KERMIT LYNCH
WINE MERCHANT

DECEMBER 2014

Happy New Year

© Gail Skoff

OUR WINES ONLINE ▪ LEGENDARY QUINTARELLI
SWEET TEMPTATION ▪ HOLIDAY GIFT SELECTIONS

OUR WINES ONLINE

After many years of our customers asking why they can't purchase wines from our website, we are happy to announce the launch of our new e-commerce store.

With our online store, you can:

- Purchase current newsletter items, recent email offers, and more
- Ship your wine or pick it up in our Berkeley retail store
- Receive a 10% discount on 12 or more eligible items
- Visit the site frequently, as new wines will be added and available on a regular basis

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CHAMPAGNE, EVERY DAY

by Katya Karagadayeva

Grilled broccoli romanesco and Belgian endive salad. Boudin blanc and fingerling potatoes, escarole, and apples. Oven-roasted king trumpet mushrooms . . . In short, I recently had dinner at one of my favorite East Bay restaurants, Camino. The food is outstanding and the atmosphere delightfully laid-back. Since I like to try as many items on their menu as possible, I brought friends, plus a bottle of Cachet Or—after all, the holidays are just around the corner, and this juicy, accessible Champagne goes with everything.

The Cachet Or has a beautiful, firm texture, just the right amount of richness, a delicious fruitiness (apricot, peach, a hint of anise), and a touch of minerality. The magic of this *brut* is that it stood on its own and complemented every single dish—from radicchio salad to persimmon pudding. I am grateful to the ladies of J. Lassalle for Champagne that can be enjoyed with anything on any given day.

NV BRUT "CACHET OR" *1ER CRU*
J. LASSALLE

$39.00 PER BOTTLE **$421.20** PER CASE

NEW ARRIVALS

QUINTARELLI

by Dixon Brooke

2013 BIANCO SECCO CÀ DEL MERLO

I have yet to encounter a strong enough contender to the Garganega grape to challenge its place as Italy's greatest white grape. Quintarelli's legendary *Bianco*, even though not pure Garganega, is very helpful in supporting the claim. It is far and away one of my favorite Italian white wines, and as deliciously fresh and complex as it is young, it ages beautifully as well. It is distinctive and one of a kind, as any Quintarelli bottling is destined to be.

$42.00 PER BOTTLE **$453.60** PER CASE

2005 ALZERO CABERNET "DEDICATO A NONNA FRANCA"

Giuseppe's late wife, Franca, whom the world sadly lost last year, was the backbone and heart of the family winery and is sorely missed by all who knew her well. Her famous cooking was the ultimate complement to Giuseppe's incredible wines. I will never forget her *risotto all'amarone*—deep purple from the Amarone she used as the base—that I had the pleasure to enjoy at her table. Alzero was her favorite wine, and to honor her memory, the family decided to commemorate its latest release in her name. It is a grand and fitting tribute, deep, strong, and full of warmth and charm.

$400.00 PER BOTTLE **$2,160.00** PER 6-BOTTLE CASE

2005 ROSSO CÀ DEL MERLO

Made in the traditional style of Valpolicella Ripasso, this Corvina-dominated *Rosso* from the Veronese hills has been aged to perfection in large oak casks for more than eight years before settling into these bottles earlier this year. More fruit-driven than their classic Valpolicella bottling, it makes for great drinking already. It has arrived in timely fashion for your bountiful holiday celebrations, as it tends to work wonders with the hearty fare of late autumn and winter. There is no better way to enjoy the magic inside a bottle of Quintarelli than with your family and closest friends.

$89.00 PER BOTTLE **$961.20** PER CASE

BIG BOTTLES

During the month of December, 15% off per magnum

Great as gifts and perhaps even better on your holiday dinner table, magnums will make perfect additions to your upcoming celebrations. Diversity abounds—there is something for every wine drinker out there.

