



# Manchester Wine & Liquors



W i n e \* C l u b \* N e w s L e t t e r

FEBRUARY 2004

1032 Tolland Tpke., Manchester, CT 06040 (860) 649-4750 EMAIL: manchester.discount@snet.net WEBSITE: manchesterwineandliquors.com

## TOP VALUES FOR UNDER \$8.00

Normally, we do our annual top value selections in January, but because of time constraints due to the holidays, we pushed it back to February. This year, we have ten of our favorite choices for \$8.00 or less. Before we get into the individual selections, let's take a look at what we can expect from certain areas this year.

**Europe** - Price increases will dominate the next 3 to 6 months from Italy, Spain, Germany and France. As the dollar continues to weaken against the Euro, price increases are inevitable. When the Euro was introduced in January 2001, one Euro was worth about 85 cents. Recently, one Euro has gone as high as \$1.29, including a 15 cent rise in the last month. We are hearing about 20% to 40% price increases in the coming months from these European countries. Obviously, values will be harder to come by until the dollar strengthens. The other factor forcing prices upward was the difficult 2003 vintage. You may remember the record setting heat that caused numerous problems in the vineyards throughout Europe, not to mention 16,000 deaths in France. This torrid weather was more than the vines could handle in many areas. The resulting 2003 crop was very small, further pressuring prices upward.

**Southern Hemisphere** - We expect 2004 to be a strong year for wines from Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and South Africa. As European wines jump in price, we expect people to look elsewhere. New Zealand Sauvignons, South African Pinotages, Chilean Reds, Argentinian Malbecs and virtually anything from Australia are all options that represent great values. Australian wines have been nothing short of a market phenomenon, posting double digit growth

for over fifteen years in a row now. You can expect many southern hemisphere wines to surface in these pages this year.

**California** - California has had its share of problems over the last several years. First off, there is still a glut of wine in California which is pressuring prices downward. The premium end of the California business has also tailed off significantly. Other than some blue chip names, California offerings that sell for \$35 a bottle or more are way off from the late '90's. We are seeing many high end releases coming down in price dramatically, sometimes up to 50%. That being said, the weak dollar will be a blessing for California wine sales this year. We see the best values coming from red blends using offbeat varietals and non Chardonnay whites.

## OUR SELECTIONS

**N/V Segura Viudas Brut Riserva** - It's a shame that more people don't drink sparkling wine. While true champagne may be too costly to enjoy on a regular basis, this bargain Cava won't set you back too much. It may not be champagne, but it is a clean, fresh, lively bubbly showing toasty pear flavors. A great choice to start off a meal or to serve with appetizers.

Price

**\$7.99**

**2002 Penfolds Rawson's Retreat Shiraz/Cabernet** - The Rawson's Retreat series from Penfolds is their entry into the value price category. The same dedication to

quality and character that goes into the more expensive Penfolds wines is apparent in these as well. This juicy blend combines the raspberry jam flavors of Shiraz, and the black currant, cedar qualities of Cabernet. Perfect for grilled meats.

**Price**  **\$7.99**

**2002 Lindemans Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon** - One of the more interesting releases last year. This Reserve series from Lindemans came from their former Padthaway bottlings and is now blended with Barossa and Coonawarra fruit. Their Reserve Cab is one of the best Cabernet values on the market today. Lindeman's Reserve has a soft, smooth, velvety texture, full of plush black cherry and currant flavors. The lingering finish shows no hard edges or unfriendly tannins. Enjoy over the next year or two.

**Price**  **\$7.99**

**N/V Wallace Brook Pinot Noir** - This bottling was a big hit when it was featured last year. It is a second label created by Adelsheim Vineyards in Oregon. When the winery found they had some leftover fruit from two recent outstanding vintages, they decided to bottle it under this label. This Oregon Pinot shows soft strawberry and cherry fruit with a touch of earth on the finish. A great red for fish or grilled poultry.

**Price**  **\$7.99**

**2001 Ch. D'oupiia Minervois** - This is a long time favorite of ours that we grabbed before the price went up. The 2001 vintage was very successful in the Rhone and South of France, proof of which we offer with this delicious Minervois. The wine shows dark fruit flavors, a spicy, peppery character and a long, complex finish. A ton of wine for the money, you could have some fun with this if you participate in blind tastings. Enjoy with grilled meats, stews or strong cheeses.

**Price**  **\$7.99**

**2001 Santa Rita Cabernet Sauvignon 120** - One of Chile's wine producers we look to year after year to measure the current level of quality coming out of this value oriented country. This full-bodied Cab shows a deep concentration of blackberry and cassis, sweet oakey tannins and a long, firm finish. For a Cab with such structure, it's hard to believe the price.

