



Manchester Wine & Liquors

Wine Club Newsletter

APRIL 2005

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NEW GERMAN RELEASES

With the release of the 2003 vintage from Germany late last fall, it marks the third straight outstanding vintage in a row. With this trio of great vintages, interest in German wine has certainly gained momentum from where it was three years ago. Not only have the great vintages sparked interest, but the consumer is clearly losing their taste for over oaked Chardonnay. Riesling is one of the many benefactors of this trend.

Let's start with 2001, a classic vintage of rich wines, perfectly balanced, great complexity and ageability. This vintage received incredible press and is essentially sold out. 2002 was actually shaping up to be as good, if not better, but a rainy September complicated things. The top producers waited out the wet weather and made great wines. 2003 was the warmest vintage on record. The biggest danger was the wines would turn out soft and lacking structure. Younger vines did struggle in the intense heat, but older vines with deep root systems managed to withstand the heat and actually prosper. The best '03's are rich, powerful and loaded with fruit, while also possessing surprising acidity. Here are four wines from 2002 and 2003.

2003 Schonborn Estate Riesling - In the torrid vintage of 2003, basic Rieslings, in most cases, probably have the ripeness of Kabinett level. This makes them an excellent value, since they sell for \$3.00 to \$5.00 less than a Kabinett. Schonborn is an outstanding Rheingau estate, their QBA Riesling shows rich apricot and peach fruit on the palate, followed by a smokey, mineral finish.

\$12.99

2003 Biffar Deidesheimer Kieselberg Riesling Kabinett - Joseph Biffar transformed this estate from good to exceptional back in the '80's. By focusing on lowering yields and putting a priority on quality over quantity, Biffar has become a leader in the Pfalz. His '03 Deidesheimer Kabinett has a big, rich mouthfeel, showing spicy, exotic fruits, with great ripeness and clarity. An excellent choice for Thai or Oriental cuisine.

\$16.99

2002 Von Hovel Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett - This estate, which dates back 800 years, has been in the Von Hovel family for 200 years. They own about 7 1/2 acres in the famous Scharzhofberger Vineyard near the Saar River in the Mosel. This '02 Riesling shows crisp, racy flavors of green apples and peaches, followed by a long, mineral finish. A great choice to start off your evening. Pair it with fresh fruit or mild cheeses.

\$16.99

2002 Karlsruhle Kaseler Nies Chen Riesling Spatlese - Karlsruhle is one of the rising stars of the Ruwer Valley, the smallest region of the Mosel. Grapes from this area can struggle to ripen in difficult years, but Karlsruhle holdings are among the finest in the valley. This '02 Spatlese shows more weight and richness on the palate, not necessarily sweeter, but riper fruit. Flavors of white peaches and tangerine make this Spatlese a good choice for spicier cuisine.

\$22.99

2003 DUBOEUF CRU BEAUJOLAIS

One taste of a Duboeuf 2003 Cru Beaujolais will forever change your opinion of Beaujolais and what the Gamay varietal can achieve. Duboeuf states unequivocally that the 2003's are the finest the region has ever produced, they are certainly the best we've ever tasted. The yields in 2003 were down about 40% due to spring frost and the record heat during the growing season. It was the earliest harvest in Beaujolais since 1757. We have selected five of Duboeuf's 2003's to offer you this month. We must

stress that these wines are very limited, for the first time ever these wines were allocated. The following reviews are all from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate.

Beaujolais Villages - Coming from any combination of 39 different authorized villages in the Beaujolais region. Aromas of raspberries, violets and roses. Excellent depth structure and richness, drink over the next 3 years. **88** points.

\$6.99

Cote Du Brouilly - This small Cru has higher altitude vineyards than its larger, more well known neighbor, Brouilly. In 2003, it also out performed its neighbor, full of red and black cherry fruit that explodes from the glass. Drink over the next 5-6 years. **88-90** points.

\$12.99

Saint Amour - Engagingly fresh, elegant and graceful, the 2003 St. Amour is silky and soft textured showing black cherry and raspberry fruit. This stylish Cru Beaujolais is perfect for drinking over the next 3-4 years. **89-90** points

\$12.99

Fleurie "La Madone" - The village of Fleurie is usually grouped with Moulin-A-Vent as the finest of the ten Grand Cru villages in the Beaujolais. This wine is very Pinot Noir like in style, showing sweet, ripe, plum and cherry fruit. It is one of the few Crus to see some new oak, about 15%. Drink over the next 5-6 years **88-90** points.

