

# Manchester Wine & Liquors

## Wine Club Newsletter

ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF,  
WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH  
YOU A HAPPY & SAFE  
HOLIDAY SEASON

DECEMBER 2007

1010 Tolland Tpke., Manchester, CT 06042 (860) 649-4750

EMAIL: mwl@snet.net

WEBSITE: manchesterwineandliquors.com

### GIFT IDEAS

Another holiday season is here, along with all the madness it brings. Hopefully, wine can be a gift choice that can be used to satisfy a number of people on your holiday list. For the true wine lover in your life, we urge you to take a walk through our **Specialty Wine Room**, where you can find many collectibles. For other gift selections, we have put together a range of suggestions that we feel stand out as **exceptional quality** from their respective category.

**2000 Sella & Mosca Marchese Di Villamarina Cabernet Sauvignon** - If you are in search of the ideal gift for the Cab Connoisseur in your life, then this is one you cannot afford to let get away. This single vineyard Estate bottled offering comes from Italy's island of Sardinia. The wine was aged at the winery and is only now being released. The additional ageing has allowed it to show its most favorable qualities and mature nuance. This Italian Cabernet was recently put to the test when we introduced it in a blind tasting to a small group of discerning palates. It was a unanimous favorite, beating out top names like Ridge Montebello, Viader Napa and Spottswode Estate, that are double the price. Italy's most coveted wine publication, *Gambero Rosso*, continually gives Villamarina one of the highly honored *Tre Bicchieri* awards. It is seductively scented with port like blackberry fruits, combined with hints of chocolate, coffee and tobacco. Power and elegance is a good way to describe the style of this Cab. The full-bodied flavors offer copious black currants, notes of vanilla, dusty earth and soft tannins.

**\$59.99**

**Mauro Molino Nebbiolo** - When wines like this 2005 Mauro Molino Nebbiolo comes along, it's always a reminder as to why Italy is so great. Mauro Molino is a renowned producer located in the region of Piedmont where he makes some of the area's best Cru Barolos. What he offers here is a very young version of Barolo made entirely from Nebbiolo. The grapes used to produce this bottling come from his newer plantings situated in the hills of the Langhe region. As the vines mature, the grapes do eventually go into his Barolo wines. This magnificent rendition of a poor man's Barolo exhibits the essence of Nebbiolo with its lavish red and black cherry flavors, which gives the wine its full and rich texture. The dried herbs and chalky tannins balance with remarkable acidity and sweet fruits, along with a touch of earthiness.

**\$23.99**

**Steltzner Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignon** - It is amazing that this Napa Winery continues to fly under the radar. It's home is the prestigious Stags Leap district on the eastern edge of Napa. With neighbors like Clos Du Val, Stags Leap Winery, Stags Leap Wine Cellars, Silverado and Pine Ridge, this is clearly a highly regarded appellation. Even though their neighbor's wines sell for twice the price or more, you can still get Steltzner Stags Leap District Cab for under forty dollars. This district is a bit cooler for Napa, leading to wines of balance and elegance. The soil tends to limit yields so the wines are dark and full of ripe fruit.

**\$36.99**

This year we have selected two champagnes to feature that are of a similar style, both crisp, lighter bodied, elegant and stylish. **Nicolas Feuillate Brut NV** is our selection for best value French Champagne under the thirty dollar price tag. It displays a lovely creamy texture of seamless bubbles. The green apple and citrus flavors blend in nicely with the subtle yeasty character, crisp acidity, dryness, balanced by a long, rich finish.

**\$26.99**

**Laurent Perrier Brut** - Laurent Perrier is more medium-bodied, but is still of a crisper vein. The Chardonnay portion of this Brut Non Vintage bottling contributes to its lighter style. With recent small vintages in champagne and the weakening U.S. currency, we expect to see champagne prices rise 5-10% after the first of the year, so you may not see prices at these levels next year. Laurent Perrier is a perfect choice for under forty dollars.

**\$36.99**

**1999 Warres Late Bottle Vintage** - This "traditional LBV" offers an accessible way to enjoy vintage port, without paying through the nose. Before the wine is released, it is aged for eight years to enhance its development. The wine was held four years in barrel, then transferred for an additional four years in bottle. Unfined and unfiltered to capture its natural quality and style. The sweet, ripe flavors of blackberry, plum and raisin are balanced with herb spices, rich chocolate, accented with mineral and earth. Once decanted, enjoy drinking over the next several days.

