



The Wine and Cheese Cask

407 Washington Street • Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

(617) 623-8656

November 17, 2023 – December 14, 2023

Turkey Time

Happy Thanksgiving and a healthy end of the year to everyone.

No Farms No Pinot Noir

2021 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir (Scenic Valley Farms)
Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve



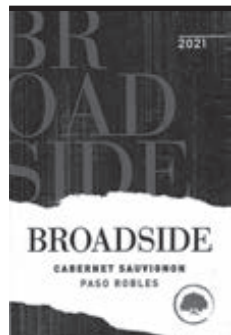
Scenic Valley Farms is a family farm that was started in 1970 in Gervais, Oregon. Along with grapes, they also grow pears, hazelnuts, wheat, and hops. The wine team consists of

five people, and all work, from pruning to bottling, is done by hand. Their 2021 Pinot Noir is fresh and fruit forward, but has a touch of earthiness to balance it out. A small percentage of the wine spends time in oak (which happens to come from a tree on the property that fell during a storm) which adds a pleasant spice note. We think this crowd-pleasing Pinot will be just the match for... wait for it... turkey dinner.

Northern Western Lights

2022 Washington/Oregon White Blend (Borealis)
Sale Price \$13.99 –

\$142.70 case of twelve
Borealis is a bright and lively off-dry white blend of Riesling, Pinot Gris, Müller-Thurgau, and Gewürztraminer. There may only be 10% Gewürz in the blend, but it adds its distinctive spiciness. Great for Brussels sprouts and chestnuts with a cider glaze.



Broadside

2021 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon (Broadside)
Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve

Broadside is our house Cabernet. Vintage after vintage, their better-than-basic Paso Robles bottling delivers dark berry fruits with hints of plum and chocolate.

Vouvray

2021 Vouvray ‘Les Charmes’ (Alain Robert)
Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve

Chenin Blanc is a wonderful grape. In Vouvray one can taste Chenin in all its glory, from crisp, minerally, and dry wines to luscious, long-lived dessert wines. Here we have a lovely dry version from Alain Robert. This combines bright citrus fruit, earthy minerals, and a crisp, dry finish. This is an all-around great food wine.



Reserve Chardonnay

2021 Chardonnay ‘Reserve’ (Domaine Bousquet)
Sale Price \$11.99 – \$122.30 case of twelve



We can't remember when we didn't like a release from Domaine Bousquet. This month we are here to praise and enjoy their Reserve Chardonnay. Like all their premium wines this is made from organic grapes. High elevation

vines in Argentina's Tupungato Valley give excellent ripeness and a crisp finish. Perfect for turkey and green beans.

Very Old Vine Zin

2021 Zinfandel ‘Old Vines’ (Bedrock)
Sale Price \$21.99 –

\$224.30 case of twelve
The vines used to make this Zinfandel average over 80 years of age. The deep fruit is fresh and spicy, and the palate is full and delightfully balanced. This shapely red will be perfect for the dark meat of a roast turkey along with a rich stuffing.



All-Alsace

2020 Edelzwicker Réserve (Boxler)

Sale Price \$34.99 – \$356.90 case of twelve

Located in the musical-sounding village of Niedermorschwihr, Domaine Boxler produces a stunning variety of varietal Alsace wines, all from their own vineyards, many of them Grand Crus. One of our favorite Boxler wines is their only blended still wine, the Edelzwicker Réserve. The blend changes from year to year but it is always a textured, dry white that cries out for full-flavored food. The 2020 is a mix of Riesling (young vine fruit from a Grand Cru), Pinot Gris (also Grand Cru), Pinot Blanc, and Sylvaner. A delicious treat from one of Alsace's best producers.



Vajra's Lasagna Wine

2021 Barbera Freisa (G.D. Vajra)

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



Back in 1970 Carlo Vajra made a mysterious blend of Barbera and Freisa. It apparently stuck in family lore as they resurrected the wine in the 2018 vintage and now again in 2021. We've always loved Vajra's reds for their directness and varietal purity, but this is a lovely wild card. The Freisa contributes an aromatic wild strawberry aroma, while the Barbera contributes weight and

spice. What was Carlo Vajra thinking back in 1970? We think he just wanted something to go with lasagna.

