



Manchester Wine & Liquors



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

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ANOTHER LOOK AT NEW ZEALAND

One trend that we never anticipated was the tremendous surge in New Zealand wines. We first did a New Zealand spread back in the summer of '98. It has been a couple of years since we took a look at this southern hemisphere region. The area did experience a severe supply problem with their 2000 vintage. This crop was about half the size of a normal vintage. Many wineries were only able to ship 25% to 40% of what they sent to the U.S. market the previous year. There were some price increases, but pricing came back down with the normal sized 2001 vintage. So what better time to take another look at some new releases from New Zealand, especially if we get any help from mother nature in June, these wines will be great for this time of year.

Ten years ago, New Zealand wines virtually didn't exist in the U.S. market. When some of the first arrivals started to appear, they were not warmly met. Right off the bat, Sauvignon Blanc became synonymous with New Zealand. The initial entries though were extremely aggressive, vegetal, grassy and overly herbal. This was the style that folks in New Zealand enjoyed. They quickly discovered this style was not to the American's liking. Within a few years, we started to see very different wines from New Zealand. Winemakers started to utilize different management techniques in the vineyards to move away from this style. By exposing the grapes to sunlight longer by pulling back the canopy, much of this grassy, herbaceous character was eliminated. The wines became brighter and fruit driven, leading to a surge in popularity. As more affordable labels began to hit the market, New Zealand wines took off.

This month, we decided to take a look at half a dozen new releases from New Zealand. Even though some tasty Merlots, Pinots and Chards are made in New Zealand, we decided to focus on what they do best, Sauvignon Blanc. These dry, crisp, intensely flavored wines will be perfect for the upcoming summer months.

2001 Coopers Creek Sauvignon Blanc - This Marlborough property is quickly becoming the value leader in New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. With the Stonleigh label eliminated, Coopers Creek is probably the best Sauvignon Blanc on the market for

under \$10. Textbook lemony flavors, surprising richness, great balance and finish make this effort shine. **Price \$10.99/btl.**

2001 Brancott Sauvignon Blanc - Marlborough is to New Zealand what Napa is to California, it is also the home of Brancott Vineyards. Brancott has been around for about 20 years, they were the first to grow Sauvignon in Marlborough. Brancott makes a more subtle style of Sauvignon Blanc. They utilize some French oak and their fruit profile runs towards citrus and melon, not being quite as lemony as some. **Price \$11.99/btl.**

2001 Tohu Sauvignon Blanc - A relative newcomer to the game, this Marlborough producer is a name to keep an eye on. They have been growers for years, but only bottling their own production since the '98 vintage. Tohu, in terms of style, is somewhat like Brancott, their fruit profile leans towards bright tropical flavors. **Price \$15.99/btl.**

2001 Giesen Sauvignon Blanc - This wine was featured several month's back and was very warmly received. In case you missed it then, we thought we would include it here. Loire Valley-like in style, it would be interesting to taste this wine along side Sancerre or Pouilly Fume at almost twice the price. Crisp, fresh texture, lemon-lime flavors, nice long finish. **Price \$11.99.**

2001 Dashwood Sauvignon Blanc - Interestingly enough, several wineries are put on the same pedestal in New Zealand as Cloudy Bay, one is Vavasour. Although their primary label is not well known in this country, their second label, Dashwood, is one to take notice of. Very traditional New Zealand style, very intense lemony fruit, but without the excessive grassy quality that probably would have been in a wine like this five years ago. **Price \$13.99.**

2001 Villa Maria Cellar Select Reserve Sauvignon Blanc - This premium effort from Villa Maria is a special wine. This Marlborough operation is over forty years old. They have been New Zealand's leading award winning winery, both nationally

and internationally. This Sauvignon Blanc has that extra layer of lemony fruit, extra depth, complexity and length that make this effort stand out. Even better, this year's version is several dollars less than last years, which sold out. **Price \$16.99.**

New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc:

2001 Coopers Creek	10.99
2001 Brancott	11.99
2001 Tohu	15.99
2001 Giesen	11.99
2001 Dashwood	13.99
2001 Villa Maria	16.99

(Cellar Select Reserve)

**Special Six Pack
Offering Price**



MONTHLY SPECIALS

2000 Avignonesi Rosso Di Montepulciano - One of the most overlooked regions in Tuscany is Vino Nobile Di Montepulciano. Wines in this D.O.C. are made from Prugnolo Gentile (a Sangiovese clone) and Cabernet. Rosso Di Montepulciano is declassified Vino Nobile, wine not quite thought to be of Vino Nobile quality. Avignonesi is the undisputed leader of the region. So even their de-classified wine can probably compare with other producer's Vino Nobiles. This 2000 release is very dark in color, on the palate the wine is super velvety showing cassis and black cherry fruit, followed by some soft tannins on the finish. This delicious Tuscan Red is a great choice for any cut of steak, meat sauces, or maybe on its own with some cheeses. Drink this Rosso now and over the next three years. **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.**

