



WINTER 2021 WINE CLUB RELEASE

Biodynamic Wines



Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden, Photo credit: Jancis Robinson

Quick Links: [Tier I](#), [Tier II](#), [Tier III](#), [Tiers IV & V](#)

There are several common definitions for Biodynamic agriculture. Some will call it holistic conservation-minded farming. Others will dismiss it as superstitious...something without any scientific support outside of faith in astrology. For this Winter Wine Club Release, we are featuring a handful of Biodynamically-produced wines, including two special bottles from Southern Oregon's famed Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden.

The modern concept of Biodynamic agriculture is rooted in the work of Dr. Rudolph Steiner, whose 1924 lecture series inspired farmers to integrate traditional farming practices with a scientific perspective on ecology and conservation. Biodynamic farming involves a multi-faceted approach to land stewardship, with the highest standards for ethical and sustainable farming, resulting in one of the smallest carbon footprints of any agricultural practice. It considers everything from the manure cultivated for soil health to wildlife conservation. Cougars, bobcats, rattlesnakes, and countless species of birds reside at Cowhorn. Yes, there is also a lunar calendar that dictates when to plant, harvest, and taste the finished wines. This is

the most heavily-disputed aspect of Biodynamics, as well as the one used most often to challenge its legitimacy. At Blanc & Rouge, we are ardent believers that the quality of wine speaks for itself, and we encourage you to form your own opinions on the influence of lunar cycles.

Bill and Barbara Steele founded their 117-acre farm in the upper Applegate Valley to sustainably produce wines in the spirit of France's Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Beyond their 25 acres of grape vines, they grow asparagus, cherries, a variety of heirloom tree fruits, artichokes, hazelnuts inoculated with Périgord black truffle, and a kitchen garden. The farm has become a reputable supplier for local markets and restaurants in the Medford and Ashland area. Cowhorn's tasting room is a LIVE-certified Scandinavian-inspired building with a covered outdoor deck that extends right up to the vines. Positioned in a shady gulch at the base of Southern Oregon's iconic golden hills, the farm is a little oasis on scorching 100+-degree summer days. The wines are balanced and delicate, with a strong Old World-sensibility that is rare to find among North American producers. We are so excited to be able to include Cowhorn's Syrah and Spiral 36 White in this Winter 2021 club release.

Blanc & Rouge supports many New World producers who practice Biodynamic farming, such as Hedges, Montinore, Maysara, and now, Cowhorn. These producers have invested in expensive certifications by Demeter USA, the non-profit governing board that functions similarly to the USDA's National Organic Program. By contrast, Biodynamic practices have been popular in the Old World for centuries. Many of the European producers on our shelves are practicing organic and Biodynamic methods, often out of traditions that extend back generations. (The effort to sustainably produce food and wine is nothing new.)

This quarter, your wine club selections will include at least one Biodynamically-produced wine. We have noted which wines are Biodynamic in the tasting notes below. As you enjoy these club selections we ask you to consider--does Biodynamic farming produce tastier wine? We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

The tasting notes below represent the core wine selections for this February club release. We may have included a special selection in your bag, so please contact wineclub@blancandrougewine.com if you would like any additional information about your club wines. Cheers!

TIER I REDS



Domaine des Pothiers Côte Roannaise Le Colline en Flamme

Biodynamic Wine

Domaine des Pothiers is located in the Côte Roannaise and is one of the oldest vineyards of the region. Côte Roannaise is one of the most southern vineyards in the Loire Valley and not far from the source of the river. This stunning Gamay displays aromas of red fruit such as strawberries, redcurrants and cherries. The palate is friendly with a fresh and smooth structure. This extremely versatile wine pairs well with everything from roasted peppers to won-ton soup to pork tenderloin with a local berry sauce.



Pomum Cellars Red Wine

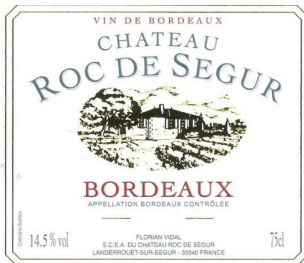
(Special Pricing! Reg. \$24)

Pomum Cellars is owned and operated by the husband and wife team Javier and Shylah Alfonso. Originally from the famed Ribera del Duero region in Spain, Javier is determined to showcase true expressions of wine grown in the unique viticultural areas in Washington State. This Bordeaux-inspired wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. Enjoy this wine on it's own near the fireplace or pair with roasted meat and root vegetables.



