



# The Wine and Cheese Cask

407 Washington Street • Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

(617) 623-8656

## January 18, 2022 – February 14, 2022

### Go With the Snow

Winter is all about warm and delicious aromas and flavors emanating from the kitchen.

#### **Sangiovese-Sagrantino**

**2017 Montefalco Rosso**  
(Perticaia)

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

Other than the occasional Orvieto, the Perticaia winery produces our best-selling Umbrian wine. Their regular Rosso is a smooth, affordable blend, but by going up one step you get their more serious Montefalco Rosso. This is a blend of Sangiovese along with Sagrantino, one of the most dark and tannic grapes in Italy. This gives a jolt of structure, dark cherry fruit, and a spicy finish. Give this a try with a stuffed pork loin with escarole.



#### **Cabernet Franciscano**

**2019 Cabernet Franc Reserva (Garzón)**  
**Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90** case of twelve

Garzón is a gem of a winery in Uruguay growing unexpected

grapes just a few miles from the Southern Atlantic Ocean. We have previously featured their Tannat and Albariño, but this is the first time we have promoted their Bordeaux-like Cabernet Franc. This hearty red is packed with berry fruit and earthy, dry tannins. Try this with swordfish chimichurri.



#### **Tempranillo & Co.**

**2017 Rioja Crianza (Viña Real)**

**Sale Price \$13.99 – \$142.70** case of twelve

To our taste this is one of the best values in Rioja. Premium Tempranillo, Garnacha, and Mazuelo grapes are hand harvested at high elevation in the Rioja Alavesa district. Fermentation is in stainless steel, and the wine is aged 12 months in barrel and then 2 years in bottle before release. This is considerable time and expense for a Crianza level wine, and the results are admirable. The 2017 beautifully balances the oak, fruit, and structure of traditional Rioja. Have this with a winter bean stew with plenty of sweet, smoky piquillo peppers.



#### **Cabernet Franc**

**2020 Chinon 'Messanges Rouge' (Domaine de Pallus)**

**Sale Price \$16.99 – \$173.30** case of twelve

Since offering the 2018 vintage of this Cabernet Franc in our newsletter a year ago, this biodynamic Chinon has become a mainstay on our shelves. The 2020 is just as fresh and silky (if a bit juicier) than its predecessor. Aromas of wet stone and iron play an intriguing foil to its black cherry and pomegranate fruit. For anyone not yet initiated, this is an enviable introduction to Loire Valley Cabernet Franc. At an increasingly rare 12.5% alcohol, it's a red that never tires the palate and is this month's choice to have with roast chicken or seared duck breast.



#### **Hedgehog**

**2018 Xinomavro 'Hedgehog' (Alpha Estate)**

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

Amyndeon in northern Macedonia is the protected designation of origin for Alpha Estate's pure Xinomavro. Also protected is

the hedgehog, who nest in the area and give Alpha Estate's best vineyard its name. This is a top quality, authentically Greek red. The high elevation, cool and windy vineyard faces north and has a long growing season. This results in a sappy, deep red with a long,



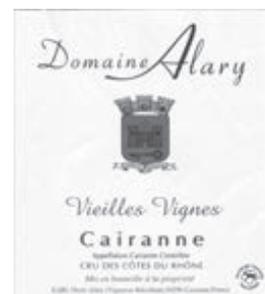
earthy, dry finish. A fine red to have with a roast leg of lamb.

#### **Old Vine Cairanne**

**2018 Cairanne 'Vieilles Vignes' (Domaine Alary)**

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

Our distributor offered us a last-minute deal on one of our favorite Rhône reds. The 2018 Cairanne 'V.V.' from Alary is a deep, powerful red that commands big, bold winter stews. A beef daube Provençal with olives and herbs would be an ideal match for this Grenache/Syrah blend.



