



October 2018

Grand Cru

2015 Round Pond Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford – 69.98

2015 Vineyard 29 Cabernet Sauvignon Cru – 54.98

Sparkle

Laurent Perrier Brut Rose Champagne – 69.98

Damien et Ingrid Pinon Vouvray Brut Methode Traditionnelle - 23.98

Ultimate Reds

2016 Mer Soleil Pinot Noir Reserve Santa Lucia Highlands – 49.98

2013 El Coto Rioja Reserva Coto de Imaz – 17.98

Vintage Values

2013 El Coto Rioja Reserva Coto de Imaz – 17.98

2015 Chateau Godard-Bellevue Cotes de Francs – 19.98



October 2018

2015 Round Pond Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford
Napa Valley, California

It's the Rutherford dust, that magical flavor in the wines from Round Pond that put them on the map. Way back in 1982 Bob MacDonnell and his wife "retired" and bought what is now probably impossible; 400 acres of land smack dab in the middle of Rutherford. Bob, reminisced often about his childhood and spending his summers relaxing and camping next to Lake Frederick in West Point, NY, named the vineyards Round Pond as a nod to simpler times. The large amount of land is planted to more than just grapes, there are many varieties of citrus trees, and olive trees that both produce world class oils that are made on the property, as well as super-premium red wine vinegars using the revered Orleans Method. While a fair amount of the land is devoted to vineyards, only 2% of the vines are dedicated to their estate wines and the rest is contracted out to various other producers in Napa. It wasn't until 2002 that Round Pond started making their own estate wines, realizing accolades on their very first release.

When Bob retired for real this time, he passed the wineries day-to-day business to his son and daughter, Miles and Ryan. Both professionals in the business world prior to running the winery, but with a solid memory of growing up in the vines and having a touch of farmers blood in their veins, they are dedicated to continue the legacy of making world class wines.

98% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Petit Verdot. Aged 18 months in 60% new tight grain French oak. The estate-grown Cabernet evolves in the glass from aromatics of wild strawberry and rhubarb to notes of red licorice and cocoa dust. The plush entry of ripe black cherry and blackberry pie on the palate is followed by richer tones of toffee, fresh oak, and a hint of black pepper. Elegant and supple, this wine shows a lengthy and pleasing granite-like finish.

92 Vinous - Round Pond's 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford is attractive, even if it is at times a bit monolithic. The dark cherry, plum, smoke, menthol and tobacco flavors speak with baritone intensity. Powerful and resonant in the glass, the 2015 has more than enough depth and persistence to drink well for a number of years..



October 2018

2016 Vineyard 29 Cabernet Sauvignon Cru
Napa Valley, California

What does Philippe Melka, David Abreu, and Chuck and Anne McMinn have in common? They are all part of the Vineyard 29 project. When Chuck and Anne moved to Napa to retire, they realized in short order, they couldn't, not with 3 acres of prime Cabernet Sauvignon property under their feet. So, in 1989 they planted, and David Abreu, one of Napa's best in vineyard management kept watch and was instrumental in getting them off to the right start. David is a 3rd generation Napa resident, with over 30 years of vine management under his belt, along with Vineyard 29, he was part of the original team over at Ovid, in the early 80's, but he also has been a part of Staglin, Colgin, Araujo, Grace, Harlan, Pahlmeyer, and Caymus...just to name a few.

The first release in 1992 was received warmly by the press and public, so Chuck and Anne decided this second career of making wine was pretty good, so they went ahead and bought 8.75 acres of prime St. Helena vineyards known as the Aida property. Historically known since the 20's to produce a variety of wines, from Petit Sirah to Zinfandel, the vineyard was replanted, again under David's watchful eye with Cabernet, Merlot, Petit Verdot and 4 acres were left to Zinfandel for the Aida Zinfandel and late Harvest Zinfandel you can find only at the winery.

Until the winemaking facilities were finished the wines were made by a couple of different winemakers at a couple of different locations. Heidi Barrett had a hand in the vintages from 1995 - 1998 and the wines were made at Grace Family, and Philippe Melka took over from her in 1999, and the wines were made at Miner until 2001. Since 2002, when the winemaking facility was completed, Philippe has continued to make the wines. Melka cut his teeth in Bordeaux, and for the last 15+ years has been applying that experience to Napa fruit. Since he has had the pleasure of working with Quintessa, Lail, Seavey, and Bryant Family, to name just a few, he has been able to pull together his experience with his time at Chateau Haut-Brion and Chateau Cheval Blanc, and find a balance of the grace of French idealism and the force of Napa fruit.

84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Malbec, 2% Cabernet Franc. Gorgeous aromatic profile opens with chocolate-covered blueberries and warm raspberry cobbler. Juicy blue and black fruits are joined by notes of violets and mocha as they spread across the palate, where great acidity and weight extend well into the back palate, finishing with fine-grained, silky tannin texture and a farewell kiss of cocoa.



