



Manchester Discount Liquors I & II



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1032 Tolland Tpke. • 397 Broad St. (Broad St. Plaza) • Manchester, CT 06040 649-4750 • 643-3579 February 2000

THE ZINFANDEL RESURGENCE

Quietly during the last year, Zinfandel has made a stunning comeback. We say quietly because it's hard to pinpoint a specific reason or impetus that started its resurgence. Whatever has caused it, Zinfandel is one of the hottest categories in our market today.

Zinfandel is the one grape that appears to have an American heritage. It is thought to be a relative of an Italian varietal called Primitivo. Zinfandel's history can be traced back to the 60's when some California wineries began to bottle the varietal on its own. Up until then, Zinfandel had almost entirely been used as a blending grape. Ridge Vineyards, led by Paul Draper, was the first winery to truly specialize in Zinfandel, others soon followed. For the next thirty years or so, Zinfandel languished in obscurity. It was clearly far behind its Cabernet and Merlot brethren. During the 80's the White Zinfandel craze hit, but that did little for Red Zinfandel, except confuse the consumer. With the release of the 1990 vintage, Zinfandel's popularity surged. Over the next few years, a number of Zinfandel specialists began to get plenty of attention. This was the heyday for this varietal. Unfortunately, small vintages caused prices to rise and as quickly as Zinfandel became hot, it cooled off again. It looked as if Zinfandel's day in the sun would be short lived. Surprisingly the varietal rebounded last year and has shown strong demand through the holidays. Prices have stabilized and this American varietal seems to be California's best red wine value. We believe it's future is bright again.

This month we want to showcase the many attributes of this wonderful varietal. One of the most obvious is the value aspect of so many Zinfandels. Better yet, even many of the top Zinfandel producers offer an introductory level bottling that is often excellent. The same cannot be said for top Merlot, Cabernet or Pinot producers, in most cases. Our first grouping is a collection of great value Zinfandels, most from top notch Zinfandel producers.

VALUE ZINFANDELS

1998 Cline Zinfandel - This Contra Costa Winery has established itself as a top Zinfandel producer in the last five years. They offer several single vineyard wines and other old vine reserve bottlings. Their "California" Zinfandel is always a mouthful of jammy, pure raspberry fruit. The '98 is outstanding. **\$7.99/btl. net.**

1997 Ravenswood "Vintners Blend" Zinfandel - Along with Ridge, Ravenswood has done more to promote Zinfandel than any other California winery. Joel Peterson has been focusing on this varietal since the late '70's. This winery offers a number of vineyard designated and county series wines. This vintners blend bottling has always been the winery's calling card. Blended from lots selected by Peterson from all over California, this bottling shows off the Ravenswood style at a bargain price. **\$10.99/btl.**

N.V. Peachy Canyon Incredible Red - Technically not labeled as a Zinfandel, this blend is primarily Zinfandel. Peachy Canyon is a new winery to Connecticut, arriving only last year. This Paso Robles producer bottles a number of different Zinfandels that promote the various micro-climates of Paso Robles. The style of Peachy Canyon is of intensely flavored wines that remain balanced and well structured, never too heavy or alcoholic. Incredible red is a great introduction to their style. **\$12.99/btl.**

1997 Ridge Coastal Range - While this Ridge offering stretches the boundaries of our value group, we thought it merited inclusion. As mentioned before, Ridge was truly the pioneer winery when it came to Zinfandel specialization. This bottling, which is also a blend of primarily Zinfandel, is made up of grapes from Ridge's two most famous vineyards, Geyserville and Lytton Springs. Coastal Range captures Ridge's complex, intense style with an early drinking appeal as well. **\$17.99/btl.**

1997 Rancho Zabaco Zinfandel - The Gallo Winery, located in Modesto, has become very focused on producing high quality, premium varietal wine. Being the largest landowner in California, with much of their holdings in Sonoma, they certainly have the resources. This particular label has been their most impressive effort to date. Delicious spicy, berry fruit with hints of vanilla and licorice. A terrific Zinfandel for the money from Gallo. **\$9.99/btl.**

