



The Wine and Cheese Cask

407 Washington Street • Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

(617) 623-8656

November 17, 2021 – December 14, 2021

Happy Days

Thankful Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, merry days ahead.

Let us feast and be grateful. Thank you for all of the support.

Solid Gold

2020 Muscadet Sèvre et Maine (Domaine du Moulin Camus)

Sale Price \$13.99 – \$142.70 case of twelve

Unfortunately vintage 2021 is an economic disaster across Northern France due to a frost earlier this year. So, it might be wise to stock up on this gold medal-winning Muscadet. This 2020 is a classic mineral and dry Muscadet.



Southern Burgundy

2018 Mâcon-Pierreclos (Domaine du Château de Pierreclos)

Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve

Burgundy's Mâconnais region has always been a source of delicious, well-priced Chardonnay, so we were happy to find one in time for the holidays. Instead of aging in oak, the organic 2018 Mâcon-Pierreclos was matured on fine lees and barely filtered, leading to deep flavors, texture, and aromatic complexity. Its succulent apple fruit and faint butter notes make it as much at home with a steamed lobster as with a roast turkey.



Taming the Tannat

2017 Madiran (Château Peyros)

Sale Price \$13.99 – \$142.70 case of twelve

The Madiran appellation is based on the darker-than-dark, tannic Tannat grape. But the rules of Madiran do allow the inclusion of other grapes to soften the Tannat (decanting also helps). Château Peyros uses both Cabernet Franc and bottle age to

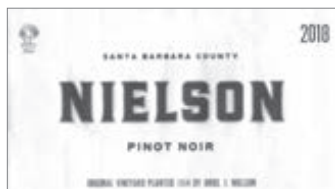
create a sturdy yet smooth Madiran. Packed with dark fruit along with hints of smoke and earth, this wine is great for a cassoulet.

Santa Barbara Pinot Noir

2018 Santa Barbara Pinot Noir (Nielson)

Sale Price \$13.99 – \$142.70 case of twelve

For Thanksgiving we return to one of our favorite California Pinot Noir values. The 2018 Nielson is a supple, berry-scented Pinot with a firm, dry finish.



Right Bank Bordeaux

2018 Blaye-Côtes de Bordeaux (Château Les Martins)

Sale Price \$11.99 – \$122.30 case of twelve

This is for that person at the holiday table who drinks exclusively red wine. A smooth blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Malbec, the Les Martins will be as lovely with the big bird as it will be with weeknight cheeseburgers or a rich mushroom and lentil stew. Who says you should only decant an expensive bottle? If you can wait an hour or two, your patience will be rewarded with amplified scents of black cherry and crushed autumn leaves that envelop its plum fruit and graphite finish.

Aphros

2020 Vinho Verde 'Loureiro' (Aphros)

Sale Price \$15.99 – \$163.10 case of twelve



The Vinho Verde revival continues as producers like Aphros, Quinta do Ameal, and Foral release impressive single varietal, totally dry whites.

The 2020 Loureiro smells like its

Portuguese namesake, the laurel (bay leaf) plant. Its palate is a refreshing soak of peach and green apple while the finish is stony and salty. Have this with a dish of cod and potatoes.

Corsica - The Beautiful Island

2018 Corse Rouge (Domaine Petroni)

Sale Price \$13.99 – \$142.70 case of twelve

The main red grape variety on the French island of Corsica is Niellucciu, the same grape as Italy's Sangiovese. Domaine Petroni makes a delicious blend of Niellucciu, Syrah, and Grenache, somehow uniting the Rhône and Tuscany in the middle of the Mediterranean. This 2018 is a hearty red that is perfect for a seafood stew or with a chunk of Ottavi Tomme de Brebis, our current favorite Corsican sheep's milk cheese.

Cava by Cáceres

Brut Cava (Marqués de Cáceres)

Sale Price \$11.99 – \$129.49 case of twelve

Cava from Spain is one of the best bargains in sparkling wine. The version from Marqués de Cáceres is crisp and dry with lovely bubbles. Great with the appetizers and side dishes of the Thanksgiving feast.