*** Available for Tasting ***

1999 Henry de Velzelay Chardonnay - The Velzelay appellation is located roughly 16 miles south from the town of Chablis. The vineyards in this area are chalky, clay and limestone, similar to that of Chablis. In fact, this delicious Bourgogne Blanc is very Chablis like in style, but for marginally less in price. It is fermented and aged entirely in stainless steel vats. Therefore, it sees no "oak". This style of Chardonnay is gaining more of a mass appeal among Chard drinkers. With no oak influence, it allows for a more pure fruit expression to show. Bright straw color, with aromas and flavors that show plenty of citrus and pear fruits. It is pleasingly clean, crisp and dry. Superbly refreshing, with vibrant acidity showing some nuances of mineral. The intense fruits and crisp acidity lingers on quite long. This French Chardonnay makes for a perfect thirst quencher for the warm summer months ahead. Velzelay undoubtedly represents a super White Burgundy value. It can work well as a simple aperitif or with shellfish, chicken and vegetable salads. **Regular price \$13.99/btl. This month 15% off by the bottle, \$11.89 and 25% off by the case, \$10.49 or \$125.88 by the case net.**

*** Available for Tasting ***

2000 Fess Parker White Riesling - Over just the past 15 years, Fess Parker has become one of California's better premium wine producers coming out of the Central Coast. Fess Parker's life before wine came from an illustrious career in both film and television as the characters, Daniel Boone and Davey Crockett. Now in his later years, Fess settled down along with his son, Eli and has built a small wine empire with the sound course and vision of producing some of the best wines out of California's Central Coast areas. This delicious Riesling comes out of four of his best vineyard sights for Riesling fruit. What you will find is the peachy, citrus and honeysuckle tones jump right out from the glass, echoing refreshing fruit bowl flavors of peach, apricots, citrus and juicy orange. The underlying acidity holds well to the off-dry fruit structure. It will make for a nice summer quaffer with spicy Asian foods and Duck a L'Orange. **Regular 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.**

*** Available for Tasting ***

1999 Domaine Bernard Moreau Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge - It's been said that if there is a downside to red wine from this great white wine village of Chassagne-Montrachet, it would be the lack of attention Pinot Noir-based reds tend to get. Bernard Moreau is a very dedicated grower with an impressive array of vineyards who in fact, produces more red Chassagne than white. His wines may be relatively unknown in the U.S., but Clive Coates, one of the world's leading Burgundy experts, cites Moreau as a very reliable producer and has described the style of this Bourgogne Rouge as "ample and classy". We couldn't agree more. Classified as a "Village Burgundy", this bottling comes out of the large, yet excellent '99 vintage. The French Burgundy region is the world's reference point for both Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. It is a deliciously charming Pinot Noir, that shows classic Burgundian aromas of earth, spice, sweet fruits, with some new oak. Plenty of up-front red and black cherry flavors, with nuances of black plum in the background. Elegant structure on the mid-palate, with a perfect amount of acidity. The sweet spicy tannins round out the long finish. This is a whole lot of Burgundy for the price. Enjoy over the next 4-6 years. Quite versatile to a wide assortment of grilled meats. **Regular price only \$19.99/btl. This month 15% off by the bottle, \$16.99 and 25% off by the case, \$14.99 or \$179.88 by the case net.**

*** Available for Tasting ***

Try a mixed case of monthly club specials:

- 3 btls. 2000 Avignonesi Rosso Di Montepulciano
- 3 btls. 1999 Henry de Velzelay Chardonnay
- 3 btls. 2000 Fess Parker White Riesling
- 3 btls. 1999 Domaine Bernard Moreau Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge

FOR ONLY



SAMPLER PACK

Playing off the theme set forth in April's Winebow tasting, central Italy is a treasure trove for great values. One of the highlights of that tasting was an Aglianico wine from Di Majo Norante called Ramitello. This month, we continue to bring you more exciting wines from Norante. This property is located in Molise, a D.O.C. that was once a part of Abruzzi. Favorites among the wine critics, their intro-level varietals are their best values. Robert Parker writes "their **Sangiovese** would embarrass all the \$15-\$20 California Sangiovese on the market at a fraction of the price". Believe it or not, the current 2000 vintage may be their best yet. This vintage was incredibly successful throughout central Italy, and all three wines in this pack are from this outstanding year. **Di Majo's Cabernet** is impressive for its tobacco and cherry fruit with just a hint of Italian rusticity. Finding Cabernet at this quality and price today is near impossible. We round out the pack with their **Greco**. This white varietal is grown widely throughout central and southern Italy. This version shows dry, lemon-nutty flavors with a soft mid-palate. A delicious summer white that's a step up in weight and complexity from Pinot Grigio. Enjoy with shellfish, pasta salad or sea bass.