Acrobatic Grolleau

2022 Vin de Pays du Val de Loire (Catherine et Pierre Breton)

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

Loire Valley wine producers Catherine and Pierre Breton have long been known for their high-wire lifestyle. They were one of the earliest in the region to practice organic viticulture. They then began organizing wine shows of like-minded growers, plus traveling to promote their wines, all while raising children and treating it like a party all along the way. Even though they specialize in Cabernet Franc, this wine made from Grolleau seems to capture this dynamic couple.

Made from 60 year-old vines, this is an aromatic delight with zesty cranberry fruit and a spicy finish. A crazy delicious wine made by an incredible winemaking couple.



Lost Rosés of the Loire

Desperate for shelf space, we have reduced the prices for these already affordable and delicious rosés.



2022 Vin de France

(J. Mourat)

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

Mourat's Vin de France rosé hails from the Western Loire near the Atlantic. This multi-grape blend is salty and fresh. Great with salmon.

2022 Touraine (Les Vendanges de F. Chidaine)

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

Chidaine's wines are always full-flavored and impeccably balanced. The 2022 rosé is a blend of Grolleau, Pinot Noir, and Gamay. A delight with chicken wings.



2022 Rosé d'Anjou (Leduc-Frouin)

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

Wines labeled Rosé d'Anjou always have a touch of sweetness. Leduc-Frouin's 2022 is a charmer. A fine match with Indian food.



2022 Coteaux du Vendômois 'Le Cocagne' (Cave du Vendômois)

Sale Price \$9.99 – \$101.90 case of twelve

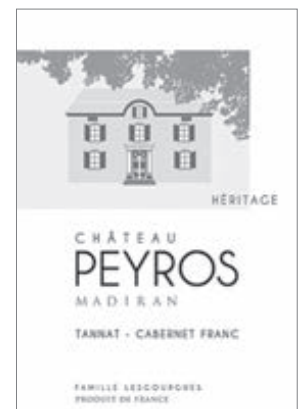
The Cave du Vendômois specializes in the peppery Pineau d'Aunis grape. This rosé is deeply flavored and totally dry.

Madiran

2019 Madiran 'Héritage' (Château Peyros)

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

The tiny appellation of Madiran produces a truly original red. Beginning with the ferociously tannic Tannat grape variety, producers have learned to soften its impact with techniques in the cellar and skillful blending. Château Peyros' 2019 Héritage is 60% Tannat and 40% Cabernet Franc. It's an earthy and dry country French red with dark fruit and balanced tannic structure that is perfect for a grilled sirloin and blue-veined cheeses.



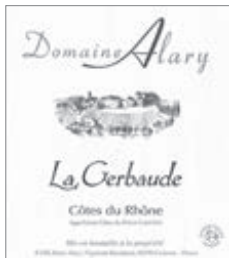
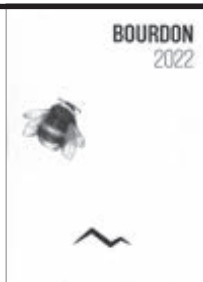
Tale of Two Rhônes

2022 Côtes du Rhône 'Bourdon'

(Domaine de Pieblanc)

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

Our first Pieblanc wine was their terrific Gigondas, which we still stock. This month we have their Côtes du Rhône. This juicy, peppery red is made from 100% Syrah.



2020 Côtes du Rhône 'La Gerbaude' (Domaine Alary)

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

Alary has a more traditional take on Côtes du Rhône. Their 2020 La Gerbaude is a blend of Grenache, Syrah, and Carignan. This hearty red will pair well with a beef stew with black olives and orange rind.

Gastronomie

2021 Apremont 'Cuvée

Gastronomie' (Jean Perrier)

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

The Savoie has lately been a good source of light but flavorful whites and reds. The Jacquère grape delivers a ton of orchard fruit flavor and stony minerals at just 11.5%. We return to the 2021 Apremont from Jean Perrier one last time for its delicious affordability and its affinity for fondue.



