



The Wine and Cheese Cask

407 Washington Street • Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

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December 16, 2024 – January 14, 2025

Wines of the Year

Historique D'Arsac

2018 Margaux Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel (Château D'Arsac)
Regular Price \$39.99 – Sale Price \$31.99 NET

Château d'Arsac is a thousand-year-old property devoted to art and wine. Their 2018 is a terrific bottle of Margaux. This Cabernet Sauvignon-heavy ode to the Médoc of old is wonderfully aromatic with a deep, earthy finish.



Cornas

2022 Cornas 'Granit 30' (Domaine Vincent Paris)
Regular Price \$44.99 – Sale Price \$35.99 NET



It's been a while since we last featured a Syrah from the Northern Rhône, much less a Cornas, mostly due to the cost of the wines. However, we can finally offer one that also happens to overperform for its price. This 2022 is a succulent, complex red that showcases some hallmarks of Cornas: a barely perceptible meaty funk underneath aromas of violet, black olive, and crushed stone. Blackberries, herbs, and licorice abound. Lush and vibrant, it's ready straight out of the bottle (but even better with an hour decant) and can easily be cellared for the next ten to fifteen years, allowing smoke and leather to emerge.

Chavignol en Sancerre

2023 Sancerre 'Les Monts Damnés' (Thomas-Labaille)
Regular Price \$37.99 – Sale Price \$29.99 NET

Always a favorite Sancerre, the 2023 MD from Thomas-Labaille achieves another level of richness. This Sauvignon Blanc reminds us of Burgundy with its extra weight and big finish.

Premier Cru Champagne

Extra Brut Premier Cru Champagne 'Enfant de la Montagne' (Bertrand-Delespierre)
Regular Price \$46.99 – Sale Price \$39.99 NET

The switch has been flipped: small grower Champagne is now better value than the big houses. Bertrand-Delespierre's Extra Brut is a deep and dry Champagne produced mostly from the 2019 vintage along with older reserve wines. This is toasty, super dry (yet rich), and delicious.



Vouvray

2018 Vouvray 'Silex Noir' (François et Julien Pinon)
Regular Price \$29.99 – Sale Price \$23.99 NET

The 2018 Silex Noir is back. This just might be our favorite Chenin Blanc of the year. The chalky aromas and modestly sweet fruit are an amazing amalgamation. The finish is stellar. Great for roasted cod.

Porto 10 Year

10 Year White Porto (Quinta de Santa Eufemia)
Regular Price \$24.99 per 500ml – Sale Price \$19.99 NET

The Carvalho family's white port, aged a minimum of ten years in cask, is a delicious concoction of honey, flowers, golden raisins, and candied nuts. Slightly chilled, it's charming on its own but also perfect with fruit tarts, walnuts, and hard alpine cheeses. A little goes a long way and remarkably, the price has not changed on this port since we first encountered it five years ago.



Brunello

2019 Brunello di Montalcino 'Pelagrilli' (Siro Pacenti)
Regular Price \$64.99 – Sale Price \$51.99 NET

High scores and a recent high placement on Wine Spectator's Top 100 list mean the 2019 Pelagrilli quickly sold out at the distributor, so we're glad we had the foresight to buy a bunch as soon as it landed last fall. This is a powerful, dense Brunello that will go the distance, yet is already showing some charm.

Napa Cab

2021 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (Auctioneer)
Regular Price \$29.99 – Sale Price \$23.99 NET
The 2021 Auctioneer Cabernet takes a step back to the more restrained Napa Valley Cabernets of the 70s. It is open and elegant with dark fruits, herbs, olives, and mellow, ripe tannins. A fine match with a tenderloin.



Essencia

2009 Tokaji Essencia (Royal Tokaji Wine Company)
Regular Price \$1000.00 per 375ml – Sale Price \$750.00 NET
If ever a wine truly deserved the name legendary, it is Tokaji Essencia, made only in exceptional years from the purest juice that flows from barely pressed Tokaji aszú grapes. The 2009 vintage produced 1,386 half bottles. It comes in a beautiful presentation box with a crystal spoon. Monarchs kept this wine at their bedside believing it could revive them if needed. Sorry, only one bottle per customer.

