fill that glass right up, because guilt can wait until the New Year. To hell with 6-packs—here is a whole case.
2. **Quality** 'Tis the season . . . to treat thyself! This mix is sure to keep your palate whetted and your spirits high.
3. **In the kitchen** To help with the inevitable dinner parties, we've included a bottle of organic Tuscan olive oil and, naturally, some crisp whites to quaff down while you cook.
4. **At table** Given the bounty that is sure to grace your table, we selected versatile whites, rosés, and reds, plus a bottle of the addictive Bugey-Cerdon. The ultimate crowd-pleaser, this semi-sweet sparkler shines with fresh fruit, pie, spicy food, and anything you'd eat for breakfast.
5. **Variety** To mix things up, we've included a traditional Vermouth from a family-run distillery in Piemonte. Offer your guests a spritz upon their arrival, or pour a splash over ice to accompany chocolate treats.

PER BOTTLE

NV BUGEY-CERDON "LA CUEILLE" • PATRICK BOTTEX . . . . .	\$23.00
2017 SAUVIGNON BLANC "UNIQUE" • SALVARD . . . . .	16.00
2017 TERRE SICILIANE BIANCO "MARZAIOLO" • RIOFAVARA . . . .	18.00
2016 MÂCON-VILLAGES • HENRI PERRUSSET . . . . .	18.95
2017 REUILLY PINOT GRIS • DOMAINE DE REUILLY . . . . .	20.00
2016 CAHORS • CLOS LA COUTALE . . . . .	16.00
2017 LANGUEDOC ROUGE "LOU MASET" • AUPILHAC . . . . .	18.00
2017 DOLCETTO D'ALBA "LA COSTA" • BENEVELLI PIERO . . . . .	18.00
2017 BEAUMES-DE-VENISE ROUGE • DOMAINE DE DURBAN . . . .	20.00
2015 CHIANTI CLASSICO • CASTAGNOLI . . . . .	29.00
VERMOUTH ROSSO "ROSS DA TRAVAJ" • BERTÒ . . . . .	18.00
EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL • SESTI . . . . .	36.00

Normally \$250.95

SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE **\$175** (a 30% discount)

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# QUINTARELLI

*by Dixon Brooke*

## **2017 BIANCO SECCO “CÀ DEL MERLO”**

Somehow one of my all-time favorites just keeps getting better! The Quintarellis are not content to sit back and continue tradition without searching for every possible improvement, no matter how small. This delicious Venetian white has developed an extra gear—take it for a spin and you will see what I mean.

**\$44.00 PER BOTTLE**

**\$475.20 PER CASE**

## **2008 ALZERO CABERNET**

The 2008 Alzero is the freshest and most vibrant I can remember tasting, bursting with every imaginable fruit, ripe off the tree. As always, drinking it is an epic voyage, best enjoyed (in my experience) with a great cheese plate.

**\$400.00 PER BOTTLE**

**\$1,000.00 PER MAGNUM**

## **2007 PASSITO BIANCO “AMABILE DEL CERÈ”**

Italy's equivalent of Château Yquem, this incarnation of their famous “Bandito” dessert wine celebrated its tenth birthday last year in Quintarelli's cellar prior to release. If you want to give something truly special and one of a kind to a wine lover who has it all, look no further.

**\$525.00 PER BOTTLE**

**\$269.00 PER TENTH**

## **2007 RECIOTO DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO “A ROBERTO”**

Recioto made the Valpolicella region famous well before Amarone. The most perfect grapes are dried, creating this intensely flavored, long-lasting elixir that is one of the world's finest “closers.” This vintage-of-the-decade bottling is named in honor of Roberto Ferrarini, Giuseppe Quintarelli's longtime enologist, naturally a passionate devotee of their Recioto. One for the ages!!

**\$375.00 PER BOTTLE**

**\$195.00 PER TENTH**

## **OLIO EXTRA VERGINE D'OLIVE**

The Quintarellis produce this delicate, perfumed oil from the trees that surround their vineyards and winery in the hills above Negrar. It is beautifully and seamlessly constructed, just like their wines!

