

Always Faithful: Celebration, Versatility, Utilitarian

Too much of anything is bad, but too much champagne is just right." F. Scott Fitzgerald

100	NV	Graham Beck Rose	Sparkling	35	Robertson	Western Cape	South Africa
105	2011	Mont Marcal Rosado	Cava	36	Penedes	Catalunya	Spain
110	NV	Gruet Extra Blanc de Noir	Sparkling	38	Albuquerque	New Mexico	USA
120	NV	Scarpetta Timido Brut # @	Spumante	40	Friuli Venezia-Giulia		Italy
140	NV	Jo Landron Atmospheres# @	Sparkling	45	Muscadet	Loire	France
145	NV	De La Motte Brut (.375)	Champagne	55	A le Mesnil Sur Oger	Champagne	France
150	NV	Trouillard Brut Extra Selection	Champagne	75	Epernay	Champagne	France
160	NV	Pierre Moncuit Blanc de Blancs	Champagne	90	A le Mesnil Sur Oger	Champagne	France
175	2011	Soter Vineyards Mineral Springs	Sparkling	100	Yamhill-Carlton	Oregon	USA
176	NV	Robert Moncuit Grand Cru	Champagne	105	A le Mesnil Sur Oger	Champagne	France
177	NV	Savart L'Accomplie 1er Cru	Champagne	125	Ecueil	Champagne	France
179	2011	Sea Smoke Sea Spray (* !)	Sparkling	175	Santa Rita Hills	California	USA
180	2006	Egly-Ouriet Grand Cru Millesime	Sparkling	275	Montagne de Reims	Champagne	France

First Courses: Light, Bright, Lean & Clean

Those wines that have grip and acid, that lend themselves as perfect dates for most seafood, but are equally impressive with their crispness allowing them to hold their own as a starter white. These selections are chosen specifically for their true representation of the variety and the terroir.

200	2016	Steininger	Gruner Veltliner	28		Kamptal	Austria
201	2016	Eugene Carrel Jongieux	Jacquere	34	Jongieux-le-Haut	Savoie	France
204	2016	Makara	Sauvignon Blanc	38		Marlborough	New Zealand
208	2014	Scarpetta #	Pinot Grigio	36	Friuli Venezia-Giulia	Friuli	Italy
210	2016	Casanova La Spinetta	Vermintino	40		Tuscany	Italy
212	2016	Martinsancho	Verdejo	40	Rueda	Castilla y Leon	Spain
215	2016	Tyrrell's @	Semillon	45		Hunter Valley	Australia
217	2016	Dom. Gerard Fiou# @	Sauvignon Blanc	48	Sancerre	Loire	France
220	2014	Mastrobernardino @	Greco di Tufo	50		Campania	Italy
222	2016	Bellus Caldera @#	Falanghina	50	Benevento	Campania	Italy
230	2016	Jolie-Laide Rorick Heritage Vnyd	Pinot Gris	60	Russian River	California	USA
245	2016	Ryme Hers	Vermintino	68	Carneros	California	USA
252	2015	Ronco Gnemiz	Sauvignon Blanc	80	Salice	Friuli	Italy

Stepping Up: Full-Figured, Fat Flavors, Floral, Fragrant

The Queen

The Diva. She knows what she wants and knows how to get it. Period.

322	2014	Skylark Alondra #	Chardonnay	40	Mendocino	California	USA
324	2015	L'Ecole	Chardonnay	45	Columbia Valley	Washington	USA
325	2013	J Wilkes Santa Maria Valley	Chardonnay	46	Santa Barbara Co.	California	USA
332	2016	Paul Hobbs' Crossbarn	Chardonnay	52	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
335	2014	Byron Kosuge	Chardonnay	75	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
337	2012	Sandhi	Chardonnay	85	Santa Rita	California	USA
338	2015	Peay Vineyards	Chardonnay	85	Sonoma County	California	USA
340	2014	Evening Land	Chardonnay	90	Eola-Amity Hills	Oregon	USA
345	2013	Lioco La Marisma Vineyards	Chardonnay	95	Santa Cruz Mtns	North Coast	USA
347	2015	Jean Philippe Fichet	Chardonnay	100	Mersault	Burgundy	France
348	2014	Dom Genot-Boulangier 1er Cru	Chardonnay	150	Chassagne-Montrachet	Burgundy	France

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Her Court: The Other Whites

If there were ever a "food wine" specific white category this would be it. The ideal progression when moving into richer and fatter flavors on the menu that generally attract a safer selection. Those people interested in stepping out of the comfort zone will find plenty here to chew on.

