# KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

DECEMBER 2020



© Gail Skoff

NEW WINE CLUB • CHAMPAGNE SALE CONTINUES!
HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP: SAMPLERS, OLIVE OIL, AND MORE
NEW ARRIVALS: BURGUNDY, BEAUJOLAIS, RHÔNE

### HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP



by Madison Halvorson

#### Visit SHOP.KERMITLYNCH.COM



for gift packs, samplers, special bottles, and more!

RECENTLY RECEIVED A TEXT from an old roommate and friend who has moved a few states away. She sent a photo of a bottle of our house Côtes du Rhône that she'd picked up in a local shop to have with dinner. It just so happened that moments before my phone chimed, I'd popped the cork on the very same bottle. *Serendipity!* We caught up on life, and despite the many miles between us, it felt like we might've been sitting across from each other.

This season, though we may not gather 'round loved ones and feasts like we usually would, we can still celebrate together in spirit. Consider wine a way to bridge the gap from table to table! Samplers make great gifts—one for you, one for them—to share evenings of wine and food, perhaps virtually. Visit our online Holiday Gift Shop for ideas, and order early to arrive by Christmas!

#### 

Six food-friendly wines of tremendous value for guilt-free enjoyment any night of the week. Get one for you and send another to a friend. Schedule a dinner date. Make a meal, open a bottle, and enjoy an evening together, while apart.

The French have apéro hour; Italians have aperitivo hour. They're two sides of the same coin, and an essential part of life in those countries. Here are two sparkling wines and two Vermouths that offer many possibilities at apéro hour, on their own or in various combinations.

THE KLWM CLASSICS PACK.....\$174 (20% OFF)

With hundreds of wines from almost two hundred producers, it is hard to choose our most "classic" offerings. These six bottles are undoubtedly among them, representing wines we have imported or producers we have worked with for decades.



Find these gift packs at SHOP.KERMITLYNCH.COM

#### ALL-IN-ONE HOLIDAY SAMPLER

by Jane Berg, KLWM NEW YORK

PHILE PERUSING OUR INVENTORY for treasures to include in our perennial Holiday Sampler, a juvenile, giddy sensation washed over me. Suddenly I was a kid again, making a Christmas wish list, dreaming of ways to reward myself for good behavior. Here is what I'll be asking for this year: a medley of fine wines at a price so naughty it's nice. In it you'll find bottles to match a variety of holiday scenarios. Feeling festive? Open the Rampone or Petit Royal. Both are delightfully aromatic and beaming with charm. Chilly outside? Cozy up to the sun-kissed Mourvèdre from La Roque or an herbaceous, Corsican rouge from Yves Leccia. Dress code? The Mâcon Chardonnay and Côte de Nuits-Villages from Burgundy will rise to the occasion. I've even accounted for the inevitable "Bah humbug!" moment, with a spirit-lifting rosé and a mood-altering Moscato d'Asti. This sampler offers heartwarming Italian rossi, as well as a vivacious Verdicchio and plummy Côte-de-Brouilly from earth angel Nicole Chanrion. From our family to yours—enjoy this sampler in good health. À votre santé!

PER BOTTLE	ì
Petit Royal • Lambert de Seyssel \$21.00	
2019 VERDICCHIO DEI CASTELLI DI JESI • COLLELEVA 12.00	
2019 VALLE D'ITRIA BIANCO "RAMPONE" • I PÁSTINI 24.00	
2018 Mâcon Chardonnay • La Sœur Cadette 32.00	
2019 Patrimonio Rosé "Cru des Agriate" • Giacometti 22.00	
2019 DOLCETTO D'ALBA "LA COSTA" • PIERO BENEVELLI 19.00	
2019 Côte-de-Brouilly • Nicole Chanrion 24.00	
2018 Pays d'Oc "Cuvée Les Vieilles Vignes de Mourvèdre"	
Château La Roque	
2018 Langhe Nebbiolo "Pian delle Mole" • Giulia Negri 30.00	
2018 ÎLE DE BEAUTÉ ROUGE • YVES LECCIA	
2018 Côte de Nuits-Villages • Gachot-Monot 38.00	
2019 Moscato d'Asti "Sorì Gramella" • Tintero 12.00	

Normally \$293.00

## SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE \$219

(a 25% discount)













#### CELLAR-WORTHY ITALIANS

by Anthony Lynch

## 2018 FRIULI COLLI ORIENTALI PINOT GRIGIO "RONCO PITOTTI" • VIGNAI DA DULINE

Most Pinot Grigio is drunk up immediately, and rightfully so: typical renditions range from thin and diluted at their worst to lean, crisp, and minerally at their best. But with Duline's Ronco Pitotti, made from vines sixty to eighty years old, that satiating stoniness we crave from Pinot Grigio dances over sublime golden fruit and a hint of toasted almond to give a *bianco* that is concentrated and fleshy, yet still supremely refreshing. With such balance, it is hard to resist right now, but it promises to develop into something else completely for those patient enough to wait ten to twenty more years.

