



The Wine and Cheese Cask

407 Washington Street • Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

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June 20, 2022 – July 14, 2022

Summer of Loire

This month we have not one, not two, but three Muscadets. We also have a classic Sancerre, a flinty dry Vouvray, and a lovely rosé from the western Atlantic edge of the Loire.

L'Olivier

2020 Muscadet Sèvre et Maine (Domaine de l'Olivier)

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



Completely banished from Burgundy, the Muscadet grape previously known as Melon de Bourgogne is now officially called Melon B (the B stands for Blanc). Even with this *très français* bureaucratic bungling, Muscadet is still a great bargain.

This month we have two wines from one branch of the Ollivier family (not to be confused with Marc Ollivier of Domaine de la Pépière, who has retired, though the wines remain excellent when we can get them). This other Ollivier clan has been in the Melon B business for over 400 years. Their entry level wine is crisp and mineral. A fine white for a shore dinner.

J. Mourat

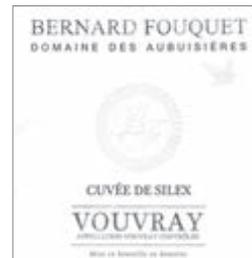
2021 Val de Loire Rosé (J. Mourat)

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

At the western edge of the viticultural Loire is the appellation of Fiefs Vendéens. Here the Mourats use a variety of grapes to make flavorful and affordable rosés. This bottle is a blend of Pinot Noir, Cabernet Franc, and Négrette. It charms with a fresh strawberry nose and peppery spice.



Chenin in Silex



2020 Vouvray 'Cuvée de Silex' (Domaine des Aubuisières/Bernard Fouquet)

Sale Price \$21.99 – \$224.30 case of twelve

All Vouvray lovers would like to have a cellar of Huet, but Bernard Fouquet makes wine that we want to crack

open when young. His 2020 Silex is a flinty beauty with bracing dryness. For Chenin Blanc fans, this wine is not to be missed. A wonderful match with salmon.

Sancerre

2020 Sancerre (Domaine Jean-Paul et Jean-Luc Millet)

Sale Price \$19.99 - \$203.90 case of twelve

As we implied last month, the days of \$20 Sancerre are over. That is unless you buy a pallet of 50 cases from a producer offering an introductory price because they're new to Massachusetts.

Then, shrink your margins to get to the price that Sancerre used to be years ago. Back in March, we tasted a sample of this Sauvignon Blanc from the excellent 2020 vintage. We found it fresh and juicy with seamlessly integrated minerality. Even though the wine was still in France, we were willing to wait for its arrival. Well, it's finally here, just in time for summer cookouts. We have no doubt that this small family-run domaine will continue to provide well-crafted wines. Their Sancerre is perfect for summer salads dolloped with crumbled chèvre and grilled vegetable kebabs.



Landron Hears a Houx

2019 Muscadet Sèvre et Maine 'Les Houx' (Domaines Landron)

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

Jo Landron has once again delivered a lovely single vineyard Les Houx. This organic and biodynamic 2019 is a textured and deep dry white that will be perfect for scallops.

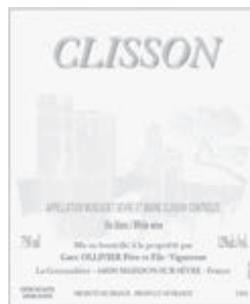


Clisson

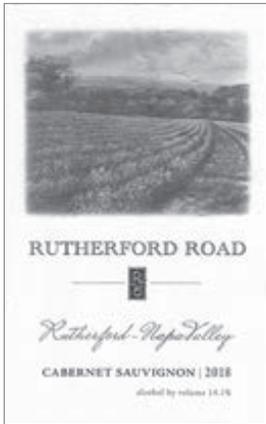
2015 Muscadet Sèvre et Maine Clisson (Vignobles Ollivier Frères)

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

The latest development in Muscadet is the Cru Communaux designation. This allows growers within the great sites to age their wines longer, achieving an intensity and richness not previously found in Muscadet. The Clisson Cru is a site that rests on granite bedrock, giving a stony yet full flavor. The 2015 from Ollivier is a delicious, mouth filling, mature dry white that is perfect for grilled swordfish and a lemon saffron aioli.



Napa Cab



2018 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford Road)
Sale Price \$24.99 – \$254.90 case of twelve

The Rutherford district of Napa Valley practically gave birth to the California Cabernet industry. Here is where Beaulieu Vineyard began in 1900. So we were pleased to find this delicious and affordable Cab from Rutherford Road. The 2018 has the telltale mint and eucalyptus aromas of Napa Cabernet, along with flavors of blackberry and a finish of

dusty, dry tannins. A great bottle for a grilled ribeye.

