

SPRING 2022 WINE CLUB RELEASE
Featuring Wines of France's Loire Valley



Quick Links: [Tier I](#), [Tier II](#), [Tier III](#)

This May we celebrate the wines of France's Loire Valley. Our dear friend and former sommelier, Cyril Frechier, founded a wine importing business in early 2020 (Yes, that's right, just before COVID). After two years of restaurant shutdowns, travel bans, and supply chain woes, Cyril finally received his container of Loire wines just in time for our spring wine club release. From flinty Sauvignon Blanc to peppery Cabernet Franc, these wines are incredibly food-friendly and the perfect accoutrement to this tempestuous Northwest spring weather.

The Loire Valley is a band of farmland that winds west along its namesake river until it spills out into the Atlantic. Often overshadowed by its neighbors Beaujolais and Burgundy to the southeast and Bordeaux to the south, the Loire Valley is the largest producer of appellation-driven white wines in France and home to familiar names such as Sancerre, Pouilly-Fume, Muscadet, and Vouvray. Yet, it's the red wines that

have captured our attention. As we endure one of our wettest and coldest springs, we find ourselves craving these earthy unctuous reds that pair just as well with salmon and asparagus as they do with roasted lamb. Sommeliers love to feature Loire Cabernet Franc on wine lists. While these wines fall on the lighter, more ethereal side of the Cabernet family, they deliver complex notes of violet, cherry, and of course, that characteristic bell pepper (pyrazine) note that allows them to pair with EVERYTHING. While the “natural wine” movement has only popped up in newsfeeds for a few years, families in the Loire Valley have practiced minimal-intervention winemaking techniques for generations. As global interest in sustainable farming has skyrocketed, over half of the wine producers in the Loire Valley have adopted organic farming practices, with many fully transitioning to biodynamic principles.

As we’ve revisited old favorites and explored new bottlings for this wine club release, we’re reminded how vibrant and fresh wine can be while still maintaining nuance and a sense-of-place. We’re excited to share how the Loire Valley is using a modern wine movement to express the best of their centuries-old winemaking heritage. Santé!

Our Classic Wine Club presents a thoughtfully-curated collection of bottles that are unique, sustainably-produced, and food-friendly. We hope our selections offer you an opportunity to expand your palate, learn about wine grapes and regions, and discover new favorite bottles. The tasting notes below represent the core wine selections for the May 2022 club release. We may have included a special selection in your bag, so please contact Ally at wineclub@blancandrougewine.com if you would like any additional information about your club wines.

TIER I

RED

Domaine Touchais Anjou Rouge

Loire Valley, France

Created in 1787, Domaine Touchais is one of the oldest wine estates in Anjou. 230 years later, it is still one of the most traditional properties in the Loire Valley that has built its reputation on the production of the great Coteaux du Layon sweet wines. Like all great domaines in the Loire, their expertise in the production of cabernet franc based wines is exemplary. 100% Cabernet Franc. Raspberry yogurt on the nose, with red fruit-forward flavors, balanced, and velvety smooth tannic structure.

Sparkman “Kindred” Grenache

Columbia Valley, WA, USA

The Kindred series of wines, first produced in 2008, is the gateway label to Sparkman’s reserve tier portfolio. The label features an image of a nearly 280-year-old oak tree in McMinnville, Tennessee, where Frank Sparkman, Chris Sparkman’s dad, was born. The Birthing Tree, where generations of Native Americans and pioneers gave birth, may be the oldest living tree in Tennessee. 100% Grenache from Oasis and Sagemoor Vineyards, Kindred Grenache leads with hints of roses, raspberry coulis, and herbs on the nose, opening to earthy red fruited flavors, finishing with flowers, flowers, flowers. Dynamic tension and superb balance make this a remarkably versatile food pairing bestie. Pair with cedar-planked steelhead or wild mushroom confit.