La Pépie

2022 Muscadet Sèvre et Maine (La Pépie)

Sale Price \$16.99 – \$173.30 case of twelve

Marc Ollivier's ode to his village of La Pépière endures in La Pépie. Still one of our favorite French whites, this bottling is pure joy with its exquisite balance between subtle fruit, lively minerals, and a bone-dry finish. Despite being typecast as a delivery vehicle for briny bivalves, this Muscadet is much more versatile. Give it a try with Vietnamese rolls and noodles.



Sale Dates

The Last Quarterly Sale of the Year begins Friday November 24th and runs through Monday December 4th.

Details: 10% off six bottles; 20% off twelve bottles. Wines of the Month (back page), fortified wines (Port, Sherry, Vermouth, etc.) and sparkling wines may be included for a 10% discount. Blue tagged (NET) wines and jug wines (1.5L and 3L) are excluded.

Specialty Foods

Serious Cheeses for Serious People: Part 2

Big Sky Grana – \$42 per lb

Bleu Mont Dairy – Blue Mounds, Wisconsin

Big Sky has dropped for the season, and we are very thankful to have received one wheel of this incredibly delicious and extraordinarily limited cheese. Aged for 3 years, this complex and grassy cheese is bursting with flavors of nuts and butter-scotch. With only about 20 to 40 wheels released each year, this is a cheese you'll definitely want to get while you can!

Pleasant Ridge Reserve 2 Year: Reserved Harder – \$38 per lb

Uplands Cheese – Dodgeville, Wisconsin

The Pleasant Ridge 2 Year is a very limited, extra-aged version of the already delicious Pleasant Ridge Reserve. This alpine-style cheese has a rich and densely flavored paste with notes of toasted nuts and creamy café au lait. Connoisseurs may recognize Uplands as the producer of Rush Creek Reserve, which is also available now in very limited quantities.



Beaufort d'Été Alpage 2 Year – \$42 per lb

Rodolphe Le Meunier – Savoie, France

The big boy Beaufort is back! Beaufort casts a long shadow over the world of alpine cheeses and this particular iteration turns all the dials up to 11. Made exclusively with summer milk and aged at an elevation of one kilometer or greater, this bold cheese begins with a deep, brothy flavor and moves into a briny finish.

Epoisses – \$24 each

Gaugry – Brochon, France

Epoisses is the infamously pungent washed rind cheese from Burgundy whose reputation for "stinky" aromas often obscures subtle variations between different producers in the region. While all Epoisses is washed in brandy, the Gaugry retains the distinctly sweet flavor of Marc de Bourgogne which is harmoniously balanced with the intensity of the funky flavor. For us, when it comes to Epoisses, it's "Gaugry or get out!"

Natural Rind Gouda – \$32 per lb

Urban Stead Cheese Co. – Cincinnati, Ohio

This is one of our favorite cheese finds this year: a Gouda aged for 18 months without wax. This is a delightfully springy and vibrant cheese with notes of sweet cream and lemongrass. The natural rind allows for the aging cheese to interact with its environmental microbiome and promotes a more complex flavor. This is our first cheese from Urban Stead and we're impressed so be on the lookout for more!



The Wine and Cheese Cask

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Wines of the Month — November 17, 2023 through December 14, 2023

2022 Pays d'Oc Pinot Noir (Ferrandière)

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

This southern French Pinot Noir combines bright fruit, ripe tannins, and a dry finish. Good for seared salmon, lentils, and potato gratin.

2022 Vinho Verde (Muralhas de Monção)

Sale Price \$7.99 – \$86.29 case of twelve

Muralhas is one of the world's best white bargains. This blend of Alvarinho and Trajadura is a wonderful match for all things cod and clams.

2022 Rouge du Midi 'Côté Mas' (Paul Mas)

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

This fresh and flavorful Liter-sized blend of Syrah and Grenache is great for big dinners of long-braised beef and mushroom dishes.

2022 Pinot Grigio (Gorgo)

Sale Price \$10.99 – \$118.69 case of twelve

Good old Gorgo is back. The 2022 is ripe, round, and organic. Great for pasta and risotto.

