



SEPTEMBER 2008

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF GRENACHE

Grenache is a noble red grape variety that is grown widely throughout Europe's Mediterranean wine regions of Spain, France and southern Italy. This sun-drenched part of the world supports an ideal climate and topography for producing outstanding Grenache dominated wines. It is also the favorable grape used to produce some of the best Rose wines of France. In fact, the French are most adept when it comes to blending Grenache into many of their great red wines of the southern Rhone and throughout the Languedoc-Roussillon region. Australia also produces large amounts of well-made Grenache, and like the French, their winemakers understand the masterful art of blending this workhorse grape in with Shiraz and other varieties. Grenache grape clusters vary from black to pale red. When Grenache is produced to stand alone, it typically provides an array of supple aromas such as pepper, vanilla and many other spicy nuances. The rich assortment of both black and red fruits adds to a medium to full-bodied structure, with some producers showing light oak and others a bit heavier on oak. Grenache also shows noted characteristics of sweet, smoky tar and tobacco. Younger Grenache plantings can, at times, over produce on the vine, but quality conscious producers mainly prefer to work with much older vines where the grape yields are kept lower for a better result of concentration and fruit quality. This feature represents an affordable and diverse look into Grenache.



We begin our "World of Grenache" with the **2004 Tir Na Nog Old Vine Grenache**. The name Tir Na Nog is gaelic for "land of the youth". This red was produced out of Australia's McLaren Vale wine region, which is where you will find very old vine plantings of highly concentrated dry farmed Grenache. The area provides a climate similar to the Mediterranean and has a range of free draining soil types. Tir Na Nog is a perpetual high scoring wine that was first introduced to us nearly two years ago. John Larchet owner and founder of the Australian Premium Wine Collection brings this wine into the U.S. with great pride.

The '04 vintage of Tir Na Nog displays a mature and complex style, showing well-composed aromatics of licorice, pepper and sweet berry, with subtle smoky oak. On the palate, it opens up with a generous variety of sweet, red cherry and blackberry fruits, combined with raspberry and ripe plum. Tir Na Nog's rich and spicy components are framed in a smooth and elegant, yet full-bodied structure, marked with a slight hint of earthy mineral. It is balanced with just the right touch of oaky tannin and a finish that is long and layered.

\$17.99

2005 Sella & Mosca Riserva Cannonau – This progressive wine estate is situated off Italy's mainland on the island of Sardinia. We purposely selected this producer due to the extraordinary style that it offers, by revealing one of the finest expressions of Italy's version of this grape variety. Cannonau is the local name for Grenache. Scented with dusty red fruits and violet, this particular Cannonau is a bit drier and has a more acidic structure. Sella & Mosca showcases more pronounced flavors of red cherry and raspberry fruits with some plum notes in the background. Aged for two years in oak, this wine has a robust medium to full-bodied structure that follows through with hints of earthy terrior and a fine integration of pepper spice. If you enjoy the rustic qualities of Italian wine, then give this distinct style of Cannonau a try.

\$12.99

We would be remiss in overlooking Spain as a source of high quality Grenache wine produced. As is the case in many other regions, Grenache or Garnacha as it is called in Spain, is used often as a blending grape. It is an authorized varietal that can be used in Rioja wines, and is blended with Syrah, Tempranillo and Monastrel throughout many other regions in Spain. For this feature we are focusing on 100% Garnacha wines in which we have two bargains to include from Spain.

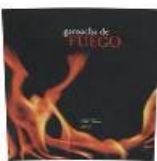


The first is a new release from Borsao called **Monte Oton**. This co-op, located in Campo De Borja, has been a constant source of tremendous values over the years. Many of their bottlings have some Garnacha blended in, but two are all Garnacha. A familiar Borsao label that is known to many of our readers, Tres

Picos is a single vineyard wine made of old vine Garnacha. This wine has been rated in the 90's on several occasions, but is sold out until the 2007 arrives. Then you have the **2007 Monte Oton** made from vineyards high up on an extinct volcano. This hot, windswept climate is ideal for this hearty varietal. The wine showcases jammy raspberry and spice flavors mixed in with peppery notes. A tremendous mouthful of wine at a price that warrants buying by the case.

\$7.99

The second selection is a wine we featured earlier this year in a spread about new Spanish releases. With this latest vintage of **Garnacha De Fuego**, the 2007 hails from Calatayud, a shoreline region in the southwest of Spain. This area is dominated by steeply angled vineyards sloping down to the ocean. The soil is poor and lacking nutrients, causing the vines to struggle and keeping their yields low naturally. Garnacha is prevalent here and Garnacha De Fuego comes from vines 60-80 years old. The resulting wine is bursting with blackberry and raspberry jam in a fresh, pure style. This wine sees no oak to preserve its vivid jammy quality. Either of these two Spanish efforts will reward you time and again over the next 18-24 months.