Fontanafredda Bricotondo Dolcetto

Since 1858, the Fontanafredda Estate & Winery has been instrumental to the growth and international awareness of Barolo, while championing sustainability and community engagement in the Langhe region of Piedmont. On the nose, an intense and persistent fruit aroma. This wine is dry, with a well-balanced and velvety texture. Bright fruit flavors accented by notes of almonds. A fine match for hot hors-d'oeuvres, pasta, vegetables and salumi.



Château Roc de Segur Bordeaux

The name Segur is legendary in Bordeaux. At one time, they were the largest owner of vineyards in Bordeaux, including three of the First Growths (Lafite, Latour, and Mouton). This Chateau Roc de Segur is a blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Cabernet Franc bringing home that classic style with savory notes of black currant, spice, and black pepper. A solid, well-structured claret.

Famille Perrin Côtes Du Rhône Nature

Biodynamic Wine



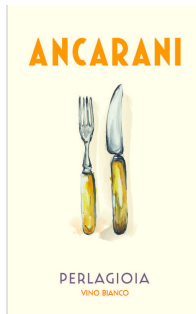
Famille Perrin's involvement in the wine trade can be traced back to 1909 with the purchase of Château de Beaucastel. Today the 5th generation of the family is involved in every aspect of the business. Famille Perrin's range of wines enable you to discover the richness and diversity of the Southern Rhône Valley. The nose reveals a beautiful expression of Grenache quite ripe without being tannic. Rich in the mouth, it offers a nice complexity with aromas of spices, garrigue, blackcurrant and white pepper. Pair with a vegetable stew with lots of herbs, stuffed peppers, or pork chops.



Ego Bodegas Fuerza Red

A rich coating of coffee and oak rests atop blackberry and cassis scents. While this wine is jammy and thick, core acidity and lemony oak notes foster balance. Cassis and blackberry flavors finish peppery, spicy and oaky, with a lasting note of chocolate. This is 75% Monastrell with 25% Cabernet Sauvignon from the Jumilla region of Spain. Pair with roasted mushrooms, smoked meats, or grilled eggplant.

WHITES



Ancarani PerLaGioia

Biodynamic Wine

Santa Lucia is a small town next to Faenza on the Romagna side of Emilia-Romagna. The soft rolling hills become the mountains of the Appennines and it is here that a revival is occurring. Indigenous, heritage varietals are being rediscovered and revived, such as this blend of 95% Albana and 5% Trebbiano. Albana is an “autochthonous” grape that can be traced back to the 1300's. An autochthonous grape is one that grows exclusively, or almost exclusively, in one region. As an example, Cabernet is grown nearly everywhere whereas Albana is (mostly) only grown in Romagna. Alluring aromas of French cider apples, hawthorne, meadow flowers, brilliant lemon acidity and savory minerality. It smells like walking through Discovery Park in the fall! This wine is uber food-friendly and drinks well with fish, poultry, and hearty roasted vegetables.



Domaine Girard-Madoux Chignin

Biodynamic Wine

You may remember the Gamay from this Domaine, which we featured in November as a part of our Alpine French wine theme. Made from 40-70 years old vines, Girard-Madoux's 100% Jacquere Chignin is balanced with Savoie's natural stony minerality, spritzy, creamy mouthfeel, and lively tropical fruit notes. Jean-Charles' southwest-facing Chignin vineyards are planted on steep limestone scree slopes which create a warm microclimate that is unusual for Savoie and lend the wine breadth and generosity. This wine pairs beautifully with the cheeses from this region.



Marques de la Concordia Brut Rosé Cava

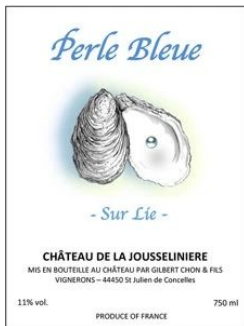
This unusual blend of Pinot Noir and Monastrell is known as one of the best pink Cavas in Spain. On the nose it has fine strawberry and raspberry fruit aromas with hints of bread and toasted almond. On the palate it is delicate and elegant. Silky and creamy with a long and satisfying finish. We believe that dry, balanced bubbles pair with almost everything! Contrary to popular misconception, most rosé sparkling wines are not sweet.

