



# The Wine and Cheese Cask

407 Washington Street • Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

(617) 623-8656

September 15, 2013 – October 14, 2013

## Rioja and Bordeaux

While these two regions are very different they share important history. The phylloxera louse devastated Bordeaux' vines in the 1860s, sending French merchants into Rioja in search of wine. An exchange of wine and ideas ensued, with the Spanish growers adopting techniques from Bordeaux. Eventually the phylloxera visited Rioja, but by then both the region's wine and its reputation were greatly enhanced. Today the barrel-aged style of both regions continues, with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot dominating in Bordeaux vineyards while Tempranillo is the red mainstay in Rioja.

### Four Excellent Bordeaux

#### Cru Classé Pauillac

**2010 Pauillac Grand Cru Classé (Château Grand-Puy Ducasse)**  
Sale Price \$79.99 – \$815.90 case of twelve

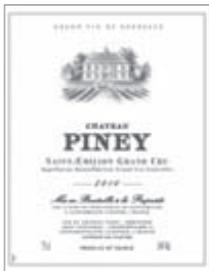
While admittedly expensive, the 2010 Château Grand-Puy Ducasse has serious merits as a true Pauillac without an insane price tag and a wait-twenty-years-to-open advisory. The Cabernet Sauvignon (60%) and Merlot mix delivers compelling, iron-rich opening aromas along with black-berry fruit and firm, gripping tannins. With some air it smooths out into a full-bodied, earthy red with ripe roundness and a long, dry finish. Aging for another ten years will result in a better wine, but this lovely Pauillac shows no signs of shutting down over this time frame.



#### Modestly Priced Grand Cru

**2010 Saint-Émilion Grand Cru (Château Piney)**  
Sale Price \$24.99 – \$254.90 case of twelve

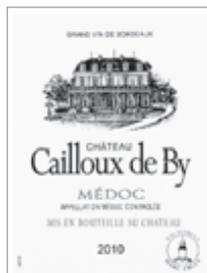
Saint-Émilion deserves its high accolades and its popularity. Here the Merlot grape reaches its charming best, and among the region's many Grand Cru Châteaux it is possible to find value. The 2010 Château Piney is 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc, and delivers a mélange of perfect plum fruit and dusty, elegant tannins. Thoroughly delicious and eminently drinkable now, it has another 5 to 8 years of aging capability.



#### Cailloux

**2010 Médoc (Château Cailloux de By)**  
Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve

We are returning to the 2010 vintage in Bordeaux because it has not been surpassed by more recent vintages and has not yet risen to the price peaks of the much hyped 2009 vintage. The 2010 Médoc from Cailloux de By is a supple, smooth, equal-parts blend of Cabernet and Merlot with fine-grained tannins and an earthy finish.



### Tour

**2010 Médoc Cru Bourgeois (Château Tour St. Bonnet)**

Sale Price \$19.99 – \$203.90 case of twelve  
The 2010 Tour St. Bonnet is packed with rich fruit and ripe tannins. This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (45%), Merlot (45%), and Petit Verdot can be drunk young with a grilled rib eye or cellared for five more years for pairing with a more refined, elegant meal.



### Two Traditional Riojas

#### The Royal Deal

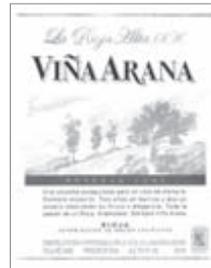
**2009 Rioja Crianza (Viña Real)**  
Sale Price \$11.99 – \$122.30 case of twelve

Viña Real and CUNE are now two wineries under the same ownership. In 2004 King Juan Carlos cut the ribbon on the new Viña Real winery in Laguardia in the Rioja Alavesa. The CUNE wines continue to be fermented and aged in their historic bodega in Haro created in 1879. The two medium-term, oak-aged Crianzas that emerge from these two wineries are incredible values. This 2009 is a super smooth red with wonderful aromatics, elegant tannins, and mature barrel-aged flavors.



#### Viña Arana

**2005 Rioja Reserva 'Viña Arana' (La Rioja Alta)**  
Sale Price \$27.99 – \$285.50 case of twelve



La Rioja Alta has been around since 1890 and for a time seemed to have lost its way, but we are happy to report that the winery is very much back on track. The 2004 Viña Aranza is a full-on dramatic gusher of a wine. The 2005 Viña Arana may be more restrained, but it is every bit as good. Reds like this are referred to as Rioja Claret, as they are made to mimic red Bordeaux. We taste the resemblance in its very dry, elegant style. Unlike Bordeaux this is already aged and mature. This is 95% Tempranillo aged for three years in used American oak and then for two more years in bottle before release.