\$14.99

Moulin-A-Vent "Carquelin" - The biggest, richest of the bunch, "Carquelin" shows black fruits, licorice and spice on the palate. As expected, it is one of the more structured offerings. This wine could actually use a few years and will last up to ten years. **91-93** points.

\$18.99

MONTHLY SPECIALS

2001 Val Viadero Tinto - Many will agree that the Toro wine region is Spain's newest viticultural heaven. Elevated to D.O. status only less than 15 years ago, its very warm and dry climate has attracted a trove of Spain's most renowned Eonologists. This northwestern part of the Castilla - Leon is formed by many small villages, including the village of Toro around the provinces of Zamora and Valladolid. Val Viadero is made with the indigenous red grape called Tinta de Toro known only to the region. This early ripening grape is aged in oak five months for added complexity and roundness. It offers an intense deep garnet color. A smokey black fruit aroma

with hints of vanilla and licorice. The medium to full-bodied flavors display blackcherry and sweet plum, good structure, soft spicy tannins and an opulent finish. Enjoy over the next 3-5 years. Pairs nicely with lamb, black beans with chourico and aged cheeses. *Regular price 12.99/btl. This month, get 15% off by the bottle, **\$11.04** and 25% off by the case, **\$9.74** or **\$116.88** by the case net.*

2003 Planeta La Segreta - In Italy's most southern wine region, the Island of Sicily is noted for its robust wine production and near perfect Mediterranean climate. With very little rainfall, plenty of sunshine and high summer time temperatures, make conditions ideal for Sicily's viticulture. Planeta Rosso is a supple blend that displays a pure expression of the local Nero D'Avola grape and is combined with the international varieties Merlot and Syrah. Spicy red fruit scented, possessing medium to full-bodied flavors, soft texture with bright red and blackberry fruits. A focused mid-palate with a wonderful balance of spice, elegant richness, smooth tannins and a level of complexity to go along with the sweet cherry finish. Try this delicious Sicilian Rosso with pork roast, grilled seafoods, red sauced pasta and barbecued meats. *Regular price \$15.99/btl. This month, get 15% off by the bottle, **\$13.59** and 25% off by the case, **\$11.99** or **\$143.88** by the case net.*

2003 Marco Felluga Pinot Grigio - In the hands of a quality producer, this varietal can be outstanding. Marco Felluga is one of the most respected producers of white wines in all of Italy. He calls the Collio, a subzone of Friuli, his home. This hilly, northeastern section of Italy is arguably the finest white wine producing area in Italy. Although 2003 was a difficult vintage for whites because of the excessive heat, this area of Italy had the cooling influence of the Alps to ensure adequate acidity in the vines. Felluga's 2003 Pinot Grigio shows rich, lemony fruit, with nutty tones on the palate and a long, smokey finish. This is Pinot Grigio how it was intended to be. Enjoy the full-textured white with sea bass, veal or halibut. *Regular price \$14.99. This month, get 15% off by the bottle, **\$12.74** or 25% off by the case **\$11.24** or **\$134.88** by the case net.*

2002 Ch. D'oupiia Minervois "Cuvee Les Barons" - Andre Iche, proprietor at Ch. D'oupiia is one of our favorite producers from anywhere. We have featured his Vin De Pays "Les Heretiques", as well as his Minervois, both were received very well. After tasting his premium Cuvee "Les Barons", we knew that this had to be a feature too. This bottling comes from his oldest vines on the estate, up to 80 years old. It is comprised of 60% Syrah and 40% Carignan and sees twenty months in Bordeaux-style barriques. The 2002 is black in color, extremely concentrated and rich on the palate, showing black fruits, vanilla, spices and peppery notes. "Les Barons" could easily be confused for a top

notch Chateaufeuf Du Pape selling at a third to a half of the price. Enjoy this large-scaled, powerful Minervois with grilled meats or game dishes. Drinkable now, it should keep nicely for 5-6 more years. *Regular price \$17.99. This month, get 15% off by the bottle, **\$15.29** and 25% off by the case, **\$13.49** or **\$143.88** by the case net.*