Chablis & Champagne

Chablis

2019 Chablis (Louis Michel et Fils)

Sale Price \$29.99 – \$305.90 case of twelve

The 2019 vintage in Chablis is being hailed as one of the best in the last two decades. Louis Michel et Fils has put out a comprehensive offering, including this fine village wine along with several terrific Premier Crus. Here is a fine mix of concentrated fruit along with chalky, minerally dryness. An excellent match for bay scallops.



Grand Cru Champagne

NV Grand Cru Blanc de Blancs (Le Mesnil)

Sale Price \$49.99 – \$539.90 case of twelve

The growers at the *Union des Propriétaires Récoltants Le Mesnil-Sur-Oger* work in one of the best terroirs of Champagne. This village is rated as a Grand Cru exclusively for Chardonnay. Skillful blending of fresh young wines and

toasty older vintages results in a consistently excellent Brut Champagne that is akin to a Grand Cru Chablis with exquisite bubbles. Try this with crab cakes and a spicy aioli.



Wine of the Bees

2018 Crete PGI 'Melissokipos' (Domaine Paterianakis)

Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve

The wines of Crete are seeing a resurgence as winemakers update traditional techniques on native grapes cultivated throughout their island's 4,000 year winemaking history. The Paterianakis family is at the forefront of this momentum, having restored indigenous varieties and instituted organic practices in the late 1980s. As the third generation of their

family in the business, sisters Emmanuela and Niki continue to innovate and showcase unique wines from the land surrounding their village of Melesses, located south of Crete's capital city Heraklion. Their Melissokipos, meaning 'Garden of the Bees,' is an homage to the bee-keeping industry that gave their village its name during the



second Byzantine empire. It's a refreshing and umami-laden blend of two indigenous red grapes, Kotsifali and Mandilari, with scents of cinnamon, tomato leaf, and cedar. Perfect for a lamb braised with tomatoes.

Martinsancho

2019 Rueda 'Martinsancho' (Ángel Rodríguez)

Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve

Without Ángel Rodríguez' Martinsancho vineyard, the DO of Rueda might not exist. His family's 17th Century vineyard provided the grape cuttings of the shy-bearing, thick-skinned



Verdejo that restarted the region. The old vineyard is now less than an acre, but enough vine material survived to plant a new 25 acre vineyard in 1976. Aside from harvesting, Ángel does almost all of

the work himself, from repairing barrels to vinification. His secret is the "holy trinity" of winemaking: old vines, low yields, and slow, patient fermentation. At one point he lamented that there isn't any money in making Rueda this way and he wouldn't do it again. But, for all his efforts he was officially honored by King Juan Carlos. This 2019, with lovely aromas of almond and quince, is a complex and delicious wine. It's always in the discussion as one of the best dry whites from Rueda, and perhaps also all of Spain.

Alberdi

2016 Rioja Reserva 'Viña Alberdi' (La Rioja Alta)

Sale Price \$21.99 – \$224.30 case of twelve

Once again, La Rioja Alta has produced an exquisite pure-Tempranillo Reserva. The 2016 is still on the young side with its formidable tannins, but its charming combination of oak, fruit, and mid-palate perfume are absolutely gorgeous. A great wine for a lamb or squash curry.



Dogliani

2020 Dogliani (Podere Luigi Einaudi)

Sale Price \$19.99 – \$203.90 case of twelve



Dogliani stands on its own as a *denominazione* for some of the finest of Piedmont's Dolcettos. The 2020 has a deep purple color and blackberry fruit with supple tannins. We've said it before and we'll recommend it again: Dolcetto is terrific with mushrooms.

Zero

Alcohol Free Riesling 'Eins Zwei Zero' (Leitz) Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve



Trust us when we say we've taken the increasing requests for non-alcoholic wine and beer options seriously. Quality non-alcoholic beers have proven much easier to source, but we've finally scored a winner on the wine side in Leitz' Eins Zwei Zero. This de-alcoholized off-dry Riesling from the respected Rheingau producer has been elusive (see the article in the Sept. 27 issue of *The New Yorker* for evidence), so we stocked up when we finally had the chance.