360	2015	Johannes Leitz Einz Zwei	Dry Riesling	35		Rheingau	Germany
370	2016	Morgadio	Albarino	42	Rias Baixas	Galicia	Spain
372	2016	Empire State	Dry Riesling	42	Finger Lakes	New York	USA
374	2015	Rafael Palacios Louro @	Godello	45	Valdeorras	Castilla y Leon	Spain
376	2014	Scarpetta #	Tocai Friuliano	45	Friuli Venezia-Giulia		Italy
378	2014	Elyse L'Ingenue	Rouss/Mars/GrBl/Vio	48	Sierra Foothills	California	USA
380	2015	Lieu Dit	Chenin Blanc	50	Santa Ynez	California	USA
382	2016	Yetti & the Kokonut B'rose	Rose	60		Barossa Valley	Australia
384	2015	Olivier Riviere Jequitiba @	Viura/GrBl/Malvasia	60		Rioja	Spain
386	2016	Massican	Ribolla Gialla	65	Napa	California	USA
390	2016	Planeta Cometa	Fiano	70	Agrigento	Sicilia	Italy
393	2015	Pierre Gaillard	Viognier	88	Condrieu	Rhone	France
394	2014	Matthiasson Vineyards @ *	Ribolla Gialla	90	Napa	California	USA
395	2007	Gr Domaine Chateau Chalon	Savagnin	125	Chalon	Jura	France

Some information about some of the wines that may not be household names....yet.

Godello (also known in Portugal as *Verdelho*) is a chardonnay-like variety that hails from the northwest of Spain. It is suprisingly well structured, with balanced acidity and tends to pair better with a variety of fare than chardonnay.

Fiano is a thick-skinned variety that offers very small amounts of juice from the grape which caused vintners to plant better yielding varieties. This wine is typical of Sicily and Campania and must comprise 85% of the indigenous grape.

Tocai Friuliano, typical of the northeast region in Italy, is a "rounder" wine with great versatility. Recently, Hungary went to court to protect the name "tokaji"; now, many producers are simply calling it fruliano.

Trousseau Gris is one of the new "nerd" wines in the Sommelier world. Also known as *Grey Riesling*, this light body, light acid white is an ideal starter wine. It is gaining notoriety all over the world which will certainly impact the number of producers to give it a shot.

Savagnin hails from the Jura region (in France)--another "nerd" wine that in some areas must age miminally for 6 years. This wine is sherry-like, with forward nuttiness and creaminess that is often mistaken with the wine being "off."

Greco is an Italian offering that originated in Greece; it can be rich and fruity and is a standard house wine in southwest Italy.

Gruner Veltliner is Austria's most produced grape. It is crisp, light with pleasant spice. It is very fun to say.

Albarino (or *Alvarinho* in neighboring Portugal) is the queen of white wine in Galicia. Fruit forward, creamy and medium body are the prototypical characteristics. Jacquere is the Savoie's (France) primary commodity. They tend to be light, dry with good acid.

Vermintino, in some circles is thought to be related to *Malvasia*. It flourishes in Sardinia and Corsica but also is keen on the western Italian regions. It is often blended, but when comprised entirely of the variety, it tends to be reminiscent of the coast: light, mild, good acid, salinity. Ideal for seafood courses.

Verdejo originates in the Rueda (central Spain) but has found itself thriving in neighboring regions. Although it is fuller-bodied and rich it has a crispness and a creamy texture that in my opinion differentiates it from most any othe white variety.

The Diplomatic Varietal: Smooth & Seductive

Sugar & Spice & Everything Nice

Softer, riper and smoother. Elegance. Think dark, starry skies, wind blown porches and Sade.

400	2014	Neudorf Tom's Block	Pinot Noir	44		Nelson	New Zealand
405	2016	Pali Wine Co. Bluffs #*@	Pinot Noir	50	Russian River	California	USA
406	2014	Dom. S. Magnien# @	Pinot Noir	50	Cotes de Beaune	Burgundy	France
420	2014	Carr Turner Vineyard	Pinot Noir	68	Santa Rita Hills	California	USA
422	2013	Byron Kosuge	Pinot Noir	70	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
425	2015	Ant Hill Farms	Pinot Noir	75	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
426	2013	Domaine de la Cote	Pinot Noir	78	Santa Rita Hills	California	USA
427	2015	Whetstone Jon Boat # @	Pinot Noir	80	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
428	2015	Joseph Voillot Volnay VV	Pinot Noir	85	Cotes de Beaune	Burgundy	France
429	2014	Evening Land Seven Springs	Pinot Noir	90	Eola-Amity Hills	Oregon	USA
440	2014	Black Kite Soberanes	Pinot Noir	99	Santa Lucia Highlands	California	USA
448	2013	Arnot Roberts Legan Vineyard	Pinot Noir	100	Santa Cruz Mountains	California	USA
449	2012	Radio Coteau La Neblina	Pinot Noir	120	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
450	2012	Rivers Marie Summa Old Vines*	Pinot Noir	125	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
451	2013	Hirsch Eagle Ridge *#	Pinot Noir	140	Sonoma Coast	California	USA