*** All Four Are Available For Tasting ***

MIXED CASES DO APPLY TOWARDS 25% SAVINGS

FIELD BLEND SAMPLER

This pack focuses on a category that is often overlooked and misunderstood. Field blends are produced by combining grapes typically selected from Zinandel, Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre, Gamay, Carignagne, Cinsault, Sangiovese, Malbec, Cabernet, Merlot, and etc. Skillfully blended, they can show to be some of California's best red wine values. What we have here are two very nice California offerings created from multiple years and appellations. Made mostly from declassified fruit left over from other blends. Both wines are distinct, easy drinking and pair well with food.

Marietta Old Vines Red Lot #36 - This winery has been making intensely flavored reds for over 25 years. Each batch of Old Vine Red produced usually falls short with the high demand, so this is the ideal time to buy as much as you would like. The fruit was sourced from Sonoma, Napa and Mendocino counties. Its medium to full-bodied flavors are made with the majority of Zinfandel, mixed with Petite Sirah, Carignane and Gamay. It offers a rich mouthfeel of ripe blackberry and raspberry fruits, having a long range of supple spice. The perfect year round house red. Price **\$12.99**.

Gundlach Bundschu Lot #11 Bearitage Claret - Composed of almost equal parts Cabernet, Merlot and Zinfandel, blended from the Sonoma and Lodi appellations. This full-bodied Claret style is made from separate barrels of estate fruit that didn't make the grade, but was too good to sell off. The 10 months average ageing in small oak barrels helped give it the complex supple flavor. Bearitage possesses sweet velvety layers of black cherry and cassis, rounded out by its nice spicy tannin and an opulent finish. A wine with style and structure. Price **\$13.99**.

Buy **One Bottle**
Of Each
For Only



Save \$7.00 or 26%

APRIL WINE TASTING
TREASURES OF CALIFORNIA'S
CENTRAL COAST

Reserve your seat for **Monday, April 11th at 6:30 p.m.** to taste through some of California's finest and exciting wine values. Grapes grown out of the south central coast appellation benefit greatly by its unique terroir and the many microclimates. This region produces a range of wine styles from fruit forward to the more balanced wines showing proper acidity with tones of earth and spice. *Jeff Feinberg, Founder of Citadel Wine Group*, will be on hand to explain in his view as to how this area has become such a major player in California's viticulture. This selection will focus specifically on the San Luis Obispo counties Arroyo Grande Valley and Paso Robles appellations along with Santa Barbara county. **Once again, reservations are required. Only Wine Club Members listed in our database are eligible to attend.**

Reserve your seat by calling 649-4750, no emails please.

The tasting list is as follows:

- 2003 Avila Pinot Noir ----- \$12.99
- 2003 Avila Syrah ----- \$12.99
- 2002 Barnwood Cabernet Sauvignon ----- \$15.99
- 2002 Peachy Canyon East Side Zinfandel ----- \$13.99
- 2002 Laetitia Pinot Noir ----- \$19.99
- 2003 Laetitia Chardonnay ----- \$17.99

APRIL OPEN HOUSE TASTING

Having tasted through the many delicious wines out of the Citadel portfolio, we decided to extend this sort of second team selection into the open house format. So, on **Saturday, April 16th from 1:00-5:00 p.m.** stop in and sample through more of these South Central Coast offerings.

Tasting list:

- 2003 Avila Chardonnay ----- \$12.99
- 2001 Avila Cote D' Avila Red ----- \$12.99
- 2002 Avila Merlot ----- \$12.99
- 2003 Avila Cabernet Sauvignon ----- \$12.99
- 2002 Peachy Canyon Incredible Zin ----- \$10.99

TEN FOR UNDER TEN (CONT.)

2003 Alois Lageder Pinot Bianco - Lageder is one of our favorite northern Italian producers located in Alto-Adige. His white wines show great fruit intensity, balance and an overall sense of freshness. The 2003 version has a bit more weight and richness due to the very warm growing season. This wine has a rich mouthfeel of melon and pear. A creamy texture and good acidity on the finish.