La Raspa White



This wine is produced in the small region of Sierras de Málaga in the South of Spain, with 75% Moscatel de Alejandria and 25% Doradilla. La Raspa is above all a toast to the Mediterranean, to tradition, roots and friendship. Bright, pale yellow. It is intense, with predominance of white flowers and herbaceous notes, on light aniseed and a mineral background. Very fresh, intense and persistent, with a saline finish. The salinity and citrus notes make this wine a great pairing with spicy dishes.

Château de la Jousseiniere Perle Bleue



Impeccably clean, well-balanced and vividly expressive with crisp notes of citrus fruit, hints of the sea and a searing, ripe acidity. 100% Folle Blanche from the Loire. The natural next step for seasoned Muscadet fans. Pair this wine with a dozen freshly-shucked Kumamoto oysters.

Altano Duoro White



Altano is produced by the Symington family, known for their long and distinguished history of producing premium vintage Ports in the Douro. The Symingtons began producing Douro DOC table wines seriously in 1999. Herbal and zesty aromas show tropical fruits; lychees and passion fruit, brimming with youthful vigour. On the palate, exuberantly fresh and piquant, with some green apple notes, great verve and crisp acidity. Pair with simple salads with a tangy dressing, salt cod, or simple chicken dishes.

TIER II **REDS**

Cowhorn Syrah

(Special pricing! Reg. \$45)

Biodynamic Wine



See the introduction to these tasting notes for more information about Cowhorn Winery. Give this wine a bit of extra attention, and let it unfold. A complex mix of fig, chocolate, and roasted coffee bean aromas with bold tannin structure. Cowhorn Syrahs are typically more delicate and nuanced than the bold wines from Walla Walla or Yakima Valley. Pair with

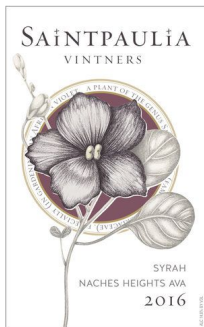
simple, pan-roasted duck breast, brined eggplant, or a lamb gyro from your favorite Greek restaurant.



Tolaini Al Passo Toscana

Equal parts Sangiovese, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon

Tuscany is home to the Tolaini Estate, a winery that combines these ancient traditions with modern winemaking. The name of this wine comes from the passo found in the circular forest at the highest point of the Montebello vineyard where an Etruscan tomb was uncovered only a few years ago. From here there is a clear view of Montepulciano, Montalcino, and the tower of Piazza del Campo in Siena. This has clearly been a magical place for centuries, which adds to the mystique of this passo. A really endearing red that shows dried herbs, fresh blueberries, tobacco and cedar. Lithe and tangy on the palate, which is medium-to full-bodied, elegant and dialed-in. The fine tannins add to a delicate but muscular impression on the medium-chewy finish. Pair with ragú or meaty pasta dishes.



Saintpaulia Vintners Malbec

Snohomish-made wine from Blanc & Rouge's Wine Club Manager, Allyse Ingalls. The winery was founded by her grandfather on their commercial greenhouse property in 1994. Shinoda Floral was one of the largest producers of African Violets, botanical name 'Saintpaulia,' in North America. This Malbec is a new venture for the winery, which has traditionally produced Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Medium-bodied with notes of blackberry and plum. Soft tannin structure with a touch of savory sagebrush on the finish. Pair with peppery flank steak with a chimichurri sauce.



Ampelos Syrahe Blend

Biodynamic Wine

Peter and Rebecca Work left corporate careers to establish Ampelos Cellars in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA of Santa Barbara County. The 82-acre winery focuses on Pinot Noir as well as Rhone varietals and is named after the Greek word for *vine*. This is a combination of 65% Syrah and 35% Grenache that showcases each variety well. Tart, tangy and densely textured, it shines with strawberry, cranberry and orange notes, with a well-integrated tannin structure and balanced weight.



