

Mastroberardino Lacryma Christi Vesuvio 2019

Legend has it that God cried when he found a corner of heaven, above the gulf of Naples, stolen by Lucifer. Where his divine tears fell, the vines of Lacryma Christi were born.

This wine is steeped in cool history and lore. It has been produced since the Roman times but was popularized by the monks in the Middle Ages; they named it "Tears of Christ."

The Mastroberardino family are major role players in the revival of southern Italian wines, specifically from Campania. They grow only ancient varietals that are native to the region including one of my favorite grapes, Aglianico. The vineyards sit at the base of Mount Vesuvius, so naturally the soil is heavily mineral fortified from the ash. Those minerals present themselves beautifully, layered between the fruit and aromatics of this wine.

Lacryma Christi Vesuvio is 100% Piediroso, a grape known for its drinkability. Good body, softer tannins, bright acidity, and tons of fruit. A food lover's wine.

We chose this wine because it tells a great story both literally and figuratively. It has lots of great history, but is also just stellar juice. For me, getting to drink wines made from small production native grapes like these just highlights the versatility and almost unlimited experience potential that wine provides. NONE of us have even scratched the surface when talking about these little corners of the world and what they have to offer.

Chateau Haut Gleon Rouge 2016

Take a trip south to the Rhone Valley of France and then just keep on driving and you'll reach the coast of the Mediterranean and the wine region Languedoc-Roussillon. Chateau Haut Gleon is built on a medieval castle constructed in 1223 situated in the Paradise valley, which is considered by most to be the best growing area in the region.

I hate to take away from this wine by comparing it to a more famous wine, but I suppose if you're going to be compared to another wine, Chateauneuf-du-Pape is a pretty decent way to go. The Corbieres Rouge is composed of Syrah, Grenache, and Carignan, and is grown in the warm embrace of Southern France. By this, it's quite a natural comparison to Chateauneuf-du-Pape. This wine took us by surprise, with an intense flavor pallet of dark fruits and spiced qualities. It's got all of the earthy and iron-rich flavors associated with great wines of the region.

We chose this wine because it's delicious. CDP is the wine that got me hooked at the beginning of my wine journey and still holds a top spot in my wine hierarchy. That said, I would say this wine would win the Pepsi challenge against a good portion of the Chateauneuf-du Pape any of us have tasted recently. Primo juice.

Jean-Luc Colombo "Les Bartavelles" 2018

This is one of those wines that you know will be good just based on the people who made it. Jean-Luc and his wife Anne have both received the French Legion of Honor (France's highest civilian honor) for their lifelong contribution to France and its wine growing culture. They consult for winemakers all over the Rhone valley and grow fruit in the most renowned appellations in the area.

"Les Bartavelles" is a shining example of Chataneuf-du-Pape. This wine is from one of the best terroirs in the appellation, which is covered in galets (smooth river rocks) that help with drainage and heat retention. This wine is powerful and full-bodied with blue and black fruits. It's heavily layered with licorice herbaceousness and some gamey traits. Best enjoyed with stews, steaks, or game.

As I mentioned earlier, Chataneuf-du-Pape sits near the top of my personal wine hierarchy. We chose this wine because it's a great example of stellar wine. This is high quality Chataneuf-du-Pape, full flavored and memorable. We suggest putting this bottle to rest in a dark, cool place for 3 years, minimum. 5 years (up to 10+ ideally). It will serve as a good benchmark for upcoming CDP you will receive in our wine fam.

Château Petit Freylon Bordeaux Blanc 2019

The tiny village of Saint Genis du Bois, (less than 100 people) hosts this wonderful producer. Its 75-acre vineyard is comprised of mostly chalk and limestone soil, which gives this wonderful white wine a touch of intriguing earthiness. The Bordeaux region is world renowned for stellar red wines, with no argument from us. This SW area of Bordeaux also makes some deliciously simple dry white wines. And we're excited to bring this one to you.

Aromas of white peach, orange blossom, ginger, wet rock, and melon make way for the crisp lemon/lime dominant flavors. We love the ripe citrus taste, mixed with a touch of chalky dryness. Really, it's a perfect patio wine. Enjoy it cold with the sun illuminating your glass. Nothing but smiles on this one!