



Manchester Wine & Liquors



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

January 2003

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TEN FOR UNDER TWELVE

As another year ends and a new one begins, we hope you and your families had a healthy and happy holiday season. As we move into the heart of winter, our focus shifts away from the holiday items and towards everyday items. In January, we annually compile a top ten value list. We make these choices from wines we have featured in the last year. Our cutoff point is **\$12.00** to be included in this compilation. Let's face it, everyone is tapped out from the holidays now, so this is the perfect remedy for maxed-out credit cards and empty wallets. Ten delicious wines that you can drink tonight for under **\$12**.

WHITES

2001 Regaleali Bianco - Regaleali was the first property to demonstrate the quality potential from Sicily. Today, we have many properties from Sicily making excellent wine available to us. This Bianco was a huge hit at a backroom tasting earlier last year. This blend of indigenous varietals to Sicily and Sauvignon Blanc, shows dry lemony fruit, nutty tones and a long crisp finish.

Price  **\$9.99**

2001 Terres Dorees Chardonnay - Jean Paul Brun has a Domaine in Beaujolais where he not only makes delicious Beaujolais, but also Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. His soil makeup is chalky, resembling that of Burgundy, leading to a distinct mineral quality in the wines. The old vines used for his Chardonnay lead to a wine with a rich, creamy, smooth texture.

Price  **\$9.99**

2001 Penfolds Rawsons Retreat Chardonnay - Penfolds has been one of Australia's top producers for decades. As Australian wines rise to unprecedented levels of popularity, Penfolds is not being left behind. Rawsons Retreat is a new addition to the Penfolds portfolio that comes in under the \$10.00 price point. The wines represent excellent value. The Chardonnay shows ripe tropical fruit, some oak, but retains a nice sense of balance and acidity.

Price  **\$7.99**

REDS

2001 Palladio Chianti - A new Chianti in the market that was received very warmly in November. This 2001 Chianti shows textbook bright strawberry and cherry fruit, subtle earthy tones on the finish, and a great overall sense of balance. Perfect for grilled chicken, veal or pasta.

Price  **\$8.99**

2000 Maculan Brentino - Fausto Maculan is widely recognized as one of Italy's premier winemakers. Brentino is a delicious blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cab. The wine is dark, rich and concentrated, showing the fruit intensity of a \$20 bottle. This smooth, silky textured blend tastes very similar to a top St. Emilion.

Price  **\$11.99**

2000 Montinore Pinot Noir - Finding high quality, inexpensive Pinot Noir was like trying to find a needle in a haystack at one time. Today, there are more delicious affordable Pinots than ever. We love the Pinots from Oregon like Montinore. Dark fruits, velvety textured, subtle earthy notes characterize these Pinots from the Pacific Northwest.

Price  **\$11.99**

2000 Jaboulet Cotes Du Rhone Parallel 45 - In good vintages, Cotes Du Rhone always represent excellent values. Here you have the combination of a great vintage in the hands of a great producer and a top ten value in our eyes. This Cotes Du Rhone shows intense raspberry and spice flavors, yet displays a silky, soft texture. Perfect for those who grill all year round.

Price  **\$8.99**

2000 Colosi Rosso - This Sicilian red was a huge hit when we featured it earlier last year. Made from Nero D'Avola, this prominent red varietal of Sicily, Colosi Rosso shows fresh jammy raspberry fruit, a round, velvety feel on the palate, and a spicy, warming finish. If you love California Zins, this Rosso is for you.

Price  **\$7.99**

2000 Chateau St. Yves - 2000 Bordeaux is one of the hottest categories at this time. We continue to see tremendous interest in all areas of this category, and for good reason. The 2000 Bordeaux for under \$12.00 are some of the best red wine values on the market today. Ch. St. Yves was one of the more popular choices we featured last year. This delicious bargain shows amazing depth and richness for a wine in this price range. It is full of cassis and currant fruit, soft tannins and a long lingering finish.

Price  **\$6.99**

2000 Peachy Canyon Incredible Zin - This juicy red from Peachy Canyon continues to be a store favorite. We introduced you to this vintage in our Thanksgiving pack. Incredible Zin possesses lively raspberry and strawberry fruit, fresh acidity and a touch of spice on the finish. Taste this side by side with the Colosi for an interesting comparative tasting.