1997 Sausal Zinfandel - If there is a Zinfandel specialist who remains somewhat unsung it would be Sausal. Located in Alexander Valley, Sausal has been one of our favorites for nearly ten years. Despite numerous extraordinary reviews, you rarely hear Sausal mentioned with some of the other big names included here. Try their '97 Alexander Valley Zinfandel and we think you'll agree, their name can be mentioned with the Ravenswood's and Ridge's of the world without hesitation. **\$12.99/btl.**

N.V. Rosenblum Vintners Cuvee - Kent Rosenblum, a veterinarian originally turned Zinfandel fanatic, makes over twenty different Zinfandels. Kent literally started in a garage outside of Oakland. He truly believes in all the different complexities of his Zinfandels representing the different vineyards or regions they come from. This Non-Vintage Vintners Cuvee shows off the winery's style in a consistent, affordable, drinkable format. A stylish, elegant, very balanced style, try in a comparison to the Peachy Canyon, **\$10.99/btl.**

SERIOUS ZINFANDELS

If Zinfandel only offered value, its mention as a classic varietal would carry less weight. Zinfandel however, is capable of producing wines of tremendous complexity and staying power. Here are a few of California's finest efforts.

1997 Cline "Ancient Vines" - This old vine bottling from Cline was a smash in January as a Club Special. Deep, intense raspberry jam fruit make this a stunning Zinfandel that is only marginally more than many of our value selections. Enjoy now or lay it down for 3-5 years. Only a few cases remain. **\$18.99/btl.**

1997 St. Francis Zinfandel "Old Vines" - St. Francis originally became noticed for their superb Merlots. This was long before Merlot was what it is today. This Old Vine Zinfandel bottling first appeared in the early nineties. This Zinfandel is annually a 90+ wine from all the publications, and usually in tight supply. We managed to squirrel away enough to include it here. Try laying this one away for 3-4 years, but only after you try one now. **\$21.99/btl.**

1997 Ridge Lytton Springs and Geyserville Zinfandels - If one were to classify California Zinfandels like French vineyards, these two would be automatic Grand Crus. These are the two gems in the Ridge portfolio. Both of these single vineyards have been bottled since the '70's. Lytton Springs is a bigger, more structured, powerful Zinfandel that would be best

with 8 years of bottle age. Geyserville is a bit more precocious. It shows lovely anise, berry and licorice flavors. Drink Geyserville with 4-5 years of age on it. Geyserville **\$29.99/btl.**, Lytton Springs **\$29.99/btl.**

MONTHLY SPECIALS

1998 Borsao Red- Jorge Ordonez first emerged in the early 90's as a Spanish specialty importer. His connections within the country gave him knowledge that his competitors were not privy to. This inside edge has propelled Ordonez to dominance of the Spanish importing business. Longtime readers know his name is as close to a guarantee as you can get to know that you have a great value. Borsao is one of the wines that first got Ordonez noticed. This co-op wine is Grenache based with some Tempranillo blended in. The '98 vintage is as good as any previous vintage we've had, with a stunning new package as well. Rated an 86 by Robert Parker, this robust, full-flavored red is ideal for hearty winter cuisine. **Regular price \$5.99/btl. This month get 15% off by the bottle and 25% off by the case.**

1998 Bourgeois Sancerre "Bonnes Bouches"- The Loire Valley in Northern, Central France is the premier growing region in the world for Sauvignon Blanc. Sancerre, along with Pouilly Fume, are the two most famous communes within the Loire. Sancerre tends to yield wines a bit richer and fatter in texture. Henri Bourgeois' a highly respected producer of a wide range of Loire wines. This Sancerre "Bonnes Bouches" is probably his calling card. The '98 shows plenty of lemon, lime and melon flavors, a clean, fresh texture and crisp acidity on the finish. "Bonnes Bouches" will show a drier style of Sauvignon than last month's Ferrari Carano Fume. This should lend itself nicely to any seafood dish with a dill or herb sauce. **Regular price \$14.99/btl. This month get 15% off by the bottle and 25% off by the case.**