**\$45.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$486.00** PER CASE

### 2016 BAROLO "MOSCONI" • PIERO BENEVELLI

If you've heard great things about the 2016 Barolo vintage, know that they are entirely justified! Not only did the year produce a crop of powerful, complex, and long-lived wines, but it also marked Massimo Benevelli's first release from Mosconi—one of the most prestigious vineyard sites in his village of Monforte d'Alba, if not all of Barolo. A thick, potent, heavily spiced perfume wafts from the glass, recalling clove, orange peel, and menthol. This unfiltered Nebbiolo features a savory and utterly saucy core, along with plenty of guts to guarantee a long life ahead. Impressive today, it will need time to show its very best.

**\$74.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$799.20** PER CASE

### 2012 CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA VILLA DI GEGGIANO

Geggiano's Riserva suggests that significant longevity is still achievable from the land of noble Sangiovese, even with the evolutions in blending rules, production methods, and climate Chianti has experienced in the past few decades. The 2012 is tightly wound around a mouthwatering spine of racy acid and grippy tannins, evoking autumnal notes of pine forest, wood smoke, freshly foraged mushrooms, and *frutti di bosco*. It expresses both down-home rusticity and an aristocratic elegance—a telltale sign of authentic, skillfully crafted Chianti. Superb today with decanting alongside a hearty meal, this one should age for quite some time, but don't worry—you needn't wait fifty years.

**\$45.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$486.00** PER CASE



Massimo Benevelli © Gail Skoff

## PREMIERS CRUS, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF BURGUNDY

#### 6-BOTTLE SAMPLER

by Tom Wolf

N TOP OF BEING HOME to some of the greatest wines and winemaking traditions in the world, Burgundy also follows one of the most helpful classification systems for wine anywhere. Outstanding cuvées are made across all four levels—from regional Bourgognes to *grands crus*—but for many, *premier cru* is the sweet spot, as it puts on display some of the most special subregions within Burgundy's esteemed village AOCs. This sampler allows you to taste outstanding *premiers crus* from Burgundy and Champagne (which follows a similar system), as well as four wines that would undoubtedly be considered *premiers crus* if their regions used this system.

Chotard's Sancerre Les Coutones comes from a *monopole* vineyard—meaning the Chotards are its sole farmers—planted along a steep slope with perfect southern exposure. Giulia Negri affirms that the *terroir*—encompassing the soil, altitude, diurnal shifts, and rainfall—behind her Serradenari bottling is "completely self-balanced." Foillard's Eponym' bottling, meanwhile, also comes from the highest-elevation *lieu-dit* in Morgon, called Les Charmes, leaving us with his most ethereal *rouge*. Finally, Podere Campriano crafts its Riserva bottling from grapes grown in a parcel surrounded by wild forest, a fact that is remarkably present in the wine, with its pure, natural, and woodsy personality. All these wines have one thing in common: they come from prized vineyard parcels situated in special *terroirs* that stand out in their region. They are among the absolute top wines these appellations have to offer.

SPECIAL SAMPLER PRICE \$308

Normally \$385.00

(a 20% discount)

#### — VALUES OF THE MONTH—

#### HOUSE WINES OF YORE

by Jane Berg, KLWM NEW YORK

F YOU VISIT OUR WEBSITE, you can read about Tenuta La Pergola's Arneis—how, when Kermit tasted it at an unassuming trattoria, it was the most inspiring house wine he'd stumbled upon in Italy. I love that story, and the fantasy it conjures in my mind of a local joint serving perfectly prepared home-cooked meals and cheap, thirst-slaking wines by the glass. I don't know that we have an American equivalent to the trattoria, but I do remember the days when I'd go to my local Greek diner and order the house wine to wash down a lemony chicken, or a twice-baked potato with sour cream and chives. Maybe I'd be in the mood for an eggplant Parmesan, or the chef's mom's "famous" meat loaf. No matter what I ordered, the house wine was a decidedly awesome pairing. Nowadays, ten years into my wine career and annoyingly harder to please, I'd probably turn up my nose at the "white or red" options and order an unsweetened iced tea instead.