**\$65.00 PER BOTTLE**

**\$702.00 PER CASE**

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# CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BY BRUNIER

by Anthony Lynch

## 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC “LA CRAU” DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE



The gnarled old *gobelet*-trained Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Bourboulenc, and Roussanne of La Crau successfully coped with the hot, dry conditions that came to define the 2017 vintage, yielding a concentrated white with all of its typical characteristics intensified as if under a magnifying glass. The trademark mineral nerve conferred by the stones appears in spades, providing drive and precision. Fruit is ample, yet restrained, accented by whiffs of anise and a

deft kiss of oak. In other words, we have yet another classic from the Bruniers. Stock up now, because the one downside of this fine vintage is its woeful yields.

**\$85.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$918.00** PER CASE

## 2016 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE “PIEDLONG” FAMILLE BRUNIER

Nobody is more excited about 2016 Châteauneuf reds than Daniel Brunier. For this seasoned *vigneron*, it undoubtedly ranks among the best vintages of his lifetime, reminiscent of the great 1978 for its majestically balanced structure, palate-saturating flavor, and presumably for its capacity to age gracefully through the decades. Crafted from old Grenache on the stony plateau of Piedlong along with a dollop of Mourvèdre from the sandy Pignan vineyard, this cuvée offers immediacy without sacrificing the potential for a long evolution in bottle. With its sturdy tannic backbone tenderly enveloped in sweet, perfumed fruit, the 2016 Piedlong is confirmation of Daniel’s enthusiastic assessment of the vintage.



**\$60.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$648.00** PER CASE

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We now have three clubs to consider for yourself or as gifts this holiday season. Here's how they work:

- ◆ Receive our hand-selected imports in your club package.
- ◆ Enjoy the club bulletin with profiles, tasting notes, and a recipe or food-pairing recommendations.
- ◆ Pick up your wines at our retail shop in Berkeley, California, or have them shipped directly to your door.
- ◆ Access member-exclusive offers and special selections.



*During the month of December, receive 50% off  
your first club package by using this code at  
checkout (online and phone): **NEWMEMBER2018***

**TO JOIN:** [shop.kermitlynch.com/club](http://shop.kermitlynch.com/club) or call 510-524-1524  
Join by Friday, December 21, and receive your first package the first week of January.

### CLUB CHEVALIER

Celebrate the artisan winegrowers whose achievements Kermit has brought to light over decades of work in France and Italy. Each package is themed, featuring wines of all styles, including rare and sometimes aged selections.

**\$249★ PER 6-BOTTLE SHIPMENT**

*Ships January, March, May, July, September, November*

### CLUB ROUGE

Delve into the top wines and appellations of France and Italy. This club features only reds, focusing on complex cellar-worthy wines.

**\$69★ PER 2-BOTTLE SHIPMENT**

*Ships each month, 12 shipments per year*

### ADVENTURES CLUB

Named after Kermit's first book, *Adventures on the Wine Route*. Discover our best values from France and Italy.

**\$39★ PER 2-BOTTLE SHIPMENT**

*Ships each month, 12 shipments per year*

★ plus  
applicable  
tax and/or  
shipping  
charges

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# RED, WHITE, & PINK BUBBLES

by Anthony Lynch

## LAMBRUSCO GRASPAROSSA DI CASTELVETRO SECCO • FATTORIA MORETTO

I have a pizza problem. It's not that I can't stop myself, but when faced with a steaming fresh-baked pie, its singed crust blackened and its buffalo mozzarella still gently bubbling from the wood-fired oven, why even try to resist? Moretto's Lambrusco is *the perfect* pizza wine. Exuberantly frothy, this fizzy red smells so irresistibly fresh and fruity that I could fill a pool with it and splash around in utter bliss—provided there are also little rafts with floating pizzas. Crisp acid plus a brisk, earthy tannin make for an ultra-pure, clean finish that pops. Serve it cool and gulp away—with its 11.5% alcohol, there is no reason to hold back.