Three Bottle Sampler Pack

2000 Di Majo Norante Greco	7.99
2000 Di Majo Norante Cabernet	7.99
2000 Di Majo Norante Sangiovese	7.99

Choose
from any
combination
of all three



a savings of an additional 5.00 or 21%

MONTHLY STORE TASTING

As a reminder, we now ask that you call and make seating reservations to help control the room's capacity. Please call 649-4750 to make your reservations. No e-mail's please. Thank you for your cooperation.

On **Monday, June 17th at 6:30p.m.** in our back stockroom, we will be featuring the Australian wines of Peter Lehmann. Australia continues to be one of the hottest wine producing countries importing into the United States. They offer a tremendous quantity of both lower priced to upper premium levels, with super quality and flavors of mass appeal. Lehmann originally began as a bulk wine producer, eventually bottling some of the best premium wines out of the Barossa Valley, the oldest and most important wine region out of South Central Australia. Peter Lehmann is legendary in these parts, being labeled the "bear" of Barossa. Because in the '70's, this area experienced a huge wine glut, which resulted in major financial difficulties among many growers. Lehmann helped keep the Barossa Valley together by taking much of the oversupply of

fruit from this region. He made it into wine and arranged to pay the growers when the wine sold. Since 1980, Lehmann progressively became one of Australia's top producers. He sources most of his fruit from long-term relationships with the many independent growers and with some of his own vineyards as well. On hand to lead the tasting will be *Jonathan Spadaro, Lehmann's Sales and Marketing Manager*. Jonathan is an old friend to our backroom tasting program, having visited us twice when he represented the esteemed Penfolds Wine Group of Australia. Keep in mind, as we do every year, we take the summer months of July and August off, and resume back up in September.

Tasting List is as Follows:

2000 Peter Lehmann Semillon	11.99
2000 Peter Lehmann Barossa Chardonnay	13.99
1999 Peter Lehmann Barossa Shiraz	17.99
1999 Peter Lehmann Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon	21.99
1999 Peter Lehmann Clancy's Legendary Red	19.99
1997 Peter Lehmann Bortrytis Semillon (375ml)	17.99

*** * * NEW FEATURE * * ***

OPEN HOUSE TASTING

For your purchase consideration, starting this month, we are expanding our in-store wine tasting program titled **Open House Tasting**. It will be held one Saturday a month between **12:00-4:00 p.m.** in our Fine Wine Room in the back of the store, with the first one being held on the **15th of June**.

Vega Sicilia, Pingus and Tinto Pesquera are the three top vineyard estates out of Spain's Ribera del Duero, that hold world class status. Some of Tinto Pesquera's wine portfolio is what we'll be focusing our attention on. What distinguishes Pesquera from this elite group is Alenjandro Fernandes, he is the modern creator of the Ribera style. He not only inspired the Ribera del Duero, but all of Spain, especially in the region of La Rioja. Alenjandro Fernandes is what Robert Mondavi is to Napa and Chateau Petrus is to Bordeaux. This gives you some idea of the level he is at. Pesquera is made exclusively of the indigenous Tinto de Pais, known as Tempranillo, the king of red grape of Spain. Recent research suggests that Tempranillo is a possible common ancestor with the Pinot Noir grape. Tempranillo is aromatic and shows deep color. It is rich and chewy in style, having good tannin structure, with intense fruits of black raspberry and plum. So stop by on **Saturday, June 15th between 12:00-4:00 p.m.** and take advantage of the opportunity to experience these wines for yourself.