Podere Ruggeri Corsini Dolcetto d'Alba

Piedmont, Italy

Ruggeri Corsini is a small family run winery founded in 1996 by Nicola Argamante, his wife Loredana Addari and her brother Lorenzo. Located on the hills that connect La Bussia to the center of Monforte d'Alba, it owes the name "Corsini" to an old little village in that area while "Ruggeri" is the maiden name of Nicola's mother who always believed in his vision and supported his dream. The vineyards span 25 acres of which about 18 acres are planted with Barbera, Nebbiolo, Dolcetto and Pinot Nero grapes, on slopes with east-southeast exposure at an altitude of 1,476 feet above sea level. The philosophy of this winery is not only based on a century old tradition of wine making but also on more contemporary and scientific experiments all to ascertain more productive vineyards. The three partners collaborate and share their knowledge in winemaking with other Piedmontese producers as well as with scientists from the University of Torino. The quality of grapes from low yielding vines and an organic approach using as little sulfur as possible are fundamental traits of this winery. The vinification is conducted with basic traditional methods for most wines while the finer wines are aged in barriques. Their total annual production is approximately 80,000 bottles. Dolcetto d'Alba is a wine that is characterized by its fragrance and freshness. Ruby-red color with hues of violet, and a fresh and very fruity fragrance, it has a dry, rich and harmonious flavor that leaves a lingering aroma of tangy almond, ripe cherries, blackberries and subtle chocolate tones. Enjoy this wine with grilled sausages or light pasta dishes.

Forgeron Merlot

Walla Walla Valley, WA, USA

100% Merlot from Minnick Hills Vineyard in the Walla Walla Valley. The Minnick family were originally wheat farmers who converted much of their land to grape-growing, and now they produce some of the finest Merlot grapes in the State of Washington. Ally has a particular passion for this wine, as it was the vintage that she worked in the cellar for Forgeron's grape harvest. Alluring notes of black raspberry, forest floor, flambéed cherries, and dark chocolate fill the glass. Juicy red currant, spice, and dried herbs compose this well-balanced and superbly structured example of this beloved varietal. The finish features grippy tannins and a seemingly everlasting finish. Pair this wine with beef stroganoff or hearty lentil dishes.

Maitia "Weon" Carignan

Maule Valley, Chile

The name "Weon" is a reference to what might be the most ubiquitous word used in Chilean culture. It roughly means "Dude" or "Bro" but it's used as a noun, a verb or an adjective in different settings. This 100% un-oaked Carignan is all hand harvested from a 60+ year old vineyard in the Maule region of Chile on granite soils. Notes of blackberry, cinnamon and cedar on the nose with a palate of dark fruit and mushrooms, and a finish of black pepper spice. Serve this wine slightly-chilled alongside empanadas or grilled fish.

Mas des Volques "Esus" Rouge

Duché D'Uzès, Rhone Valley, France

45% Syrah, 30% Grenache, 15% Cinsault, 10% Carignan. Nicolas Souchon, a young oenologist working at Clos St. Jean, in Châteauneuf du Pape, decided to embark on a side project: making wine of his own. His family's vineyard lies on the opposite side of the Rhone and made for an exciting challenge. He yielded about 20-25 hl/ha and practices the Lutte Raisonnée (sustainable) farming technique. With the help of Philippe Cambie, he introduced his first vintage, 2010, in 2012 to the American market. Peppery herbs, plums, blackberries and earthy/loamy notes give way to a medium to full-bodied, concentrated, beautifully textured wine. The notes of green pepper, plums, blackberries and undergrowth give a fleshy, concentrated wine with a nice texture. A great accompaniment to a casual meal of grilled pork tenderloin, marinated either in honey dijon or balsamic vinegar and rosemary. You could also fancy it up with a pan-roasted duck with cherry and olives. I'd also love it with marinated artichoke pasta.

WHITE/ROSÉ/SPARKLING

Cerf Blanc

100% Sauvignon Blanc from the Touraine region. Traditional aromas of pink-grapefruit and fresh-cut grass are followed by stony minerality on the palate. The limestone and clay soils typical to this part of the Eastern Loire valley lend a distinct flintiness to the finish. These vineyards are not far from the revered region of Pouilly-Fume, where complex expressions of Sauvignon Blanc command three times the bottle price of this spring sipper. 100% stainless steel fermentation. Pair with difficult-to-pair vegetables such as grilled spring artichokes and baby broccoli.