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## Primitivo

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### 2011 Primitivo (Cantele)

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



The 2011 Primitivo from Cantele is so lush and flavorful that it should be an honorary citizen of the Zinfandel Republic of California. Of course it comes from Puglia, the spiritual

home of generously red-sauced and spicy Italian food, so you should follow suit with this impressive value.

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## Dogliani Stands Alone

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### 2012 Dogliani 'San Luigi' (Pecchenino)

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

Piedmont's Dolcetto is often compared to Burgundy's Beaujolais, but when you get into the Dolcettos from Dogliani you have entered Cru status.

Instead of a merely fruity, soft Dolcetto, a Dogliani wine has a deeper aroma, a fleshier fruit, and a finish like a minefield of mixed minerals. The 2012 San

Luigi from Pecchenino far exceeds the standards of Dolcetto d'Alba. It is Dogliani.



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## Régnié

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### 2012 Régnié 'Vallières' (Jean-Marc Burgaud)

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



Like the Dogliani Dolcetto above this wine far exceeds the standards of basic Beaujolais. Producer Jean-Marc Burgaud has a high quality Gamay portfolio. His Beaujolais Villages is about as fine as

it gets for the price. His many cuvées of Morgon are improbably age-able Cru Beaujolais at the highest level. The sweet middle spot is his great value Régnié Vallières. The 2012 has wonderful high-gloss berry fruit along with scents of pine and energetic tannins. We can't think of a better wine with a roast chicken and salad.

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## Sangiovese

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### 2011 Rosso di Toscana 'Monna Nera' (Capezzana)

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

Capezzana is firmly Tuscan, but not in the location included in the guide books. One of Tuscany's oldest estates, it is located on a balcony of hills in Carmignano, to the west of Florence. Carmignano is the best wine of the estate, then Barco Reale, and then Monna Nera, a Sangiovese. For ten dollars this is a ridiculous value when you consider how Chianti Classico houses value their wines. Dark cherry fruit leads the way while an interesting concentration of lively, tangy, balsam flavors follow. Great with a tomato and bread salad.



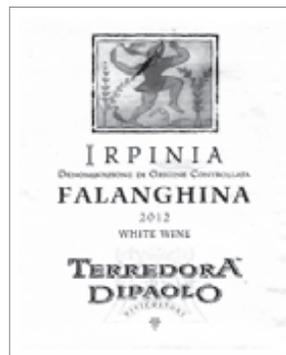
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## Falanghina

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### 2012 Irpinia Falanghina (Terredora Di Paolo)

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



Among the fine white grapes of Campania, Falanghina is considered the simplest, but we have found it to be consistent and an extraordinarily good value. The 2012 Terredora Di Paolo is a case in point. This wine possesses fine aromas of wild herbs, honeysuckle, and green plums. The palate is crisp and lively with hints of fennel. Seafood is recommended but a braised chicken dish will work as well.

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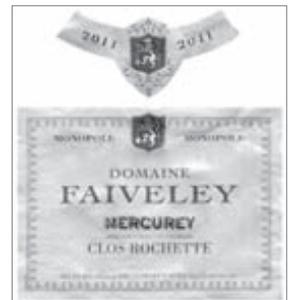
## Mercurey Blanc

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### 2011 Mercurey 'Clos Rochette' (Domaine Faiveley)

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

Mercurey is known mainly for its red wines, but Domaine Faiveley's Clos Rochette is a rare and lovely white. The 2011 is a crisp, lively Chardonnay laden with flinty minerals, white flowers, and subtle oak. Stylistically it falls somewhere between a Chablis and a Chassagne.



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Email us: [wine@thewineandcheesecask.com](mailto:wine@thewineandcheesecask.com) – or for a cheese inquiry [cheese@thewineandcheesecask.com](mailto:cheese@thewineandcheesecask.com)

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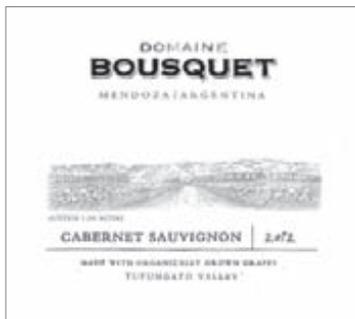
## The Other Malbec

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### 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Domaine Bousquet)

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

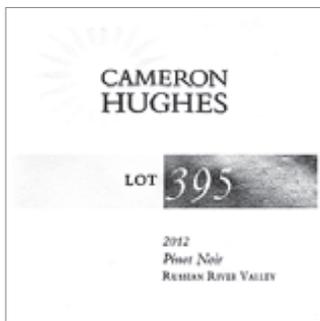
Given the popularity of Malbec from Argentina it is easy to forget that there are other red grapes in their vineyards. The Bousquet family emigrated from France to Mendoza and planted their vineyard in the Tupungato Valley, 3,600 feet up in the Andean foothills. The cool dry climate is ideally suited to organic viticulture. The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon is rich and full bodied. Dark cherry fruit, fine tannins, and a nice long dry finish complete this fine Cabernet.



