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Subject: Como event favorites (part 1)
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To: The BrightWines Beacon newsletter



The BrightWines Beacon for March 8th, 2025: some Como event favorites (part 1)

Just over a week ago, the annual wine-and-food fundraiser for Como Zoo & Conservatory run by Como Friends called "Bouquets" was held - per usual, all the wines were coordinated by BrightWines. There were over 10 wine stations and over 80 wines on offer. Last week at this time, I had about three dozen of the wines in-stock here (less than half) but now at the end of this week, we've added another dozen wines into stock pushing us well past the halfway mark of all of the event wines being in-stock and available at BrightWines! So for this weekend's edition of The BrightWines Beacon, my plan is to keep this to a "Wines of the Weekend" concept. So here's what's going on this weekend at BrightWines, featuring some great IN-STOCK favorites from the Como event...

**** an emerging "mini-theme" from Como: ITALY** is doing quite well, as many (of the many) Italian reds and whites were very popular HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE: a **94-point rated SuperTuscan red blend** (you read that right, 94 points from a very reliable source) **that sits perfectly between "Smart Buy" and "Affordable Luxury"** pricing. AND there's more too... like a **"Due Bicchieri / Gambero Rosso" red Montepulciano for just \$17.99 per bottle** (event price) PLUS a wide range of **interesting and tasty dry Italian whites** too. See BRIGHT LIGHTS for all the details!

**** an emerging "mini-theme" from Como: California Smart-buys**
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE: as noted in last week's edition, highly rated Smart-buys and great values from Paso Robles, and Dry Creek / Sonoma, and more! See BRIGHT LIGHTS for all the details.

**** another emerging "mini-theme" from Como: classic and traditional French** wines from Loire, Bordeaux, and Languedoc
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE: a highly-rated "home" Chateau for one of the most famous names in Bordeaux, Andre Lurton, offering some of the **best in the "petite chateaux" category**. PLUS a darkly fruited, peppery **Syrah/Grenache/Mourvedre blend** (drinks like Crozes-Hermitage) from AOC in the Languedoc, **Minervois**. AND more, including **Sancerre** and **Cheverny Blanc** whites from the Loire. See BRIGHT LIGHTS for all the details.

**** the votes have been tallied... the most popular (most-ordered) wine from the Como event was...**

See BRIGHT LIGHTS for a new arrival this week, a **great value red wine from Washington State!**

THE LAMP IS LIT: Store Hours this weekend and next week

**** SATURDAY March 8th:** OPEN from approx 10:45am until 5:30pm this Saturday

**** MONDAY March 10th - and - TUESDAY March 11th:** OPEN from 11am to 6pm (regular weekdays)
BrightWines will be open regular hours next week for order pickups from this newsletter, as well as other recent editions and for Dave-as-personal-shopper requests too. email orders are preferred, just reply to this newsletter or contact Dave and be sure to mention when you prefer to pick up your order so I can reply and prepare accordingly.

**** WEEK of Monday March 10th - Saturday March 15th:** OPEN REGULAR HOURS (*check with Dave for specific order pickup plans*)

BRIGHT LIGHTS: Come event favorites (part 1) **"Wines of the Weekend" for March 8th**

What do I mean by "Como event" favorites? A week ago, BrightWines coordinated all of the wines for an annual wine-and-food fundraiser for Como Zoo & Conservatory run by Como Friends called "Bouquets." There were over 10 wine stations and over 80 different "Bright" Wines on offer from a wide variety of my favorite suppliers. The process of getting all of the wines into stock, filling any orders received from attendees, and most importantly for my suppliers, featuring the wines here at BrightWines for my newsletter and customers is a slow process, but it's progressing nicely.

As the list of all of the wines came into focus, and orders began to come in, and as my own personal favorites became reflected in the shipments, several "mini themes" have emerged that has helped organize the favorites for us. There is much more to come next week too, and more themes to explore. But for this week, here are some great IN-STOCK favorites from the event!

**** an emerging "mini-theme" from Como: ITALY ****

(Dave's Top Pick - showing beautifully, a 94-point rated SuperTuscan red blend)

Tolaini 2021 "Al Passo" Rosso Toscana red @ \$25.99 per bottle (\$259.99/case = \$21.67 ea, mix/match)

Rated 94 points by noted Italian expert Antonio Galloni in the highly respected Vinous Media publication! Here are his notes: "The **2021 Al Passo** is a very beautiful and expressive wine. Dried cherry, tobacco, cedar, licorice and incense lend notable aromatic nuance. This Sangiovese/Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon blend has a ton to offer. **94 points.**" (AG/VM)

(one of the most-ordered wines) **Illuminati 2021 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo "Riparosso" @ \$17.99 per bottle** (event price)

Rated "Due Bicchieri" (two glasses) in the famed Italian publication Gambero Rosso (and scored 90 points). Wine Spectator magazine says "juicy black and red raspberry fruit, wild herb, graphite and milled pepper notes" and this red is **rated 92 points by Vinous**, who notes the "blend of violets and lavender gives way to crushed blackberries and chalk dust lifts from the 2021 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riparosso. It washes across the palate with soft textures and ripe wild berry fruits that are neatly contrasted by sour citrus toward the close. This finishes perfumed and with admirable length, leaving a coating of dusty tannins that tug at the cheeks. Nicely done. **92 rating.**" (VM)

(one of several, popular, interesting DRY whites) **Farina 2023 Soave Classico @ \$16.67 per bottle** (mix/match event price)

(one of several, popular, interesting DRY whites) **Gorgo 2023 Bianco Custoza** (Verona, Cortese) **@ \$14.99 per bottle** (event price)

(Another, popular, interesting DRY whites) **Villa Bianchi 2023 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi @ \$14.99 per bottle** (\$13.33 ea, mix/match)

** an emerging "mini-theme" from Como: **California Smart-buys**

"Here By Chance" 2022 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$21.99 per bottle (\$19.99 each, mix/match)

Suggested Retail: \$24.99 per bottle CASE PRICE (mix/match is ok, just \$19.99 per bottle, \$239.88/case)

A new project from the company that brings you Bread and Butter and other popular California smart-buys with distinction! **Rated 91 points** by the Tasting Panel, whose (very accurate, imho) tasting notes say: "cocoa and plum skins, followed by a charge of **boysenberry, violets, and cigar leaf. Bold, with tilled soil, dark chocolate-coffee, and a plush**, sweet oak finish. 91 rating."