Sparkman "Birdie" Riesling (Dry)

Columbia Valley, WA, USA

Two months ago, we visited our friends at Sparkman Cellars to tour their new tasting room in the heart of Woodinville's Hollywood District. Their winemaker, Linn Scott, completed his winemaking dissertation while studying in Alsace, France. He partnered with Chateau Ste Michelle to conduct research on the Riesling grape, and we feel Linn is making one of the best bottles of Riesling in Washington State. A whopping 25,000 tons of Riesling are harvested in Washington each year. By volume, Riesling is the third most heavily-planted grape in the state, only exceeded by Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. There's a common misconception that Riesling is always a sweet wine. While some of our favorite German Rieslings do have a touch of residual sugar, we also enjoy bone dry wines from all of the world. The Sparkman "Birdie" Riesling is dry wine, full of bright, juicy acidity. With notes of jasmine, Asian pear, crushed stone and spices, this wine pays homage to great bottles from Alsace. This wine is the ultimate pairing with sushi or cuisines with a touch of spice.

Château Terrebonne Rosé

Provence, France

This is a classic Provence rosé, bone dry with a pale pink and bright color. Intense nose of fresh strawberry, small red fruits and white peach. Round on the palate, this rose is well balanced thanks to its pleasant acidity. To be enjoyed as an aperitif. Don't hesitate to pair this wine with fattier proteins, including grilled salmon. The acidity provides a nice contrast in pairing.

Walla Walla Vintners Sauvignon Blanc

Columbia Valley, WA, USA

Crafting wines with a true sense of place has been Walla Walla Vintners' legacy since 1995. As Walla Walla Valley's 8th winery, being stewards of the land is a point of pride. This wine leans hard into the tropical, with aromas and flavors of kiwi, guava, cantaloupe and candied pineapple. Pair with chicken burgers or Thai curry.

Getränk Grüner Veltliner

Niederösterreich, Austria

A liter of fun! It's fresh and juicy with flavors of lychee, green apple, and ripe pear. It has added texture from spending 2 months on the lees but the racy acidity makes for very easy drinking. The larger bottle size also makes it perfect for sharing! Enjoy Austria's signature grape with all of your favorite picnic foods.

Jules Taylor Sauvignon Blanc

Marlborough, New Zealand

Jules Taylor is hands-down Ally's favorite New Zealand Sauv Blanc. When Jules talks about Sauvignon Blanc, clouds part and celestial choirs sing. This is the wine Jules loves because it is so expressive of the site where it's grown. It's a grape that, within a row - and even within a bunch - has a mind-blowing range of full-throttle flavor, just the way Jules likes it. Pale yellow in color. Intense, vibrant aromas of passionfruit, lime zest and lemongrass leap from the glass, supported by notes of freshly crushed herbs and a touch of wet-stone minerality. This upfront, in-your-face drop captures the essence of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. Passionfruit and lime zest flavors combine with mouthwatering intensity and juicy acidity, giving way to a long, zesty, lip-smackingly good finish. Try it alongside a salad of tomatoes with balsamic vinegar and fresh herbs, or for something more substantial try crispy skinned snapper filet with warm puy lentils and a herby lemon sauce.

Maurice Bonnamy Crémant de Loire Brut Rosé

Loire Valley, France

100% Cabernet Franc. Maurice Bonnamy's Crémants are produced by a group of winegrowers who decided in 2002 to pool their resources in order to offer a complete range of authentic, well-balanced wines from Muscadet to Vouvray along the Loire River. The winegrowers are driven by the strong but simple values of the modern cooperative – solidarity, respect and creativity – values enhanced by a real team spirit, which enriches each stage of the wine production process. This group of 8 cooperative cellars, representing all the diversity of the terroirs and appellations of the Loire Valley. Wines from the Loire Valley, in general, are known for possessing great value, and Crémants in particular, are a fantastic alternative to the more expensive Champagnes of the world. Bonnamy Rosé is a juicy, yet dry sparkling wine that pairs with just about any type of cuisine. 100% Cabernet Franc lends a bit of earthiness to the wine's bright berry nuances.

