

From: The BrightWines Beacon ~~lighthouse@brightwines.com~~
Subject: a midsummer recap of wine highlights
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To: The BrightWine Beacon newsletter

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The BrightWines Beacon: a midsummer recap of wine highlights

email orders preferred, prices valid while supplies last - NOW through July 25th

BRIGHT LIGHTS: a newsletter-by-newsletter recap of recent features and wine highlights

** newsletter for "The Fourth" (Summer BARGAINS and Celebration Smart-Buys too) **

El Coto 2023 Rioja Blanco (White Rioja) @ \$9.99 per bottle (\$119.88/case)

Crisp and lively with melon tones, this white has become an annual late-summer favorite here as a midway point between Sauv Blanc and Pinot Grigio.

PARIS VALLEY ROAD (Paso Robles) 2018/2019 "Founders Red Blend" @ \$10.97 per bottle

Original Retail: \$15 winery website: <https://thestollercollection.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/PVR-2018-Founders-Blend.pdf>

LOS DOS 2022 Camp de Borja, Spain GARNACHA (grenache) @ \$8.99 per bottle (\$107.88/case)

winery notes: "The palate shows flavors of juicy black raspberry and mulberry with hints of bramble and herb." 100% Grenache

INDABA 2023 dry CHENIN BLANC @ \$7.99 per bottle (\$95.88/case)

winery notes: "South Africa's most widely planted varietal and the Cape's signature white. A crisp and easy drinking Chenin Blanc, this bottle is a refreshing essence vibrantly infused with flavors of honeyed pear, golden delicious apple."

ZILZIE 2019 Victoria Australia SHIRAZ @ \$9.99 per bottle (\$119.88/case)

<https://zilziewinesusa.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/19ZZSHR-US.pdf>

MAHU 2023 Chile SAUVIGNON BLANC @ \$10.97 per bottle

less grapefruit, more melon and crisp apple tones

Chaval 2023 Bobal Rosado (dry Rose, Spain) @ \$9.99 per bottle

the one with the electric bicycle on the label

Pontellon 2021 Rias Baixas Albarino @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$155.88 per case)

Rated 89 points by Wine Enthusiast, with a national retail of \$17 - \$20 + per bottle. End of vintage deal down to just \$12.99. Wine Enthusiast notes: "Aromas of **honeydew and oyster shell** prep the palate for flavors of nectarine, lemon-lime, thyme and jasmine. There is a **nice mix of fruit and savory flavors that culminate in a mineral-laden finish.**"

Babich 2023 "Black Label" Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$155.88/case, mix/match)

Last year's Babich "Black Label" Marlborough, New Zealand made Wine Spectator magazine's Top 100 list. This new fresh vintage is as tasty as ever. 10 cases in-stock now.

ANGELS INK 2021 PINOT NOIR. @ \$13.33 per bottle (\$159.99/case)

Angels Ink is a Pinot Noir "only" label from the portfolio of Wente Vineyards, one of California's most historic and best family wineries. This Pinot Noir is smooth and elegant with impressive depth of cherry cola/vanilla tones. This has become a real customer favorite, this my fourth large shipment of this wine just since eastertime, and just in time for the Fourth!

** newsletter on Austria (last month's winemaker special event) **

Pratsch 2023 dry Rose @ \$15.99 per bottle

rated **90 points** by Falstaff (Germany/Austria specialist) "Pale salmon pink, silver reflections. Delicately floral, fresh orange zest, fine red forest berry confit." One of my dryest roses!