Regardless, the pleasure of those early diner meals and their easygoing wines will never fade. In my memory, the "white" will always be as good as the Roero Arneis from Tenuta La Pergola, and the "red" as tasty as a glass of Langhe Nebbiolo from Marco Tintero. Try out this duo if you have a hankering for simpler times. I suggest transferring these wines to carafes—not because they're fussy and need time to breathe, but because there's something so generous and communal about sharing a pitcherful of wine!

#### 2019 ROERO ARNEIS • TENUTA LA PERGOLA

This limey Arneis is soft and peachy, with a bit of bounce. Grapes grow in sandy soil, are hand-harvested, and then ferment in stainless steel and are bottled after a mere four months in tank. Youthful and slightly saline—sip on it while you cook, or splash a drop in the sauce you're making.

**\$16.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$172.80** PER CASE

#### 2018 LANGHE NEBBIOLO • TINTERO

We import a handful of Langhe Nebbioli, but what sets this one apart, aside from its humble price point, is its particular Piemon-

tese character of black cherry and minty eucalyptus. Your other reds will end up collecting dust while you find yourself reaching for this guy every single time.

\$14.00 PER BOTTLE

\$151.20 PER CASE

## WINE CLUBS



We now have four—yes, FOUR!—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, events, and special selections.

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

NEWMEMBER2020

#### **ADVENTURES CLUB**

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

\$39\* per 2-bottle shipment

Ships each month, 12 shipments per year





#### **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

To join, visit shop.kermitlynch.com/club or call [510] 524-1524.

Join by Wednesday, December 16, 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

White wine lovers, unite! The wait is over.

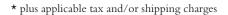
After years of requests for this added club option, we are pleased to officially announce . . .

## **CLUB BIANCO**

Discover white wines, and the occasional sparkler, hailing from France and Italy's most pedigreed *terroirs*, as well as off-the-beaten-path gems.

\$89\* per 2-bottle shipment

Ships each month, 12 shipments per year



JOIN NOW and take 50% off your first club package, this month only! Visit shop.kermitlynch.com/club and enter code NEWMEMBER2020 at checkout.

#### CHAMPAGNE SALE CONTINUES!

by Tom Wolf

N ADDITION TO CONTINUING OUR CHAMPAGNE SALE through the end of the year, we are now featuring five new wines, ranging from Paul Bara's exceptional 2006 Annonciade to the only walled-in, single-vineyard Champagne we import, the Clos Notre Dame from Veuve Fourny.

### **CHAMPAGNE 20% OFF**

#### NOW THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR

Use promo code **CHAMPAGNE2020** online.

Sale ends Thursday, December 31.

VEUVE FOURNY & FILS • VERTUS WITH 20% DISCOUNT
NV Rosé Extra Brut <i>ier Cru</i> "Les Monts de Vertus" \$77.60
2013 Blanc de Blancs Extra-Brut <i>ier Cru</i>
"Monts de Vertus"
2008 Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut <i>ier Cru</i>
"Cuvée du Clos Notre Dame"
PAUL BARA • BOUZY
2014 Rosé Brut Grand Cru 100% "Special Club" \$128.00
2006 Brut <i>Grand Cru</i> 100% "Annonciade" 190.40

## THE BEST VALUE IN CHAMPAGNE

#### NVBRUT 1ER CRU "CACHET OR"

There is no Champagne that can dress up and dress down as well as J. Lassalle's *premier cru* Cachet Or. It rises to the occasion beautifully if you need a bottle of bubbly for a fancy soirée, but it is also the perfect Champagne to open if you have no reason at all to celebrate. Because of this versatility—and its price!—the Cachet Or is the quintessential Champagne to always have on hand.