TIER II

RED

Domaine du Bois de La Croix Saumur Champigny

Loire Valley, France

100% Cabernet Franc fermented and aged in concrete. In the heart of the vineyard, on the clay and limestone hillside overlooking the Loire, fourth-generation winemaker Jean Yves D  z   has been at the helm of his family's 7-hectares estate since 1984. Bright garnet red, this wine offers elegant, supple notes of Bing cherry, black plum, and pepper with undertones of iris and violet. Light and well-structured with fine, velvety tannins and a fresh, balanced finish, this wine pairs well with risotto and roasted poultry.

Rock Meadow Tempranillo

Snipes Mountain, WA, USA

For those of you who have been missing Upland Estate's Tempranillo, we are thrilled to be able to share this offering from Woodinville's Sol Stone Winery, produced under their second label--Rock Meadow. This wine is 100% Tempranillo from Upland Vineyards, who no longer produces wine, but sells their fruit to some of the best wineries in Washington State. This wine offers alluring aromas of black cherry, wild rose and toasted almond. Rich and mouth filling with flavors of cherry juice and dark stone fruit, backed with cherry skin tannin and bright acidity. Pair with grilled ribs or lasagna.

Bodegas Ochoa "La Foto de 1938" Crianza

Navarra, Spain

Bodegas Ochoa is one of Spain's most dynamic wineries. Family owned and run since 1845, it is based in Olite, a small town capital of Navarra wine, where the King had the summer residence in medieval times and Ochoa was the wine supplier. "La Foto de 1938" is a wine made from three grapes in equal quantities: Tempranillo, Merlot and Graciano, with a splash of Garnacha making up 10% of the blend. Adriana Ochoa is currently the 6th generation of her family to manage this estate, and she conceptualized this wine as a tribute to her grandfather, who is pictured with his friends on the label. A pretty fun profile, where grapes will show off at different stages, making it an appealing wine with different sides to share. Flavor/Aroma wise, there is a killer match of fruit (red/black fruit) and spice (vanilla and white pepper). On the palate, we get more of the same great concentration of flavors with medium-firm tannins, balanced acidity, and satisfying flavor intensity on a wonderful finish.

Weingut J  rgen Leiner Handwerk Sp  tburgunder

Pfalz, Germany

Weingut J  rgen Leiner is located in Ilbesheim in the southern Pfalz, at the edge of the Pfalzerwald (Pfalz forest) and about thirty minutes' drive north of the Alsatian border. They own 16.5 hectares and produce about 120,000 bottles of Riesling, Pinot Noir (Sp  tburgunder), and a few other varieties. They are Demeter certified biodynamic and members of Slow Food. The wines are "natural" but also perfectly clean and pure. Every label has a different insect from the vineyards on the label, a celebration of the life found among the vines. Pale flashing ruby in color, effusively aromatic, juicy in the mouth, full of cranberry and cherry fruit that tastes like it's seen plenty of sunshine, this is a vital, breathing Pinot expression unique to the Pfalz.

Bodegas Avancia "Cuvee de O" Mencia

Valdeorras, Spain

This wine pays homage to the medieval monastery that anchors the steep mountainside vineyards high above the village of Barco de Valdeorras. The complex fruitiness of the Mencia grape combines with the distinct flinty minerality derived from the slate soils to create a unique wine. Glistening ruby-red. Lively, spice-tinged cherry and cassis aromas show sharp definition and a complementary hint of violet. Juicy, focused and lively on the palate, offering dark berry and bitter cherry flavors that put on weight with air. Fine-grained tannins add subtle grip to a long, taut finish that echoes the spice and berry notes.

Guardian Newsprint Cabernet Sauvignon

From another local favorite! This 100% Red Mountain Cabernet packs a whole lot of deliciousness in one heck of an affordable bottle. This wine features ripe fruit with hints of vanilla and wood smoke on the nose. The palate is super juicy, full of ripe dark berry, black cherry and plum jam flavors; these delicious fruits are complemented by a sprinkling of tannins aimed to give great structure to this wine.