Abbazia di Novacella Pinot Nero

Hailing from the cold, high altitude vineyards in the northeastern reaches of Italy, this Pinot Nero (Pinot Noir) is an incredible expression of the varietal. More robust than the wines of Oregon or Burgundy. Brilliant ruby in color with a fresh, fruity nose of red currants, wild strawberries, and a floral note. The palate is packed with red fruit and hints of oak spice with velvety tannins.



Ricca Terra “Marathon Man” Red

Ricca Terra Vintners was founded by Ashley & Holly Ratcliff back in 2003 after the duo purchased an 8-hectare plot of vines in South Australia. The duo farms all of their vineyards organically and have dedicated their lives to the pioneering of climate-adaptive varieties in South Australia. ‘Marathon Man’ is a full-bodied blend of Petite Sirah, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Petit Verdot. Notes of sappy blackberries, stewed plums, cassis, wet earth, and bay leaf dominate this bold bottle of red. Pair with hamburgers, chili, and BBQ.

WHITES



Domaine Lombard Viognier

Biodynamic Wine

The estate was established in 1981 by Jean-Marie and Sylvette Lombard. They initiated the revival of Brézème, an appellation with excellent terroir located in the southernmost part of the Northern Rhone. The entire appellation was once decimated by Phylloxera and their revival of this land has been the true work of pioneers. Their wines throughout the vintages, have been recognized by critics and heads of Michelin Star restaurants. The characteristic aromas of the grape variety – peach, apricot and white flowers – are powerful in the palate, but this power is balanced by a pleasant acidity that makes all the difference in this type of wine. A great aperitif, and an elegant accompaniment to sweet and sour dishes such as duck with orange sauce.

Cowhorn Spiral 36

Biodynamic Wine

See the introduction to these tasting notes for more information about Cowhorn Winery.

30% Viognier, 40% Marsanne, 30% Roussanne

Spiral 36 is Cowhorn’s rendition of a classic white Rhône style blend. It always contains components of Viognier, Marsanne, and Roussanne; however, the percentages of each varietal change annually depending on the vintage. A lightly spicy wine tasting of lemony herbs, lime, pineapple and gooseberry. More toward the yellow/green fruit spectrum, it has pleasant aromatics with a hint of toast from very minimal time in barrel. Pair with roasted chicken or roasted squash.



Villa Sparina Brut Blanc de Blancs

(Special pricing! Reg. \$35)

The Spumante Brut Blanc de Blancs of Villa Sparina comes from the vineyards of the Piedmont company, in the municipality of Gavi, in the province of Alessandria. Made with the Cortese grape, this fresh sparkler opens with scents of pressed wildflower and bread crust. The bright palate offers mature peach, hazelnut and mineral alongside an elegant perlage. The distinctive bottle shape used by the Villa Sparina winery was inspired by an old bottle that was discovered in the villa’s ancient cellar after the Moccagatta family purchased the property in the late 1970s. It represents a connection to the past and to the legacy of this extraordinary farm.



Devison Sauvignon Blanc

This new boutique winery based in Walla Walla is making waves in the Washington wine community. Their sold out Sauvignon Blanc is citrus-driven with defined notes of yellow grapefruit, lime sherbet and lemongrass. The palate is almost electric, showing flavors of orange oil, fresh thyme, and oyster shell. Weighty and brightly textured with precision and focus the finish lingers with Evergreen Vineyard's trademark rock salt minerality. This wine is all about sun and seafood, but pairs well in cooler months with chicken piccata.



William Fevre Saint-Bris

Located just north of Chablis, the small village of Saint-Bris produces a wine highly unusual for Burgundy, as it is the only white Burgundy AOC made from Sauvignon Blanc rather than Chardonnay. Fresh, intense bouquet with asserted blackcurrant bud and boxwood notes. Fresh and round on the palate, with spontaneous expression. A wine with exquisite lightness. Pair this wine with charcuterie, grilled fish, or oysters.



Raffaitin Sancerre

Sancerre is a dramatically situated hilltop town on the left bank of the upper Loire which lends its name to one of the Loire's most famous, and famously variable, wines: racy, pungent, dry white Sauvignon Blanc. A fruit-forward style of Sancerre with delightful melon, apple and citrus aromas and flavors. The finish has a touch of minerality and a nice vivacious acidity to keep the whole thing perfectly balanced. Pair with a delightful crudo of scallops and fish, or a wheel of aged or fresh goat cheese.