\$7.99

A PAIR FROM PETER LEHMANN

Like a reliable old friend, the wines of Peter Lehmann continue to delivery year in and year out. Started in 1979 and widely credited with saving the Barossa Valley, Peter Lehmann wines have successfully transitioned from an inexpensive bulk producer to a leader in Australia's premium wine category. This month we feature two current releases from the 2005 vintage, with their **Barossa Shiraz** and flagship blend **Clancy's Red**.

We first carried Peter Lehmann wines close to 20 years ago and they sold for about \$6.00 a bottle. After about five years, they moved up in the \$20.00 price range. Initially, this price hike was obviously met with resistance, but the quality of the wines had been upgraded considerably. As consumers tried the new bottlings, they were well received and sales rebounded. The last piece of the puzzle fell into place early this decade when the Hess Collection Winery purchased a controlling interest in Peter Lehmann. This made tremendous resources available to the winery, as well as an opportunity to reduce their prices in the U.S. market by about 25%. As a whole, Lehmann wines show good fruit intensity, with more sense of balance and elegance compared to many others of the Barossa.

We start with the **2005 Clancy's Red**. This vintage is a blend of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot. On four different occasions since 1997, this wine has been in the Wine Spectator's Top 100. Last year it was named one of the top 100 wine values in the world. Clancy's is somewhat like a blend of Bordeaux and Aussie Shiraz. This medium-bodied red shows black fruits, a touch of cedar with spice and vanilla notes mixed in. We expect the '05 to be scored comparable to the '04 and other vintages that have landed in Spectator's top 100. Enjoy with filet mignon, beef tenderloin or prime rib.



\$15.99

The **2005 Barossa Shiraz** shows a similar texture with more spicy raspberry fruit. This Shiraz comes from ungrafted vines that can be 80 years of age and older. Australia has never been hit by phylloxera and is home to some of the oldest vines in the world. These low-yielding senior citizen vines add to the depth of flavor and complexity in a wine. Rated 91 by the Wine Spectator, enjoy Peter Lehmann Shiraz with grilled meats, pizza or any dish with a spicy sauce.



\$15.99

For an additional savings
Buy **One Bottle**
Each of the Two
For Only

\$25.98
net

MONTHLY SPECIALS

2005 Les Salices Chardonnay- Jacques and Francois Lurton have always managed to deliver affordable, classic styled, oak aged Chardonnay year after year. They have a proven knack for pulling in well-sourced grapes from a multitude of diverse terriors throughout the vast region of the French Cotes du Languedoc. Though Les Salices Chardonnay is classified as Vin De Pays D.O.C., it is often referred to as more Burgundian in style, with a profound toasty apple aroma. It is rich and full-bodied, accented with a gentle kiss of oak and vanilla. The apple, pear and white peach flavors are balanced with a nice measure of acidity and the finish is long lasting. Creamy casseroles, crabcake or smoked fish makes a nice food pairing with Les Salices Chardonnay. Take full advantage of this magnificent offering of only **\$9.99/btl.** **This month, save 15% off by the bottle, \$8.49 or 25% off by the case, \$7.49/\$89.88 net.**

2006 Enguera Distinto - One importer that quickly built an impressive Spanish portfolio is Ole Imports. Started by Patrick Mata as a young college graduate, Mata has compiled a stellar group of excellent values from throughout Spain. Distinto comes from the southeastern Spanish region of Valencia. This region, about 35 miles inland, is hot during the day, but benefits from the Mediterranean's cooling influence at night. Distinto is made from vines over 25 years old, half being Syrah and half Tempranillo. This juicy red shows plum, cherry and cranberry fruit with subtle earthy tones and a fresh, vibrant mouthfeel. Only 1,000 cases of this fine value were shipped to the U.S. market. Rated 89 by *Robert Parker*, a good sturdy everyday red for chops, ribs, pizza or burgers. **Regular Price \$11.99/btl. Save 15% off by the bottle, \$10.19 or 25% off by the case, \$8.99/ \$107.88 net.**



**WINE DELIVERY
SERVICE AVAILABLE**

We offer pre-arranged home or office wine delivery service. Call us at **649-4750** or email us at **mwl@snet.net** (restrictions do apply)

2005 Zenato Merlot- In our quest to present a Merlot that puts forward a more distinctive style and flavor, we turn to the northern Italian wine region of Veneto. This area is renowned for producing big, rich Amarone and Valpolicella Classico wines made with indigenous grape varieties. Like Zenato, many producers in this region have experienced a great deal of success with the more internationally known red grape varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Prior to release, Zenato Merlot was aged up to 15 months in French oak, followed by 6 months in bottle. The wine showcases a deep, purplish red color. It has a profuse blackberry and ripe plum aroma, which comes together with a lovely dose of spicy oak, vanilla and earthy terrior. On the palate, Zenato Merlot provides a nice succulent, full-bodied structure that weaves into a smooth velvety texture. It shows a dry, dusty tannin mouthfeel and persistent sweet oak on the back end. Enjoy this wine's many nuances over the next 5-7 years, paired with lamb, duck or roasted pork. This offering of only **\$17.99/btl.** gets even better. **This month receive 15% off by the bottle, \$15.29 or 25% off by the case, \$13.49/ \$161.88 net.**