1997 Colosi Rosso- A wonderfully delicious Sicilian discovery. Over the past few years, we really only had one solid choice for a Sicilian red of clear quality from this region. Regaleali Rosso was our only real choice. The Corvo Winery is well known in America, but they produce bulk wine of mediocrity. The Colosi family grows most of their own grapes, but this bottling was produced from purchased grapes from high quality local growers. Made mostly of the native grape Nero D'Avola. Quality minded producers such as themselves recognize this grape as an added value on its own or what it brings to a blend by giving body, good complexity, great richness and ageing potential. This wine is somewhat reminiscent of an American Zinfandel. Full mouthfilling flavors of raspberry, cherry and jammy plum. Rich yet having a certain elegance and purity that rounds out with complex fruit flavors. An outright bargain. Take notice of this price. Will accompany almost any meat dish, grilled or roasted and Italian red sauced pasta meals. **Regular price only \$7.99/btl. This month 15% off by the bottle and 25% off by the case.**

1997 Domaine Alain Paret Syrah "Cuvee de la Couthiat" - This northern Rhone Syrah originates from the hillsides of Saint

Joseph. Since it is blended with wine just outside the Saint Joseph area, it is only allowed Vin de Pay appellation status. Alain Paret is developing into a very high quality producer and his Cuvee de la Couthiat displays just that. This Syrah Cuvee was partly influenced under the renowned American wine importer, Robert Kacher. Harvested from extremely low yields and is unfiltered. The result is a Syrah that is handsomely opaque red in color. Having soft aromas of sweet cassis, spice and earth. A medium to full bodied, deliciously round, rich, pure sweet concentration of raspberry fruit that persist through a harmoniously soft finish. A truly remarkable Syrah value that borders a fine line to a declassified St. Joseph effort. An ideal match to game meats, grilled fish and poultry, meat casseroles and wild mushroom sauces. *Regular price \$8.99/btl. This month get 15% off by the bottle and 25% off by the case.*

Try a mixed case of monthly club specials:

- 3-btls. 1998 Borsao Red
- 3-btls. 1998 Bourgeois Sancerre "Bonnes Bouches"
- 3-btls. 1997 Colosi Rosso
- 3 btls. 1997 Domaine Alain Paret Syrah "Cuvee de la Couthiat"

FOR ONLY  **84.00**
net

All four club specials are open for tasting all month long. Our staff will be more than happy to assist you.

MONTHLY TWO BOTTLE SAMPLER PACK

Most of our readers have known since the inception of our newsletter that we have always, and continue to, seek out small production top quality wines from either obscure regions, or fairly unknown and up and coming producers. This pack represents wines of skillfull quality that is easy drinking. The **1998 Domaine de Vaufruet Vouvray** comes from one of France's most varied and under-rated wine region. Some of the best white wine in the world come from this area, producing top quality Sancerre, Pouilly Fume, Muscadet and Vouvray. Vouvray is made from the Chenin Blanc grape. Clean, crisp refreshing flavors that capture the sweet apple, peach and juicy grapey fruit character that is embraced by its off dry style. Makes a nice aperitif. Price only **\$7.99**. The **1996 Chateau Calabre Merlot** is one of the leading producers in Bergerac. This region is located just west outside of Bordeaux. Bergerac's plantings are of the same as Bordeaux and is produced in a Bordeaux like style. Chateau Calabre is known more for producing great whites but this Merlot effort surely holds up to any red in its category. It is also a product that is influenced by the highly reputable American importer, Robert Kacher, who devotes at least four months a year working very close to his growers to insure the best quality possible. This Merlot shows a garnet color with a tinge of red brick. The immediate impres-

sion offer aromas of fresh bell pepper with a little cedar and tobacco in the background. Generous blackberry and plum fruit flavors that compliment the medium body and plush textures. The sweet ripe character and tannin hold well to the soft finish. Pairs well to both red and white meat dishes. Price **\$6.99**.