TIER III **REDS**



Domaine Lombard Eugène de Monicault Côtes du Rhône Brézème

Biodynamic Wine

The estate was established in 1981 by Jean-Marie and Sylvette Lombard. They initiated the revival of Brézème, an appellation with excellent terroir located in the southernmost part of the Northern Rhone. Brézème takes its name from "braise" (ember in French) as a reference to the warm, steep, south-facing slopes of the appellation. Cool nights and warm days give wines with great minerality and freshness, typical of the climate. Syrah is the only red varietal allowed. Here, it is particularly vibrant and complex, offering ripe, penetrating black-fruit flavors accented by shades of bramble, herb, leather and wet wool. It's an earthy, peppery wine, but exhilarating and fresh. The finish is marked by fine-grained, grippy tannins. This would be beautiful paired with a rack of lamb.



Amirault Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil Les Quarterons Cabernet Franc

Biodynamic Wine

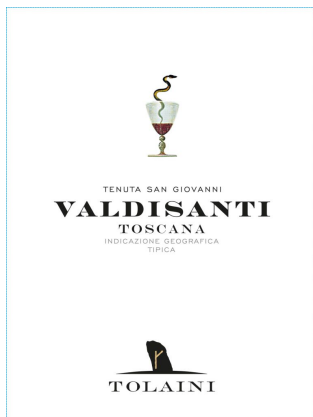
From a sixth generation winemaking family producing stunning Cabernet Franc and Chenin Blanc in the Loire's famed Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil slope. This cheerful wine is appreciated for its carefree, indulgent flavour and delicate freshness. It is packed with a full range of red fruit flavours and iconic Cab Franc peppiness. This versatile wine is great with grilled meats or even with fish.



Corte Rugolin Amarone della Valpolicella 'Monte Danieli'

(Special Pricing! Reg. \$60)

This amarone, the highlight of the Corte Rugolin range, is obtained from a selection of the best grapes in a small vineyard with an excellent solar exposure. The grapes are processed using the 'appassimento' method for approximately three months, producing a garnet-red wine with an intense bouquet of cooked fruit, dried plums, cherries macerated in alcohol, tobacco and various spices, including ginger. Uncork a few hours before drinking. Pair with roasts, braised meat, matured cheeses.



Tolaini Valdisanti Super-Tuscan

Cabernet Sauvignon 75%, Sangiovese 20%, Cabernet Franc 5%

Tuscany is home to the Tolaini Estate, a winery that combines these ancient traditions with modern winemaking. The family owns vineyard land near the town of San Giovanni a Cerreto. The vineyard, also named San Giovanna, that produces the fruit for this particular wine is located adjacent to a church where there is a painting by Rutilo MANETTI depicting Saint John the Evangelist ("San Giovanni") offering to Mary, a chalice with a serpent. This is the international symbol of Saint John and chosen for this label to honour the historic land that bears his name. Youthful, rich dark fruit, berry and cassis aromas meld with notable French oak spice. On the palate, Valdisanti is full-bodied with deep but reserved fruit flavors framed by rich oak. The excellent balance of fruit intensity with fine tannins indicates a cellar-worthy wine. Some sediment may occur in the bottom of the bottle as the wine is not filtered.



Boeri Noto Monferrato Rosso DOC 2008

90% Nebbiolo, 10% Barbera

In the hamlet of Bionzo, Costigliole d'Asti, the Boeri estate has been producing wine since 1890. Their 15 hectares of vineyards extend over the Bricco Quaglia hill. Thanks to the favorable terroir and to the winemakers' commitment to producing natural and carefully crafted wines, the Boeri winery produces wines of the highest quality in the Piedmont. Enticing aromas of cherry, licorice, and herbs lead to an ample bodied palate of pronounced fruit balanced by a touch of oak and spice. This silky, rich wine should be served with red meat and game.

