



**November 2018**

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## **Grand Cru**

2013 Miner Family Vineyards Oracle Red, Napa Valley – 89.98

2017 Terlato Family Vineyards Friulano Colli Orientali del Friuli – 27.98

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## **Sparkle**

Lilbert Brut Champagne Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru – 54.98

JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset No 21 Brut, Cremant de Bourgogne – 19.98

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## **Ultimate Reds**

2017 Domaine Francois Parent Moulin-a-Vent – 24.98

2015 Alpha Omega II Proprietary Red – 36.98

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## **Vintage Values**

2017 Domaine Francois Parent Moulin-a-Vent – 24.98

2016 M. Chapoutier Luberon La Ciboise Rouge – 13.98



## November 2018

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2013 Miner Family Vineyards Oracle Red  
Napa Valley, California

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Miner is a dynamic, family-owned winery tucked along the eastern hills of the Oakville appellation in the heart of Napa Valley. Founded in 1998 by Dave and Emily Miner along with his parents, Ed and Norma, Miner makes reserve style wines using fruit from Napa Valley and other specially selected California vineyards. Winemaker Gary Brookman uses a combination of old world winemaking techniques and modern technology to make wines that reflect the unique characteristics of individual vineyards or “terroir” where specific varietals grow best. The fusion of superb vineyard sites and thoughtful winemaking helps Miner create elegant, expressive wines.

The Oracle hails predominantly from Napa Valley’s famed Stagecoach Vineyard which is carved from enormous rocks and boulders high atop the eastern hills of Napa Valley. Stagecoach is one of the most ambitious – and highly regarded – sources of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, Merlot, and Syrah. Situated more than 1,500 feet above sea level, this mountainous site straddling the Oakville and Atlas Peak appellations was planted in 1992 by Dr. Jan Krupp. Its narrowly spaced vines struggle in the rocky soil, but benefit from extended sunlight hours, yielding fruit with uncommon color, depth, and complexity.

“Early, even and excellent” are three words being used to describe the 2013 growing season. A warm, dry spring brought early bud break, helped with canopy vigor and berry size and created ideal conditions for flowering and fruit set under sunny skies. With the exception of one heat spike in late June/early July, temperatures were consistently in the zone for optimal vine activity, resulting in notably healthy vines as fruit went through veraison and started ripening. Yields were above average for 2013, and the vintage was described as another “nearly perfect” year.

The flagship wine for Miner Vineyards, a full-bodied, single vineyard red blend, grants a nod toward elegance for the 2013 vintage. This Bordeaux-style blend is silky, reserved and supremely balanced.

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57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Cabernet Franc, 17% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec. 95% from Stagecoach Vineyard, 5% from Oakville Vineyard. Lush aromatics of raspberry and dark cherry with a hint of eucalyptus, The Oracle is decadent, but with finesse. Earthiness and layers of dried flowers and cocoa integrate harmoniously into a finely balanced marriage between tannin and acid, providing the structure that ensures, like all impeccable beauties, this wine is sure to age gracefully.



## November 2018

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2017 Terlato Family Vineyards Friulano Colli Orientali del Friuli  
Colli Orientali del Friuli, Italy

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From a retail store in Chicago in 1938, the Terlato family has built a storied place in the wine world through a unique vision of quality. They bring the same passion to Terlato Vineyards, where the winemaking philosophy is based upon a commitment to world-class viticulture and brilliant winemakers, and a belief in the beauty and power of great wine.

The Terlatos have tirelessly invested in new vineyards, vineyard replantings and innovative growing approaches in top appellations, and in state-of-the-art equipment at each of their wineries. Through long-lasting friendships with many vineyard and winery owners, they have assembled peerless management teams and wine-producing groups.

This commitment has resulted in quantum leaps of quality at all of their properties. With these pieces in place, they challenge their winemakers to produce distinctive, high-quality wines representing each of the most important grape varieties from the most important appellations. This is the vision brought to their namesake label, Terlato Vineyards.

