



The Wine and Cheese Cask

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August 19, 2024 – September 14, 2024

It's Still Summer

For some reason many people think summer ends with Labor Day. But according to our calendar summer lasts until September 21st. So, indulge yourself in more of the cool flavors and tastes of the season. Here are a few whites along with a late-blooming rosé and a fresh, chillable Bardolino.



Alvarinho

2023 Alvarinho (Foral)
Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve

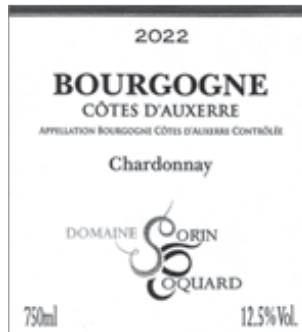
Technically this is Vinho Verde, but with the rising popularity of Alvarinho/Albariño, producers like Foral in the Melgaço district now make serious dry whites without the usual fizziness. This

2023 is deliciously floral and fruity with a distinct stoniness from the granite soils. A great white for fresh cod and sardines.

Auxerre

2022 Bourgogne Blanc ‘Côtes d’Auxerre’ (Sorin-Coquard)
Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve

This Chablis-like white Burgundy previously sold out, but this month we were able to get more at a lower price. The 2022 Côtes d’Auxerre is a bone-dry and mineral Chardonnay. Have this with crab cakes and cole slaw.



Graševina

2023 Graševina (Ilok Cellars)
Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve

We have to admit, we are not always the best at regularly stocking Croatian wine. Judging by the number of people who return from vacations there raving about the wines, this has been a huge oversight. So we were pleased to recently taste this excellent Graševina from Croatia’s Danube River region. Also known as Welschriesling (though it is not actually related to Riesling), it is Croatia’s most popular white grape. This light and refreshing white has fresh lemon, green

apple, and ginger flavors, bright acidity, and refreshing salinity on the dry finish. A lovely pairing for pasta with clams.



Schulthauer

2022 Pinot Bianco ‘Schulthauer’ (St. Michael Eppan)
Sale Price \$15.99 – \$163.10 case of twelve

Our favorite Alto Adige cooperative returns with their stunning single vineyard Pinot Bianco. The 2022 is again an excellent



value with a fine balance between fleshy, ripe fruit and cool, crisp acidity. The orchard’s worth of fruit is complemented by dried herbs and jasmine. It’s last call for a lobster roll, and this will be a great wine to wash one down with.

Cistercien

2023 Rosé ‘Cistercien’ (Gobelsburg)
Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve

Just when we were starting to think we were done with rosé for the year, the latest vintage of Gobelsburg’s Cistercien Rosé arrived to firmly change our minds. The blend of Zweigelt, Saint Laurent, and Pinot Noir from Austria’s Kamptal makes an exceptionally fresh and refreshing rosé. It is lean and zesty, but not lacking in strawberry fruit, and has a fine peppery and dry finish. As good for shellfish as it is for goat cheese and salads.



Gorgo Bardo

2023 Bardolino (Gorgo)
Sale Price \$11.99 – \$122.30 case of twelve

Gorgo amazes. This Veronese winery produces several incredible value organic whites, and now this lovely chillable red Bardolino. Their 2023 blend of Corvina, Rondinella, and Molinara, with generous cherry fruit



and a hint of almond, is an amiable match with a tomato and mozzarella salad followed by a mushroom risotto.

Nebbiolo calls Freisa Daddy

2021 Langhe Freisa (Giacomo Borgogno)

Sale Price \$35.99 – \$367.10 case of twelve



Wine grapes mutate frequently, and now that DNA testing is available it's fascinating to learn how some grape varieties may have come into existence. In the case of Freisa it has been revealed that this old Piedmontese grape variety is a parent of

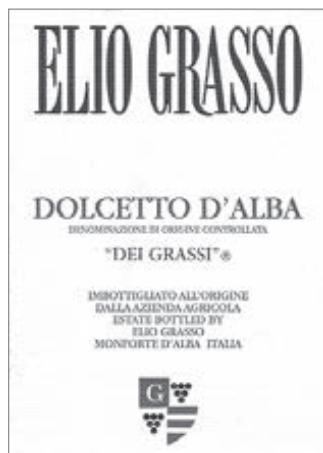
Nebbiolo and also shares a close genetic relationship with Viognier. Freisa is not exactly a rare grape variety; it is used to make sparkling wine, included in blends all over Piedmont, and it contributes to Vermouth production. But just a few producers persist in making a still, dry Freisa and Borgogno is one of the finest. Their 2021 is an exciting dry red. It is highlighted by its wild red fruit fragrance along with crisp acidity and gripping tannins. It is fitting that one of Piedmont's oldest wineries, dating to 1761, persists with one of its oldest varieties. Try this with stuffed pasta and soft, runny cheeses.