Snakes & Snails & Puppy Dog Tails

Dirt, bramble, minerals & darker fruits that aren't interested in making the first move. It's a guy thing.

500	2015	Thierry et Pascale Matrot	Pinot Noir	45	Cote-D'Or	Burgundy	France
504	2015	Salem Wine Co.	Pinot Noir	60	Eola-Amity Hills	Oregon	USA
507	2014	Capiaux Chimera*	Pinot Noir	65	Sonoma County	California	USA
512	2014	Peay Vineyards	Pinot Noir	82	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
520	2015	Soter Mineral Springs Ranch	Pinot Noir	85	Yamhill	Oregon	USA
540	2015	Ant Hill Farms Peters Vnyd*	Pinot Noir	100	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
541	2014	Hirsch San Andreas Fault	Pinot Noir	120	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
550	2013	Ochota Barrels Forest *#	Pinot Noir	125	Adelaide Hills	South Australia	Australia
555	2012	Rivers Marie Occidental Ridge*#	Pinot Noir	125	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
560	2013	Rivers Marie Silver Eagle *#	Pinot Noir	125	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
562	2012	Hirsch San Andreas Fault	Pinot Noir	130	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
564	2015	Ceritas	Pinot Noir	150	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
570	2013	Cirq Tree House *	Pinot Noir	275	Russian River	California	USA
575	2014	Cirq Tree House *	Pinot Noir	275	Russian River	California	USA
580	2013	Cirq Bootlegger Hill	Pinot Noir	275	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
585	2014	Cirq Bootlegger Hill	Pinot Noir	275	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
590	2014	Boar's View	Pinot Noir	400	Sonoma Coast	California	USA

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The Nobles: The Greatest Grapes

ABC's & 1,2,3's

Those varieties that are arguably the MOST important to the growth of the wine industry as a whole. It is in this category where many of the wineries who have made their way "in" the industry cut their teeth. For many of them, they made a noteworthy wine and maintained their focus on the continued excellence of the wine instead of branching out into unknown spaces and losing the intensity that put them "at the table" in the first place. Getting back to the basics but nothing "basic" in their philosophy.

610	2013	Frescobaldi Nipozzano @	Sangiovese	52	Chianti	Tuscany	Italy
612	2016	Round Pond Estate # @	Cabernet Sauvignon	60	Rutherford	Napa	USA
615	2014	Pesquera	Tempranillo	60	Ribera del Duero	Castillo y Leon	Spain
620	2013	Powers Sheridan Vineyard	Cabernet Sauvignon	70	Yakima Valley	Washington	USA
625	2014	Priest Ranch Somerston Vyd	Cabernet Sauvignon	75	St Helena	Napa	USA
626	2014	Aalto *@	Tempranillo	88	Ribera del Duero	Castillo y Leon	Spain
628	2012	Fratelli Alessandria Gramolere	Nebbiolo	90	Barolo	Piemonte	Italy
629	2013	Grammercy Cellars	Cabernet Sauvignon	95	Columbia Valley	Washington	USA
631	2013	Malpuesto	Tempranillo	99	Rioja	La Rioja	Spain
633	2012	Convexity	Cabernet Sauvignon	100	Napa	California	USA
634	2007	La Rioja Alta Gran Reserva	Tempranillo	110	Rioja	La Rioja	Spain
635	2011	Fossacolle Brunello di Montalcino	Sangiovese	125		Tuscany	Italy
636	2014	Enfield	Cabernet Sauvignon	130	Napa	California	USA
638	2014	Paul Hobbs	Cabernet Sauvignon	150	Napa	California	USA
640	2012	Il Poggione Brunello di Montalcino	Sangiovese	150		Tuscany	Italy
644	2013	Hollywood & Vine 2480 *#	Cabernet Sauvignon	175	Rutherford	Napa	USA
646	2012	Arnot Roberts Fellom Ranch	Cabernet Sauvignon	175	Santa Cruz	California	USA
648	2012	Keever Vineyards	Cabernet Sauvignon	175	Yountville	California	USA
649	2013	Rivers Marie Corona Vineyard	Cabernet Sauvignon	175	Oakville	California	USA
660	2013	Dunn	Cabernet Sauvignon	200	Napa	California	USA
664	2013	Rivers Marie Corona	Cabernet Sauvignon	210	Oakville	Napa	USA
667	2010	William Cole Claire's Cuvee @	Cabernet Sauvignon	215	St Helena	Napa	USA
668	2013	Phillipe Melka Metisse	Cabernet Sauvignon	225	St Helena	Napa	USA
670	2015	Caterwaul Regusci Vineyard	Cabernet Sauvignon	225		Napa	USA
672	2013	Rivers Marie Panek Vineyard	Cabernet Sauvignon	250	St Helena	Napa	USA
674	2014	Rivers Marie Calistoga	Cabernet Sauvignon	250	Calistoga	Napa	USA
678	2012	Pulido Walker Melanson Vnyd	Cabernet Sauvignon	275	St Helena	California	USA
680	2012	Pulido Walker Panek Vnyd	Cabernet Sauvignon	275	St Helena	California	USA
685	2014	Rivers Marie Lore Vineyard	Cabernet Sauvignon	300	Oakville	Napa	USA
699	2013	Corra	Cabernet Sauvignon	450	Napa	California	USA