Pannonica (Burgenland) 2022 White blend @ \$11.99 per bottle (limited stock)

a refreshing white blend of crisp **Gruner Veltliner** and other dry whites

Hopler 2020 / 2021 Blaufrankisch @ \$21.99 per bottle (limited stock)

comparable to Barbera from Piedmont, the 2021 is more intense while the 2020 is aromatic and smooth, limited stock of each vintage

** newsletter on OENOTRIA part 1: GREECE

NAOUSSA 2017 Xinomavro RED @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$139.99 per case = \$11.67 each, mix/match)

from the co-operative in Naoussa in the northern part of Greece, **this mature smooth and earthy Xinomavro really compares to Nebbiolo** and is ideal for grilled meats

ZOE 2023 Peloponnese dry ROSE @ \$14.99 per bottle (limited stock)
dry refreshing exuberant rose made of a blend of Aghioritiko and Moscofilero.

SKOURAS 2022 Peloponnese MOSCOFILERO white @ \$17.99 per bottle
George Skouras is one of the true pioneers of the modern Greek wine renaissance. He's best known for classic renditions of Moscofilero and Aghioritiko. The white variety Moscofilero shares some characteristics with Muscat, but in the Peloponnese it is "traditionally used to make a dry and bold wine with much spice and perfume and good acidity"

SKOURAS 2022 Peloponnese ASSYRTIKO white @ \$19.99 per bottle (very limited stock)
George Skouras is one of the true pioneers of the modern Greek wine renaissance, and the vineyards for this most famous dry seafood white, Assyrtiko, are located near Argos on the Peloponnese. You may know Assyrtiko as the variety used on the island of Santorini, and this example could easily pass for that style, but at a much more export-friendly price and quantity.

SKOURAS 2021 Nemea - Aghioritiko SAINT GEORGE red @ \$19.99 per bottle (limited stock)
George Skouras is one of the true pioneers of the modern Greek wine renaissance. He's best known for classic renditions of Moscofilero and Aghioritiko. This medium-bodied, rich and smooth, fruit-forward red from the P.D.O. (protected designation of origin) Nemea is a modern-meets-classic style that will appeal to Cabernet lovers and fans of full-bodied southern Italian reds too. It's rated 89 points by Wine Enthusiast, who notes: "aged in old French barriques for a year. It then sits six more months in the bottle before release. The results are easy drinking and enjoyable, with balanced fruit and acid followed by velvety tannins on the long finish."

(Cyprus) **Makarounas "EN ARHI" 2022 Pafos - Cyprus CABERNET FRANC @ \$22.99 per bottle**
This is the only wine of this entire feature that is not an historic Greek variety. Instead, it's 35-year old vine Cabernet Franc that was brought to the island of Cyprus, the vineyard is certified-organic Cabernet Franc from a family-owned estate in Cyprus. The grapes are grown on ungrafted vines at high elevations (up to 1,600 feet above sea level) and the winery was founded by a UC Davis grad. It was aromatically complex and bright and juicy and smooth, drinking like Loire Valley Cab Franc grown in a much warmer climate.

ALPHA Estate 2021 "Hedgehog single vineyard" Amyndeon XINOMAVRO red @ \$24.99 per bottle
This modern winery has a recent Wine Spectator Top 100 wine to their credit. This powerful and impressive Xinomavro (remember, think Nebbiolo) is from the Amyndeon P.D.O. region is aged in French oak barrels and bottled to be a modern classic affordable luxury! This is priced like Barbera d'Alba but drinks like Barolo in the body of a Barbera.

** newsletter on **OENOTRIA part 2: ITALY** **

De Stefani PROSECCO extra dry Millesimato 2022 @ \$19.99 per bottle
this is really quite a classy option for true fans, a vintage Prosecco, a unique bottle for a unique bottling

Podere Barbi 2021 "Arche" ORVIETO Classico @ \$15.99 per bottle (mix/match)
an old-school alternative to Pinot Grigio, this is a blend of 80% Grechetto and 20% Sauvignon from Orvieto in central Italy.