PEDRONCELLI 2022 Dry Creek "Mother Clone" Zinfandel @ \$19.99 per bottle (\$17.99 each, mix/match)

Suggested Retail: \$24 per bottle CASE PRICE (mix/match is ok, just \$17.99 per bottle, \$215.88/case)

Rated 92 points Wine Spectator!

This is the flagship red wine for Pedroncelli nowadays, and each vintage that goes by just reminds us of how rare these full-bodied, dense, peppery, oaky, classic Dry Creek Zins are. Wine Spectator notes: "Supple and brambly, with **jummy raspberry, licorice and cracked pepper flavors** that end on a zesty accent. Drink now through 2032. 92 rating."

PEDRONCELLI 2022 "Sonoma Classico" Red Blend @ \$19.99 per bottle (\$17.99 each, mix/match)

Suggested Retail: \$24 per bottle CASE PRICE (mix/match is ok, just \$17.99 per bottle, \$215.88/case)

new release, for reference the 2021 rated 93 WE and 91 WS

"a tribute to the **field blend style traditionally done on the property**... a proprietary blend of **Merlot, Syrah, Sangiovese, Tinta Madeira and Souzao.**" **Full-bodied and rich** with good oak aging, but designed to be more approachable and flexible than their powerhouse Zin.

TOAD HOLLOW 2022 Mendocino County UN-oaked CHARDONNAY @ \$14.99 per bottle

Suggested Retail: \$19 Mix/Match Case Price only **\$13.99 each** (mix/match)

One of the original "un-oaked" California Chardonnay specialists, and still one of the best! This is always tasty and classy. Based in Sonoma, using Mendocino County Chardonnay - which is often ideal sourcing for a lighter and more refreshing style of Chardonnay anyway. Kudos to Toad Hollow, and a great value at \$13.99 mix/match from the Como event.

** another emerging "mini-theme" from Como: **classic and traditional French wines** from Loire, Bordeaux, and Languedoc

Chateau Marjose 2021 Bordeaux rouge @ \$17.99 per bottle (event price)

Chateau Marjose is the home property of the famed Pierre Lurton, managing director for Cheval Blanc and d'Yquem, located in the the Entre-deux-Mers region of Bordeaux. Chateau Marjose is a reference-point for high quality Bordeaux rouge "petite chateaux" and come nicely recommended by both Robert Parker's Wine Advocate and Vinous! As Vinous said: "The 2021 Marjose is a racy, pungent wine loaded with aromatic intensity. **Black cherry, plum, sage, mint, dried herbs and tobacco** all take shape in this mid-weight red from Pierre Lurton. **There's terrific energy, tension and class.** Rated 88-90 points" AND Robert Parker's Wine Advocate says "Bursting with aromas of plums, rose petals, burning embers and licorice, the 2021 Marjose is medium-bodied, **supple and charming**, with melting tannins and lively acids. It's a **strong effort from Pierre Lurton's estate in the Entre-Deux-Mers.**"

Domaine Saint Leocadie 2022 "Leukadios" Minervois rouge @ \$15.99 per bottle (\$14.99 each, mix/match case price)

Drinks like a Crozes-Hermitage, but is actually a mature vineyard blend of **Syrah, Grenache, and Mourvedre from Minervois AOC** in the heart of the Languedoc. **Juicy blueberry tones galore, with good peppery qualities** too. Really good bang for the buck!

Les Carrieres de Mezy 2021 cuvee reserve SANCERRE @ \$21.99 per bottle (\$250/case = **\$20.83 each**)

This was one of those "I was told to try the Sancerre" wines according to the supplier at the table. This Loire white is (of course) 100% Sauvignon Blanc, an impressive, full-bodied, drinking at-peak Sancerre, and the crowd loved it!

Pascal Bellier (Loire, France) 2023 Cheverny Blanc @ \$19.99 each (event mix/match case price)

Cheverny is not quite classic Loire white, as it has too much Chardonnay and "white Burgundy" in the profile. But it's also not a true white Burgundy either. But trust me, it appeals... across the board. This is not technically a new selection here, but what little stock I had here at Xmas sold thru very quickly and just came back into stock with my supplier.

** the votes have been tallied... the **most popular (most-ordered) wine from the Como event** was...

LONE BIRCH (Airfield Estate, Washington) SYRAH @ \$12.99 per bottle (mix/match event price)

It was nip-and-tuck there, and frankly the "Riparosso" Montepulciano sold more bottles/cases via the event. But this unassuming, yet VERY smooth and tasty value priced red wine - with raspberry and spice flavors, both complex and friendly - was listed on more order sheets from the event than any other single wine. So therefore... the most popular. And why not? I like it alot too!

As noted above, ALL of the wines in today's newsletter are IN-STOCK now! It was a busy week, and the month of March will be filled with many more exciting wines to come. **ROAR!** —Dave

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

<https://www.brightwines.com/bouquets-2025-winelist-brightwines.pdf>

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