Bordeaux's Red-Headed Step Children

Those varieties that have made some of the most spectacular wines on their own are now a part of these melting pot selections: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec & Cabernet Franc.

708	2015	Sleight of Hand <i>Spellbinder</i>	Cab/Merl/Cab Fr	54	Columbia Valley	Washington	USA
710	2014	Dom. Petit Lyzieres	Cabernet Franc	56	Saumur	Loire	France
712	2015	Chappellet <i>Mountain Cuvee @</i>	Bordeaux Blend	58	Napa	California	USA
714	2015	Maal Wines <i>biolento</i>	Malbec	58		Mendoza	Argentina
716	2015	Ch. Laplagnotte Gr.Cru	Merlot Blend	60	St. Emilion	Bordeaux	France
727	2016	Lieu Dit @	Cabernet Franc	66	Santa Ynez Valley	California	USA
718	2015	Carr Vineyards *#@	Cabernet Franc	70	Santa Ynez Valley	California	USA
728	2013	Alpha Omega II @	Bordeaux Blend	75	Rutherford	Napa	USA
734	2014	Tamber Bey <i>Rabicano @</i>	Bordeaux Blend	80	Yountville	Napa	USA
735	2013	Blackbird <i>Arise #</i>	Bordeaux Blend	95	Oakville	Napa	USA
736	2012	Chateau Segla	Cab/Merlot/Pet Ver	100	Margaux	Bordeaux	France
665	2014	Matthiasson Vineyards *	Bordeaux Blend	180	Napa	California	USA
739	2013	Larkin (*) # @	Cabernet Franc	120	Napa	California	USA
742	2012	Obsidian Ridge <i>Half Mile</i>	Bordeaux Blend	125	Red Hills, Lake County	California	USA
750	2011	Dancing Hares	Bordeaux Blend	225	Napa	California	USA
778	2013	Ovid Vineyards (# *)	Bordeaux Blend	400	Pritchard Hill	Napa	USA
779	2012	Ovid Vineyards (# *)	Bordeaux Blend	450	Pritchard Hill	Napa	USA
780	2013	Ovid Vineyards (# *) <i>R83</i>	Bordeaux Blend	450	Pritchard Hill	Napa	USA
782	2013	Ovid Vineyards (#*) <i>Hexameter</i>	Bordeaux Blend	450	Pritchard Hill	Napa	USA

All Mixed Up: The Blender

In the industry, sometimes called "bathtub" or proprietary blends...my father used to take all of the leftovers out of the fridge and heat them up in one pot. This is like that only much, much better.