Whatever your reason for bringing it to the table, its crisp fruit and refreshing minerality will make it a perfect Thanksgiving palate cleanser which everyone can enjoy. We also have a small amount of Leitz' non-alcoholic sparkling rosé for \$23.99.

Cheverny Rouge



2020 Cheverny Rouge (François Cazin) Sale Price \$19.99 – \$203.90 case of twelve

In his vintage report François Cazin gave the 2020 vintage 20 out of 20, and he backs it up with this incredible red Cheverny. In an interesting twist, he destemmed the Pinot Noir grapes to preserve the purity of the fruit while pressing the Gamay with its

stems to inject some tannin. The result is a ripe, round blend of the two with deep, lingering fruit and a spicy, earthy finish. This is our winner for the turkey, but it also will be terrific for the vegetable side dishes.

Specialty Foods

Rogue River Blue \$43.99 per lb (Regular Price \$48.99)

Rogue River Blue from Rogue Creamery in Oregon is perhaps the most internationally acclaimed American Original to sweep the cheese world in the last several years. Winner of the World Cheese Awards Gold Medal in 2019, this seasonally produced blue cheese has it all. Made with organic pasteurized cow's milk, the creamy texture mingles with intense blue-mold flavor, and is cut with a well-balanced tartness from the pear liqueur-soaked grape leaves that encompass the wheel. This cheese is entirely unparalleled.



Tomme Grand-Mère with Black Truffle \$29.99 per lb (Regular Price \$32.99)

A beautifully ripened goat's milk cheese from the Loire Valley already sends our taste buds into a flutter. Add to that a generous layer of black summer truffles? Now we're truly in heaven. The light, tangy flavor of the goat's milk provides a perfect contrast to the robust and earthy flavor of the truffles. These bold but balanced flavors are complemented by the delicate, rustic flavor of the natural rind. As attractive to the eye as it is to the tongue, this cheese is decadent yet refined, conflicting yet balanced—and completely delicious.

Gentle Giant Salami \$44.99 per lb



This limited release from Red Table Meats in Minneapolis is one of the most unique charcuterie items to be featured at the Wine Cask. The meat and fat are entirely hand cut and stuffed into natural casing, which produces an incredibly varied texture. Salumist Mike Philips, in collaboration with a local pepper farm, uses the freshest paprika to add an earthy and smoky flavor to this rustic salami. The production is limited to the size of the pepper harvest, so supplies are very limited!

Rosette De Lyon \$24.99 per lb (Regular Price \$29.99)

Rosette de Lyon is a charcuterie classic of Lyon, the gastronomic capital of France. This semi-firm salami is named for the beautiful red hue produced by the red wine and garlic which form the core of its flavor. Once again, Smoking Goose's impeccable quality shines through with their take on this French classic. This versatile cured meat will pair well with a variety of cheeses on your holiday charcuterie board, but is equally enjoyable stuffed into a baguette for a quick snack!



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Wines of the Month — November 17, 2021 through December 14, 2021

2020 Pays d’Hérault Rouge (Les Hérétiques)

Sale Price \$9.99 – \$107.89 case of twelve

Hérétiques is a country red from Château d’Oupia in Minervois. The Carignan and Grenache blend is fruity and savory with an earthy, dry finish.

2019 Alentejo (Marquês de Borba)

Sale Price \$8.99 – \$97.09 case of twelve

This Portuguese red is packed with 6 different grape varieties and big flavors. The dark berry fruit is accented with peppery spice and a hint of oak.

2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Portillo)

Sale Price \$8.99 – \$97.09 case of twelve

Here’s an excellent value Argentine Cabernet with smooth fruit and ripe, round tannins.

2020 Vermentino di Sardegna ‘Aragosta’ (Cantina Santa Maria La Palma)

Sale Price \$8.99 – \$97.09 case of twelve

This cooperative winery on the island of Sardinia continues to churn out value. Their Vermentino has dried apricot fruit and a crisp, clean finish.