WHITE/ROSÉ/SPARKLING

Les Vignerons du Pallet Muscadet Sèvre et Maine “L’Hermine”

Loire Valley, France

This aged Muscadet Sèvre et Maine L’Hermine from Les Vignerons du Pallet is named for the *hermine*, the heraldic symbol (representing the darker spot on the tail of the stoat, or *ermine spot*, if you’re interested) which has long been associated with Brittany, and it is a nod to the historical fact that the Muscadet vineyard was once part of a great viticultural expanse running from Brittany all the way down France’s Atlantic coast. In the glass the wine displays a pale golden hue, and the aromatic profile has some fruit-rich charm. Given time, it develops scents of yellow peach skin and tangerine with a bitter grapefruit note. This style of Muscadet is common in the western Loire Valley, but rarely found in the United States. With extended aging in the cellar, this wine develops complexity and weight that is unlike its younger, spritzy counterparts. Enjoy this wine with sea scallops or dishes with cream sauces.

Weingut Jürgen Leiner Handwerk Riesling (Trocken)

Pfalz, Germany

Weingut Jürgen Leiner is located in Ilbesheim in the southern Pfalz, at the edge of the Pfalzerwald (Pfalz forest) and about thirty minutes’ drive north of the Alsatian border. They own 16.5 hectares and produce about 120,000 bottles of Riesling, Pinot Noir (Spätburgunder), and a few other varieties. They are Demeter certified biodynamic and members of Slow Food. The wines are “natural” but also perfectly clean and pure. Every label has a different insect from the vineyards on the label, a celebration of the life found among the vines. This is an explosively flavorful and energetic bottling, loaded with pit fruit propelled by succulent acidity. The flavors go on for a startlingly long time. Part of its secret is sourcing from very high altitude slopes (yes, Mosel-like elevations in a sunny Pfalz style!) and a fertile soil cocktail of humus and loam mixed with the most hilariously named soil type in Germany: landschneckenkalk, which translates to "land snail chalk."

Quinta da Raza Alvarinho/Trajadura

Vinho Verde, Portugal

60% Alvarinho, 40% Trajadura. Casa do Outeiro is a property classified as of public interest by the Portuguese Heritage Institute. This house is the genesis of Quinta da Raza, located in Veade, Celorico de Basto, in the heart of the Vinho Verde region. Its history dates back to the mid-eighteenth century. Quinta da Raza is a family business that has endured through four centuries. To this day it is owned and managed by the Teixeira Coelho family, and is currently in the hands of Diogo Teixeira Coelho, the fifth-generation. Their commitment and dedication to the vineyard and to wine has fermented this passion and knowledge over time. An elegant, high-quality wine, clear, bright, and fresh with a fruity fragrance and with a pleasant and long-lasting aftertaste. This wine is ideal as an appetizer or to pair with light meals such as shellfish, fish, light meat dishes or salads. It is particularly pleasant with Asian dishes.

Gönc “Cuvee Anna” Rosé

Stajerska, Slovenia

Peter Gönc, who has been making remarkable wines from his family’s estate in the oldest town in Slovenia, Ptuj. He named this bottle after his grandmother, Ann—which makes sense since half of this bottle is made up of the grape Žametna Črnina, an indigenous vine that dates back some 400 years. With cuts of Pinot Noir, Grigio and Blaufränkisch, you’ll undoubtedly taste the familiar style of rosé, but with a decidedly Slovakian mineraly snappiness. Cuvee Anna is ripe with aromas of wild berries, strawberries, melons and peaches. On the palate, it’s bright and fruity with a lively, refreshing finish. Enjoy on a warm day with some grilled chicken and a goat cheese salad.