800	2015	Carchelo "C"	Monastrel/Temp/Cab	28	Jumilla	Murcia	Spain
804	2015	Ancient Peaks <i>Renegade</i>	Proprietary Blend	42	Paso Robles	California	USA
814	2014	Santa Ema <i>Amplus One @</i>	Carmenere/Syrah	48	Peumo	CH	Chile
820	2012	Hedges Family Estate @	Proprietary Blend	50	Red Mountain	Washington	USA
822	2015	Cruse Wine <i>Monkey Jacket</i>	Valdigue/Tannat/Syrah	65	North Coast	California	USA
825	2016	Geyer <i>The Big Easy</i>	PetV/Malb/Mont/Shir	75	S. Australia	Barossa Valley	Australia
851	2014	Gaja Ca'Marcanda <i>Promis</i>	Merlot/Syrah/Sangio	110		Tuscany	Italy
860	2013	El Nido <i>El Nido</i>	Cabernet/Monastrel	200	Jumilla	Murcia	Spain
861	2014	Kata	Cabernet/Petit Syrah	300	Napa	California	USA
862	2013	Kata	Cabernet/Petit Syrah	325	Napa	California	USA
880	2012	Kata	Cabernet/Petit Syrah	350	Napa	California	USA

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When in Rhone (aka Que Syrah, Syrah): Knowing When You've Crossed the Line

Northern Lights

Leave it to the French to draw lines. It took me an eternity to understand the difference between the division of the Rhone Valley: that is, was it Montelimar? But it is much more like a war was fought and the spoils were split: North-you get the Syrah; South-you get the Grenache (but you can use Syrah, too. Sounds like a fair trade to me. What follows are my favorite varieties of both.

950	2014	3 Rings @	Shiraz	45		Barossa Valley	Australia
952	2011	Xabregas Mount Barker	Shiraz	48	Great Southern	W. Australia	Australia
955	2013	Copain Tous Ensemble @*	Syrah	50	Mendocino	California	USA
956	2012	Hedges Cuvee Marcel Dupont@	Syrah	55	Red Mountain	Washington	USA
958	2013	Jamsheed Illaj	Syrah	58	Beechworth	Victoria	Australia
959	2015	Saint Cosme	Syrah	99	Cote Rotie	Rhone	France
960	2013	Arnot Roberts Clary Ranch	Syrah	100	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
961	2015	Benevolent Neglect	Syrah	105	Sonoma County	California	USA
962	2014	Two Hands Bella's Garden *	Shiraz	110		Barossa Valley	Australia
964	2012	Radio Coteau Las Colinas	Syrah	120	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
965	2014	Ochota Barrels Shellac Vnyd *#	Syrah	125	Marananga District	Barossa Valley	Australia
966	2013	Tor "Rock" Homage Allan	Syrah	125		California	USA
970	2013	Arnot Roberts Que Syrah	Syrah	140	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
972	NV	Sami-Odi Little Wine #4 (*#)	Syrah	150		Barossa Valley	Australia
973	2012	Cayuse Cailloux Vineyard*	Syrah	175	Walla Walla	Washington	USA
974	2012	Cayuse En Chamberlin Vnyd*	Syrah	175	Walla Walla	Washington	USA
975	2011	Cayuse En Chamberlin Vnyd*	Syrah	195	Walla Walla	Washington	USA
976	2014	Cayuse Armada Vineyard	Syrah	275	Walla Walla	Washington	USA
977	2014	Cayuse Bionic Frog	Syrah	300	Walla Walla	Washington	USA
978	2003	Cayuse En Chamberlin Vnyd**	Syrah	350	Walla Walla	Washington	USA
979	2004	Cayuse En Chamberlin Vnyd**	Syrah	350	Walla Walla	Washington	USA

Southern Hospitality

Grenache is the most widely planted varietal on earth. Such a rugged little bugger, the vines can adapt to almost any climate. This section can provide a unique flavor profile--many remind me of Thanksgiving: smoky, meaty with clove & cinnamon spices--that tends to attract a litany of cuisines. Fancy blending grapes hold their own in this section and while difficult to pronounce they are very easy to enjoy. Co-stars of this section are Syrah & Mourvedre (& their aliases)