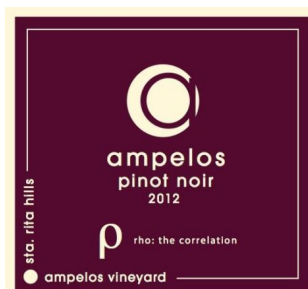


Finca La Capilla Crianza

A stunning Crianza from NE Spain! Intense bouquet, with sensations of fruity freshness wrapped in refined oak that complements well without masking the varietal fullness of the Tinta del País (Tempranillo) variety in the Ribera del Duero. Fresh, vivid, elegant complexity, with long-lasting creamy and toasted nuances on the palate. Enveloped and dense polymerised tannins. Subtle and elegant. Balanced enough to drink now but can be aged in the bottle for several years. Pair with a Farmhouse burger from our neighbors at Spada Farmhouse Brewing or baked pasta with a tomato-based sauce.

Ampelos Pinot Noir

Biodynamic Wine



Peter and Rebecca Work left corporate careers to establish Ampelos Cellars in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA of Santa Barbara County. The 82-acre winery focuses on Pinot Noir as well as Rhone varietals and is named after the Greek word for *vine*. This wine has a wonderful youthfulness about it that develops into a voluptuous mouthfeel with fine tannins. The wine offers dark cherry, rich cola and butterscotch with well-worn leather and spice. There is a glimpse of earthy musk and more cherries cap off the nose.

WHITES

Tablas Creek Grenache Blanc

Biodynamic Wine



Tablas Creek is a pioneer of California's Rhone movement. Founded in 1989, it is the culmination of a friendship between two of the international wine community's leading families-- the Perrin family of Chateau de Beaucastel and the Haas family of Vineyard Brands. After a four-year search, the partners chose Paso Robles, California for its many similarities to the Southern Rhone valley. As the name suggests, Grenache Blanc is related to the more widely known Grenache Noir. Grenache Blanc originated in Spain, and still plays a role in the wines of Rioja and Navarre. From Spain, it spread to France, and has thrived in the vineyards of the Rhône valley and Châteauneuf-du-Pape. In Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the crisp acidity of Grenache Blanc is used to balance the honeyed richness of Roussanne. An intense nose of lemon curd, sweet green herbs, and crushed rock. On the palate, like a lemon meringue pie with the hint of graham cracker underlying the bright, luscious lemon. The

finish is lovely and long, with a little pithy tannin coming out at the end. Drink now and over the next few years. Pairs well with spice. We particularly enjoy this wine with Thai curry and seafood Paella!



iClivi ‘RBL’ Brut Nature

Ferdinando Zanusso founded I Clivi when he returned to Italy after thirty years and three different careers in Africa, including a stint in the United Nation’s World Food Program. His son Mario joined just after its inception and is involved in all aspects of the farm. Together they seek the fullest expression of their highly reputed terroir in Friuli’s esteemed Colli Orientali del Friuli and Collio growing districts. What distinguishes I Clivi from their peers are their devastatingly low yields, steep terrain, and old vines that range from sixty to eighty years of age. It is not surprising that their soils of calcareous clay, or ponca in local dialect, have been noted for their similarities to Burgundy’s Côte d’Or and organic farming goes without saying for vineyards of this caliber and rigor. 100% Ribolla Gialla. Bright straw color. Fresh and delicious apple and pear notes dominate the nose, complemented by floral undertones. Clean and lifted. Enjoy as an aperitif.



Devison Sauvignon Blanc

This new boutique winery based in Walla Walla is making waves in the Washington wine community. Their sold out Sauvignon Blanc is citrus-driven with defined notes of yellow grapefruit, lime sherbet and lemongrass. The palate is almost electric, showing flavors of orange oil, fresh thyme, and oyster shell. Weighty and brightly textured with precision and focus the finish lingers with Evergreen Vineyard’s trademark rock salt minerality. This wine is all about sun and seafood, but pairs well in cooler months with chicken piccata.

TIERS IV & V **REDS**



Reyneke Reserve Red

Biodynamic Wine

This is winemaking at its finest in Stellenbosch, South Africa. 100% Shiraz. A wonderfully perfumed nose with hints of blackcurrant, cherries, white pepper and thyme. The palate is intense, with layers of flavor. Spicy black cherries and pepper notes complement each other in this regard. Ultimately this wine is fresh, elegant and has loads of finesse, which compliments its complexity and depth. Reminiscent of the wines of the Northern Rhone. Pair with prime rib.