Price  **\$11.99**

Case Discounts Do Apply and Mixed Cases Are Welcomed

TWO BOTTLE SAMPLER PACK

This month's sampler pack brings us what may be the future in wine packaging. You have been hearing about wineries moving away from corks and towards screwcaps for several years now. Well, we are starting to see them arrive into the market more and more. This month, we have two screwcap finished wines from Randall Graham at Bonny Doon under his Ca Del Solo label. As more and more wines have become cork finished over the last fifteen years, the demand for cork outpaced supply. It takes five years to get cork from a cork tree, so cork producers have not been able to keep up. As a result, more flawed cork is being used giving wines a musty aroma and taste. This cork problem is estimated to affect as much as 5% of wines today. After years of research, many producers now feel screwcaps are the way to go. Detractors question whether screwcaps will jeopardize the ageability of reds. But research indicates that the ageing produced in red wine is from chemical changes in the wine, not the slight oxidation that takes place if a wine is cork finished. This month, we give you a chance to do your own research on two screwcap wines from Randall Graham. **2001 Big House White** is a blend of too many grapes to mention. Stylistically, it is a cross between an Italian white and a Rhone styled white. Lemony, nutty flavors mingle with a touch of dried apricot on the palate. This white blend is ideal for oysters, shrimp or other shellfish. This vintage of **2001 Big House Red** is as fine an effort as we have tasted of this wine. Very dark in color, this Rhone/Italian blend has blackberry and black raspberry fruit, plenty of concentration, and the necessary structure to test how this screwcap wine will age. If you choose to enjoy it today, try a stew, lamb or venison dish to pair it with.

**Buy One Each
Of The Two**

For Only

 **\$17.98**
net

a savings of 4.00 or 18%



MONTHLY SPECIALS

2001 Muga Blanco - This famous Rioja producer is well known for their complex, ageworthy Rioja Riservas. We were equally impressed with their delicious, inexpensive Blanco. White Rioja's generally are straightforward, nondescript whites, but Muga has surprising depth and personality. The wine is 95% Viura and 5% Malvasia, it is then aged for six months in new oak followed by 6 months in bottle. The final product shows generous amounts of melon fruit, a touch of honey and vanilla from the new oak, and a refreshing, crisp finish. This medium-to full-bodied white will do nicely with salmon or tuna steaks, cream sauces or grilled marinated chicken. Tired of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Grigio? Try Muga Blanco. **Regular price \$9.99/btl. This month get 15% off by the bottle, ~~\$8.49~~ and 25% off by the case, ~~\$7.49~~ or ~~\$89.88~~ by the case net.**

2001 Terres Dorees Pinot Noir - The Chardonnay from this Beaujolais Domaine was a huge hit when we featured it earlier in the fall. So we shouldn't be surprised at the quality of this Pinot Noir. By using old vines and reducing yields, proprietor Jean Paul Brun has fashioned a Burgundy look alike with this Pinot. Medium bodied, with a complex, aromatic, earthy nose, this Pinot shows velvety plum and cherry fruit and earthy tones on the palate, the finish is surprisingly long. It would be impossible to find a true Burgundy for this price, yet the wine tastes as if it were a very good Bourgogne Rouge. Enjoy this Pinot with game, mushroom sauces or even grilled tuna steaks. **Regular price \$12.99/btl. This month 15% off by the bottle, ~~\$11.04~~ and 25% off by the case, ~~\$9.74~~ or ~~\$116.88~~ by the case net.**

2000 Chateau Bellegrave Medoc - We are pleased to announce the return of Chateau Bellegrave. This outstanding Cru Bourgeois out of Bordeaux's Medoc region drew up such incredible attention when we featured it back in September's newsletter. The article was based around bargain reds coming out of the monumental 2000 Bordeaux vintage. In fact, Bellegrave was the wine that initiated the feature. Unfortunately, there hasn't been any available since. Now we have been given one more opportunity to secure enough to run as a club special. But keep in mind, supply is somewhat limited because this one will go out by the case load. Bellegrave exhibits the finest qualities of 2000 vintage Bordeaux at this level. This supple and stylish red is comprised of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot. Its generous Bordeaux aromas are defined by cedar, tobacco and ripe black and red fruits. The full-bodied flavors are packed with rich tannins, cassis and black currants. The Cabernet portion adds to the depth and structure and the Merlot offers its soft complexity. Bellegrave will cellar for the next 6-8 years, and would accompany red meats, game and hard cheeses. A true Bordeaux bargain that is hard to beat. **Regular price \$10.99/btl. This month get 15% off by the bottle, ~~\$9.34~~ and 25% off by the case, ~~\$8.24~~ or ~~\$98.88~~ by the case net.**