	PER BOTTLE
Prosecco Superiore Brut • Sommariva	$32.00
2011 Sainte Agnès *Rouge* • Ermitage Pic Saint Loup	50.00
2013 Pouilly-Fumé "Vieilles Vignes" • Régis Minet	54.00
2009 Lussac St.-Emilion • Château de Bellevue	56.00
2013 Bandol Rosé • Domaine du Gros 'Noré	69.00
2011 Barbaresco "Vicenziana" • Silvio Giamello	78.00
2011 Sauternes • Château Roûmieu-Lacoste	84.00
2011 Bandol *Rouge* • Domaine Tempier	95.00
2011 Auxey-Duresses *Blanc* "Les Hautés" • Vincent	97.00
2009 Gigondas "Terrasse du Diable" • Les Pallières	99.00
1998 Pomerol • Gombaude-Guillot	170.00
2009 Châteauneuf-du-Pape • Vieux Télégraphe	174.00
2007 Brunello Riserva "Phenomena" • Sesti	279.00
2011 Mazis-Chambertin • Domaine Maume	420.00

SWEET TEMPTATION

During the month of December, 15% off per bottle

Eschew the common temptations of holiday sweets and consider something less conventional—our stunning selection of dessert wines from France.

	PER BOTTLE
2012 Muscat Beaumes-de-Venise *375 ml* • Durban	$16.00
2013 Banyuls "Rimage" *500 ml* • La Tour Vieille	25.00
2011 Sauternes *750 ml* • Château Roûmieu-Lacoste	39.00
2012 "Sauvé des Eaux" *750 ml* • Domaine de L'Alliance	42.00
2013 Muscat de Rivesaltes *500 ml* • Les Mille Vignes	52.00
2009 Vouvray "Les Tries" *500 ml* • Champalou	58.00
2008 Gewürztraminer *Grand Cru* Brand VT *500 ml* Albert Boxler	60.00
2011 Sauternes *500 ml* • Domaine de L'Alliance	75.00
2009 Riesling *Grand Cru* Sommerberg SGN *500 ml* Albert Boxler	75.00
2007 Sul Q... *375 ml* • Domaine Ganevat	78.00

WHITE BURGUNDY

by Dixon Brooke

2012 MEURSAULT-BLAGNY "LA GENELOTTE" COMTESSE BERNARD DE CHÉRISEY

The appellation of Meursault-Blagny is a great case study in Burgundian *terroir*. It is not simply a sub-appellation or *lieu-dit* of Meursault! No, it is its own entity. It sits on the border of Puligny-Montrachet and Meursault, but high up on the hill, just below the forest. Thus it enjoys a unique microclimate, and harvest times can—incredibly—be weeks later than the appellations below. François Jobard's great Meursault-Blagnys of the 1970s awakened Kermit to the possibilities of these wines. You will be hard-pressed to find a more traditional and consistent producer of long-lived white Burgundy than this one. Monks started making wine here almost one thousand years ago, and the Chérisey wines stoically remind us of why, despite the hardship, the tradition is worth continuing.

$92.00 PER BOTTLE **$993.60** PER CASE

2013 CHABLIS "VIEILLES VIGNES" FRANCINE & OLIVIER SAVARY

The Savarys produce chiseled Chablis with great typicity. When you uncork a bottle of Savary and taste that briny seashell streak running through it, you know you are in Chablis. Nothing else compares. With their old-vine bottling, the Savarys round out the edges just a touch with a passage in medium-sized oak casks. Drink it now, or hold it for five years or more to see it develop further aromatic complexity and additional weight on the palate.

$27.00 PER BOTTLE **$291.60** PER CASE

2013 PINOT BEUROT "LES GRANDS POISOTS" LUCIEN BOILLOT & FILS

The truth is, this is a Volnay *blanc*. However, thanks to wine legislation in France, it can't be labeled that way. Pinot Beurot is the Burgundian name for their local strand of Pinot Gris. It can be found co-planted with Pinot Noir in really old Burgundian vineyards, and it added aroma and texture to some of the weaker Pinot harvests of yesteryear, much like Viognier was used in Côte-Rôtie. Average temperatures having moderated in Burgundy over recent decades, the Boillots decided to separate these grapes and make this dry white wine. It is unique and delicious and showcases an interesting bit of Burgundy's history.

