

# MEMBERSHIP PLAN: GOLD

## 5<sup>th</sup> SHIPMENT: SPRING 2020

### Theme of the Shipment: "ITALIAN WINES VS CLIMATE CHANGE"

These wines have been selected by our staff of sommeliers, we firmly believe that this selection represents the best we can offer in this price range. This time the selection offers amazing gems made in cooler areas of Italy, from the far North on the mountains in the border with Switzerland, to cool areas of Tuscany, all the way down to Sicily on the top of the Etna Volcano. We have selected a variety of boutique wineries, in which hard working wine makers grow vines in difficult soils to provide a perfect microclimate to protect the plants from 'global warming'. We figured it'd be nice to show the countermeasures taken by Italian wine makers to fight climate change: new wine making techniques, higher elevation, volcanic and rocky soils and different sun exposure of the vineyards. The result is finesse, elegance and extremely palatable wines. Each one of the wines will be paired by Francesco to a famous song as usual.

### FRANCESCO'S DESCRIPTIONS:

**Il Molinaccio Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Riserva La Poiana 2015** Song: **Blackbird by The Beatles**. This little winery, only 10'000 bottles per year, has a peculiar micro-climate in Montepulciano: led by my neighbor and friend Alessandro, Il Molinaccio is located on a slope facing East, so the vines are exposed to sun only during coolest hours of the day, and surrounded by a forest that guarantees a great temperature swing that helps develop beautiful aromas and gives finesse to this Vino Nobile. The name La Poiana comes from a couple of Buzzards that made their nest in the trees nearby and often fly free in the vineyard: like this great song dedicated by Sir Paul McCartney to Mrs Rosa Parks, the wine is deep, meaningful and elegant. An explosion of violet, plum and black fruits, slightly spicy and extremely refined, rich and persistent, with a complexity that is typical of the great Sangiovese from Tuscany. **100% Sangiovese. 2 bts in Shipment. Drink Through 2020-2026. Open 3h Before. Price range: \$43**

**Albatreti Brunello di Montalcino 2015** Song: **Five Years by David Bowie** Five years long was the agonizing wait for the release of Brunello di Montalcino 2015, one of the best vintages of the last decades and trust me, it was worth it. I fell in love with this gem, made by Mr Gaetano Salvioni in extremely limited production(5000 bottles): a warm, generous, lascivious Brunello. Hints of black cherry, ripe plum, dark chocolate: lustful palate, deep and harmonious, extremely rich taste supported by a great freshness and balance. A triumph of Montalcino's terroir, a hidden gem destined for greatness. **100% Sangiovese. 1bt. Drink 2020-2022. Open 3h before. \$65**

**Monteraponi Chianti Classico Riserva Il Campitello 2016** Song: **I got a Woman by Ray Charles**. This Riserva comes from the coldest and more trendy area of Chianti Classico, Radda, with its altitudes, forests and great soils rich in marl and clay, offers wines with strong personality, finesse and great ageing potential. I have always believed that Chianti Classico has a Rock'n'roll soul, a rhythmic wine, always vibrant and palatable: like the voice of the great Ray Charles, the wine has a Blues and Jazzy swing, it is deep, strong, complex yet extremely enjoyable. Structure is perfect, warm and velvety, persistent and savory, notes of red berry, herbs, fennel, tobacco and chocolate, it is an incredible versatile wine that can be enjoyed now or kept in your cellar. Chianti Classico at its finest, a true wonderkid! **90%, Sangiovese 7%, Canaiolo 3%. Colorino. 2 bts. 2020-2028. Open 3h before. \$ 73**

**Triacca Sforzato di Valtellina San Domenico Docg 2015** Song: **Nessun Dorma, Turandot act 3 by Giacomo Puccini performed by Pavarotti**. Everyone knows Amarone, not many people know Sforzato(Sfursat) and this is a great chance for me to introduce another incredible full bodied, sturdy, concentrated wine made with the vinification of dried grapes, this time with Nebbiolo grape from the Alps. Robust, rich, warm and gentle like the voice of the best Tenor of our times, Luciano Pavarotti, in one of his most iconic performances, Turandot. Mineral and sapid due to the rocky soil of the Alps, this wine is a great alternative to Amarone and one of the most important dry reds made from dried grapes in the country. **100% Nebbiolo(Chiavennasca).2bts. Drink through 2020-2026. Open 5h before or decant 1h. \$49**