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The Friuli Colli Orientali region in Northeastern Italy is ideal for creating this elegant terroir driven wine with more flavor and a crisp finish. The Terlato Vineyards Friulano is 100% Estate grown, farmed in small blocks, each with different soil compositions and expositions, with low yields and handcrafted winemaking. Bright floral aromas of distinct pear and almond notes lead to creamy texture with complex and layered flavors pear and stone fruit and a mouth-filling texture and crisp mineral finish



## November 2018

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Lilbert Brut Champagne Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru  
Champagne, France

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The young Bertrand Lilbert is one of the superstars in Cramant, but remains largely unknown except for a select group of Champagne devotees. Part of the reason for this is that Lilbert produces less than 30,000 bottles of champagne a year from a paltry 3.5 hectares of vines, even at the estate the wines sell out quickly.

Bertrand Lilbert and his father Georges make only grand cru blanc de blancs from 100% Chardonnay. Their annual production averages 2,000 twelve-pack cases. To put this in perspective, the house of Moët & Chandon pumps out 25 million cases each year. Unlike Moët, the Lilberts make all of their wine from their own vineyards, which break down into 15 parcels in the grand cru villages of Oiry (10% of their total plantation), Chouilly (30%), and Cramant (60%) on the Côte des Blancs.

Note that Cramant should not be confused with crémant. Crémant once used to be a term reserved for a style of Champagne with less pressure—and indeed the village of Cramant has a tradition of making wine in such a style, so much so that Lilbert's Perle was once labeled as Crémant de Cramant. But those days are gone and now crémant legally refers to all méthode Champenoise wine made within France but outside of the Champagne appellation.

The Côte des Blancs is a ridge that begins just outside of Epernay and runs north-south. Vineyards grow primarily on its east-facing escarpment, making the resemblance to Burgundy's Côte d'Or a rich parallel (although here the soil is tuffeau and chalk rather than marl and limestone, and the ridgeline is much shorter). Bertrand Lilbert began working with his father in the 1990s and made one change. The flank of Cramant had long been known as one of the truly great terroirs of the Côte des Blancs. Why not, he thought, honor this knowledge? Thus he made the 1995 vintage Champagne from 100% Cramant fruit, saving the fruit from the other village parcels for the two non-vintage wines. The result was superb, and he has made the practice standard for his vintage wine.

The non-vintage blanc de blancs is 100% Chardonnay blended from the grand cru villages of Cramant, Chouilly, and Oiry. It's usually made up of equal parts of two different vintages. The domaine is the source of some fine and long-lived Blanc de Blancs made by George and his son Bertrand. The style is less soft, creamy and flowery than the Blanc de Blancs of the larger houses; the wines they make are taut, steely and rigorous in quality. Bertrand calls them "classic structured style with abundant acid to guarantee long aging potential. That being said we think they are very enjoyable in their youth."

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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



## November 2018

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JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset No 21 Brut, Cremant de Bourgogne  
Bourgogne, France

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Jean-Charles Boisset was born into the world of wine in the village of Vougeot, Burgundy, France. His lifelong passion for wine began as a child, growing up above the cellars and within view of the centuries-old vineyards of Château du Clos Vougeot, the epicenter and birthplace of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

His parents, Jean-Claude and Claudine, founded the family winery in 1961 with an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit in one of the most traditional winegrowing regions in the world. Today, the family collection includes wineries that share more than 18 centuries of combined winemaking heritage and tradition in some of the world's most prestigious terroirs, from Burgundy to the South of France, to California's Napa Valley and Russian River Valley.

Jean-Charles leads the family firm with passionate commitment to fine wine, history, quality and a deep respect for the environment. He implemented organic and Biodynamic farming at all of the family's estate vineyards in Burgundy and California. Together with his sister Nathalie, he created Domaine de la Vougeraie, uniting the family's Burgundy vineyards, including prestigious monopoles such as the Vougeot 1er Cru Clos Blanc de Vougeot – planted in 1110 by the Cistercian monks, into one of Burgundy's leading domaines. He instituted the concept of "viniculteur", redefining the company's traditional role to encompass a close and active interest in all aspects of winegrowing to ensure premium quality and sustainable farming practices. He refashioned and elevated the family's founding winery bearing his father's name – Jean-Claude Boisset – into a premier boutique vigneron in the Cotes de Nuits.