**\$27.99**

## MONTHLY SPECIALS

**2006 Domaine Pichot Vouvray** - Located in the heart of the Loire Valley, this stylish white was made from top quality Chenin Blanc hand harvested from low yields in the prime Coteaux Vineyards of the Vouvray. This family owned Domaine has shown to be in a class of its own. Pichot Vouvray was aged in older French oak for six months and further aged in neutral wood, allowing the fruit's vibrancy and natural acidity to remain balanced with its crisp refreshing aroma and flavors. What you get is a seductive fresh floral scent. It is slightly dry, yet offers a delicious mouthfeel of citrus, accented with peaches, pears, apples and fresh melon. On the mid palate, the subtle cream is balanced with remarkable underlying acidity. The finish is clean, crisp and long lasting. Ideal as an aperitif to serve with hors d'oeuvres or spicy Asian food. **Price \$12.99 This month, get 15% off by the bottle, \$11.05 or 25% off by the case \$9.74 or \$116.88 by the case net.**

**2006 Jelu Pinot Noir** - This well-made Pinot Noir is a fine example of Argentina's great viticultural diversity. Jelu is produced from one of the country's most southern wine growing areas called Patagonia. The climate here is a bit cooler, which make it ideal for growing wonderful Pinot Noir. This Pinot has so much to offer, with its copious fruit flavors emerging with black cherry, raspberry and blueberry. The acidity and mineral components integrate well with the numerous layers of spice and soft tannins. Jelu can pair nicely with pork roast, lamb, duck and ham. **Price \$15.99 This month, get 15% off by the bottle, \$13.59 or 25% off by the case \$11.99 or \$143.88 by the case net.**

**2005 AIA Vecchia Lagone** - Lagone has been a favorite selection of ours since its first vintage from 1998. This property consists of about 100 acres, 65% of which are in the famous Tuscan coastal region of Bolgheri. Lagone is a blend of Merlot, Cab Franc and Sangiovese. The consulting oenologist here is Tibor Gal, who made a name for himself as winemaker at Ornellaia for ten years. While some Cab/Merlot blends from the Tuscan coast are grossly overpriced, Lagone is actually a value. This 2005 vintage has a Bordeaux-like personality, showing cedar and cigar box notes, currant and cassis fruit and a dose of toasty new oak on a lengthy finish. It would be challenging to find a Merlot/Cab based wine delivering this much value from France or California. **Price \$15.99 This month, get 15% off by the bottle, \$13.59 or 25% off by the case \$11.99 or \$143.88 by the case net.**

### **HOME WINE DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE**

As a reminder, we offer pre-arranged home or office wine delivery service. If you would like to take advantage of this convenience, contact Chris at 649-4750 or email him at [mwl@snet.net](mailto:mwl@snet.net)



**2006 Adelsheim Pinot Gris** - Adelsheim Vineyards is truly a pioneer in the Willamette Valley in Oregon, having founded their operation in 1971. Pinot Gris is their most widely planted white varietal. The cool Pacific Northwest climate is perfect for Pinot Gris, as it is for its relative Pinot Noir. In this climate, this varietal resembles the wonderful Pinot Gris from Alsace France. 95% of the wine is fermented in stainless steel to preserve its fresh varietal character. 5% is fermented in large older oak barrels. Twenty percent goes through malolactic fermentation to add richness and texture. This Pinot Gris shows spice, white peach, red apple and a touch of honey on the palate. A tremendously versatile food wine, try it with turkey, Asian food, sausage or rich seafood. **Price \$19.99 This month, get 15% off by the bottle, \$16.99 or 25% off by the case \$14.99 or \$179.88 by the case net.**

## A PAIR FROM MUGA

We were very encouraged at the response our pair of Rioja's received in last month's feature. We have sold out of our supply of Marques De Murrieta, but we can continue to offer the 2003 Muga Reserva. In addition to that wine, we are able to offer another special Rioja from Muga, their 1998 Prado Enea Gran Reserva.

The **2003 Bodegas Muga Reserva** is one of our favorite wineries, along with being one of our favorite Riojas. They age their Reserva six months in large oak vats, two years in small French oak and finally, a year in bottle before it is released. A very traditional blend of 70% Tempranillo, 20% Garnacha and the remaining 10% Mazuela and Graciano is used. The wine is full of deep cherry and plum fruit, combined with good acidity and structure. It opens with aeration and will clearly improve over the next 4-6 years. Rated 90 by *Stephen Tanzer*. Regular \$24.99.