$34.00 PER BOTTLE **$367.20** PER CASE

BEAUJOLAIS

by Kermit Lynch

2013 BEAUJOLAIS • DOMAINE DUPEUBLE

I went to Raymond Trollat's for lunch the other day. Hadn't seen him for a while. He's known for his great Saint Joseph vineyard. Jean Gonon was with us. He farms part of Trollat's vines and vinifies the grapes. And what a surprise, the two Dupeuble kids were there. Brother and sister had motorcycled down for lunch, too. Their father, Damien, died last year and, horribly enough, two months later they lost their mother in an automobile accident.

Their 2013 Beaujolais tastes great. Dupeuble has been my Beaujolais producer of choice for decades, and this bottle will show you why. As the French say, *un vrai vin de plaisir.*

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

2013 BROUILLY "REVERDON" CHÂTEAU THIVIN

When I had lunch at Thivin this week—one of my favorite things to do—we wrapped up things with their 2003 and then one of their last four bottles of 1949! That won't do you much good, but maybe you'll be happy for me. What an event.

To appreciate the importance of *terroir*, taste Thivin's Brouilly and Côte de Brouilly side by side. The only difference is the *terroir*: Brouilly is from a hillside parcel featuring pink granite soil. The wine is broadly textured and shows classy Gamay fruit. The Côte de Brouilly is higher-toned. It is from blue schist soils high on the Côte. Its perfume has wilder fruit and seems more the aristocrat. Fans of southern wines may prefer the Brouilly. You might not have a favorite, but you'll see that the complex notion of *terroir* is not a French marketing ploy.

$24.00 PER BOTTLE **$259.20** PER CASE

2013 RÉGNIÉ • GUY BRETON

Régnié is the least known of the Beaujolais *grand crus*, and I wonder why it was recognized as *grand cru* only recently. Certain examples match the stature of the finest Morgons and Moulin-à-Vents.

Breton makes Morgon, too, and it is more dense and tannic. His Régnié tastes low in alcohol, and it is; it is surprisingly penetrating on the palate. I mean it sinks in and continues to release its lovely perfume on the palate.

$29.00 PER BOTTLE **$313.20** PER CASE

ITALIAN WHITES

by Anthony Lynch

2013 PINOT GRIGIO • LA VIARTE

When Pinot Grigio is skillfully grown in the Friuli Colli Orientali denomination near the Italy-Slovenia border, the resulting wine is a far cry from the insipid acid water that is all too common from the grape. By controlling yields and choosing the right time to harvest, richer textures emerge that perfectly round out the variety's trademark crisp, lemony snap. La Viarte never fails to provide an authentic and affordable taste of Friuli.

$19.00 PER BOTTLE **$205.20** PER CASE

2013 MÜLLER THURGAU "SASS RIGAIS" MANNI NÖSSING

This white takes its name from a spectacular alpine rock formation not far from Manni Nössing's winery in the Dolomites. A series of jagged vertical peaks arise dramatically, with Sass Rigais towering over majestically at an elevation of almost 10,000 feet. This racy white is brisk as a breath of air at the summit and pure as the snowmelt that cascades down in the spring. Served well chilled, it is the epitome of quaffable mountain refreshment. No wonder Manni semi-jokingly says his Müller is "perfect for the ice bucket challenge."

The Dolomites *© Anthony Lynch*

$30.00 PER BOTTLE **$324.00** PER CASE

2013 VERMENTINO "VIGNETO ISASCO" PUNTA CRENA

This breezy white from Liguria needn't be overly scrutinized, analyzed, or banalized. The lemony, flowery aroma will tantalize, and when you drink it with calamari fries, your pleasure will be maximized. Purchase twelve bottles and the case discount applies.