Created by Jean-Charles Boisset, the innovative JCB Collection brings together two worlds of winemaking—Old and New. With the collection, Jean-Charles celebrates his French heritage while embracing his passion for California. Each wine in the collection is a limited edition, and is "named" with a number. These numbers signify a wine style that Jean-Charles strives to achieve vintage to vintage, while also symbolizing important ideas, passions and moments in his life and wine career.

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We previously had No. 69 Rose. Now this Cremant No. 21 is crisply apple and lemon flavored, a bone-dry, textured wine that is destined for food. It finishes with elegant acidity.



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2015 Alpha Omega II Proprietary Red Wine  
Napa Valley, California

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Established in 2006, Alpha Omega was created to offer handcrafted wines that blend the best winemaking techniques of the Old World with the New World and a winery that exudes a sense of place and hospitality reflective of the Napa Valley farming community.

While the winery, located in the legendary Rutherford Bench of world famous Napa Valley, has blossomed, the essence of Alpha Omega has never changed. Presenting world-class wines in a convivial setting remains just as paramount to vintners Robin and Michelle Baggett today as when the owners and former co-founder Eric Sklar first opened the winery's doors on July 1, 2006.

Alpha Omega combines the Old World's European balanced style of winemaking with the New World's state-of-the-art techniques and powerful fruit and tannins found in Napa Valley resulting in elegant, Bordeaux-style wine that will hold up for years to come.

When it came to building its brand, Alpha Omega spared no expense. There were no limits for the starry-eyed vintners who aimed to bring their vision to fruition. They gave their winemakers 100 percent of their trust to procure the best grapes from prized vineyards throughout Napa Valley — most notably Thomas Vineyard in Rutherford, Beckstoffer To Kalon and Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper in Oakville, Beckstoffer Dr. Crane and Beckstoffer Las Piedras in St. Helena, Beckstoffer Georges III in Rutherford, Stagecoach in Atlas Peak and Sunshine Valley in the Oak Knoll District.

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Deep dark plum with hints of boysenberry and lipstick On the nose: explosion of thyme, paprika and curry with chocolate, cherry, macerated strawberry and hibiscus. On the palate: soft velvety entrance evolving on structured tannins with cherry, currant, cassis and blackberries lingering on blue fruit jam



## November 2018

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2016 M. Chapoutier Luberon La Ciboise Rouge  
Costieres de Nimes, France

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Michel Chapoutier is one of the most highly regarded winemakers in France. Since taking over his family firm in 1990 at age 26, Michel Chapoutier has transformed the winery into the leading Rhône Valley producer. He combines the modern and the traditional: crusading for biodynamic winemaking, while expanding operations around the globe and experimenting with cutting edge winemaking techniques.

It was Michel Chapoutier's grandfather who ignited a passion for winemaking and a commitment to quality in his young grandson, inspiring Michel to leave Tain to study oenology at one of France's best winemaking schools, subsequently landing him winemaking internships in California. In 1987, Michel returned to Tain l'Hermitage and discovered that the family's winery was languishing - his father's wines weren't selling and the family firm was in danger of bankruptcy.

In 1989, a close mutual friend of Anthony Terlato, Chairman and CEO of Terlato Wines International, insisted that he visit the M. Chapoutier winery to meet Michel, who was 25 years of age at the time. Although Terlato's schedule was overburdened, he agreed to make the trip because he remembered the quality of the M. Chapoutier wines he had tasted in the 1950s in his father's retail shop. For hours they talked, tasting wines from Michel's grandfather as well as some barrel samples from 1989 the first vintage vinified entirely by Michel. Upon learning of the firm's tight financial situation, Terlato agreed to pay in advance for the 1989 vintage, permitting Michel to take full control over winemaking and providing him the capital needed to upgrade Michel's winemaking program.

