

Cheers, Scholar Member!

Your Quarterly Wine Club Shipment is HERE!

Don't Forget to Register for the Quarterly Tasting April 26th!

Brij Assyrtiko Lodi 2022

I have long wondered why this grape was not planted in warm wine regions of California since the grape's home of Santorini Greece is very hot and produces crisp, refreshing wines. My passion was further stoked by visiting the island on our last SF Wine School cruise. Star sommelier turned winemaker, Raj Parr, is one of 3 CA wineries making Assyrtiko and all of them get their grapes from the only plantings in the state, the Stampede Vineyard in Lodi.

Style: dry, white | Grape: 100% Assyrtiko | Fermentation: stainless steel | Aging: neutral oak | Production: 50 cases | Alcohol: 13% | Retail: \$42

Foncalieu Piquepoul Noir Rose Coteaux d'Enserune IGP 2022

Piquepoul, aka picpoul, is another grape that makes fresh, light wines in hot climates. It is a minor grape in the Rhone Valley but the primary grape in the Languedoc region of Pinet. The vast majority of Piquepoul is white, but there is a small amount of thin-skinned red & grey (gris). The name Piquepoul translates as lip stinger, a reference to its naturally high acidity.

Style: dry, rosé | Grape: 100% Piquepoul Noir | Region: Languedoc, France | Fermentation: stainless steel | Aging: stainless steel | Production: certified sustainable & vegan | Alcohol: 13% | Retail: \$20

Bodegas Mustiguillo Finca Terrerazo Vino de Pago 2019

Bodegas Mustiguillo is a member of Grandes Pagos de España, an association of quality wineries making single-vineyard wines. Their Finca Terrerazo vineyard was given official government recognition as one of Spain's 21 Vino de Pago, comparable to a Grand Cru status. Bobal is a thick-skinned grape that is native to the Utiel-Requena DO region in Valencia, Spain.

Style: dry, red | Grape: 100% Bobal- made with organic grapes | Vineyard: 50-75 year old vines at 2,400 feet | Region: Valencia, Spain | Fermentation: native yeast in neutral oaks vats | Aging: new & used french oak barrels for 18 months | Alcohol: 14.5% | Retail: \$44



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Wines



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Maestro Members Also Received

These 3 added wine allocations, 10% off Retail Wine Orders, 20% Learn & Earn Rewards and a bonus 10% off any SFWS class or event after signup

Chapel Down Brut Kent NV

The British intentionally made sparkling wine in 1662 from still Champagne wine before the French did so. Until recently, any part of England was too cold to get grapes ripe enough to make good wine, but in the last few decades, with climate change, there has been a boom of high quality English sparkling wine. We will be visiting Chapel Down on our SF Wine School cruise this June. I had to include a sparkling wine in the club, cuz I'm a bubble ho.

Style: dry, white, sparkling | *Grapes:* 48% Chardonnay, 42% Pinot Noir, 5% Pinot Meunier, 5% Pinot Blanc | *Region:* Kent (& surrounding), UK | *1st Fermentation:* stainless steel with full malolactic conversion | *2nd Fermentation:* in the bottle | *Aging:* 6 months on the lees in stainless steel tank prior to bottling & 18 months on the lees in the bottle | *Alcohol:* 12% | *Retail:* \$46

Cobb Cole Ranch Dry Riesling 2021

Most sommeliers love Riesling for its combination of aromatics, acidity, and complexity. Bone dry Riesling can be exceptional for food pairings and ageable. Cobb is one of the top small producers on the far West Sonoma Coast but for this wine they buy their grapes from the only vineyard in the minuscule Cole Ranch AVA. It is entirely planted to alpine varieties and a handful of producers make wine from the star grape, Riesling.

Style: dry, white | *Grape:* 100% Riesling | *Region:* Mendocino County, Cole Ranch AVA (smallest in USA) | *Fermentation:* stainless steel | *Aging:* stainless steel | *Production:* 325 cases | *Alcohol:* 13.8% | *Residual Sugar:* 0 grams/liter | *Retail:* \$35

Montecillo Rioja Gran Reserva 2011

The reds of Rioja stylistically fall in between the power of Bordeaux's Cabernet/Merlot blends and the elegance of Burgundy's Pinot Noirs. Nowhere on the planet offers such complex, food-friendly wines as Rioja that are available with age at such reasonable prices. Bodegas Montecillo has been making wine for over 150 years. 2015 is the current vintage of their Gran Reserva, but the 2011 is drinking beautifully now and at least for the rest of this decade.

Style: dry, red | *Grape:* 92% Tempranillo, 8% Graciano | *Vineyard:* 35 years average age of vines | *Region:* Rioja Alta, Spain | *Fermentation:* stainless steel | *Aging:* 28 months in oak barrels (90% French, 10% American) plus 3 years bottle age prior to release | *Alcohol:* 13.5% | *Retail:* \$38



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