Lucchetti 2022 "Birbaccio" Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico VERDICCHIO @ \$15.99 per bottle
stoney and fresh from the Adriatic coast, one of the great (and popular) "V" varieties of Italy

Barone Montalto 2019 Sicily "Passivento" Rosso @ \$12.99 per bottle
100% Nero d'Avola in a lighter/smooth style made with "appassimento" techniques more common in Veronese reds. Perfect for BBQ chicken!!
NOTE: this is *also available in 3-liter double magnum giant bottles* (see photo from July 2nd newsletter) and I have a couple big bottles left. (click for image of 3-liter double magnum available for \$47.95 per magnum https://www.brightwines.com/20240702_160624.jpeg)

BRIGALDARA 2022 VALPOLICELLA Classico @ \$15.99 per bottle
the best vintage I've had in years of this "simple but classic" red, by a truly great producer of classic Amarone and Valpolicella. Bright and juicy and food-friendly.

La Cappuccina "Madego" 2020 Veneto Rosso (Cabernet blend) @ \$17.99 per bottle

G.D. Vajra 2022 Langhe Rosso @ \$17.99 per bottle
this favorite Piedmont "red blend" of Barbera, Nebbiolo, Dolcetto, etc is as good as ever!!

Pratese "Locorosso" 2019 Rosso Toscana @ \$19.99 per bottle
100% Sangiovese from a great Tuscany vintage by a top producer in Carmignano (Chianti/Tuscany)

Caruso & Minini 2021 Terre Siciliane "Naturalmente" PERRICONE rosso @ \$21.99 per bottle
blueberry and blackberry fruit, Perricone is like Nero d'Avola meets Primitivo. One of the best wineries on Sicily!

** newsletter on "**Grilling Season**" Smart-buys **

(a personal favorite style for charcoal grilling) **Envero "gran reserva" 2019 estate bottled Apalta/Colchagua Carmenere @ \$15.99 per bottle**
Rated 91 points by Wine Enthusiast, who says: "Dark-chocolate cordial cherry, blackberry, and cinnamon shape the nose of this Carmenere sourced from old vineyards located in the Apalta region of Colchagua Valley. This is a full-bodied, balanced wine with chewy tannins. Sweet black fruit, baking spices and earthy flavors on the palate. The finish is flavorful with dark chocolate notes.

(new vintage of former "Top 100" NZ - SB) **Babich 2023 "Black Label" Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc @ \$12.99 per bottle** (\$155.88/case, mix/match)
Last year's Babich "Black Label" Marlborough, New Zealand made Wine Spectator magazine's Top 100 list. This new fresh vintage is as tasty as ever. 10 cases in-stock now.

GULP / HABLO 2022 unfiltered “orange wine” (liter bottles) @ \$19.99 per liter (full liters !! net per 750ml of \$15)

From Spain, this very hip and happening bottling is made from Verdejo and Sauvignon Blanc, fermented with the skins and bottled unfiltered, resulting in an “orange wine” that drinks like dry white wine but with **underpinnings of a citrusy hefeweizen with an orange slice!** Odd to say, but it really refreshes and would be great for any grilled white meats.

(92 point rated Malbec from Patagonia) **Wapisa 2021 Rio Negro Malbec @ \$15.99 per bottle** (\$191.88/case, mix/match)

James Suckling notes: “Spiced ripe blackberries, dark chocolate and nutmeg with an attractive balsamic edge that delivers a hint of porcini mushroom. Quite juicy and plump on the medium- to full-bodied palate, with lots of fruit rounded by sleek, fine-grained tannins. 92 points.” (limited stock)

Alexander Valley Vineyards 2021 estate Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$19.99 per bottle (very limited stock)

note: the flagship wine for this, and several other, Alexander Valley wineries is Cabernet and this is a textbook, perennial 90+ rated, example at a great price

Well, that’s certainly alot of wine! A month’s worth of newsletter features. Some stocks might be dwindling of course, but others are still in good quantity.

BrightWines will be open regular hours this weekend and all of next week for order pickups from this newsletter as well as for other recent orders and 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.

*Here’s wishing you some very pleasant **midsummer nights’ wines!**—Dave*

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

2420 Margaret Street
North Saint Paul, MN 55109