\$9.99

2004 Veramonte Sauvignon Blanc - The Veramonte Winery is actively working in a joint venture with Napa's Franciscan Winery, making world class wines by tapping into the treasures of Chile's viticulture. Many are beginning to discover how well Chile does in producing incredibly delicious and affordable Sauvignon Blancs. This Sauvignon Blanc displays nice fresh fruit aromas with gentle floral notes. The bright, zesty citrus flavors, accented with lemon and lime, work in harmony with the crisp acidity and long, clean finish. Very stylish and tastes much more than its price

\$7.99

2002 Monmosseau Vouvray - Very few people would argue that Chenin Blanc reaches its greatest heights in the Loire Valley. Vouvrays, made from Chenin, can come in a variety of styles, from bone dry to exotic dessert wines. This version from Monmosseau is off-dry, showing flavors of green apple and peach.

\$8.99

2004 Ca Del Solo Big House Pink - Ca Del Solo is an alternative label used by Bonny Doon Vineyards. Wines made under this label are usually Italian inspired. Big House Pink is a blend of Charbono, Carignano and Zinfandel, made to resemble an Italian Rosato. In comparison to Doon's other famous Rose, Vin Gris, Big House Pink is brighter, fresher, all tank aged showing strawberry and watermelon fruit.

\$8.99

2003 Bodegas Juan Gil Wrongo Dongo - Rarely do we see Spanish wines make an attempt in Australian or Californian marketing with labels or names. With Wrongo Dongo though, what is in the bottle excites us. This Mourvedre based wine hails from the sun drenched southern Spanish region of Jumilla. Dark purple in color, Wrongo Dongo exhibits spice and earth on the nose, raspberry and black pepper on the palate, followed by a persistent finish. Another great Spanish value from importer Jorge Ordonez. **86** points Wine Spectator.

\$7.99

2003 Falesco Vitiano - How many wineries skip vintages with \$10 releases? Falesco did exactly that, moving right from 2001

to 2003, after not being comfortable with the quality of the 2002. This is always a blend of equal parts Cabernet, Merlot and Sangiovese. The 2003 is dark in color, showing raspberry jam and cassis flavors wrapped in a silky, easy-drinking texture. Rated **89** points by Parker.

\$9.99

2003 Turner Road Cabernet Sauvignon - This relative newcomer to the market expresses the immense value found in California's Central Coast Paso Robles region. This key Cabernet area creates full-bodied, rich and well-structured wines that exudes a wealth of good quality wines. Turner Road is made with 87% Cabernet and the rest blended with Merlot, Cab Franc and Shiraz. The result is a Cab with copious flavors of red and black cherry fruit, along with a touch of cassis, sweet spicy oak and smooth tannins. A fantastic value for

\$8.99

2002 Chateau de Paraza Minervois - This wine takes us to France's sun drenched Languedoc region in the appellation of Minervois. This area is where you can find numerous and reliable producers like Paraza, that express the unique qualities of the terrior. Sourced from vines on the south facing slopes with Syrah, Grenache, Carignan and Cinsault grapes, make up this wonderful Cuvee. Starting with the spicy berry aroma, suited to the lush flavors of earthy, black and red berry fruits. The supple texture rounds out to the warm and sweet spicy finish. If you enjoy Cotes du Rhone, give Paraza a try.

\$7.99

2003 San Fabiano Chianti - The San Fabiano Estate is a small production property that fashions an authentic, medium-bodied, stylish Chianti that easily compares more to the Chianti Classico level. This wine is a real Tuscan treasure, showing a pure fruity structure made mostly with the noble Sangiovese grape. It shows plenty of red cherry, strawberry and dark plum fruits. The trio of acidity, earthy spice and tannin adds to Fabiano's remarkable balance. Goes well with a wide variety of red and white meats.

\$9.99

2002 Capestrano Montepulciano - We came across this fine Montepulciano roughly a year ago and "boy" were we impressed. Many lovers of Italian wine have known for some time that the D'Abruzzo region brings in a magnificent array of flavorful and distinct reds. This one is full-bodied and is all about black fruits of berry, plum and cherry, wrapped with supple tannin and spice. A rich and robust red that is compatible with many full-flavored dishes. Treat yourself to this great Montepulciano value for only

\$9.99