SPECIAL OFFERING BY THE BOTTLE

1998 Condado de Haza - 17.99



1999 Tinto Pesquera Crianza - 22.99

1996 Tinto Pesquera Reserva - 89.99



***A SAMPLE OF SOME OF OUR MANY
CALIFORNIA RED RARITIES AND COLLECTABLES***

1998 ABC Ici/La-Bas Pinot Noir -----	36.99	1998 Justin Isosceles (Paso Robles)-----	44.99
1997 Arrowood Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma) -----	49.99	1997 Louis Martini Monte Rosso Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma) -----	39.99
1997 Beringer III Century Cabernet Franc -----	89.99	1997 Louis Martini Monte Rosso Zinfandel -----	29.99
1995/96/97 Beringer Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	105.00	1997 Louis M. Martini Merlot (Chiles Valley) -----	27.99
1996 Beringer Howell Mountain Merlot -----	79.99	1996/97/98 Merryvale Profile Napa Red -----	115.00
1996 B.V. Georges De Latour Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	99.99	1997 Merryvale Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon -----	44.99
1998 B.V. Tapestry -----	49.99	1995 Mount Veeder Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve (Napa) -----	75.99
1997 Cain Five Napa Red -----	81.99	1996 Newton Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	49.99
1996 Cakebread Cellars Benchland Select Cabernet (Napa) -----	79.99	1997 Niebaum Coppola Cask Cabernet -----	69.99
1998 Cakebread Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	54.99	1996 Niebaum Coppola Rubicon -----	109.99
1999 Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	69.99	1997 Niebaum Coppola Rubicon -----	109.99
1996 Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	79.99	1997 North Star Merlot (Columbia Valley) -----	49.99
1999 Caymus Special Cabernet Sauvignon -----	135.99	1998 Opus One -----	149.00
1997 Chateau St. Jean Cinq Cepages (Sonoma) -----	74.99	1997 Opus One 1/2 Btl. -----	79.99
1997 Clos Du Bois Marlstone Vineyards -----	49.99	1996 Optima Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley) -	39.99
1997 Clos Du Bois Winemakers Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon -----	54.99	1997 Pine Ridge Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	54.99
1997 Clos Du Bois Briarcrest Cabernet Sauvignon ----	49.99	1998 PlumpJack Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	54.99
1997 Clos Pegase Reserve Cabernet (Napa) -----	74.99	1997 Quintessa Red (Napa) -----	99.00
1998 David Bruce Pinot Noir (Russian River)-----	37.99	+ 1/2 btls. 1997 -----	49.99
1999 David Bruce Santa Cruz Pinot Noir -----	31.99	1998 Ridge Pagani Ranch Zinfandel -----	29.99
1997 Dry Creek Epoch II -----	65.99	1998 Ridge Geyserville Zinfandel -----	32.99
1998 Duckhorn Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	59.99	1997 Ridge Montebello Cabernet Sauvignon -----	119.99
1999 Duckhorn Merlot 3 Palms (Napa) -----	74.99	1997 Robert Mondavi Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa)-----	128.99
1998 Duckhorn Merlot Howell Mountain -----	59.99	1996 Rosenblum Cellars (Holbrook Mitchel Trio) Napa Valley Red -----	34.99
1999 Duckhorn Merlot Napa Estate -----	84.99	1998 Shafer Napa Merlot -----	39.99
1995 Far Niente Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Cave Collection) -----	129.00	1997 Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley)	64.99
1998 Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	123.00	1996/97 Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	110.00
1996 Ferrari Carano Tresor Reserve -----	64.99	1997 Silverado Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) ---	99.00
1996 Flora Springs Cabernet Sauvignon Hillside Reserve (Napa) -----	70.99	1996 Stags Leap Wine Cellars Fay Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa)-----	119.00
1998 Flora Springs Trilogy (Napa) -----	54.99	1998 Stags Leap Petite Syrah -----	34.99
1999 Frogs Leap Merlot (Napa) -----	35.99	1998 Stags Leap Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	49.99
1998 Frogs Leap Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	39.99	1999 Stags Leap Merlot (Napa) -----	34.99
1994 Gallo Stephani Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon -----	29.99	1997 Sterling Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon -----	76.99
1996 Girard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	44.99	1997 St. Francis Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon -----	49.99
1994 Grgich Hills Yountville Select Cabernet Sauvignon -----	120.00	1997 St. Supery Meritage (Napa)-----	51.99
1997 Grgich Hills Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa) -----	65.99	1997 Swanson Syrah (Napa) -----	37.99
1997 Groth Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa)-----	49.99	1999 Thunder Mountain Cabernet Franc (Cienega Valley) -----	47.99
1997 Jordan Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley) --	49.99	1999 Thunder Mountain Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz) -----	68.99
1996 Joseph Phelps Insignia (Napa)-----	105.00	1999 Viader Red (Napa) -----	89.99

BIG BOTTLE FORMAT

1999 Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon 1.5 (Napa) -----	159.99	1996 J. Phelps Insignia 3.0 -----	360.00
1997 Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon 1.5 -----	155.00	1996 St. Francis Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 3.0 ----	195.00