Domaine de Chateamar Rosé

Côtes-du-Rhône, France

90% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre. The Castel Mar (Châteamar) estate dates back to the 11th century. Since the beginning, over countless generations, the vines at Domaine de Châteamar have been cultivated without any pesticides or herbicides by father and son in the Souret family. Today, Jean-Felix and Frederic Souret manage the vineyard, still maintaining the greatest respect for nature. The estate is located 9 km from Orange, in the heart of the Côtes-du-Rhône AOP. This wine’s intense pink rose petal color is slightly darker and more robust than the rosés of nearby Provence, which is indicative of the wine itself. A nose of macerated strawberries, raspberries, and peaches, with a faint earthy and peppery base, comes together with a fresh clay minerality on the soft, round, and slightly weighty palate. Well-integrated ripe cherry skin acidity is key in retaining this sturdy rosé’s balance and freshness, making it a fine companion for richer foods like grilled lamb loin chops, burgers, spicy sausages, fresh tomato sauce pastas, and mezze platters.

Ovum Big Salt Orange Rosé

OR, USA

Only 112 cases were made of this wine by Ovum’s John House, who produces cult favorite white, Big Salt. The Big Salt Orange Rosé is a blend of 50% Ramato (Italian for “auburn” or “copper”)-style Pinot Gris and a white blend of Riesling that was fermented and aged in neutral French oak barrels. It isn’t as funky or extracted as an orange wine. Rather, it lives somewhere in between. It has a cranberry meets orange juice color due to 14 days of fermentation of Pinot Gris the skins. The white wine components of this blend that went into barrel saw anywhere from 8 hours of skin contact to up to 3 days. This uniquely fresh take on skin-contact wine hailing from the PNW shows up on the palate as mandarin-zested orange rind meets hibiscus, with a grapefruit-tinged citrus finish.

Maurice Bonnamy Crémant de Loire Brut Rosé

Loire Valley, France

100% Cabernet Franc. Maurice Bonnamy's Crémants are produced by a group of winegrowers who decided in 2002 to pool their resources in order to offer a complete range of authentic, well-balanced wines from Muscadet to Vouvray along the Loire River. The winegrowers are driven by the strong but simple values of the modern cooperative – solidarity, respect and creativity – values enhanced by a real team spirit, which enriches each stage of the wine production process. This group of 8 cooperative cellars, representing all the diversity of the terroirs and appellations of the Loire Valley. Wines from the Loire Valley, in general, are known for possessing great value, and Crémants in particular, are a fantastic alternative to the more expensive Champagnes of the world. Bonnamy Rosé is a juicy, yet dry sparkling wine that pairs with just about any type of cuisine. 100% Cabernet Franc lends a bit of earthiness to the wine's bright berry nuances.

TIER III

REDS

Henri Bourgeois “Les Baronnes” Sancerre Rouge

Loire Valley, France

While Sancerre is better known for its world-class Sauvignon Blanc-based wines, the area also produces beautiful Pinot Noir. They can be hard to find, so we were excited to source this wine for our Loire Valley club release. This Sancerre rouge is created from Pinot Noir vines growing on chalky-clay soils. The bouquet is marked by Morello cherry, violet, wood notes and with aging it develops aromas of game, truffle and cherries in brandy. On the palate, it reveals good roundness and a light, pleasant astringency (tannins from the grapes as well as the oak barrels) assuring good aging for 8 to 10 years. Pair with pan-seared duck breast or mushroom risotto.

Vignalta “Marrano” Rosso

Veneto, Italy

50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Merlot. Founded by Lucio Gomiero in 1980, Vignalta is one of the most important wine-producing estates in the Euganean Hills. Over the years, it has produced some unique wines and won innumerable accolades both in Italy and abroad. From its inception, Vignalta has produced wines that capture the richness and uniqueness of its region due to the careful siting of each vineyard site on the sides of the highest of the Euganean Hills. Since 1994, Vignalta has vinified its estate-grown grapes in its modern winery at Arquà Petrarca. Entirely dug into the rock, the winery blends beauty and functionality. Vignalta supports environmental sustainability and was one of the first wineries in Italy to install a photovoltaic system. Integrated pest management practices rely on antiparasitic treatments only when the symptoms of fungal diseases manifest. Vineyard management is focused on producing quality, well-balanced grapes, vinified with minimal enological techniques. The “Marrano” by Vignalta is a complex, full-bodied and elegant red wine aged for 36 months in oak barrels. It expresses rich, spicy and balsamic scents of cherries in alcohol, dried roses, tobacco, leather and balsamic herbs. The flavor is warm, smooth, robust and very long.