DECEMBER SPECIAL \$35.00 PER BOTTLE

#### WHITE BURGUNDY

by Emily Spillmann, KLWM BEAUNE

#### 2018 CHABLIS • DOMAINE SAVARY

Blended from a patchwork of diverse parcels within the appellation—by surely one of the most steadfast, hardworking families in the area—this Chablis is a striking example of "typicity." Not simply in the sense that it could easily win a blind tasting (who cares?), but, more importantly, it has the Kimmeridgian *je ne sais quoi* that makes a well-made Chablis shine: a discreet, mineral freshness on the nose and a zippy, crisp stone fruit palate. An obvious pairing this time of year would be oysters, but I love it with just about anything under the sun.

**\$28.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$302.40** PER CASE

### 2018 SAINT-AUBIN 1ER CRU "LES CORTONS" DOMAINE LARUE

Saint-Aubin, a picturesque village tucked between the hills of Puligny and Chassagne-Montrachet, is the appellation of the future in Burgundy, and Didier Larue is its star producer. Even in the hottest recent vintages, he has known how to extract peppy acidity and wet-stone salinity from his Chardonnay. The 2018 Cortons flaunts expressive, nutty aromas, followed by a well-balanced combination of Saint-Aubin zing and a richness reminiscent of neighboring appellations.

**\$56.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$604.80** PER CASE

## 2017 MEURSAULT-BLAGNY 1ER CRU "LA GENELOTTE" • COMTESSE DE CHÉRISEY

Full-time vigneron, part-time philosopher, Laurent Martelet has something of a clairvoyance about him when he shares his meticulous observations of nature and their effects on his vineyards. He remembers and can recount minute details about any given vintage, effortlessly producing exact dates in the cycle of the vine. With its mysterious complexity hidden within a very pale, almost translucent robe, the 2017 Genelotte, he says, is a rare wine that has benefited from the climate changes of the last few years, as the depth of the vines' soil and the high percentage of clay allow the roots to store water throughout even the worst droughts. On the palate, the fruit notes are extraordinary, astonishing—almost sweet. In my experience, this bottle becomes even more interesting the second day, when its stony minerality fully reveals itself, but I wouldn't count on there being any left over to find out.

**\$120.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$1,296.00** PER CASE

### **BEAUJOLAIS**

by Anthony Lynch

### 2019 BEAUJOLAIS BLANC • DOMAINE DUPEUBLE

The family responsible for one of the most dependable bargain reds we import also has a way with Chardonnay grapes. Their old vines grow in clay and limestone in the southern part of the Beaujolais region, yielding the perfect counterpart to their juicy, versatile *rouge*. Made without any oak, it conveys plump fresh fruit via a bright and creamy texture, with a touch of minerality to enliven the crisp finale. An all-purpose sipper like this should be kept on hand at all times in case of thirst-related emergencies.

**\$19.00** PER BOTTLE

\$205.20 PER CASE

## 2019 CÔTE-DE-BROUILLY • NICOLE CHANRION

Tasting through the five massive oak *foudres* residing in Nicole Chanrion's cellar always offers a sweeping view of the Côte de Brouilly and its various *terroirs*. Made from several parcels along the northern and eastern sides of this imposing hill, the wines range from perfumed, floral charmers to dense, tannic beasts that emanate the gunflinty minerality typical of the Côte's rocky blue soils.

The blend of all five always proves the most compelling, the wines complementing each other like pieces to a delectable puzzle. The latest edition exudes lovely whiffs of violets and spice, gradually building weight on the palate before culminating in a chewy finish replete with stones and some more spice.

**\$24.00** PER BOTTLE

\$259.20 PER CASE

### 2019 MORGON "VIEILLES VIGNES" JEAN PAUL & CHARLY THÉVENET

It's not easy to raise the bar when your father revolutionized winemaking in a given region, but that is precisely what Charly Thévenet has accomplished with this 2019 Morgon. Building upon the creed of sustainable farming and natural winemaking that brought the "Gang of Four" to the limelight, Charly has brought his own touch, resulting in *cru* Beaujolais that presents hedonistic pleasure *and* serious pedigree: chilling the grapes down before fermentation preserves vibrant fruit and freshness, while his decision to forgo punch-downs and pumpovers yields a silky-fine grain without sacrificing underlying structure. Dip your nose into this Morgon for a kaleidoscope of sublime aromas—the spice box perfume could well come from Vosne-Romanée, but no, this is pure Gamay grown in granite, as swallowable as we could ever dream of.