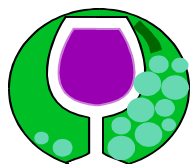
1999 Clos Du Val Merlot - We figure with the lead article dedicated to affordable wine values, this deep, richly concentrated and well structured Napa Valley Merlot would make the right fit to represent the upper price level, for value of its own. Clos Du Val is renowned for their stylish Cabernet Sauvignons. This may be why Clos Du Val's Merlot is styled similarly to Cabernet in its price category, yet showing the elegance and structure of what good premium California Merlot should be. This Merlot was sourced out of their prime Napa Valley vineyards, mostly out of the prestigious Stags Leap district. It displays the power and finesse of Napa's super "1999" vintage at its best. In the bottle, it shows plenty of ripe blackberry and plum concentration. The full-bodied flavors display velvety layers of young, sweet tannin, spice and well integrated oak. The finish is juicy and shows tremendous length. Drinks well now, but is sure to reward you with further cellar time. Pair this fine red with roasts, sausage and duck. **Priced down to \$24.99/btl. from its original \$27.99 price tag. This month get 15% off by the bottle, ~~\$21.24~~ and 25% off by the case, ~~\$18.74~~ or ~~\$224.88~~ by the case net.**

***** All Four Are Available For Tasting *****
MIXED CASES DUE APPLY TOWARDS 25% SAVINGS

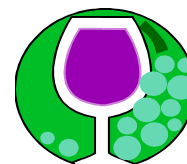
***** WINE TASTINGS SEE PAGE 4 *****

SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE TASTING

From time to time throughout the year, we will be offering a fun and very interesting format for our in-store tastings. This month's format will be a blind tasting. There are no right or wrong answers. The object of this type of tasting, will be to help educate your palate further in each respective category we feature. On **Saturday, January 18th between 12:00 and 4:00 p.m.**, you will have an opportunity to taste four distinct and impressive California Red Zinfandels and let you decide which is your favorite from the listing below. Keep in mind, this is a blind tasting, so the listing below will not necessarily be the order you will taste them in.



1999 Renwood "Old Vines" Zinfandel	\$22.99
1999 Trentadue Zinfandel	\$14.99
2000 St. Francis Zinfandel	\$21.99
2000 Ridge Lytton Springs Zinfandel	\$29.99



MONTHLY BACKROOM TASTING

On **Monday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m.** in our back stockroom, we will start off the new year tasting program with Washington state's most coveted wine producer, Chateau Ste. Michele. On hand to lead the tasting will be *Michael Wylie, Eastern Regional Manager for Stimson Lane Vineyard Estates*. Chateau Ste. Michele is the oldest winery in Washington state with some of the most mature vineyards in the Columbia Valley viticultural appellation. This large producer is the key driving force behind the success of the state's wine industry, which stands only second to California in production. They are the region's innovative leader in viticultural research, having two distinct state of the art wineries. One dedicated only to white wines and the other exclusively to red wines. Many of the top wines in Chateau Ste. Michele's vast portfolio can compare to some of the world's best. Climatically, Washington state is divided. The Cascade mountains to the west capture the clouds that flow off the Pacific ocean, soaking up the brunt of the state's annual rainfall. This allows the east side of the state, in this case, the Columbia Valley, a climate that offers a long, sunny, hot and dry growing season, marked by excellent ripening, with cool nightly temperatures that help define its natural balance of acidity and good fruit concentration. Four of the six wines we will touch on are from their single vineyard releases and they will exhibit just how good the wines of Washington state can be. Seating is limited, so **reserve your seat by calling 649-4750.**

(no emails please)

Tasting List Is As Follows:

2001 Chateau Ste. Michele Horse Heaven Sauvignon Blanc	\$14.99
2000 Chateau Ste. Michele Canoe Ridge Chardonnay	\$21.99
2000 Chateau Ste. Michele Syrah	\$11.99
2000 Chateau Ste. Michele Cabernet Sauvignon	\$13.99
2001 Chateau Ste. Michele Canoe Ridge Merlot	\$25.99
1999 Chateau Ste. Michele Cold Creek Cabernet Sauvignon	\$29.99