 **\$5.99**

**2001 Ramon Canals Merlot Crianza** - This Spanish Merlot is reminiscent of a nice young Bordeaux. It is deep opaque in color, having a dusty oak scent, with hints of vanilla and chocolate. Plenty of smooth and velvety sweet black fruit flavors, with well integrated oak, making it quite supple and full-bodied for a Merlot. A flat out steal for

 **\$7.99**

**1999 Valmiracle Tinto** - You would think that it is impossible to find a wine at this price out of Spain's esteemed region of Ribera Del Duero, but this second label from the Vina Solorca Estate named Valmiracle, is definitely a rare exception. Made from Tempranillo, the noble red grape of Spain, it was produced in a more modern, full-bodied Claret style. It displays a handsomely deep, purplish-black color. The flavors show a rich fruity structure, balanced with plenty of sweet spicy tannin and a well rounded finish. This is one not to be overlooked.

**Price**  **\$7.99**

**2001 Colosi Rosso** - This consistent and reliable Sicilian red was a no brainer for this article. Made from the indigenous grape Nero D'Avola, a grape similar to American Zinfandel. It is medium to full-bodied offering mouth filling flavors of raspberry, cherry and plum. The soft tannins and earthy tones compliment the subtle spice in the finish.

**Price**  **\$7.99**

**2002 Domaine De Pouy Blanc** - This delicious French white has been a perpetual favorite of ours for over a decade. If you enjoy drinking lighter style white wines with lots of flavor, then Domaine De Pouy is definitely the one. It offers a wonderful refreshing floral aroma, with green apple and citrus. The flavors display accents of lemon, lime, orange and peach. It is crisp and clean, with lively acidity on the mid-palate, combined with a slight rich creamy texture, giving it backbone and balance that lead into a nice long lasting finish. A solid white wine value that is hard to beat for

 **\$7.99**

## MONTHLY SPECIALS

**2002 Dehesa De Gago** - As we are confronted with the difficult year ahead for European wines, we are looking hard for wines that came in before the dollar tanked. This Spanish red from Toro, made from 100% Tempranillo, is the creation of Telmo Rodriguez. Rodriguez made a name for himself as the winemaker at the famous Rioja property, Remelluri. After a parting of the ways with his family, Telmo decided to explore other ventures throughout Spain. To no one's surprise, the results have been excellent. Gago is made from old vine, low yielding Tempranillo and is aged entirely in stainless steel. The resulting wine has loads of jammy raspberry and cassis fruit, a soft smooth texture and round, subtle tannins on the finish. Previous vintages of Gago have scored between **87** and **91** from Parker, don't be surprised to see the 2002 come in at the high end of this range. **Regular price \$11.99/btl. This month get 15% off by the bottle, \$10.19 and 25% off by the case, \$8.99 or \$107.88 by the case net.**

**2002 Cline Ancient Vines Mourvedre** - The perfect midwinter wine. Cline's offerings have never been shy on flavor, and this Mourvedre is certainly consistent with their style. This Mourvedre, made from 50 to 75 year old vines, boasts a big, powerful style. A wine bursting with raspberry, licorice, vanilla and cassis flavors, followed by a long, warming finish. If you love big, rich reds, stock up on this selection. Although it will age for three to five years or more, we recommend drinking this Mourvedre over the next year or two for its big youthful personality. Definitely a wine that needs food. We suggest lamb, mushroom risotto, stews or strong cheeses. **Regular price \$14.99/btl. This month 15% off by the bottle, \$12.74 and 25% off by the case, \$11.24 or \$134.88 by the case net.**

**2002 Valley of the Moon Pinot Blanc** - In the beginning, this Sonoma winery made mostly generic table wines. The small amounts they produced in the premium category, were sold only out of their tasting room. This is our second vintage working with this wonderfully stylish wine. Pinot Blanc is known as one of the key grape varieties in the French Alsace. In the United States, for years it has been often referred to as a poor man's Chardonnay because of its similar flavor profile. It displays a lovely bright straw color, with a nice, crisp tropical fruit aroma. Its complex flavors show spicy pear and citrus,

underlined with excellent acidity, notes of spicy honey, caramel, cream and subtle hints of oak, with great balance and weight. Pair this Pinot Blanc with light pastas, seafood and a wide variety of Asian foods. **Price \$13.99/btl. This month get 15% off by the bottle, \$11.89 and 25% off by the case, \$10.49 or \$125.88 by the case net.**