**\$40.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$432.00** PER CASE

## SOUTHERN RHÔNE REDS

by Chris Santini, KLWM BEAUNE

#### 2019 BEAUMES-DE-VENISE ROUGE DOMAINE DE DURBAN

If I could, I would nominate Henri Leydier, Durban's proprietor and wine-maker, for "World's Kindest Soul." Wouldn't that be a nice award to give, in our current environment of loud and angry? Henri is one of those rare people

with quiet, genuine goodness and old-fashioned Provençal charm, and his wines exude that easygoing grace. This Beaumes isn't exactly a simple wine, but it's definitely not hard to wrap your head around. It's plush, juicy, clean, and pure—perfect for some time away from the noise.



**\$20.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$216.00** PER CASE

### 2018 VACQUEYRAS ROUGE "CUVÉE AZALAÏS" DOMAINE LE SANG DES CAILLOUX



Vacqueyras, the village whose apt name translates as "Valley of the Stones" from the local dialect, celebrates its thirtieth anniversary as an official *cru* of the Rhône this year. Coincidentally, at

Sang des Cailloux, Serge Férigoule also celebrates his thirtieth anniversary of taking over the estate, where he was an employee for many years, before his boss called it quits and handed him the keys. Pioneers in the methods of organics, soon followed by biodynamics, the Férigoules have honed a unique style of Vacqueyras that mixes deep, dark color with a lightness of touch, rusticity with warmth, and minerality with delicious fresh fruit.

**\$38.00** PER BOTTLE

**\$410.40** PER CASE

## 2018 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE "LA CRAU" DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE

Good, solid Beaumes-de-Venise is a great thing. A unique and rustic Vacqueyras? Fantastic. But a Vieux Télégraphe from the famed La Crau plateau . . . that's about as good as it gets. It's in a league of its own: noble, soulful, absolutely elegant. 'Nuff said.



**\$105.00** PER BOTTLE

\$1,134.00 PER CASE

## **OLIVE OILS**

by Anthony Lynch



#### 2019 Olio Extravergine di Oliva

BIOLOGICO • GROTTAFUMATA . . . . . . . \$30.00 PER 500-ML BOTTLE Among Sicily's most prized oils, Grottafumata's is crafted from Nocellara Etnea olives grown on the western face of Mount Etna, home to the volcano's historic olive groves. Rich and buttery, recalling bright citrus and fresh herbs.

#### 2019 Extra Virgin Olive Oil "San Benedetto"

#### 2019 Olio Extra Vergine di Oliva

#### 2019 Olio Extra Vergine di Oliva "Uliveto a Merla"

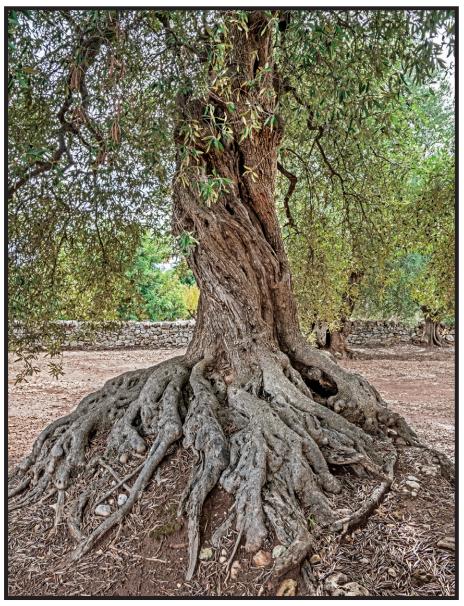
Punta Crena......\$26.00 per 500-ml bottle Ancient Taggiasca olive trees grow on seaside terraces in the charming Ligurian village of Varigotti. The Ruffino family, who has farmed this land since 1500, produces an exceptionally smooth and silky oil, gently scented of lemon and artichoke. Drizzle it over everything.

#### ANNUAL DESSERT WINE SALE

20% off during the month of December at shop.kermitlynch.com

Gingerbread cookies, yule logs, pumpkin pies . . . Sauternes, Banyuls, Muscat . . . Whether you prefer your treats baked or fermented, no holiday meal is complete without the final flourish of dessert.

Indulge in our decadent selection of dessert wines, on sale this month.



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During this unprecedented time, we are unable to welcome customers into our retail shop. We are, however, fulfilling orders via our website and by phone.

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## SHOP.KERMITLYNCH.COM

OR CALL [510] 524-1524

Ground shipping is included on orders over \$125 (excluding Hawaii & Alaska)



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