

MEMBERSHIP PLAN: PLATINUM

5th 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**

Passopisciaro Contrada C Etna Igt 2017 Song: Society by Eddie Vedder. A stunning red by Passopisciaro, 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. 2bts. Drink 2020-2027. Open 3h before. \$75**

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. 2bts. Drink 2020-2022. Open 2h before. \$65**

Monteraponi Baron Ugo Igt 2015 Song: Bohemian Rhapsody by The Queen. Made in one of the highest vineyards(570mts ASL) in Chianti Classico, in the area of Radda, the coldest and more trendy town of the whole appellation, Baron Ugo is known by the critic and wine lovers from all over the globe, as one of the best wines of Tuscany. Bouquet is intense and captivating with hints of violet, ripe cherry and red currants with a gentle hearty note. Majestic and symphonic in the palate, tannins are perfectly crafted and integrated in the structure: dynamic, rich and elegant in the same time, like this iconic song by The Queen that does not need introduction... **90% Sangiovese, 7% Canaiolo, 3% Colorino. 2 bts. 2020-2030. Open 4h before. \$ 88**

Nusserhof Lagrein Riserva 2015 Song: **Dream a little Dream of me by Ella Fitzgerald ft Louis Armstrong** In Sud Tirolo, 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 1h before. \$49**

Produttori di Carema Selezione 2015 Song: **People have the Power by Patty Smith**. 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 soaked cherry, potpourri, leather, red orange: palate is robust, velvety and savory, with a mineral note of iron and cola. 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: quoting Patty Smith with her charisma and her great voice, 'People have the power...' **100% Nebbiolo. 1bt. Drink 2020-2025. Open 3h before. \$42**

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).1 bt. Drink 2020-2026. Open 3h before. \$49**

Ar.pe.pe Sassella Valtellina Superiore Ultimi Raggi 2013 Song: **November Rain by Guns'n'Roses** Another Nebbiolo from the Alps made with dried grapes, Ultimi Raggi(Last Sunbeams) is a late harvest in mid November, before the rain and the cold come into the Alps and both nature and animals hibernate for the winter. This extra ripening of the grapes, ensures a powerful, rich, velvety, yet balanced and sublime wine, due to altitude and composition of the rocky soil. Notes of Raspberry, potpourri, crushed stones, complex and vibrant, like this beautiful ballad by Guns'n'Roses, the wine has a stunning progression in the palate: smooth and delicate at the beginning with a slightly tannic and powerful finish comparable to the 'hard rock' guitar solo by Slash in the song. One of my favorite Nebbiolos, but don't tell anyone in Langhe area! **100% Nebbiolo(Chiavennasca) 1 bt. Drink 2020-2026. Open 3h before. \$89**