$27.00 PER BOTTLE **$291.60** PER CASE

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION SAMPLER

by Anthony Lynch

THE NEW YEAR IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING, and we are all looking for ways to better ourselves. What will be your New Year's resolutions for 2015? Here are some suggestions:

1. Travel somewhere new.
2. Cook more often.
3. Lose weight: choose less beer, more wine.
4. Read more, starting with the thirst-inspiring KLWM blog.
5. Go green: drink organic and biodynamic wines.
6. Join a club (one of the KLWM wine clubs).
7. Learn something new (the genetic similitudes between the *Vinifera* clones of Corsica with those of northern Italy and their unique interpretation of diverse geological phenomena, for example).
8. Spend less money on wine by purchasing discounted samplers from KLWM.

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PÈRE & FILS SAMPLER

by Anthony Lynch

Long-standing tradition in France holds that a vigneron's son should carry on his father's work upon coming of age, passing the torch and extending the family legacy for another generation. While many of the domaines we represent have undergone such a generational shift in leadership—some continually over hundreds of years—only a handful feature father and son working side by side in the same vintage, as we do here at KLWM.

With these six wines created by father-son and father-daughter collaborations, we hope to highlight the virtues of the family domaine and emphasize the dynamic relationships that make it possible for us to savor what's in the glass.

Normally $179.00

SPECIAL 6-BOTTLE SAMPLER PRICE

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Featuring wines from Beaujolais, Burgundy, Corsica, Loire, Northern Rhône, Provence

BORDEAUX VERTICAL SAMPLER

by Clark Z. Terry

Is there a more perfect gift for a wine aficionado than this vertical of fine Bordeaux? From the esteemed Pomerol producer Gombaude-Guillot, we offer two bottles each from three vintages—2000, 2007, and 2010.

What we have here is Bordeaux that is built to age, with textured tannins and deep, balanced fruit. I recommend enjoying a bottle of each to gauge how each is drinking. The 2000 is the oldest, but does it need to age further? At seven years old, is the 2007 ready? Does the 2010 need ten more years? You'll find pleasure now and have an idea of what is coming in the future.

Normally $434.00

SPECIAL 6-BOTTLE SAMPLER PRICE

$347 *(a 20% discount)*

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CELLAR SELECTIONS

by Dixon Brooke

2012 BOURGUEIL "CUVÉE BEAUVAIS" DOMAINE DE LA CHANTELEUSERIE

Thierry Boucard created this incredible Cabernet Franc from old vines planted in the prime *tuffeau* slopes of Bourgueil. Thierry's father, Moïse, was also legendary in the region for his Bourgueils, the proof of which still rests in moldy bottles in the *tuffeau* cellars beneath the Boucard vineyards. Thick, grippy tannin gives way to great complexity with extended bottle age. Age a case yourself, rather than relying on our rare cellar releases. Recently tasted examples of great Boucard Beauvais: 1990, 1989, 1986, 1983, 1976.

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

2012 AUXEY-DURESSES *BLANC* "LES HAUTÉS" JEAN-MARC VINCENT

What a white Burgundy this is, a sleeper that runs under most folks' radar. Les Hautés sits on the hillside behind Meursault, as the slope turns east toward the village of Auxey-Duresses. It is the extension of the Vireuils *lieu-dit* of Meursault, where white limestone is abundant. The line demarcating the boundary between Meursault and Auxey-Duresses sits between these two vineyards. Jean-Marc Vincent works his parcel like a *grand cru*, and the results speak for themselves. This beauty is easily capable of aging and improving for ten years.

$52.00 PER BOTTLE **$561.60** PER CASE

2008 BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO POGGIO DI SOTTO

Piero Palmucci's project at Poggio di Sotto was nothing short of remarkable. He proved definitively, in the relatively short span of twenty years, that Montalcino is capable of making some of the greatest red wines in the world. He wasn't the first, but for me his work most significantly highlighted the importance of, and the difference between, the subzones of Montalcino. The steep, calcareous marl slopes of Castelnuovo dell'Abate can produce wines with the finesse and longevity of great Burgundy, and no vintage more excitingly showcases this possibility over the last ten years than this one. No cellar is complete without it.

