



**UNIVERSITY**  
— DISTRIBUTORS —  
**THE DROP**

## VENDOR HIGHLIGHT Vin Fraiche Wine Group

Although Vin Fraïche wasn't founded until 2018, the groundwork began four years prior in 2014. Michael Kennedy (former Head Sommelier at Blue by Eric Ripert at the Ritz-Carlton Grand Cayman) and his wife Rachel started Component Wine Company. Component was founded to make 100% single variety, single vineyard wines. Taking what would typically be a component in a blend and allowing it to stand on its own.

As the years went on more wineries were created. First with SOM Wines in 2016, this was a winery formed with a group of winemakers and sommeliers who all have an equal say in the style the wines are made. Second was Gagnon-Kennedy Vineyards in 2018 which was born after Marc Gagnon left his job as Winemaker at Bryant Family Vineyard. Gagnon and Kennedy partnered to found Gagnon-Kennedy and make wines from the most historic Vineyards in Napa Valley only sourcing from vineyards originally planted in the 1800s. Marc then came on as a Partner and the Director of Winemaking for the entire Vin Fraïche Portfolio.

In 2020, Vin Fraïche added its most recent winery to the portfolio, La Caccia di San Giovanni, with Kennedy & Gagnon joining the project as Managing Partners. La Caccia is an organic estate in the heart of Tuscany.

All the wineries of Vin Fraïche have their own purpose, however we strive to thread the quality together with our passion of small production, site-specific, terroir driven wines.

Contact Brooke Barrett ([brooke@universitydistributors.com](mailto:brooke@universitydistributors.com)) or  
Robert Neilson ([robert@universitydistributors.com](mailto:robert@universitydistributors.com)) for more information

*Vin Fraïche*  
WINE GROUP

### *2020 Monte Rosso Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon*

*Very limited quantities available; contact Robert Neilson for potential ordering at [Robert@universitydistributors.com](mailto:Robert@universitydistributors.com)*

Vines Planted: 1927

Cases Produced: 317

Oak Treatment 60% New French Oak

Winemaker Notes: On the palate, this wine is possibly the least tannic in our entire portfolio of Cabernets. The Pedigree of the Monte Rosso Vineyard, especially considering the difficult growing conditions of the 2020 vintage, is exemplified by the intensity of fruit and electric minerality. The wine's extended finish is enveloped with finely integrated tannin.



# NEW ITEM AT UNIVERSITY DISTRIBUTORS



## 2019 BARNARD GRIFFIN SYRAH

PACKED WITH RICH, SEDUCTIVE DARK BERRY FLAVORS FOLLOWED BY ENTICING HINTS OF BROWN SUGAR, MOLASSES AND BAKING SPICE. RIPE TANNINS AND PERKY ACIDITY PROVIDE EXCELLENT STRUCTURE. QUITE POSSIBLY BARNARD GRIFFIN'S BEST SIGNATURE SYRAH IN YEARS!

## DID YOU KNOW?

University Distributors offers staff education and training for all of our wines.  
*Contact Robert Neilson, Wine Education & Sales Specialist for more information  
robert@universitydistributors.com*

## NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVE DEAL

### AUBURN JAMES CABERNET

2 CS PRICING \$16 PER BOTTLE

3 CS PRICING \$15 PER BOTTLE

4 CS PRICING \$14 PER BOTTLE

5 CS+ PRICING \$13 PER BOTTLE

\*WHILE QUANTITIES LAST

CONTACT BROOKE BARRETT AT BROOKE@UNIVERSITYDISTRIBUTOR.COM OR  
ROBERT NEILSON AT ROBERT@UNIVERSITYDISTRIBUTORS.COM

MORE EXCLUSIVE DEALS TO COME IN OUR APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