Dora, Dora, Dora, Thank You Dora

2020 Rosso di Montepulciano (Sanguinetto I e II)
Sale Price \$27.99 – \$285.50 case of twelve

This favorite Tuscan red is almost completely made by Dora Forsoni. Dora does almost all of the vineyard work herself and she shoots the wild boars that threaten the grapes. Dora is also in her seventies. When we inquired last January what the delay was with the 2020, we were told that Dora wasn't ready to bottle the wine.

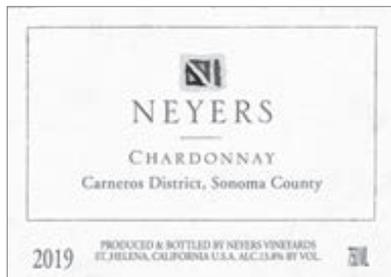
Finally, it has arrived and it's a delicious vintage. The fruit is ample, ripe, and round. It's less tannic and lower in acidity than in previous years. We knew all along that there was going to be a price increase, but Dora's work at this truly artisanal estate is worth it.



Carneros Sonoma

2019 Carneros Chardonnay (Neyers)
Sale Price \$29.99 – \$305.90 case of twelve

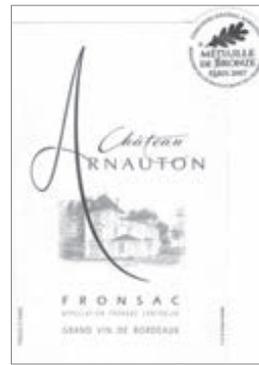
In the early days of California Chardonnay the goal seemed to be to make the oakiest, heaviest wine possible. Producers



bragged about how much they paid for their new French oak barrels and added that to the price. Today's Chardonnays tend to be better balanced, but the best of them still have a good dose of oak and a cornucopia of ripe

fruit. This is what we liked about Neyers' 2019 Carneros Chardonnay. It's a barrel-fermented, full-bodied white with lovely peach and apricot fruit. Have this with crab cakes and corn on the cob.

The Last, Last Chance for 2015 Arnauton



2015 Fronsac (Château Arnauton)
Sale Price \$19.99 – \$203.90 case of twelve

We should know better than to say that a certain vintage of a popular Bordeaux is completely sold out. We have been to Bordeaux and have seen the warehouses stuffed with wine. So here it is (we think): the last drop of the 2015 Fronsac from Château Arnauton.

Brol Grande

2019 Bardolino Classico 'Brol Grande' (Le Fraghe)
Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve

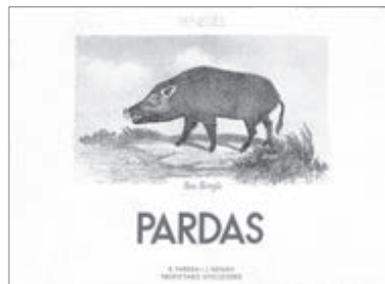
We adore the Bardolinos from Le Fraghe. The basic red is pure charm, all fruit and flowers. The Brol Grande is serious. This has grip and structure, deeper fruit, and a smoky complexity. The 2019 is a superb version. Give it a slight chill and serve with salmon and peas.



Penedès

2021 Penedès 'Sus Scrofa' (Pardas)
Sale Price \$19.99 – \$203.90 case of twelve

If you're looking for a light, chillable red on the cusp of summer, this Catalan red has arrived just in time. Celler Pardas'

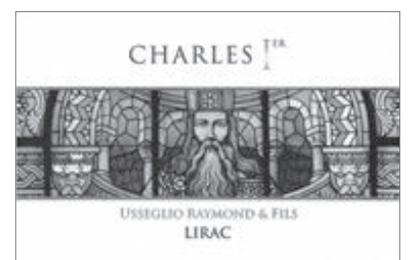


Sus Scrofa is an organically grown red (from the not widely planted Sumoll grape variety) that is a scant 11 degrees alcohol. This is woody and rustic with charming strawberry fruit. Serve chilled with asparagus and favas.

King of Lirac

2019 Lirac 'Charles I' (Usseglio)
Sale Price \$24.99 – \$254.90 case of twelve

When Châteauneuf-du-Pape became pricey we recommended Gigondas as an alternative. Now that Gigondas has soared in price we recommend Lirac. Usseglio's 2019 Charles I is a big and beefy red that makes us crave grilled meats. This old vine blend of Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre is a classic old school Rhône.