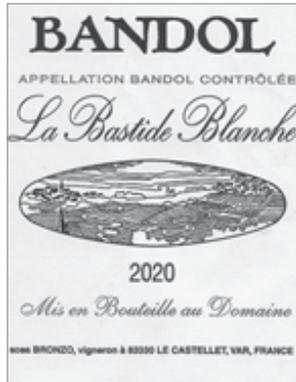
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## A Rosé in Winter

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### 2020 Bandol Rosé (La Bastide Blanche)

Sale Price \$24.99 – \$254.90 case of twelve



Rosé in winter? For an increasing number of customers, rosé is a four-season wine. So why not try it with a beefy, ageable Bandol rosé? La Bastide Blanche has always produced a sturdy yet elegant rosé. The Mourvèdre grape delivers enough tannic structure to keep it dry and focused. Try this 2020 with a seafood cassoulet

or a steaming cauldron of Bouillabaisse.

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## Winemakers and Beekeepers

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### 2020 Soave Classico (Balestri Valda)

Sale Price \$11.99 – \$122.30 case of twelve

This newly arrived Balestri Valda Soave comes from organic vineyards on volcanic soil in the heart of the Classico zone. The Rizzotto family are also beekeepers, attempting to maintain biodiversity on their land. Their Soave is a delicious minerally and dry white that is perfect for a simple fish dish or a seafood risotto.



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## The Value Lifer

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### 2020 Dürkheimer Nonnengarten Riesling Kabinett (Darting)

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

Liters of German Riesling and Austrian Grüner are steady sellers. A little extra wine helps with the cooking and then stays on the table deeper into the meal. Darting's 2020 Kabinett is not sweet, but has crunchy orchard fruit and balancing crisp acidity. A very nice match with

multiple dumplings and stir-fried bok choy.



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## Scheurebe

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### 2019 Haardt Scheurebe (Müller-Catoir)

Sale Price \$29.99 – \$305.90 case of twelve

Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc lovers, take note: Scheurebe is an intriguing, aromatic white grape you should know. The result of an early-20th century experimental cross between Riesling and a wild vine, its popularity never took off and plantings are now in steady decline, perhaps due to its reputation for producing fruity, uncomplicated wines.



Fortunately, Scheurebe has enjoyed new interest thanks to a few German producers exploring its potential for dry wines. With this organic wine,

considered one of the best examples in the world, Müller-Catoir proves that Scheurebe can compete with Riesling in expressiveness, complexity, and charm. Thrilling aromas of citrus and ripe peach give way to a lengthy, dry finish of honey and sage, tied together with perfect grapefruit pith bitterness and a dash of salinity. It's so refreshing you'll wonder where the wine in your glass went, and it will make a great foil for spicy Szechuan shrimp.

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## Winter White

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### 2020 Costières de Nîmes Blanc 'Cuvée Tradition' (Mas des Bressades)

Sale Price \$12.99 – \$132.50 case of twelve

Wintertime is when we like our white wines with a bit more body and weight. A delicious example is this succulent blend from Costières de Nîmes, the southernmost outpost of the Rhône wine region. In lieu of oak to increase texture, this blend of Roussanne, Grenache Blanc, Marsanne, and Viognier received a brief period of skin contact. It's a wine that is pleasurable on its own, thanks to its fragrant white peach flavors buttressed by an undercurrent of lemony pith. But it's also great with a cheesy baked potato as well as with any kind of seafood, from a citrusy ceviche to a broiled bluefish.



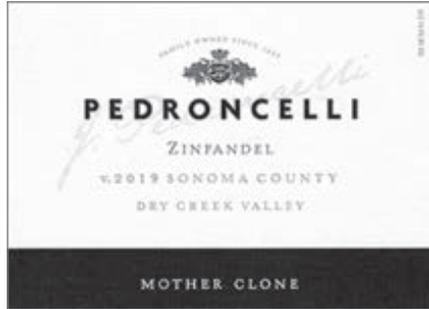
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## Mother Clone

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**2019 Dry Creek Zinfandel 'Mother Clone' (Pedroncelli)**  
Sale Price \$15.99 – \$163.10 case of twelve

The Pedroncelli family makes some of the best value wines in Sonoma County.