# In the News

## VinePair's 50 Best Wines of 2022

View full list online <https://tinyurl.com/53u6tyt4>



### #6 Gagnon-Kennedy Vineyards 'Revolver' Zinfandel 2020

Zinfandel doesn't get too much love among modern drinkers, but bottles such as Gagnon-Kennedy's "Revolver" suggest it's deserving of a 21st-century American revival. The fruit in this wine comes from Zinfandel vines planted in 1886 and tended to by Brenae Royal, who covets old vines of this sort. With bright, juicy fruit and just a hint of oak, notes of ripe plums and boysenberries shine in each sip. Merlot fans looking to try something new need look no further: This wine has the soft tannins and bright berry fruit you love, with layers of herbal spice for added complexity. **Rating: 96**



### #19 Component Petit Verdot 2019

Napa may always be known for its Cabs, but bottles like this make a strong case for enjoying other varieties from the region. An impeccably balanced Petit Verdot, this wine is guaranteed to impress with its tight fruit core and high acidity, balanced by a tannic structure that's prominent without being overwhelming. Notes of blackberry turn from slightly sour to satisfyingly sweet on the finish. **Rating: 94**



### Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2021 Estate Grown Viognier (Oak Knoll District)- *Wine Enthusiast*, 92 pts,

In this wine, lush honeydew melon and Bartlett pear aromas lead to a rich mouthfeel and buttery, ripe fruit flavors that verge on sweetness. A full body and creamy texture get a lift from underlying acidity to keep this barrel-fermented wine balanced.



### 2018 Bougetz Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Prominence Reserve- *Jeb Dunnuck*, 93+ pts,

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Prominence Reserve (95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot) also offers a complex, brambly, cedar, spicy style revealing lots of blueberry and mulberry fruits and floral notes, medium to full-bodied richness, and a structure, tight, yet concentrated and age-worthy style on the palate.

## JEB DUNNUCK

# Valentine's Day Best Sellers



## **Trione Rose**

The 2021 Trione Rose of Pinot Noir is a dappled ray of sunlight on a cool spring morning. A bright, refreshing aroma of white peach, honeysuckle, and rose petal coupled with herbal notes of wildflower blossoms. This wine stuns with wild salmon, risotto, and richer vegetable dishes, or simply savor its beauty as an aperitif.



## **Carra di Casatico Lambrusco**

Full-bodied, yet soft with vibrant acidity and brooding dark berries, this sparkling red is a true chameleon with food pairing versatility galore.



## **Idle Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon, Peaceland Vineyard**

Performing donuts in a 1966 Shelby convertible at an abandoned drive-thru while each screen plays black and white movies without any sound. Vibrant and well-balanced, this medium bodied Cabernet Sauvignon shows off hints of blueberry, red currant, dried sage, allspice, and mocha. The oak integrates with the fruit tannins solidifying a solid structure and a velvety, lingering finish.

THANK YOU to all of our guests who were able to visit Iowa for market visits and specialty events

Tom Champagne, Barnard Griffin Wines

Tom Bougetz, Bougetz Cellars

Jeff Russell, Catalyst Ridge Wines

David Rossi, Fulcrum/Cloisonne Wines

Ben Larks, Idle Cellars

Darrell Gibson, Il Borro

Brian Noshay, Materra Cunat Family Vineyards

Umberto Cantamessa, Ribevi Wines

Dan Bell, State of Mind Wines

Michael Sage, Trione Wines

Michael Trujillo, Trujillo Wines

Charles Miller, Vin Fraiche

Joe Kotnik, World Wide Cellars

*We are in the planning stages of 2023 incoming winemaker visits and events. If there is a request for a specific guest or event, please contact Lindsey Woody at [lindsey@universitydistributors.com](mailto:lindsey@universitydistributors.com).*

## CONTACT



For Product Distribution Inquiries  
Please Contact

Monique Chittenden at  
[monique@universitydistributors.com](mailto:monique@universitydistributors.com)



Brooke Barrett

Wine Portfolio Consultant  
[brooke@universitydistributors.com](mailto:brooke@universitydistributors.com)



Robert Neilson

Wine Education & Sales Specialist  
[robert@universitydistributors.com](mailto:robert@universitydistributors.com)