Muga Rosado

2021 Rioja Rosado (Muga)
Sale Price \$15.99 – \$163.10 case of twelve

Muga continues to refine their excellent Rioja Rosado. This blend of Garnacha and Viura is serious, structured, and racy. The gentle strawberry and wet stone aromas and the long, dry finish make it a terrific match for ceviche.



Zorzal

2021 Navarra Rosado (Viña Zorzal)
Sale Price \$10.99 – \$112.10 case of twelve

Zorzal's Rosado recently graced the pages of the New York Times food section. Among ten rosés it was the cheapest, and our price is lower than the price they quoted. That said, it's an obvious great bargain. Dark for a rosé, it has a full palate of ripe fruit flavor and a dry, lively finish. Perfect for paella.



Cistercien

2021 Cistercien Rosé (Gobelsburg)
Sale Price \$16.99 – \$173.30 case of twelve

The Cistercien Rosé from Austria's 850-year-old Gobelsburg estate is back in fine form. The blend of Zweigelt, St. Laurent, and Pinot Noir

brings charming floral and white peach aromas, while the palate is zesty and bone dry. Delightful with crostini topped with butter-sautéed French breakfast radishes, chèvre, and arugula.

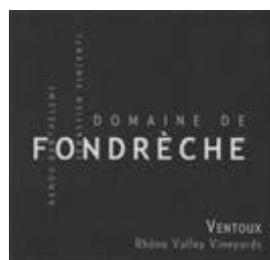
Bandol

2021 Bandol Rosé (Dupuy de Lôme)
Sale Price \$22.99 – \$234.50 case of twelve

The 2021 Dupuy de Lôme Bandol Rosé is a peachy and peppery delight. Great served with a grilled whole sea bass stuffed with fennel.



Ventoux



2021 Ventoux Rosé (Domaine de Fondreche)

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

Fondreche's Ventoux is a fresh, snappy rosé with aromas of fine herbs and cherry fruit. This will make a fine pairing with a garlic-laced scampi.

Very Basque

2021 Getariako Txakolina Rosé (Txomin Etxaniz)
Sale Price \$19.99 – \$203.90 case of twelve

Summer always brings requests for the lively whites and rosés of Getariako Txakolina in Spain's Basque region. Made in the classic style with a little spritz, Txomin Etxaniz' flavorful dry rosé tastes of strawberries and salted watermelon. Don't miss pairing this with the recommended *pintxo*, The Gilda, in the Specialty Foods section. You'll feel like you're at a bar in San Sebastián.



Specialty Foods

Basque in the Gilda

Bahía de La Concha Anchovies in Olive Oil \$16.99

Aintzia Piparras \$7.99

Losada Pitted Gordal Olive \$9.99

Cheese sales naturally dip in the summer, which is just as well for us because this is the season we gravitate towards salty, briny snacks. The less prep required in the kitchen, the better. While recently looking through Chris McDade's beautiful book *The Magic of Tinned Fish*, we stumbled upon The Gilda, a simple but inspiring *pintxo* from San Sebastián in Spain's Basque Country which we immediately had to replicate.



Pintxos are bite-sized snacks typically served on a skewer (think tapas on a toothpick), and have become a whole culture in certain regions of Spain. Pairing *pintxos* with plentiful drinks and good company is essential. This version, named after Rita Hayworth's character in the 1946 film of the same

name, features an anchovy skewered with a green olive and a *piparra*, a mild pickled pepper and a Basque specialty. (You can also make Steve's favorite variation by including *boquerones*—white anchovies in vinegar—in addition to the standard anchovy in olive oil.)

While you could enjoy with vermouth, beer, or cider, we highly recommend pairing with the delightful Basque rosé from Txomin Etxaniz featured here.

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Wines of the Month — June 20, 2022 through July 14, 2022

2020 Pays d'Hérault Blanc (Moulin de Gassac)

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

We keep going back to the great values from Moulin de Gassac. The 2020 white is a full-flavored blend of Vermentino, Grenache Blanc, and Terret. Great for spicy noodles.

2020 Dão (Broadbent)

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

Encruzado, Malvasia Fina, Bical, and Gouveio make up the blend for this aromatic Portuguese white. An excellent match with a seafood stew with garlicky squid.

2020 Vinho Verde (Muralhas de Monção)

Sale Price \$7.99 – \$86.29 case of twelve

Portuguese wines continue to be value leaders and this Vinho Verde is fantastic. The 2020 Alvarinho e Trajadura blend from Muralhas has a light spritz, but behind it is a seriously flavorful and flinty dry white. Lovely with clams.

2019 Douro (Broadbent)

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

Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barroca, Touriga Nacional, and Touriga Franca comprise the blend of this bright, plummy red from northern Portugal. Have this with burgers and sausages off the grill.