October 2018

Laurent-Perrier Brut Rose Champagne
Champagne, France

Laurent-Perrier is a Champagne house founded in 1812 by a former cooper and bottler, Alphonse Pierlot in Tours-sur-Marne. Pierlot willed his company to his cellar master, Eugene Laurent, who ran it with his wife, Mathilde Emilie Perrier. After Eugene Laurent died in 1887 his widow, Mathilde, took control and attached her name to the company, changing it to Veuve Laurent-Perrier.

Veuve Mathilde led the company to great success, producing 50,000 cases of Champagne. This success was short-lived, due to the outbreak of World War I. Following the War, Veuve Mathilde hired Alexander Fletcher Keith Mackenzie to introduce and market Laurent-Perrier in the United Kingdom. In 1925 Veuve Mathilde died, leaving the company to Eugenie Hortense Laurent.

Due to the setbacks from World War I and the imminent outbreak of World War II, Eugenie sold the company to Mary-Louise Lanson de Nonancourt in 1939. Marie-Louise invested all she could in the company, keeping it afloat through the turmoils of war, at one point mortgaging 1,000 cases of Champagne she had hidden in a wall. Her eldest son, Maurice, died during the war leaving his younger brother, Bernard de Nonancourt, as the heir apparent.

Upon Bernard's return from war, his mother began set about educating him on every aspect of Champagne making at the Houses of Lanson and Delamotte. In 1949 Bernard de Nonancourt became the owner of the company and saw it become one of the largest family-owned Champagne houses. The de Nonancourt family still retains majority ownership of the company to this day.

Before 1968, making non-vintage rosé champagne was virtually unthinkable. At a time of great social and artistic growth, Bernard de Nonancourt decided the time was right, and in 1968, Laurent-Perrier launched Cuvée Rosé Brut in an elegant bottle inspired by those made in the time of French King Henri IV. It went on to become a global success and industry standard. For this innovation, Bernard and his staff decided to use a skin contact maceration technique, also known as saignée. This calls for especial care and know-how. This technique is used to extract the maximum aromatic richness from the pinot noir grapes and obtain a wine of a delicate, salmon-pink color.

100% Pinot Noir from ten Grand Cru vineyards stretch through Bouzy, Tours-sur-Marne, and Ambonnay, the grapes are harvested and selected to be vinified in single vineyard lots. Once the individual batches are appropriately aged, the wines are then brought back together and carefully blended into a cuvee of various vintages and vineyards.

Elegant and fruity at the same time with a quick invitation from bright, pure cherryish notes and then filled out handsomely by whiffs of chalky soils and well-integrated, rich and uplifting yeast-driven scents, this wine manages to be both vigorous and layered at one and the same time. Its bubbles are insistent, finely carved and add to the early sensations of lightness and energy yet also carry the wine long into a balanced, refined finish. – Connoisseurs Guide



October 2018

Damien et Ingrid Pinon Vouvray Brut Methode Traditionnelle
Loire Valley, France

Vouvray is a small region in France with 2000 hectares near Tours, located 200 km south-west of Paris, overlooking the Loire. It is nestled in the heart of the Loire Valley, the famous tourist circuit of the Loire Castles. It is here that third-generation vignerons, the Pinons have 25 hectares in the village of Vernou-sur-Brenne. Their production is 50% sparkling and 50% still wine from Chenin Blanc.

The soils are calcareous clay, which allow for the development of rich wines that are balanced and fruity. The vineyards are on average 30 years old and are partially replanted every year. However, some parcels remain dedicated to old vines that achieve more complex wines.

Sparkling wines from the Loire, especially Chenin Blanc based sparklers, are perfect for the fall season. Their crisp, zesty apple notes provide a great alternative to heavy ciders and beers, yet still remain seasonally appropriate. Damien Pinon's Vouvray Brut is produced via bottle fermentation with notes of stone fruit and brioche. Refreshing, yet savory, this wine is perfect for any fall celebration.



October 2018

2016 Mer Soleil Pinot Noir Reserve Santa Lucia Highlands
Santa Lucia Highlands, California

Mer Soleil is named after its two prominent natural growing conditions of the Santa Lucia Highlands, sea (mer) and sun (soleil). This coastal appellation of Monterey County gives way to high quality Chardonnay as mornings and evenings pull in fog from the nearby Monterey bay, while the afternoons provide bright, warm sunlight. The Santa Lucia Highlands is well-known as the perfect home for both these varietals. Grapes ripen slowly, enabling wine of heightened complexity, with layers of aromas and flavors.

Mer Soleil vineyards sit slightly South of what we believe is the “line of demarcation,” beyond which is too cool and moist to grow Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Afternoon wind is intense enough to protect the grapes from staying too fog-moist. In these conditions, our grapes mature slowly and evenly. The unique combination of the sea and sun provide cool and dry growing conditions, developing the rich, complex flavors for long lasting wines.