2007 Petit Bourgeois Sauvignon Blanc - This longtime favorite of ours has remained reasonably priced despite the weak U.S. dollar. Bourgeois is a large Loire Valley producer that makes estate bottled wine and purchases fruit as well. This Sauvignon Blanc is made from vineyards outside of the village of Sancerre. Typical of Loire Sauvignon Blanc, Petit Bourgeois shows lemon zest, citrus and mineral tones, with good crisp acidity leading to a long, lingering finish. As many Sancerres are now priced at \$25 to \$30 a bottle, this wine gives you the next best thing for half the price. Enjoy with shellfish, chicken salad, sushi or on its own to start an evening. **Regular Price \$12.99, this month save 15% off by the bottle, \$11.04 or 25% off by the case \$9.74/\$116.88 net.**

*All Four Monthly Specials Are Available For Sampling
September 2nd through September 27th*

**Monthly Special Mixed Cases Do Apply
Towards 25% Savings**



***Mondays - Saturdays
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.***

**CELEBRATING ONE OF
ARGENTINA'S SUPERSTARS**

On **Monday, September 15th at 6:30p.m. at the Adams Mill BanquetRoom**, we will resume our wine tasting program by presenting wines from Argentina produced by Susana Balbo. On hand to lead the tasting will be *Chad Bevertin, Wine Director of Vine Connections Imports*.

Susana Balbo has had significant wine-making accomplishments in the first twenty years prior to establishing the Dominio del Plata Winery with her husband. She became known as the first winemaker hired as a consultant to make wine outside Argentina, in as many as seven different countries. It is said that Susana Balbo has worked with a wider variety of wines than any other winemaker in Argentina. In 2001, Susana had fully emerged into what was once a male dominated wine industry by result of her remarkable skills at winemaking and vast worldly viticultural experience.

Today, the wines produced under the Balbo name are offered in two levels. The more complex, elegantly structured and age worthy estate bottlings, that are sourced from the 52 acres that surround their Dominio del Plata Winery, which is situated within the Lujan de Cuyo part of the Mendoza region. The other offering provides a more affordable, well-balanced and expressively fruit forward group of wines under the "Crios" label. This selection was designed to represent Susana Balbo and her children. The word "Crios" literally translates as "off spring". **To help support the continued growth of our Wine Tasting Program, a small fee of \$5.00 per person is required to attend. For your convenience, "cash" or "check" can be presented at the door. Please reserve your seat early by calling 649-4750, or emailing us at mwl@snet.net. Only Wine Club Members listed in our database are eligible to attend, however members are able to reserve a spot for a guest (names are needed at time of reservation).**

Tasting list is as follows:

Crios Rose of Malbec	\$9.99	Crios Malbec	\$13.99
Crios Torrontes	\$13.99	Susana Balbo Malbec	\$27.99
Crios Syrah-Bonarda	\$13.99	Susana Balbo Cabernet Sauvignon	\$30.99
Crios Cabernet Sauvignon	\$13.99	Susana Balbo Brios Bordeaux Blend	\$44.99

SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE TASTINGS



On **Saturday, September 6th from 2:00-6:00 p.m.** taste through the "Explore the World of Grenache". (Refer to Page 1 for more info.)

Sella&Mosca Riserva Cannonau	\$12.99	Garnacha De Fuego	\$7.99
Monte Oton Garnacha	\$7.99		

SEPTEMBER 13th FROM 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.

We present a very special
wine tasting hosted by
JOHN LARCHET, Owner
Australian Premium Wine Collection



Wishing Tree Chardonnay	\$9.99
Wishing Tree Shiraz	\$9.99
Tir Na Nog Old Vine Grenache	\$17.99
Old Faithful Mourvedre "Almond Grove"	\$39.99

Think of the Australian Premium Wine Collection as a great Australian wine list. My selections incorporate wonderfully distinctive expressions of varietals that Australia is readily known for, and also more importantly, varietals that we do magical things with, but are still relatively unknown for. "John Larchet"

On **Saturday, September 20th from 2:00-6:00 p.m.** taste the Pair from Peter Lehmann. (Refer to Page 2 for more info.)

Peter Lehmann Clancy's Red	\$15.99	Peter Lehmann Barossa Shiraz	\$15.99
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On **Saturday, September 27th from 2:00-6:00 p.m.** sample the four Monthly Specials. (Refer to Page 3 for more info.)

Les Salices Chardonnay	\$9.99	Zenato Merlot	\$17.99
Enguera Distinto	\$11.99	Petit Bourgeois Sauvignon Blanc	\$12.99