Wolves Above

Willamette Valley Blueberry Wine (Wolves Above)

Sale Price \$34.99 – \$356.90 case of twelve



Over the years we've tasted a number of wines made from blueberries and other fruits and this is undoubtedly the best one we've had. It's no surprise considering the winemaking talent behind it, namely Kelley Fox of Kelley Fox Wines and Jim Anderson of Patricia Green Cellars. They applied the same principled winemaking techniques that they use on their single-vineyard Pinot Noirs. The blueberries

are hand harvested from 35-year-old bushes and the wine is aged for eight months in French oak Burgundy barrels. As soon as you open the bottle, you'll be hit with intense aromas of freshly crushed blueberries. The wine is dry and similar to Willamette Valley Pinot Noirs in weight and texture. There's a surprising amount of structure in this wine as well as acidity, which has us tempted to stash a few bottles to see how it will age. At a lithe 11% alcohol, this wine can be enjoyed throughout a dinner, from starters to the cheese course. During the chilly nights of winter, it'll also provide, as Kelley Fox says, "some Oregon summer for you in a glass."

* The Fizz *

Cava Brut (Segura Viudas)

Sale Price \$9.99 – \$107.90

case of twelve

Segura Viudas's Brut is an amazing value. It's great for making mimosas or for toasting at a large gathering.



Prosecco Brut (Sommariva)

Sale Price \$17.99 – \$194.30 case of

twelve

Sommariva has become our favorite Prosecco. It is crisp and pure with gentle bubbles and a truly dry finish.

Anderson Valley Sparkling Wine (Roederer Estate)

Sale Price \$29.99 – \$323.90 case of twelve



We have kept the Roederer Estate on sale. This delicious Northern California sparkler is our best Champagne substitute.

Trousseau

2020 Arbois Trousseau (Rolet)

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

We couldn't resist dipping into the Domaine Rolet closeout well one last time. Observant readers will recognize this organic domaine, as we featured their Chardonnay and Poulsard in recent months. Thanks to a change of distributors, we were able to grab the last of its former distributor's inventory at a cut-rate price. This is truly the last chance to enjoy Rolet's Trousseau (or any Trousseau for that matter) at this low of a price. Their 2020 is a strawberry-scented light red that evokes mushrooms and cool, damp forests. Its pleasantly bitter finish makes it a perfect foil for all manner of cheeses and charcuterie as well as seared salmon on a bed of watercress.

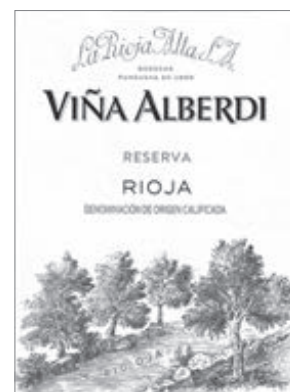


Alberdi

2019 Rioja Reserva 'Viña Alberdi' (La Rioja Alta)

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

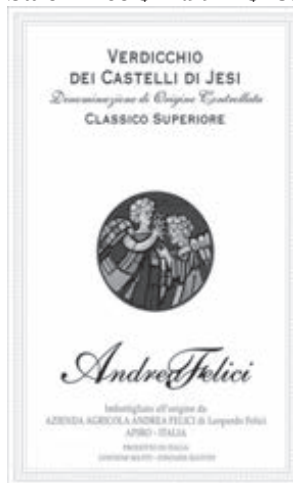
Vintage after vintage Viña Alberdi is one of Rioja's best values. This pure Tempranillo spends two years in barrel and emerges with bold fruit fused to an oaky frame. The 2019 is full bodied and will pair well with a roast leg of lamb studded with garlic and olives.



Felici

2023 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi (Andrea Felici)

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



Before committing to the family business, Leopardo Felici worked in some of Europe's finest restaurants and fell in love with Chablis and white Burgundy. When he returned to Le Marche he converted the vineyards to organics and set out to make great Verdicchio. By several measures he has succeeded. He was named winemaker of the year in 2020 by Gambero Rosso and regularly gets Tre Bicchieri, their highest rating. This wine, their flagship, is an incredible value. The

2023 is laser focused, crisp, and dry with floral aromas and a long, minerally finish. A great bottle for a roasted branzino or a simple scampi.

Le Temps

2020 Côtes du Rhône 'Le Temps est Venu' (Stephane Ogier)

Sale Price \$17.99 –

\$183.50 case of twelve

Stephane Ogier is a 7th generation Côte-Rôtie producer, so he knows his way around the Syrah grape. He has also ventured outside the roasted slope to produce an excellent Côtes du Rhône. Le Temps est Venu is a 60/40 blend of Grenache and Syrah. The 2020 is full bodied with a leathery texture and flavors of olives, herbs, and black cherries. A great match with a rib roast and a potato gratin.