The rest of the story is history as they say. Today, M. Chapoutier is the only producer to own vineyards in all of the major Rhône appellations. With Michel's guidance, the family firm has become the benchmark Rhône wine producer.

La Ciboise (lah see-BWAHZ) is the name of Michel Chapoutier's grandfather's home. Located right in the center of the town of Tain l'Hermitage, La Ciboise was the energetic center of Chapoutier family life where children and relatives used to meet regularly. Similarly, these new wines from the M. Chapoutier portfolio are intended to be enjoyed with friends and family to celebrate everyday life. Costières de Nîmes is the most southerly appellation of the Rhone wine region in southeastern France. The wines of the area are reputed to have been consumed by the Ancient Greeks and thus figure among the oldest known wines in the world.

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Grenache and Syrah. It's a lovely ruby red in color. The alluring bouquet is dominated by dark, red stewed fruit, candied morello cherries and dusty pepper. The soft tannins lead to a lengthy and elegant finish.



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2017 Domaine Francois Parent Moulin-a-Vent  
Beaujolais, France

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This story emerges out of one of Burgundy's extensive family trees. You can attempt to make sense of it all, but what matters the most is that the wines in these bottles are finely crafted, impressive Burgundy. To keep it as simple as possible, François Parent is married to the famous, Anne-Françoise Gros, and makes the wine for both estates. The fruit sources come from the fortunate holdings of the Gros family in Vosne-Romanée and François's family holdings in Pommard. The wines from Vosne-Romanée express very well the nobility, power and grace of this great village. The Pommard wines come from the northern end of the village and are full of earth and dark fruits, qualities the village is known for. The estate is run by the son and daughter of François Parent and Anne-Françoise Gros.

Since they married, François has had access to her family's holdings in Vosne-Romanée and Vougeot, and continues production of his own family vineyards in Pommard. They work with many different communes inside of the Côte d'Or, but none more important than Vosne-Romanée, a village that is home to some of the most profound terroirs in Burgundy. The wines from this commune exude the archetypal elegance and refinement that Vosne-Romanée is so famous for. The family has holdings throughout the Cote d'Or, but also has holdings in nearby Beaujolais.

Beaujolais is a French Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée wine generally made of the Gamay grape which has a thin skin and is low in tannins. Like most AOC wines they are not labeled varietally. Whites from the region, which make up only 1% of its production, are made mostly with Chardonnay grapes though Aligoté is also permitted until 2024. Beaujolais tends to be a very light-bodied red wine, with relatively high amounts of acidity. In some vintages, Beaujolais produces more wine than the Burgundy wine regions of Chablis, Côte d'Or, Côte Chalonnaise and Mâconnais put together.

Cru Beaujolais, the highest category of classification in Beaujolais, account for the production within ten villages/areas in the foothills of the Beaujolais mountains. Unlike Burgundy and Alsace, the phrase cru in Beaujolais refers to an entire wine producing area rather than an individual vineyard. Seven of the Crus relate to actual villages while Brouilly and Côte de Brouilly refer to the vineyards areas around Mont Brouilly and Moulin-à-Vent is named for a local windmill. These wines do not usually show the word "Beaujolais" on the label, in an attempt to separate themselves from mass-produced Nouveau; in fact vineyards in the cru villages are not allowed to produce Nouveau. The maximum yields for Cru Beaujolais wine is 48 hl/ha. Their wines can be more full-bodied, darker in color, and significantly longer-lived. From north to south the Beaujolais crus are- Saint-Amour, Juliéna, Chéna, Moulin-à-Vent, Fleurie, Chiroubles, Morgon, Régnié, Brouilly and Côte de Brouilly.

Moulin-a-Vent produces some of the longest-lasting examples of Beaujolais wine, with some wines lasting up to ten years. Some producers will age their Moulin-à-Vent in [oak](#) which gives these wines more tannin and structure than other Beaujolais wines. Fantastic Cru Beaujolais with exploding flavors of blue fruits and violet. The fruit lightens up mid palate showing some earthiness, the fruit still hangs on to the finish. This is drinking great right now, and should integrate further after a year or so.