$175.00 PER BOTTLE **$1,890.00** PER CASE

ROSATO FROM SOMMARIVA

by Anthony Lynch

Prosecco rosé? Technically speaking, no, but that captures the spirit of this *frizzante rosato*. Sommariva—the family-run estate in the foothills around Conegliano, in the heart of the Prosecco zone—has created this masterful blend of the seductively colored local Raboso with an ever-so-subtle touch of Pinot Nero. The inaugural shipment of this brand-new wine, from one of KLWM's most consistent and reliable growers, has much in common with the estate's standard Prosecco: liveliness, grace, charm, and real class. What differentiates it is its enchanting perfume of candied little berries and tart, mouth-watering finish accented by the most delicate sparkle. Stock up for the holidays and beyond!

2013 SPUMANTE EXTRA DRY "IL ROSA" SOMMARIVA

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

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SOUTHERN FRENCH RARITIES

by Anthony Lynch

2013 LANGUEDOC *BLANC* "CUVÉE SAINTE AGNÈS" • ERMITAGE DU PIC SAINT LOUP

The Ravaille brothers at Ermitage du Pic Saint Loup are passionate wine collectors, eager to share prized bottles in their cellar from the likes of Selosse, Grange des Pères, and Coche-Dury. However, on a recent visit, a 2005 *blanc* from their very own vineyards stole the show. Here we have the 2013: luscious and honeyed, this blend of Roussanne, Clairette, Grenache Blanc, and Marsanne has enough stony nerve to keep your palate sharp and will even improve for several years in the cellar. This dry white is truly a hidden treasure of southern France.

$24.00 PER BOTTLE
$259.20 PER CASE

2013 CASSIS "BEL-ARME" CLOS STE MAGDELEINE

Bel-Arme refers to the parcel that produces this wine, a steep vineyard dominated by fifty-year-old Marsanne clinging to solid limestone, seemingly so as not to fall into the turquoise Mediterranean waters directly below. The wine is fermented and aged in concrete egg, which gives it a lovely fleshy texture that is preserved by foregoing fining or filtration before bottling. The first vintage of Bel-Arme sold out within days, so we suggest acting fast—the 2013 is sure to meet a similar fate. Inquire about magnums.

$49.00 PER BOTTLE
$529.20 PER CASE

2013 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE *BLANC* "LA CRAU" DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE

I would be lying if I said Châteauneuf-du-Pape *blanc* is a wine I frequently crave. Vieux Télégraphe's *blanc*, however, is one I am compelled to drink more often and even make space for in my cellar. Its undeniable weight on the palate is balanced by focus and precision. Tension and minerality—evocative of the infinite *galets* that litter La Crau—undercut the palate-coating fruit. The nose is complex, like radiant yellow blossoms whipped by the mistral, with a satisfying touch of cream. Here is a Châteuneuf *blanc* I can appreciate and, more important, want to drink.

$75.00 PER BOTTLE **$810.00** PER CASE

2012 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE "PIEDLONG" VIGNOBLES BRUNIER

The sumptuous, concentrated fruit of old vines from the Piedlong plateau proved too distinctive to be lost in a blend, leading Frédéric and Daniel Brunier to spotlight it as a separate Châteauneuf bottling starting with the 2011 vintage. Muscular, defined, and strikingly expressive, the 2012 edition translates the elegance of the vintage and the stoniness of the *terroir*. Approachable now, it will most certainly deepen with age. Have you ever had a bottle from the Bruniers that wasn't a knockout?