**\$19.95** PER BOTTLE      **\$215.46** PER CASE

## VOUVRAY BRUT “LA DILETTANTE” C. & P. BRETON

With three decades' worth of Loire harvests under her belt with her husband, Pierre, plus her own “dabbling” with Chenin Blanc since 2002, Catherine Breton is undeniably an authority on biodynamic farming and natural winemaking. Using these methods, she produces this fine sparkling Vouvray—bone-dry thanks to an extremely low dosage, richly honeyed and complex from refermentation in bottle, and mouthwateringly stony from the flinty soil. Sixteen years after vinifying her first Vouvray, it appears Catherine is “La Dilettante” no more.

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

## ROSATO SPUMANTE BRUT “IL ROSA” SOMMARIVA

Enjoying a bottle of wine sometimes seems like a mysterious art form. Temperature, glassware, pairing? To decant or not to decant? Was it aged properly? Were the production methods ethically acceptable? Will today's atmospheric pressure, biodynamic forces, and planetary alignment allow my wine to shine?

Fortunately, this pink sparkler from Prosecco queen Cinzia Sommariva evades the need for such philosophical musings. Spotlighting the local Raboso grape with an elegant splash of Pinot Nero, it features seductive aromatics, low alcohol, and a piquant dry finish that scream for anytime, anywhere quaffing.

**\$14.95** PER BOTTLE      **\$161.46** PER CASE

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## 30TH ANNIVERSARY

# ADVENTURES ON THE WINE ROUTE SAMPLER

by Tom Wolf



**A**T A RECENT STAFF TASTING, it occurred to us that this year is the 30th anniversary of Kermit's first book, *Adventures on the Wine Route*. We went around the table talking about the impact that book had on us. Some were immediate: in 1989, my colleague Michael Butler, who did not yet work here, had to resort to cracking open a cold beer while reading the section on Bandol because no wine he had access to at that moment could satisfy his thirst. Other impacts were more long-term: I grew up walking past *Adventures* on my parents' bookshelf and read it several times over the years. I seriously considered a career in winemaking because of it, and I ultimately joined KLWM in August 2017. Kermit's book—honest, often hilarious, and thirst-inspiring—feels as fresh today as I'm sure it did when Michael read it nearly 30 years ago. Just so you don't have to resort to that forgotten beer in the back of your fridge when you inevitably get thirsty reading or remembering this gem of a memoir/travelogue/wine propaganda, here is a sampler of six wines, all from producers featured in *Adventures on the Wine Route*, with a nice discount to celebrate the book's 30th anniversary.

PER BOTTLE

2017 SAVENNIÈRES SEC • CHÂTEAU D'ÉPIRÉ . . . . .	\$25.00
2017 BANDOL BLANC • DOMAINE TEMPIER . . . . .	45.00
2016 CASSIS "BEL-ARME" • CLOS STE. MAGDELEINE . . . . .	52.00
2017 CORBIÈRES ROUGE • DOMAINE DE FONTSAINTE . . . . .	16.00
2016 CHINON "LES PETITES ROCHES" • CHARLES JOGUET . . . . .	26.00
2016 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE "TÉLÉGRAMME"	
DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE . . . . .	48.00

Normally \$212.00

SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE

**\$159** without book      **\$172** with book

(a 25% discount)

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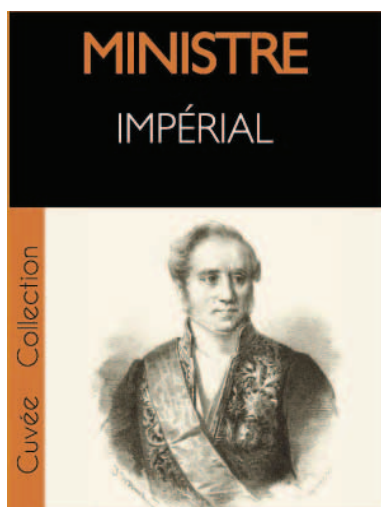
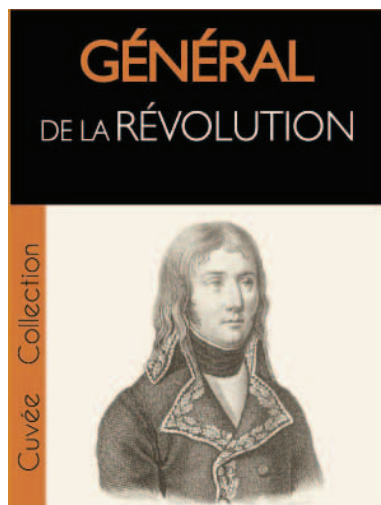
# COMTE ABBATUCCI