Montenidoli

2022 Vernaccia di San Gimignano 'Tradizionale' (Montenidoli)

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

Last we saw Elisabetta Fagioli, she was conducting a tasting at the Union Square wine bar Rebel Rebel. But then, she's always been a rebel. She arrived in San Gimignano as an outsider and has become one of Tuscany's finest producers. All of her vines are grown organically and her Vernaccias have superb concentration and

long, elegant flavors. The Tradizionale is macerated on the skins giving it weight and texture. The 2022 has a lovely nose of fresh herbs and almond oil. Great with broiled swordfish and all manner of shellfish.

Gamay on Granite

2022 Côte Roannaise 'Eclat de Granite' (Serol)

Sale Price \$19.99 –

\$203.90 case of twelve

While the Côte Roannaise is officially part of the Loire Valley, its wines and geology are more closely related to the Beaujolais region. The Serols grow the Gamay St. Romain on granitic soils and the result is a lively and minerally red that is perfect for hearty bistro fare. This 2022 is a charmer. Bright raspberry fruit, juicy acidity, and its dry mineral finish make it perfect for a roast chicken and a *salade frisée*.



 **Happy Holidays &**
A Wonderful New Year 

Specialty Foods

Great Gifts for Good People

We've all had those moments when the necessity of extending a small token of appreciation finds you unprepared and, in a moment of panic, you present your favorite yoga instructor with an unhealthy cactus that has been on your windowsill for two years. (Not that we're referencing any personal experiences.) Fortunately, we have a great selection of gifts this season that sit comfortably in the \$10 to \$25 range that are guaranteed to be consumed and enjoyed, without adding to people's piles of tchotchkes deemed slightly too sentimental to be immediately discarded. There's no wrapping required either; all these items come in a handsome package or gift box!

Panettone is a seasonal cake imported from Italy with a moist, bready texture and dried fruits. Perfect with coffee or tea, and the leftovers make great French toast!

Dais — Sicily, Italy

- Classic Panettone (1kg) – \$18 each
- Sicilian Lemon Cream (750g) - \$18 each
- Chocolate Chip and Pistachio Cream (750g) - \$22 each

Loison – Vicenza, Italy

- Classic Panettone Mini (100g) - \$6 each

Need lots of little gifts? Get a 12 pack for \$48. That's only \$4 each!

Cuna de Piedra – Monterrey, Mexico

60g Bars - \$12 each



Rich and complex single-source chocolate bars from Mexico.

- 85% Dark
- 73% Ancient Spring Salt
- 73% Smoked Heirloom Chile
- 73% Hibiscus Flowers
- 73% Mezcal Reposado

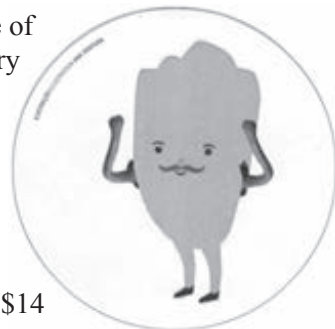
Limited edition cacao bitters for cocktails, mocktails, or baking.

- Cacao (120ml) - \$22 each
- Cacao with Smoked Heirloom Chile (120ml) - \$22 each

Jose Gourmet – Portugal

We have long offered a wide range of Jose Gourmet tinned fish and savory patés. As it happens, though, they also make fabulous jams and fruit spreads that fit right in with their whimsical design sensibilities.

- Red Pepper Jelly (250g) - \$14 each
- Carrot and Orange Jam (250g) - \$14 each
- Mixed Red Berries (250g) - \$14 each



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Wines of the Month – December 16, 2024 through January 14, 2025

2023 Pinot Grigio (Gorgo)

Sale Price \$11.99 – \$129.49 case of twelve

Our old friend Gorgo Pinot Grigio is back in time for the holidays. Made with organic grapes, this has a purity of fruit and a nicely weighted palate. Great for a variety of antipasti.

2023 Côtes du Rhône Blanc (Famille Perrin)

Sale Price \$11.99 – \$129.49 case of twelve

The Perrins of Beaucastel fame also make great values under their family label. The 2023 white is a lovely blend of Grenache Blanc, Marsanne, Roussanne, and Viognier. Great with salmon.

2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Los Vascos)

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

Los Vascos' Cabernet is smooth and balanced between fruit and tannin. It is also made from organic grapes. Fine with a filet.

2021 Dão Tinto (Freire Lobo)

Sale Price \$11.99 – \$129.49 case of twelve

This honest and earthy Portuguese red is a blend of Touriga Nacional, Alfrocheiro, Jaen, and Tinta Roriz. It has rich fruit and an earthy, dry finish. A versatile red for rice and beans and a fish stew.