**\$19.99**

**1998 Prado Enea Gran Reserva** - This Burgundy-like Rioja Reserva is aged an amazing seven years at the winery before release. It sees three years in French oak and one year in large neutral wood, followed by three years ageing in bottle. This traditional styled Gran Reserva shows complex aromatics. On the palate it reveals red fruits mixed in with earth, vanilla, cinnamon and other spices. Rated 90 by *Robert Parker*, this is a world class wine to drink now and over the next six years. Regular \$49.99

**\$39.99**

**For an additional savings  
Buy One Each  
Of The Two  
For Only**

**\$57.00**  
net

## **PRE MADE GIFT PACKS**

To help make the holiday shopping experience a little easier, take a look at these pre-selected, pre-wrapped and affordable **two bottle wine packs**. Special quantities or personal selections may require one full business day to process. In addition, **pre-wrapped 6 bottle and 12 bottle boxes with bows** will be available with a slight upcharge.

### **FRENCH BURGUNDIES**

**Joseph Drouhin Saint Veran** - This classic style Saint Veran is a model of what you can find from the Macon region of Burgundy, especially from a reliable negociant like Joseph Drouhin. This crisp Saint Veran was hand picked and gently pressed to bring out the true essence of the Chardonnay fruit. Green apple and pear dominate the palate. It has embracing, clean acidity that is perfectly balanced with just the right touch of oak to compliment the wine's weight and complexity. The intense fruit character and mineral component round out the long and refreshing finish. **Faiveley Bourgogne Rouge** - The Faiveley family's viticultural history dates back nearly 200 years and they are the largest landowner in all of Burgundy. This Pinot Noir comes from the highly regarded '05 vintage and is a remarkable Burgundy value. The earthy and gamey aromas are expressive of the region. Pretty and stylish with a soft texture, balanced with sweet cherries, raspberries, subtle oak and nice acidity.

**\$30.00**

### **CALIFORNIA REDS**

**Tangley Oaks Merlot** - Tangley Oaks is a second label to the highly regarded Rutherford Hill Winery of Napa Valley. This producer is one of many that have always held high standards in making world-class Merlot. This Napa Merlot was aged for 20 months in French oak, with additional time in the bottle prior to release. Thus, allowing the wines optimal and complex characteristics to show. It displays a very noticeable sweet plum aroma that comes together nicely with spice and cedar. The generous blackberries, cassis and dry cherry flavors are accented with coffee, vanilla and mint. It has a soft tannin sensation that frames out the ripe fruits and deep, plush texture, balanced with a smooth, long finish. Serve over the next 3-5 years. **Ghost Pines Cabernet Sauvignon** - This is also a second label that is produced by Louis Martini. The grapes for this Cab are sourced from both Napa and Sonoma counties. It presents profuse aromas of black currants and cassis. The rich, full-bodied flavors show nice depth and concentration, balanced with a smooth velvety texture. Shades of mint, chocolate, vanilla and spices integrate well with the sweet oaky tannins. The round succulent finish makes this one of the best California Cab's that tastes far above its price.

**\$35.00**

### **WINES OF TUSCANY**

**Avignonesi Rosso** - Avignonesi is one of the leading firms in the Tuscan D.O.C. of Montepulciano. The Falvo family acquired Avignonesi in 1974 and had steadily raised the bar for quality ever since. Avignonesi Rossi is made of Prugnolo (Sangiovese), Cab and Merlot. It sees twelve months in French oak and six in bottle before release. On the palate, this bottling shows black cherry, cassis and vanilla flavors, along with the telltale Tuscan signature of earthy notes and a long, persistent finish. **Caparzo Rosso Di Montalcino** - From the famed region of Montalcino in southeast Tuscany, this lighter, more subtle off-spring of Brunello is a stunning value. Like Brunello, Rosso Di Montalcino uses the same clone of Sangiovese. Those used to produce Rosso's are sourced from younger vines resulting in wines that are not aged as long as its more expensive counterpart. Because of the similarities, Rosso Di Montalcino is often referred to as "Baby Brunello". Aged in Slovenian oak for one year and six months in bottle prior to release, this young, fresh Rosso exhibits a lovely black cherry color with scents of violets, spice, and hints of cedar. The full-bodied flavors are sweet and round, with lush red and black fruits, elegant structure and balance.

**\$30.00**

### **BECKMAN VINEYARDS**

The Beckman's are a father and son team who take great pride in their extensive Rhone varietal program. Beckman **Cuvee Le Bec** - This red is made entirely from estate grown grapes from their Purisima Mountain hillside vineyard, overlooking the Santa Ynez Valley. This blend of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre and Counoise offers a stunning rendition of a French Chateaufeuf du Pape styled red. It possesses nice medium to full-bodied flavors of blackberry, with an abundance of spices that compliments the rich texture and smooth tannins. Steve Beckman breaks it down like this: The Grenache portion provides the intense aromatics, the Syrah and Mourvedre give the wine depth and rich, black fruit structure, and the Counoise follows up with soft supple finish. Beckman **Cabernet Sauvignon** - The wine was bottled unfiltered to allow the expression of dense black cherry and currant flavors in a fruit forward and full-bodied style. The well integrated oak and chewy tannins are balanced with nuances of spice, dusty earth, dark chocolate, and a finish that is long and rich. Beckman Cab will continue to improve over the next 5-7 years.