**1999 Copertino Riserva** - The hot and sunny Italian wine region of Apulia is a treasure trove for distinct robust reds. Around the small town of Copertino, the local growers have a combined 1,000 acres under vine, providing grapes for this Riserva. Made mostly of the dark skinned Negro Amaro grape, this wine exudes an indigenous style and structure. The spice and soft tannins work in harmony with its lush blackberry, plum and cherry fruits. The full-bodied flavors are persistent and dry. Copertino Riserva was held for two years prior to release, allowing for the flavors to mature and offer a style that is simple, yet complex. This versatile red goes well with grilled fish, roasted meats, hearty pasta sauce dishes, along with mild or spicy sausage. **Price only 13.99 this month get 15% off by the bottle, \$11.89 or 25% off by the case \$10.49 or \$125.88 by the case net.**

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

**MIXED CASES DO APPLY TOWARDS  
25% SAVINGS**

### **VALENTINE DAY GIFT IDEAS FOR YOUR SWEETHEART**

**Trentadue Chocolate Amore** - a delicious red dessert Merlot based, Port style wine with natural chocolate flavor added. Makes for a unique Valentine's gift.



**1995 Dom Perignon  
Champagne Gift Box**

## TWO BOTTLE SAMPLER PACK

These two wines from the South of France are backed by Robert Kacher and Fran Kysela, two very influential American wine importers who work with some of the finest concentration of smaller, high quality growers. The **2002 Domaine De Pouy Blanc** has been one of our favorites for well over a decade. Located just south of Bordeaux, out of the Cotes Du Gascogne region, this unique blend of Columbard, Ugni Blanc and Petit Gros Manseng displays a refreshing floral aroma with green apple and citrus. The flavors show accents of lemon, lime, orange and peach. Up front, it is crisp and clean, on the mid-palate it shows plenty of creamy rich flavor and a delightfully long finish. **Price \$7.99.**

The **2001 Chateau Mas Neuf Rouge** is produced from the Languedoc's sun drenched area of Costieres De Nimes, a sort of southern extension of the Rhone Valley. Made mostly of Syrah, this deep saturated red shows tremendous aromas and flavors of intense pepper spice, supple and full-bodied, with plenty of black fruits and soft tannin. Complex, yet easy drinking. **Price \$10.99.**

**Buy One Each  
of the two  
For Only**



and save **\$4.00 or 21%**

## MONTHLY BACKROOM TASTING

It has been two years since we featured the Ports from Taylor Fladgate, and let me just say, to our amazement that evening was a huge success. Port Wines can be the perfect fit to end a meal, or just relaxing near a roaring fire. The pleasures of Port can always find an occasion. So on **Monday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** in our back stock room, we will once again be dedicating a tasting exclusively

to Ports. Take advantage of this great opportunity to sample through several styles of Port selected from one of the oldest, most highly esteemed Port shippers in the world, "Warres". *Jim Kowalyshyn of Vineyard Brand Imports*, will offer a better understanding of the complex nature of these sweet, deliciously textured, fortified wines.

Seating is limited, so **reserve your seat by calling 649-4750.** (No emails please).

### The tasting list is as follows:

Warres Otima 10 Year Tawny 500 ml	<b>\$22.99</b>
Warres 20 Year Tawny 750 ml	<b>\$49.99</b>
Warres Warrior Vintage Character 750ml	<b>\$15.99</b>
Warres 1994 Late Bottle Vintage 750ml	<b>\$26.99</b>
Warres Quinta de Cavadihna 750 ml	<b>\$44.99</b>
Warres 1997 Vintage Port 750ml	<b>\$69.99</b>

Special pricing will be announced that night

## SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE TASTING

On **Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-5:00 p.m.**, blind taste through three levels of Cabernet Sauvignon from California's Robert Mondavi and Chile's Santa Rita. This side by side comparison makes for a fun way to seek out your favorites and understand the distinct styles of these countries.

### California

<b>2001 Robert Mondavi Woodbridge</b>	<b>\$6.99</b>
<b>2000 Robert Mondavi Private Selection</b>	<b>\$9.99</b>
<b>2000 Robert Mondavi Napa Valley</b>	<b>\$19.99</b>

### Chile

<b>2002 Santa Rita 120 Selection</b>	<b>\$5.99</b>
<b>2001 Santa Rita Reserva</b>	<b>\$9.99</b>
<b>2000 Santa Rita Medalla Real</b>	<b>\$17.99</b>