Purple Passion

2023 Dolcetto d'Alba 'Dei Grassi' (Elio Grasso)

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

While we can never get enough of Dolcetto in general, we can never get enough, literally, of Elio Grasso's Dolcetto. We assert (with no evidence) that we buy more of this wine than any other store in the state, and yet we still frequently find ourselves out of stock. After a long absence, it is back in the 2023 vintage, and we hope there is enough to last. You wouldn't expect that a humble Dolcetto would be that difficult to acquire, but that is a testament to the quality of the wine. Grasso uses no oak during fermentation or maturation of their Dolcetto, wanting to focus on the purity of the fruit. The 2023 is an aromatic and vibrant medium-bodied red, with flavors of black cherry, plums, spices, and violets. The focused acidity, fine tannins, and hint of earthy bitterness on the dry finish make this a natural for food. We'll be enjoying it with a hearty vegetable lasagna filled with tomatoes, eggplant, zucchini, and mushrooms.



Screamin' Pinot

2022 Sonoma Pinot Noir (Banshee)

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

This is Banshee's most important Pinot Noir and they treat it that way. The grapes come from excellent Sonoma sites such as Petaluma Gap, Los Carneros, and Russian River. This 2022 has a mellow oak flavor along with ripe cherry and raspberry fruit. A fine red for a roast chicken and couscous.



Nîmes Syrah

2021 Costières de Nîmes 'Terre d'Argence' (Château Mourgues du Grès)

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



For at least a decade, we have featured the reliably delicious rosé of the Rhône producer, Mourgues du Grès. This past spring we were able to taste some of their reds that had yet to arrive to market. Our favorite was their 2021 Terre d'Argence, which we gladly pre-ordered. The wait is finally over with this Syrah-

Grenache blend arriving in time for our transition into fall. No sulfur was used during production of this certified biodynamic red except for minimal amounts during bottling. After an hour's worth of breathing, the Terre d'Argence reveals aromas of violet and olive leaf that lead into flavors of marionberry, herbs, and cocoa. There's an almost imperceptible current of smoke and leather as well. It's a red that can be aged up to eight years or enjoyed now with grilled lamb loin rubbed with rosemary and garlic.

Sale Dates

The Summer

Quarterly Sale of the Year

begins Friday August 30th and runs through Monday September 9th.

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.

Poulsard

2022 Arbois Poulsard 'Vieilles Vignes' (Domaine Rolet)

Sale Price \$27.99 – \$285.50 case of twelve



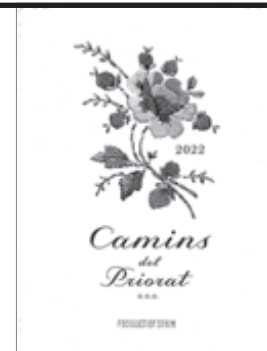
We've always appreciated the wines of the Rolet family, but their prices—though typical for Jura wines—prevented us from offering them next to more famous producers. So when we found out that their current distributor was parting ways with the organic domaine and had inventory to move, we jumped at their new closeout prices (hence last month's feature of their Chardonnay). Unfortunately,

that means that we have a very limited supply of their Poulsard which we expect to sell out. While wines made from the Poulsard grape are known for their delicate and floral aromas, this particular one's nose has an earthy funk that belies its rich cherry and pomegranate fruit. A slight prickle and pleasant pith-like bitterness act as a counterpoint to its lush fruit. Definitely give this light red a slight chill to bring out its charm.