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

SAINT-ÉMILION

by Chris Santini

How the mighty have fallen. Bordeaux used to be synonymous in people's minds with the pinnacle of Fine Wine, a reference point to which all red-wine-making regions the world over aspired. Now Bordeaux seems to be waking up with a massive hangover after a wild thirty-two-year party . . . first a chase for high scores by any enological means necessary, then the crazy pricing that came with the scores and the hype, then big banks and insurance companies and moguls buying châteaux, and now selling units of product in search of the bottom line. Today, the backlash: consumers tired of heavy, overworked wines, tired of pricing being out of tune with quality and craftsmanship, tired of enological concoctions lacking a sense of place. Bordeaux is hardly a reference point anymore for new, intriguing producers near and far. The backlash is mostly well deserved, but let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater. There are those who didn't heed the siren calls, who still make and drink *claret* the way all the greats were made pre-1982. There are those who work naturally and traditionally, and who may just be the future to get us all excited about Bordeaux once again.

2011 MONTAGNE-SAINT-ÉMILION *GRAND CRU* • CHÂTEAU TOUR BAYARD

Ever had red Bordeaux as an apéritif? Neither had I, until I cracked this one open with my wife last week after work and we both kept going back for more until we were shaking out the last drop a mere half an hour later. It's that good, just a joy to drink—spicy and peppery nose with a very fine grain and superbly elegant structure. This, to me, is what Bordeaux should be all about.

$22.00 per bottle **$237.60** per case

2012 SAINT-ÉMILION • CHÂTEAU TERTRE DE LA MOULEYRE

Eric Jeanneteau, a one-man, one-parcel, one-wine show, farms his family's old four-acre plot organically and works his wine with utmost minimal intervention and handling. Sadly, his 2013 harvest was so small the entire USA will have only sixty bottles to quibble over. Here we offer the last of his 2012, so be sure to get some of this old-school, age-worthy, lean and mean Saint-Émilion while you can. Not only is there not much of this out there, but there's not even much *like* this out there. Last call 'til 2014 vintage comes around, in 2017 . . .

$67.00 per bottle **$723.60** per case

ALSACE

by Dixon Brooke

2012 RIESLING "SCHOENENBOURG" DOMAINE MEYER-FONNÉ

My writing contains a lot of superlatives, I'll admit, but I am not willing to disguise the passion and excitement I have for the wines, the growers, and the *terroirs* that we work with. If we don't think in superlatives, we don't buy. Here's another one for you: the Schoenenbourg *terroir* is one of the world's greatest for Riesling. (I've written about it before.) When the uber-talented and ambitious Félix Meyer acquired a parcel a few years ago, I couldn't have been more enthusiastic. Trust me—lay this down for ten years alongside your white Burgundies, then try to figure out which one you prefer.

$54.00 PER BOTTLE **$583.20** PER CASE

2013 LES VIEILLES VIGNES DE SYLVANER DOMAINE OSTERTAG

André Ostertag's Sylvaner has become one of the standard bearers for the grape. He's got the old vines, the *terroir*, and the skill, so it really comes as no surprise. His 2013 is an exercise in elegance and textural beauty, with an ethereal quality that makes it seem to float across the palate. The touch and the intangible character of this wine are what make it so admirable. Not just any Sylvaner, this is Ostertag's *Vieilles Vignes de Sylvaner.*

$25.00 PER BOTTLE **$270.00** PER CASE

2012 RIESLING *GRAND CRU* SOMMERBERG "ECKBERG" • ALBERT BOXLER

Rounding out this trio of masterpieces is Boxler's towering Riesling Eckberg. From a steep mid-slope vineyard in the geographic center of the Sommerberg *grand cru*, in pure granite rising just behind the village of Niedermorschwihr, the Eckberg parcel is vinified separately by Boxler in exceptional years. This vintage is notable for its power, concentration, and explosiveness. Also noteworthy is the fact that you can drink it now, as it is much more forward in style than the Dudenstein bottling we highlighted last month. Look no further. You have reached Riesling nirvana.

$85.00 PER BOTTLE **$918.00** PER CASE

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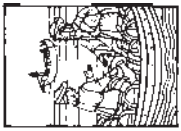

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Monday, December 22

11 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Yes! We'll be open 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. on Christmas Eve.

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