A rich, deep red – the color of Bing cherries – this wine opens with scents of dark berries, pomace, and the woodiness of a hiking path in a redwood forest. Soft, powdery traces of old-fashioned lipstick add an intriguing element to the nose. Entry is smooth, with bright cherry flavors and a “berry basket” of blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries. Pomace and brown spice infuse the palate, which is round and coats the mouth. An initial flash of fruit gives way to soft tannins, natural acidity, and an evocative earthy character. The finish is unusually long, with hints of cranberry adding an unexpected note to the mix of this wine’s many layers.



October 2018

2013 El Coto Rioja Reserva Coto de Imaz
Rioja, Spain

El Coto de Rioja, located in Oyón, was founded in 1970 by a group of winemakers committed to creating a new type of Rioja. Its first bottling was released in 1975. Today, with its widely admired red, white and rosado expressions, El Coto is the leading quality brand in Rioja and among the top-selling Spanish wines in Europe. As a measure of its standing in the appellation, El Coto's 1,200 acres of estate vineyards are located in all three subzones of Rioja: Rioja Alta, Rioja Baja and Rioja Alavesa.

As the largest owner of vineyards in Rioja, El Coto's diverse estate vineyards are focused on specific visions for the brand. Looking to the future of Rioja whites, El Coto has heavily invested in their Carbonera holding, consisting of over 200 acres of vineyards in Rioja Baja dedicated to international varieties now allowed by the appellation, ushering in a new era for Rioja whites. The recently incorporated Los Almendros estate adds an additional 740 acres of vineyards to the impressive estate holdings and is the largest single vineyard in the appellation. Its plantings include Garnacha and Tempranillo for El Coto's Rosado. El Coto's Cenicero holding near the east bank of the Najerilla River, a tributary of the Ebro is home to the grapes for their reserve wines. Only through direct vineyard ownership can El Coto guarantee the high quality of these reserve wines year after year. Beyond the estate holdings, additional grapes are sourced from 5,000 acres in the region.

The Coto de Imaz wines are made with grapes grown on El Coto's Cenicero estate vineyards. These vineyards are home to low yielding, old Tempranillo vines in Rioja Alta. The clay and alluvial soils of this region are known for crafting wines with great longevity and good acidity.

El Coto de Rioja Coto de Imaz Reserva is 100% Tempranillo sourced from estate vineyards in the Rioja Alta. The wine is slowly vinified in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks for a period of 20-30 days. The wine receives extended skin contact to encourage extraction, balanced tannins and structure, followed by 18 months of aging in new and used American oak and 24 months in bottle prior to release.

This Reserva displays complex, red berry aromas with smoky vanilla notes. On the palate, there's round, warm and juicy spiced red cherry fruit with a velvety character, and ripe tannins are apparent as a firm but pliant structure. The wine's suave tannins and acidity will help the wine mature very well in bottle.



October 2018

2015 Chateau Godard-Bellevue Cotes de Francs
Bordeaux, France

Cotes de Bordeaux Francs is the appellation title for Cotes de Bordeaux wines made specifically from three parishes at the very eastern edge of the Bordeaux wine region. These wines formerly took the title Cotes de Francs.

Saint-Cibard, Tayac and Francs are the three villages in question. They lie roughly eight miles (13km) north of the Dordogne river and are actually much closer to Bergerac than Bordeaux city itself. Nevertheless, the wines made here (both red and white, dry and sweet) are in the classic Bordeaux style and are produced from the classic grape varieties.

Cotes de Bordeaux Francs red wines, which constitute the vast majority of the appellation's output, are made predominantly from Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. The whites are fashioned from an equally traditional Bordelais blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and Muscadelle.

The Cotes de Bordeaux appellation was created in 2009 to bring together several cotes of Bordeaux under a single banner – the idea being to improve the marketability of the wines in question and simplify the overall Bordelais appellation structure. Individually, these appellations were struggling to find sufficient marketing resources to combat the increasing popularity of Bordeaux-style wines from emerging wine regions, particularly in the New World.

The process began officially in 1985, when the presidents of five cotes appellations founded the Association des Cotes de Bordeaux. This later became Les Cinq Cotes de Bordeaux, as confusion had arisen between the first name and that of the entirely separate Premieres Cotes de Bordeaux title. By the end of 2003, the decision had been taken to create the Cotes de Bordeaux appellation, with the geographical denominations Blaye, Cadillac, Castillon and Francs. After another few years of negotiations and red tape, the appellation was confirmed and ratified.

65% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. This is attractive, smooth and well balanced between spice and ripe berry fruit. With its acidity and toasty concentration, it's going to be delicious now or with a few years of age.