Rock Meadow Cabernet Sauvignon

Columbia Valley, WA, USA

With fruit sourced from some of the best Cabernet sites in Washington— Dionysus, Weinbau, and Pepperbridge vineyards— this second-label Cabernet by Woodinville-based Sol Stone Winery over-delivers for its price point. With classic notes of red and black fruits, followed by notes of leather, cedar, and herbs, this wine is classic Washington Cab and perfect for anything you're grilling.

Sparkman “Outlaw” Merlot

Columbia Valley, WA, USA

78% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Malbec. A bit brawny on the attack, Outlaw simmers down with a little air and becomes what is so special about Washington State Merlot: delicious in its youth, ageworthy and utterly world class as it reaches its peak in a generation or so. “Outlaw” shows cherry, blood orange, mint, dark chocolate, sweet smoky oak and walnut on the nose leading to deeply focused fruit flavors of plum, Bing cherry, blackberry and graphite all swaddled in fine tannins. Pair with lamb burgers with boursin or eggplant and porcini Shepherd's pie.

Florence Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah

Walla Walla Valley, WA, USA

We are incredibly proud to introduce two stellar reds made right here Snohomish, WA. This is a private, independent label produced by the winemaking team from Matthews Winery and formerly of Quilceda Creek.

Cabernet- Sourced from Eritage vineyard in Walla Walla, this wine has range. Plenty of black fruit that come with ripeness, red fruits that come from a cool site, typical Walla Walla structure to the tannins, and all of the flowers, herbs, and spices that one can expect from classic Bordeaux. This isn't a fruit bomb nor is it a high acid tongue scraper. This is a balanced wine from a single vineyard and offers a singular expression of what this site has to offer. Proudly bottled unfinned and unfiltered. Bramble fruits, Cocoa nibs, bourbon cherries, pencil shavings, anise seed, steak juice.

Syrah- Coming from the Rocks AVA in the Walla Walla Valley, this wine has a true sense of place. Not as funky and strange as many of the region's wines, this Syrah has weight, supple tannins, and an incredible balance of fruit, flowers, and intense minerality. After 20 months in neutral French oak, this wine has developed serious complexity. Proudly bottled unfinned and unfiltered. Red raspberry, geranium, fresh cracked black pepper, intense bloodiness, venison, plum sauce.

A Portela Mencía

Galicia, Spain

Mencía, the hallmark grape of northwestern Spain, wears many hats. Ranging from rustic and powerful to high-toned and elegant, it is a variety that clearly reflects its terroir. In this case, A Portela comes from DO Valdeorras, the “gateway to Galicia.” Beloved in ancient times as the only place the Romans found that could grow olives so far north on their supply line, Valdeorras is warmer than its neighbors to the west, shielded by mountains from the cold wet winds of the Atlantic. It's also cooler than its neighbor Bierzo to the east, similarly shielded from hot Continental winds by mountains. While this area is best known for white wine production (particularly Godello), Valdeorras was, historically, home to beautiful reds as well. Winemaker Alberto Orte produces A Portela from a single vineyard, planted to high elevation slate and granite soils. This combination of elevation, soil and temperate climate makes for an elegant, mineral-driven Mencía that carries both generosity of fruit and spice and also precise, elegant

acidity. Truly a unique plot, it's no wonder that the A Portela subdistrict is nicknamed the Gateway to Heaven! Pair with Herb-roasted chicken, pork loin, sautéed mushrooms, lamb chops or even salmon.