Palacios' Priorat

2022 Priorat 'Camins del Priorat' (Alvaro Palacios)

Sale Price \$27.99 – \$285.50 case of twelve



Located two hours south of Barcelona, the region of Priorat is known for its big and concentrated reds. The producers who excel are the ones who can find balance within Priorat's intensity. One such producer is Alvaro Palacios, who was instrumental in establishing the region on the international wine map. The Camins del Priorat is his best-priced wine and it showcases how finesse can coexist with power. The 2022 is a silky blend of Garnacha (aka Grenache), Samsó (aka Carignan), Cabernet Sauvignon, and Syrah which, due to its seamless tannins, is ready to drink upon opening. It is full of black plum preserves and notes of licorice and savory herbs. A grilled stuffed portobello or a rib eye make for a lovely match to this dark, juicy red.

Specialty Foods

Saucy September

We're more than just cheesemongers! This month, we are featuring some of our favorite sauces and condiments for all of your culinary needs. Is 'saucemonger' a thing?

We're not sure, but it should be.

Hotpot Queen Chili Crisp – Chongqing, China 10 oz - \$15

Forged by the flames of the bold and spicy cuisine of Chongqing emerges the Hot Pot Queen! Her Crunchy Garlic Chili Crisp is the perfect embodiment of southwestern China's unique *mala* flavor, which combines the numbing mouthfeel of Sichuan peppercorns and the spicy heat of chili peppers. Sounds great! But what do we do with it? We stir it into a fresh, hot bowl of rice and top it with a runny, yolky fried egg. Sometimes, we even use it as a marinade...

Mama Lil's Peppalilli – Portland, Oregon 12 oz - \$12



Grilling season is nearing its close, and we're *almost* out of hot

dog ideas, but we've got one more. Who doesn't love a good Chicago-style dog? Yellow mustard, relish, hot peppers, onion, tomato, celery salt... wow that's a lot of ingredients. Thankfully, Mama Lil has got you covered with her Peppalilli mustard pickle relish. That's like half the ingredients! Complete with Hungarian Goat Horn peppers, because why not? It's sweet, it's spicy, it's all you need.

Yakami Orchards Yuzu Marmalade – Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan – 10 oz - \$11

Speaking of marinades... oops, we mean *marmalades*. What on earth is yuzu? Well, it's a deliciously aromatic citrus fruit native to East Asia, commonly used in ponzu sauce. It's got floral notes (think bergamot) with a tart, fresh taste. This marmalade by Yakami Orchards consists of only yuzu, sugar, and honey to showcase its distinctive flavor. Mix it with Hotpot Queen's Chili Crisp, and you've got yourself a delicious marinade for pork tenderloin. Alternatively, pair it with a sharp cheese (looking at you, cheddar).



Espinaler Appetizer Sauce – Barcelona, Spain 3 oz - \$6

Rounding out our mention-worthy products this month is the "Appetizer Sauce" by Spain's Espinaler. Containing vinegar, paprika, and super-secret spices, it makes things appetizing.



That sounds a bit vague, no? Well, yes, but that's the best part. This sauce was originally intended to be dashed lightly upon a quality tin of *conservas* to cut through some of the rich brininess. But why let that limit the endless possibilities? Splash some onto a freshly shucked oyster! Salad! Eggs! Like we said, the possibilities are literally endless.

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Wines of the Month – August 19, 2024 through September 14, 2024

2020 Barbera del Monferrato ‘Maraia’ (Marchesi di Barolo)

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

This 2020 Barbera from the traditional producer Marchesi di Barolo spends several months in large oak barrels to smooth out its rich fruit. Have this berry-scented, full-flavored red with pasta and a fresh tomato sauce.

2022 Kremstal Riesling (Josef & Philipp Bründlmayer)

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

This month we have two Austrian Wines of the Month. The Bründlmayers have produced a terrific dry Riesling. Its pristine fruit and zesty dry finish are well suited for spicy foods.

2023 Grüner Veltliner (Mantlerhof)

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

Mantlerhof’s Liter of Grüner is one of our best bargains. The 2023 is fresh and lively with orchard fruit flavors and a minty, herbal finish. Wonderful with dumplings.

2021 Lisboa Tinto Reserva ‘Mula Velha’ (Quinta do Gradil)

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

Made from Touriga Nacional, Syrah, and Tinta Roriz, Mula Velha is a rich, full-flavored red with a powerful dry finish. Have this with a grilled pork loin and fresh corn.