1-btl. 1998 Domaine de Vaufruet Vouvray	7.99
1-btl. 1996 Chateau Calabre Merlot	<u>6.99</u>
	14.98

Buy One of Each for Only  **10.98**
net

a savings of an additional 4.00 or 26.7%

MONTHLY STORE TASTING

On **Monday, February 21st at 6:30p.m.** in our back stockroom we will be featuring the Chilean wines of Casa la Postolle. On hand to lead the tasting will be *Mr. Laddy Rosenfeld, Wine Manager of Brescome-Barton Distributors*. Chile is currently producing some of the most exciting wines in the new world. In just the past twelve years or so, the Chilean wine industry has experienced major growth. Considerable investment by both domestic and foreign companies have flowed in to this country. New state of the art wineries and knowledgeable vineyard management brought Chile's wine industry up to much needed modern day standards. Casa La Postolle represents a strong French joint venture between Alexandra Marnier Lapostolle, family member of the Grand Marnier Liquor, and the renowned Bordeaux winemaker and consultant to many prestigious chateaus in Pomerol, Michel Rolland. They both recognize Chile's potential in producing world class wine. The superior wine growing conditions, good climate and soil that express the unique grape character from the land. So come down and join us to taste one of Chile's French connections.

Tasting List as Follows:

1998 Casa la Postolle Sauvignon Blanc	7.99
1998 Casa la Postolle Chardonnay	9.99
1998 Casa la Postolle Merlot	11.99
1997 Casa la Postolle Cabernet Sauvignon	9.99
1997 Casa la Postolle Merlot	19.99
"Cuvee Alexandre"	
1997 Casa la Postolle Cabernet Sauvignon	18.99
"Cuvee Alexandre"	

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RARITIES AND COLLECTIBLES

FEBRUARY **25% OFF** RED BORDEAUX SALE

Cru Classifieds

PAULLAC

1996 Ch. Carruades de Lafite	44.99	33.74 net
1996 Ch. Clerc Milon	41.99	31.49 net
1996 Ch. Lynche Bages	81.99	61.49 net
1996 Ch. Pontet Canet	42.99	32.24 net

POMEROL

1995 La Pete Eglise	49.99	37.49 net
1996 Ch. Clinet	87.99	65.99 net
1995 Ch. La Croix du Casse	36.99	27.74 net
1996 Ch. La Croix du Casse	39.99	29.99 net

MEDOC - HAUT MEDOC

1996 Ch. Potensac	26.99	20.24 net
1995 Ch. Sociando Mallet	32.99	24.74 net

ST. ESTEPHE

1995 Ch. Cos Labory	36.99	27.74 net
1995 Ch. Haut-Marbuzet	39.99	29.99 net
1997 Ch. Calon Segur	36.99	27.74 net

PESSAC-LEOGNAN

(Grand Cru Classe De Graves)		
1995 Ch. De Fieuzal	49.99	37.49 net
1995 Ch. Smith haut La Fitte	41.99	31.49 net

ST. EMILION

1995 Ch. la Dominique	59.99	44.99 net
1995 Ch. Grande Mayne	46.99	35.24 net
1996 Ch. Lucie	31.99	23.99 net
1996 Ch. Larmande	39.99	29.99 net

ST. JULIEN

1996 Ch. Clos Du Marquis	49.99	37.49 net
1995 Ch. Leoville Barton	61.99	46.49 net
1996 Ch. Leoville Barton	66.99	50.24 net
1996 Ch. Langao Barton	58.99	44.24 net
1995 Ch. Saint Pierre	36.99	27.74 net

MARGAUX

1996 Ch. Cantenac Brown	34.99	26.24 net
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QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED

**Toast your
Valentine's
Day
with Dom
Perignon
only \$89.00**

FEBRUARY 2000

We accept all major credit
cards

TASTING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		★	★	★	★	★
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	★	★	★	★	★	★
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Toast your Valentine's Day with Dom Perignon \$89.00 ★	★	★	★	★	★
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Monthly Backroom Tasting - 6:30p.m. Chilean Wines	★	★	★	★	★
27	28	29	30	31		
	★	Club Special Tastings will be winding down these last few days of the month, so our wine choices will be limited.		★		

★ = A Taste of Club Specials

Our staff will be happy to assist you in tasting.

HOURS: Mon-Sat 8:00am-8:00pm

Sent in by **Susan Patrocínio**, friend of the Wine Club.

Try matching this dish to the **Alta Vista Malbec** or the **Chateau Les Aigrieres St. Emilion** club specials.

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share, send it in.

36.00
net

119.00
net

79.99
net

All four monthly specials are open for tasting all month long except for the day of the backroom tasting. Just ask for Joey or Jimmy and we will be more than happy to assist you in sampling the monthly specials