by Chris Santini

**D**EEP IN THE HILLS of Corsica, near the isolated village of Zicavo, lies a house unlike any I've ever known. Built and fortified six hundred years ago, handed down over seventeen generations through a single family of nobles, the house has survived Corsica's darkest and most turbulent days. It has held at bay Barbary pirate raids, columns of invading Genovese soldiers, and feuding rival Corsican families, and it serves as a monument and gathering point for the Abbattucci family, whose bonds remain strong to this day. Entering the main room of the house, you can see what seventeen generations look like on a family tree, as a tapestry ten feet tall traces the lineage from 1450 to today. And what a family it is, each generation peppered with its share of diplomats, high counsels, government ministers, and top military brass.

Today the Abbattuccis are less concerned with international affairs and have taken a weather eye to the vast swath of land they own and manage in this neck of the woods of Corsica: vineyards, pasture for native Sàinata cows, sheep, horses, brush and forest, and even a small restaurant, all managed biodynamically with a negative carbon footprint. While much of Corsica faces growing pressure to develop and pour concrete over pristine land, no one dares encroach on the Abbattuccis' turf. It's probably safe to say that their holdings will remain unspoiled for another seventeen generations.

From the heart of this land and the heart of this family come truly special cuvées, their best vineyard parcels, with the oldest native varietals, vinified in small batches with great care and attention. The 2016 Général de la Révolution, an homage to an ancestor whose military maneuvers from a few centuries ago are still studied by the





French army, is an aristocratic, rich, focused white with grand notes of beurre blanc and a pure, crystalline finish. Its red counterpart, the 2016 Ministre Impérial, is dark and smoky, with exotic herbs and spice, and carries the same regal air as the Général. My personal favorite, the 2016 Monte Bianco, is perhaps the subtlest, most soft-spoken of the bunch, but if you listen carefully . . . Wow! This red wine (don't be fooled by the name!) is from a younger planting of Sciaccarellu on an impossibly steep, desolate slope, with several weeks of skin maceration. It is so light to the touch, so soft and aromatic, so unlike anything else I've ever tasted from the island—or anywhere else, for that matter. A one-of-a-kind Corsican wonder.

	PER BOTTLE	PER CASE
2016 CUVÉE COLLECTION <i>BLANC</i>		
“GÉNÉRAL DE LA RÉVOLUTION” . . . . .	\$98.00	\$1,058.40
2016 CUVÉE COLLECTION <i>ROUGE</i>		
“MINISTRE IMPÉRIAL” . . . . .	98.00	1,058.40
2016 MONTE BIANCO <i>ROUGE</i> . . . . .	98.00	1,058.40



Jean-Charles Abbattucci

© Gail Skoff

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# CHAMPAGNE SPECIAL

by Dixon Brooke

## NV BRUT 1<sup>ER</sup> CRU “CACHET OR” J. LASSALLE

A lot of talk is going around these days about “grower” Champagnes, meaning Champagnes made by *vignerons* and *vignerottes*, as opposed to those produced by large marketing houses with fruit purchased from farmers. We have three such Champagnes, and Kermit started importing J. Lassalle long before it occurred to anyone else to buy directly from a small grower, much as he was a pioneer in buying direct in Bordeaux. Founder Jules Lassalle began to make his own Champagne in 1943 in Chigny-les-Roses on the Montagne de Reims. His wife Olga, his daughter Chantal, and his granddaughter Angéline have followed this master artisan’s example quite ably. The family mantra for this blend: base wine of at least four years old, full malolactic fermentation, no oak, Pinot Meunier, Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir. The bottling is classic Champagne in every sense: full, rich, and luxurious, well-balanced, elegant, with a fine mousse, delicious to drink. You won’t find yourself missing anything, unless you chill only one bottle! There is no better Champagne on the market at this price.