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## Russian River Pinot on the Cheap

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### 2012 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir 'Lot 395' (Cameron Hughes)

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

A couple of months ago we ran a "Napa on the Cheap" feature on a pair of Cameron Hughes wines. This month we have moved to the Russian River

Valley where C-H has sourced an extremely elegant Pinot Noir. This 2012 has wonderful fresh raspberry fruit along with an earthy forest-like aroma. The finish is dry with nicely ripe tannins. Try this wine with a seared salmon fillet and a spicy fruit chutney.

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## Saint Bris

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### 2012 St Bris (La Chablisienne)

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

Good quality French Sauvignon Blanc is always in demand, and our Loire Valley selections always sell out. Fortunately there is Saint Bris, a small appellation near Chablis that is exclusively Sauvignon Blanc, and in the case of the wine from the La Chablisienne cooperative, extremely good value. The 2012 has sharp, lively aromatics and a surprisingly rich body. Have this with a corn chowder or some cracked crab.



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## Grand Muscadet

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### 2012 Muscadet Sèvre et Maine 'Clos des Briords' (La Pépière)

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

For years Marc Ollivier was virtually a one-man-plus-harvesters operation, but as his estate expanded he realized that he needed some help. After Marc purchased some vines from a retiring grower, he hired Remi Branger, the grower's son. Then after a few years Marc took him on as a partner. We hope to taste some new cuvées in the future; and we fervently hope that the single-vineyard Clos des Briords remains available. This has long been the Muscadet that changes our customers' perception of Muscadet. The Clos des Briords

vineyard was planted in 1930 on rocky, schistous soil with veins of granite jutting to the surface. This gives the wine a deep mineral character. The old vines and a good exposure ensure concentration of fruit, and Marc's long cold fermentation and lees aging give the wine impressive complexity and longevity. With Remi's help the estate has been converted to organic viticulture and the use of sulfur has been greatly reduced. The 2012 is another in a long line of great Clos de Briords from this now formidable team.

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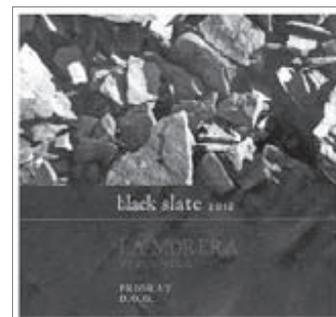
## Black 'n Blanco

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### 2012 Priorat Blanc 'Black Slate' (La Morera)

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

It's been over twenty years since we visited the Priorat wine region, but we still remember the incredibly steep hillsides and the slate soils that slid beneath our feet. Since then the wines have proven to be powerful; more recently they have been fine-tuned and now have more finesse. This applies to both reds and whites. This white Priorat grown on the distinctive licorella (black slate) soils began its journey over 100 years ago when the Garnacha Blanco vines were planted in the village of La Morera. This 2012 retains its fresh character due to optimal harvesting times plus a cool fermentation with natural yeasts in stainless steel tanks. The result is an intense, bone dry white with incredible minerality fused to an eau-de-vie-like essence of stone fruit.



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Somerville, Massachusetts 02143  
email: [wine@thewineandcheesecask.com](mailto:wine@thewineandcheesecask.com)  
phone: (617) 623-8656  
fax: (617) 628-2075  
[www.thewineandcheesecask.com](http://www.thewineandcheesecask.com)

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## Wines of the Month — September 15, 2013 through October 14, 2013

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### 2012 Vin de France ‘Saint Léger’ (Domaine La Guintrandy)

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

This quality Rhone producer bottles this value wine from vines just outside the appellation. The 2012 is a fresh and fruity ready-to-drink mix of Grenache and Syrah.

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### 2011 Petite Sirah (Guenoc)

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

Guenoc is one of the best names for California Petite Sirah. This ripe, round offering has deep blueberry fruit and a spicy finish. Light the grill a few more times this summer/fall.

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### 2012 Mâcon Villages ‘La Côte Blanche’ (Cave de Lugny)

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

The ever reliable Cave de Lugny has again delivered a crisp, dry un-oaked Chardonnay with its 2012 Côte Blanche.

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### 2011 Jumilla (Casa Castillo)

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

The 2011 Jumilla from Casa Castillo is a full-flavored Monastrell that will match well with a spicy chilli or a with a simple bean and rice casserole.