For us it begins with their Mother Clone Zinfandel from Dry Creek Valley. The 2019 is a big but balanced Zinfandel with luscious black-berry fruit and signature cracked

black pepper spice. Fabulous with a red bean chili but also great with sweet and smoky BBQ.

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## Old Man Ribera

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**2018 Ribera del Duero Crianza (Pesquera)**  
Sale Price \$34.99 – \$356.90 case of twelve

We lost touch with Pesquera for a few years when they changed importers. This venerable old house produces some of Ribera del Duero's best wines that drink well



upon release. The 2018 is a smooth and saturated Tempranillo that clearly benefitted from its 18 months aging in toasty oak. The plummy fruit is balanced by an elegant, smooth finish. Great with a rack of lamb along with rosemary roasted potatoes.

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## Specialty Foods

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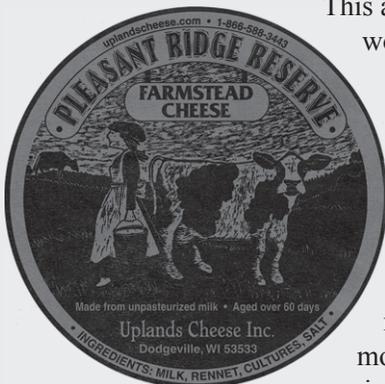
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### Uplands Cheese Company — [uplandscheese.com](http://uplandscheese.com)

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#### **Pleasant Ridge Reserve \$31.99 per lb**

The flagship cheese from Uplands Cheese Company in Wisconsin, **Pleasant Ridge Reserve** holds the distinction of being the most awarded cheese in American history.



This alpine-style cheese has won the American Cheese Society's Best of Show three times, the only cheese with that honor. In keeping with the tradition of the alpine cheeses after which it is modeled, it is only made in the summer months while the herd is grazing on pastures. The flavor

is incredibly balanced—fruity, nutty, and grassy nuances are all tied together by umami richness—and it carries a long, lingering finish.

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### Adopt An Alp — [adopt-an-alp.com](http://adopt-an-alp.com)

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#### **Lai Alpage \$31.99 per lb**

#### **Ruosalp Alpkäse \$29.99 per lb**

#### **Gantrischli Vacherin Fribourgeois DOP \$34.99 per lb**

#### **Alpe Marais Raclette \$24.99 per lb**

This year we are very excited to take part in the Adopt an Alp program. Created by Caroline Hostettler, this program connects American cheese shops with small scale family-owned and co-operative cheesemakers in Switzerland. These cheeses are reserved in the summer and delivered in the winter to help these small producers plan their production and maintain the grazing and cheesemaking traditions that have endured for centuries. Make sure to check out the AaA website for information, photos, and videos of this wonderful community. Inventory is limited so try them while you can!

## The Wine and Cheese Cask

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## Wines of the Month — January 18, 2022 through February 14, 2022

### 2020 Ribolla Gialla 'Ca' Stele' (Anselmi)

Sale Price \$8.99 – \$97.09 case of twelve

Ribolla Gialla is an old white grape grown along the border of Italy and Slovenia. This yellow skinned grape is crisp, nutty, and minerally. This fresh 2020 is perfect for a seared salmon alongside roasted Brussels sprouts.

### 2019 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo (Gran Sasso)

Sale Price \$8.99 – \$97.09 case of twelve

Gran Sasso is back. The 2019 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo is a tannic bruiser that blossoms when served with hot, spicy foods. Have this with curry, gumbo, and spicy sausages.

### 2020 Nero d'Avola (La Calla)

Sale Price \$9.99 — \$107.89 case of twelve

La Calla's 2020 Nero d'Avola is a plummy, ripe red with a hint of dark chocolate. Great for red sauced pasta and artichokes.

### 2020 Minervois (Le Bio Balthazar)

Sale Price \$9.99 – \$107.89 case of twelve

This organic red blend of Syrah and Grenache is earthy, dry, and peppery. This is a fine everyday wine for burgers and pizza.