Fontanafredda Barolo Serralunga d'Alba

Since 1858, the Fontanafredda Estate & Winery has been instrumental to the growth and international awareness of Barolo, while championing sustainability and community engagement in the Langhe region of Piedmont. Under the lead of visionary entrepreneur, Oscar Farinetti, Fontanafredda has built a portfolio of wines that express the depth and diversity of the Langhe, produced from grapes that are farmed from organic and sustainably managed vineyards. Since the 2018 harvest, Fontanafredda is the largest certified organic winery in Piedmont. Aromas of woodland berry, rose, eucalyptus and forest floor are front and center. Elegant yet structured, the focused palate offers juicy cranberry, wild cherry and star anise accompanied by fine-grained tannins. Drink 2021–2027. 94 pts. WE



Mills Reef Gimblett Gravels Syrah

Mills Reef Winery was established in 1989 by the Preston family. The jewel in the Mills Reef crown is their 17-hectare (40-acre) vineyard in the GIMBLETT GRAVELS WINE GROWING DISTRICT. Through commitment and dedication to excellence, the Mills Reef brand has established itself as one of New Zealand's premium labels with a particular reputation for outstanding Bordeaux varietal reds and Syrah. This wine exhibits pristine Syrah character from the first whiffs of cracked peppercorns, herbs and berries. It's only medium to full bodied, yet finishes long, picking up hints of espresso as it fades.



Ritme Celler Plaer Priorat

70% Carinyena and 30% Garnatxa

Ritme Celler is located on the outskirts of La Vilella Alta, in an old farm that has been completely transformed into a winery and tasting room. The best thing about the winery is its location, facing the Montsant mountain range and the town of La Figuera, offering incredible views and tranquillity. It has a very attractive bouquet, the oak evident but in sync with the fruit. The palate has a satisfying, succulent entry with fine acidity, good weight with a clean precise finish of dark cherries and blood orange. It has a lovely creamy texture, great harmony with violet and lily notes with a slight minty end. Fresh, nice and light wine with a good persistent. This is a stunning Priorat wine.



Donatella Cinelli Colombini Brunello di Montalcino

At Donatella Cinelli Colombini all the vintners are women, as is the head winemaker, which is a unique situation in Italy and a beacon of progress for women in the wine business in general. Donatella herself was approached by the EU to research the use of native yeast strains in Montalcino. As a result of her work, these local yeasts are now used in the winemaking process at Donatella Cinelli Colombini and are available to use throughout Montalcino. Underbrush, fragrant blue-flower and wild berry aromas take center stage on this elegant wine. Mirroring the nose, the vibrant, graceful palate delivers crushed Marasca cherry, juicy cranberry, star anise and wild herb framed in firm acidity and taut polished tannins. It's well balanced, with a weightless intensity.



Tabarrini Colle alle Macchie Sagrantino

For four generations, the Tabarrini family has been nestled in the corner of Umbria outside of Montefalco. They have passionately tended their vineyards, yielding exceptional fruit for producing distinctive wines. Most Montefalco producers make a single dry Montefalco Sagrantino bottling (as well as a sweet passito) and blend the rest in their Montefalco Rossos. Given the difficulties of training the explosively vigorous vine and turning its fruit into a civilized wine—another producer curses it as a "bastard of a grape"—one pure Sagrantino per year is enough. Very few make single-vineyard crus. Tabarrini has taken the idea further than anyone by making three separate bottlings from distinct vineyards.

This Sagrantino is not for the fainthearted. A product of deep clay and a magnificent southern exposure, the wine is made from grapes of exceptional maturity. The Colle alle Macchie is a muscular and powerful red, more complex than his Sagrantino brothers.

There's a pleasing creaminess to the intense tannins of this harmonious, full-bodied red, offering crushed cassis and black raspberry fruit that shows accents of lavender and rosemary, with licorice, espresso and loamy earth notes. An iron fist in a velvet glove, this should unfurl beautifully with age. Best from 2020 through 2035. 175 cases made. 95 points, Wine Spectator.