**\$40.00**

## ***CALIFORNIA ORGANIC WINES***

The Lolonis Vineyards are located in the Redwood Valley of Mendocino County. This area is where many of California's major organic grape growers began. For over a half of century, the Lolonis family has not used pesticides or herbicides in their vineyards. This organic wine pack goes under the name "Ladybug". The ladybug represents one of the grower's natural methods of pest control. These wines are sourced from old vines and are skillfully blended to express their unique characteristics that provide a flavor profile that is easy drinking and delicious. **Ladybug White Cuvee** offers a delightful aroma of fresh peaches and green apples. The Colombard contributes the sweet hints from beginning to end, while the Chardonnay provides the full-bodied structure. The addition of Chenin Blanc and Semillon bring out the crisp acidity and spicy nuances. **Ladybug Red Cuvee** is an interesting blend of Zinfandel, Carignane, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. This unique wine displays a deep rich color with aromas of black berries, plums and a hint of oak. The substantial tannins are nicely balanced with rich flavors of dark succulent fruit.

**\$24.00**

## ***ARGENTINIAN REDS***

This delicious selection of affordable Argentinian wines are primarily vinified and aged in steel tanks for immediate drinking. The grapes are sourced from the area of Tunuyan, situated in the Uco Valley under the "Tomero" label. Tomero is named after a municipal role created in 1884 by the government of Mendoza Province. The Tomero was someone who regulated and engineered the distribution of water from the Mendoza River for irrigation of vineyards. These men were literally responsible for the support of the vineyards needed share and it was a profession that passed from father to son. **Tomero Cabernet Sauvignon** displays intense Cabernet aromas of blackberries and spice. When it opens up in the glass, you'll find nice full-bodied flavors that offer sweet, ripe cherries, plums, black currants and cassis. The well integrated tannins also contribute to the wine's excellent structure. The **Tomero Malbec** is Argentine Malbec at its best for the price. It expresses unique, yet typical aromas of dusty earth, dried berries, with hints of chocolate and cinnamon. It has a rich core of black fruits that expand onto the palate, with a subtle tannin sensation, underlined with herb spices, balanced with sweet ripe cherries.

**\$25.00**

## ***AUSTRALIAN REDS***

The name Mirabooka comes from the Aboriginal tribe that existed in southeast Australia. It is produced by the esteemed winemaker Clare Halloran of the Tarra Warra Estate in the Yarra Valley. The grape selection for the Mirabooka wines come from some of the finest vineyards in southeastern Australia, which includes the state of Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. Although, these current bottlings come specifically from the cooler climate of the Yarra Valley. The color of the **Mirabooka Shiraz** draws you into the smoky, blackberry and white pepper aroma, that gives you an impressive taste of the Cotes du Rhone. The medium to full-bodied flavor shows intense black and red fruits, balanced with a subtle tannin sensation. The finish is long, sweet, spicy and rich. The **Mirabooka Pinot Noir** is a vibrant and stylish Pinot Noir that presents a magnificent aroma of black cherries and subtle spice. Its flavors display plenty of wild berries and red cherries, balanced with a medium-bodied texture and underlined acidity. The elegant finish accentuates the earth and spices.

**\$24.00**

## ***ZINFANDEL SAMPLER PACK***

This month, we have two nice Zins to offer as a pair. The first is the **2006 Cline Ancient Vines**. Cline is located in California's Contra Costa region and has developed a reputation as a Zin specialist. This producer offers a range of Zins, from single vineyard bottlings to a basic California designation. Their Ancient Vines stands out as exceptional in quality and is quite affordable. "Ancient" here means up to 100 year old vines producing low yields and concentrated fruit. Big, rich flavors of blackberry and raspberry jam dominate the wines powerful and full-bodied style.

**\$14.99**

Our second Zin is from **Artezin**. This is a label operated by the Hess Winery in Napa. Artezin blends fruit from three prime growing areas for Zin; Amador, Mendocino and Dry Creek Valley. The same blackberry jam flavors are present, but the Artezin is more structured, with good balance, acidity and a bit of restraint. Clearly, two different styles. Both excellent examples of their contrasting approaches. Try each one and pick your favorite.

**\$14.99**

**For an additional savings**  
**Buy One Each**  
**Of The Two**  
**For Only**

**\$24.59**  
net