Tornatore Pietrarizzo Etna Rosso

Sicily, Italy

Tornatore lies on the northern side of Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. The soils have volcanic origin and are derived from the disintegration of the masses of lava, ashes and lapilli. Generally, these soils are formed on site (native) or carried by rainwater which, in some flat areas on the slopes of the volcano, resulted in large black valleys, deep and very fertile. The climate on the northern side of the Etna is characterized by mild temperatures, reflecting the influence of the mountain reliefs from that side (Nebrodi). The result is a late maturing environment in consequence of the exposure and the predominant altitude that promotes strong thermal excursions. The combination of soil, climate and the skill of the winemakers, have made the northern slope of Etna an ideal area for the production of high-quality wines. The Pietrarizzo Contrada, since the last century, is considered by the natives of this area, one of the finest crus. The grape variety used is Nerello Mascalese cultivated in terraces, vinified in cement tanks and aged in large wooden barrels. Aromas of flint, tobacco, tar and carob mingle with whiffs of dried rose, cherry marinated in spirits and camphor in this full-bodied red. The smooth, delicious palate delivers crushed raspberry, blackberry, grilled herb, cinnamon and sandalwood alongside polished tannins.

WHITES

Francois Le Saint Calcaire Sancerre

Loire Valley, France

Francois Le Saint is a 10th generation family estate in Sancerre, France. They are certified Organic by Ecocert and farm without any harmful chemicals. Their winemaking is as hands off as possible with natural yeasts and limited sulfur. 100% Sauvignon Blanc from 'Calcaire' (chalky limestone) soils, this Sancerre is fresh, fruity, and dry. Highly complex aromas of lime juice, ripe pear, and hints of tropical fruit make this an ideal pairing with a fresh salad or poached fish.

Herrera Alvarado "La Zaranda" Sauvignon Blanc

Marga Marga, Chile

For Carolina Alvarado and Arturo Herrera, wine is the connection between nature and people. Founded in 2003, Herrera-Alvarado is considered the founder of the now-budding natural wine movement in Chile. Local peasant farmers, or Huasos, have always made wine for home consumption without any additives. After studying agriculture, Carolina and Arturo became very taken with these types of living wines and decided to devote themselves to making wine in this style. Winemaking in the Marga Marga valley, where their cellar is located, dates back to the 16th century. Through word of mouth, Carolina and Arturo learned from the many wine characters in the valley how to make wine in that old style. Perhaps the most unique part of traditional winemaking that they have adapted into their cellar is the use of cow leather for fermentation. Carolina and Arturo built their cellar themselves in the adobe style out of clay from their own vineyards. There is no electricity; everything is done by hand. La Zaranda is made from their own-rooted Sauvignon Blanc grown on clay in the Marga Marga Valley. Grapes are hand-harvested in mid-March, destemmed by hand with a *Zaranda* (the local name for a destemmer).

Tornatore Pietrarizzo Etna Bianco

Sicily, Italy

Tornatore lies on the northern side of Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. The soils have volcanic origin and are derived from the disintegration of the masses of lava, ashes and lapilli. Generally, these soils are formed on site (native) or carried by rainwater which, in some flat areas on the slopes of the volcano, resulted in large black valleys, deep and very fertile. The climate on the northern side of the Etna is characterized by mild temperatures, reflecting the influence of the mountain reliefs from that side (Nebrodi). The result is a late maturing environment as a consequence of the exposure and the predominant altitude that promotes strong thermal excursions. The combination of soil, climate and the skill of the winemakers, have made the northern slope of Etna an ideal area for the production of high-quality wines. The Pietrarizzo Contrada, since the last century, is considered by the natives of this area, one of the finest crus. The Etna Bianco is born from the skillful vinification of the white grape vines Carricante, cultivated in volcanic soils with a high vocation and arranged in terraces at an altitude of 650 meters above sea level, in the northern slope of the volcano. Straw yellow colored wine with light green shadow that offers mineral notes with menthol scents typical of high wines, green apple with primary aromas characteristic of the variety.

Budureasca Orange

Dealu Mare, Romania

While orange wine has only recently come back into fashion, some of the earliest recorded wines were in fact made of white wine grapes fermented on their skins. While many orange wines can be a bit barnyard funky, this wine from Romanian producer—Budureasca— is the style of clean, fresh orange wine with structure that makes it the ultimate bottle for food-pairing. A blend of Sauvignon Blanc and the Romanian grape Feteasca Regala, this wine shows aromas of caramelized baked apples, musk, aromatic herbs, beeswax, and spices! In the glass, we have a potpourri of spices with a sweet sensation of apricot jam. It has a full taste, with a fine and elegant structure of tannins and accents of vanilla.