**DECEMBER SPECIAL    \$35.00 PER BOTTLE**



### GIFT CERTIFICATES

*Consider a KLWM gift certificate.*

*Dial 510-524-1524 and order the certificate in any denomination you desire. We'll even mail it for you and include a gift card if you like. The certificates look classy—of course!—and never have we heard from anyone who was disappointed to receive one.*

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# DESSERT WINE SALE

**E**SCHIEW THE COMMON TEMPTATIONS of holiday sweets and consider something less conventional—our stunning selection of dessert wines from France and Italy. We have some classics available now: Sauternes, Beaufort-de-Venise, and Vouvray. But don't miss Banyuls, Rivesaltes, or the aromatic wonder that is Barolo Chinato.

We'll make it easy on you:

## DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 25% OFF PER BOTTLE

	REGULARLY	PER BOTTLE
2015 MUSCAT DE BEAUMES-DE-VENISE DOMAINE DE DURBAN 375 ML . . . . .	\$16.00	\$12.00
2016 BANYULS "RIMAGE" DOMAINE LA TOUR VIEILLE 500 ML . . . . .	22.00	16.50
2015 SAUTERNES CHATEAU ROUMIEU-LACOSTE 375 ML . . . . .	25.00	18.75
2017 SAUVENNIERES "MOELLEUX" CHATEAU D'EPRIE 750 ML . . . . .	32.00	24.00
BAROLO CHINATO • ALESSANDRO E GIAN NATALE FANTINO 500 ML . . . . .	44.00	33.00
2015 VOUVRAY "LA MOELLEUSE" CHAMPALOU 500 ML . . . . .	45.00	33.75
2013 MUSCAT DE RIVESALTES DOMAINE LES MILLE VIGNES 500 ML . . . . .	52.00	39.00
2015 PINOT GRIS VENDANGE TARDIVE "HINTERBURG DE KATZENTHAL" • MEYER-FONNE 500 ML . . . . .	59.00	44.25
2011 SAUTERNES • DOMAINE DE L'ALLIANCE 500 ML	75.00	56.25
2008 COTES DU JURA CHARDONNAY "LA CHAUX PASSERILLE" FRANCOIS ROUSSET-MARTIN 375 ML . . . . .	75.00	56.25

## HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP

*We have gift ideas of different sizes and themes ready to go at*

**SHOP.KERMITLYNCH.COM**

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— VALUES OF THE MONTH —

## PINOT NOIR

by Dixon Brooke

### 2017 BOURGOGNE ROUGE RÉGIS BOUVIER



Bouvier is based in Marsannay-la-Côte, just south of Dijon in the northern Côte de Nuits. Bruce Neyers wrote me last night to tell me that this Bourgogne *rouge* and the one from our own Pierre Boillot are his two go-to reds (when he isn't drinking Tempier Bandol or Vieux Télégraphe, that is). That endorsement is about as solid as you can get, since Bruce's cellar is chock-full of the finest

red wines of France. Bouvier's early-release Pinot Noir is all about charm and comfort: classic Burgundian Pinot Noir aromas and flavors, and a deeply fruited and solid core.

**\$24.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$259.20** PER CASE

### 2017 ALSACE PINOT NOIR • KUENTZ-BAS

We look to Alsatian Pinot Noir for high-toned aromatics, bright fruit, and a wonderful spine and cut to chisel through the region's robust sausage and potato dishes. Our friends at Kuentz-Bas have delivered yet again! Their limestone hillsides southwest of Colmar bring finesse and purity to their Pinot every vintage. I thought we were lucky to have one great Pinot Noir

for around twenty bucks. As soon as I discovered this one, I immediately understood its significance—not many *vignerons* out there can make Pinot Noir of this quality at this price. It will not leave you indifferent, as the French might say.