**Passopisciario Passorosso Etna Doc 2017 Song: Smoke on the Water by Deep Purple** Quoting Mr Franchetti, the visionary genius of Tuscan and then Sicilian wines: "Mt. Etna was a gloomy abandoned volcano. Wineries lay collapsed all over its slopes; stonewalled terraces disappeared everywhere up the mountain in the bushes. There was the misery of blackened streets and ashen churches in large old towns. It seemed crazy to restore vineyards so high up the mountain – above, it was erupting – but I liked that they were planted so high." Altitude, here between 450-1000 meters ASL, is the new frontier to fight climate change especially in the South of Italy: Mt. Etna is the symbol of the renaissance of Sicilian wine. Temperature swings, ventilation, steepness of hillsides and an incredible soil rich in lava and volcanic ashes are the perfect habitat for the vines (80-110 years old in this case!). The result is good structure, complexity, minerality that leads to savory finish: aromas of ripe wild berry, blood orange, Mediterranean scrub, eucalyptus, flint. A monument to Nerello Mascalese and to a magic smoking Volcano, symbol of this enchanting region. **100% Nerello Mascalese. 1bt. Drink 2020-2023. Open 2h before. \$38**

**Passopisciario Contrada C Etna Igt 2017 Song: Society by Eddie Vedder** Another wine from Passopisciario, Contrada Chiappemacine is a single vineyard located at 550mts ASL: as I was climbing the Etna Volcano, surrounded by bushes and black soil due to lava eruptions, it felt like I was leaving the 'civilized world' to get lost in the nature like in this great song, soundtrack of the Movie 'Into the Wild', by Eddie Vedder. Sturdy bouquet of wild violet, Mediterranean scrub and Maraschino cherry: solid structure, refined tannins, great balance and a wonderful mineral vein of flint typical of the volcanic soil of Mt Etna, the wine offers an excellent persistency and a stunning tasting experience. If Etna is the future of wine making in the South of Italy, this wine is hands down a true star of the firmament of Sicily. **100% Nerello Mascalese. 1bt. Drink 2020-2027. Open 3h before. \$75**

**Nusserhof Lagrein Riserva 2015 Song: Dream a little Dream of me by Ella Fitzgerald ft Louis Armstrong** In Sud Tirol, German-speaking region in the heart of beautiful Alps, Lagrein is the most important grape for red wine, and this Lagrein Riserva from Nusserhof has the reputation of being one of the aces of its category by the critics and by wine lovers of our country. A classy, gentle and velvety red, with intense hints of ripe plum, black currant. Delicate, slightly spicy, warm, palatable and well-balance: refined like the divine voice of Ella Fitzgerald, with a slight earthy touch like the deep-graspy voice of Luis Armstrong. Finesse & Delicacy. **100% Lagrein. 1bt. Drink 2020-2023. Open 2h before. \$49**

**Produttori di Carema Carema Doc Riserva 2015 Song: Hey You by Pink Floyd** A great Nebbiolo made by this Wine Cooperative, active in the incredible town of Carema, Northern Piedmont, where hillsides are so steep that the 101 small growers had to build terraces with walls of stones, contributing to the beauty of landscape. Scents of Maraschino cherry, red rose and wild flowers, cola: palate is complex, velvety and savory, with a pleasant freshness to balance the structure. A great wine in which it is possible to appreciate the effort of each one of the 101 small growers from Carema, who work hard for the preservation of the landscape of the area while making a great wine: as the Pink Floyd would say in this great tune taken by iconic album The Wall, 'Together we stand, divided we fall' **100% Nebbiolo. 2bts in shipment. Drink 2020-2022. Open 2h before. \$35**