**\$19.95** PER BOTTLE

**\$215.46** PER CASE

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# CHARDONNAY THREE WAYS

by Will Meinberg

## 2016 BOURGOGNE CHARDONNAY BRUNO COLIN

Here is a classic interpretation of true Burgundian Chardonnay raised in oak (10% new) for twelve months to produce an easy-to-love wine with a silky texture and toasty aromas, plus hints of vanilla, tropical fruit, and apricot. Taste this beauty from Colin to understand why many people consider Burgundy the pinnacle of Chardonnay and why it is often imitated, but never duplicated.

**\$39.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$421.20** PER CASE

## 2015 VENEZIA GIULIA CHARDONNAY • KANTE

This charmer diverges slightly from the traditional idea of Chardonnay. With its wispy aromas of mandarin orange, honeysuckle, and beeswax, this northern Italian wine transforms on the palate to showcase Chardonnay's bright and zesty side. Kante's vineyards located on the Carso plateau give a unique spin to a familiar grape.

**\$35.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$378.00** PER CASE

## 2016 CÔTES DU JURA CHARDONNAY "TERRES BLANCHES" FRANÇOIS ROUSSET-MARTIN

"Whoa. Hmm . . . Hey, that's pretty good!" These are my inner thoughts each time I taste this *Jurassien* Chardonnay. The initial aromas of caramelized nuts, dried apples, and stone fruit may catch you off guard, but the palate is familiar, offering freshness, tension, and minerality. The complex, slightly sherry-like aromas come from organically farmed grapes, raised in barrel for fifteen months, with frequent top-offs. This wine shows how truly diverse Chardonnay can be, and no wine drinker should be without that experience.

**\$45.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$486.00** PER CASE



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# A RAY OF SUNSHINE IN THE DEAD OF WINTER

by Dustin Soiseth

*How splendid the great displays of wine are,  
and lit by the light of the inner sun!*

—BAUDELAIRE

## 2017 TAVEL ROSÉ CHÂTEAU DE TRINQUEVEDEL

The last time I wrote about the Trinquedel rosé in our newsletter, I recommended saving a few bottles and boldly proclaimed that because of its *cépage* of hearty red grapes and robust nature, it will “serve you well at the feasts and gatherings of autumn.” Well, now’s your chance to put me to the test! Will it stand up to your honey-glazed ham on a frosty evening with the smell of wood smoke in the air?

**\$18.95** PER BOTTLE

**\$204.66** PER CASE

## 2016 CASSIS “BEL-ARME” CLOS STE. MAGDELEINE

I haven’t experienced deep winter on the Mediterranean coast, but if I had to guess, I imagine it’s similar to what we experience here in Berkeley—clear blue skies and brisk air, some rain and fog, and the occasional frost or dusting of snow on the coast mountain peaks. (I can imagine eyes rolling in the Midwest and Northeast.) Due to an extended aging on the lees, the Bel-Arme has the added depth and roundness for a bracing winter day. With a touch of creaminess following the crisp stone fruit, it’s a Mediterranean white in a cashmere sweater.

**\$52.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$561.60** PER CASE

## 2017 CORSE CALVI ROUGE “CLOS REGINU” DOMAINE MAESTRACCI

If there was one wine I wish we had an ocean-sized supply of, it would be the Clos Reginu, or Clos Reggie, as we affectionately call it in the shop. This ever-popular, supremely juicy red is practically guaranteed to part the clouds and hit you with a sunbeam—inner or otherwise—of wild herb-scented, red-fruited, spicy goodness. It’s benchmark Corsica at a weeknight price.

**\$16.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$172.80** PER CASE

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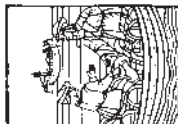
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1605 San Pablo Avenue at Cedar Street in Berkeley



## OPEN SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

*Sunday, December 23: 11 A.M. to 6 P.M.*

*Monday, December 24: 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.*

*Happy holidays from all of us at* **KLWM!**

### KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT—TERMS AND CONDITIONS

*Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant makes no representation as to the legal rights of anyone to deliver or import any alcoholic beverages or other goods into any state. Buyer warrants he or she is solely responsible for the transport of the purchased products and for determining the legality and the tax/duty consequences of bringing the products to the buyer's chosen destination. In placing an order, the buyer 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.*