980	2013	Atalaya	Monastrel/Garnacha	36	Almansa	Castilla La Mancha	Spain
982	2014	Can Blau*	Mazuelo/Garn/Syrah	36	Montsant	Cataluna	Spain
905	2014	Juan Gil @	Monastrel	38	Jumilla	Murcia	Spain
983	2014	Dm. Galevan Paroles de Femme#@	Rhone Blend	40	Cotes du Rhone	Rhone	France
984	2015	Pesque Terrasses @	Grenache/Syrah	45	Cotes du Ventoux	Rhone	France
986	2013	Domaine Galevan #	Rhone Blend	70	Ch. Neuf du Pape	Rhone	France
988	2015	Benevolent Neglect	Grenache	80	Mendocino	California	USA
990	2015	Domaine Paul Autard	Rhone Blend	86	Ch. Neuf du Pape	Rhone	France
991	2013	Jolie-Laide Rossi Ranch (*) @	Rhone Blend	88	Sonoma Co.	California	USA
993	2012	Alto Moncayo*	Garnacha	90	Campo de Borja	Aragon	Spain
994	2014	Jolie Laide Song of the Sunset	Gren/Syr/Vio/Musc	94	Sonoma Coast	California	USA
995	2013	Hudson Pick up Sticks	Gren/Syr/Viognier	95	Carneros	California	USA
996	2015	Sucette # * @	Grenache	99		Barossa Valley	Australia
997	2011	Alto Moncayo*	Garnacha	100	Campo de Borja	Aragon	Spain
998	2013	Tor "Rock" Cuvee Cooper	Grenache/Syrah	100		California	USA
999	2013	Ochota Barrels The Fugazi *#	Grenache	100	Blewitt Springs District	McLaren Vale	Australia
1000	2013	Ochota Barrels Green Room (1.5L)	Grenache/Syrah	125	Onka Blewitt District	McLaren Vale	Australia

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Esoteric & Indigenous: Lost in Translation

This area is reserved for those grapes that truly know their roots. Wine has long since been a hot commodity that conquering generals stole among other things; replanted in their local vineyards and often renamed. But CSI-like wine sleuths found their origins and the world is back in balance. They say "when in Rome, do as the Romans," so if you are in Rome you should rent a Vespa. But here, try a non-traditional wine from this section and then imagine the experience from the vines perspective...you won't need a passport for this journey either.

900	2015	Scarpetta # @	Barbera	38	Monferrato	Piemonte	Italy
908	2013	Zenato Alanera Ripasso	Corvina/Rondinella	42	Valpolicella	Veneto	Italy
910	2016	G.D. Vajra @	Dolcetto	48		Piemonte	Italy
911	2016	Benevolent Neglect	Counoise	54			USA
912	2014	Bellus Scopello	Frappato	55		Sicily	Italy
914	2013	Broc Cellars Eagle Point Ranch	Counoise	58	Mendocino	California	USA
916	2016	Benje Tinto Envinete	Listan Negro	60	Tenerife	Canary Islands	Spain
918	2015	Evening Land	Gamay	62	Sierra Foothills	California	USA
920	2012	Tofanelli # * @	Charbono	66	Calistoga	California	USA
921	2011	Elyse Black Sears @	Zinfandel	68	Howell Mountain	California	USA
922	2015	Fedellos do Cuoto	Bastarda	70	Ribeira Sacra	Galicia	Spain
923	2015	Day	Zinfandel	70	Sonoma County	California	USA
924	2011	Planeta Santa Cecilia	Nero D'Avola	75	Noto	Sicilia	Italy
925	2012	Tofanelli #	Zinfandel	75	Calistoga	California	USA
926	2012	Vigna Traverso	Schioppettino	75	Prepotto	Friuli-Venzia Giulia	Italy
929	2016	Arnot Roberts	Trousseau	80	North Coast	California	USA
930	2012	Veronica Ortega ROC @	Mencia	90	Valtuille	Bierzo	Spain
940	2012	August Briggs	Pinot Meunier	90		Sonoma	USA
945	2013	El Nido Clio	Monastrel	90	Jumilla	Murcia	Spain
946	2014	Outpost	Zinfandel	90	Howell Mountain	California	USA

More geeky facts about some of the wines that may be off the beaten path...

Bobal is another indigenous wine of Spain. It tends to be rich in color and flavor as well as high in acidity which makes this wine an excellent food companion. **Corvina** is one of the principles in valpolicella wines. This medium-bodied type tends to be tart, cherry and almond flavored. **Dolcetto** "little sweet one" grows primarily in Italy's Piedmont region. The fruit is very forward but not overwhelming; the wines are rich and easy to enjoy. **Pinot Meunier** is one of the three grapes allowable in Champagne; however, it is exceptional on its own as a still wine. I like to describe it as a creamier pinot with various layers of signature flavors. **Counoise** is another "nerd" variety. Typically a rhone variety used to blend the *Chateau neuf du Pape* wine. Alone it is peppery, soft fruit, earthy with great acid. **Gamay** is the grape that put *Beaujolais* on the map. However, don't hold that against it. The branding of the "Nouveau" has bastardized this variety. This wine is zippy, with great rustic fruit and low tannin. This is an amazing shift for those who are tired of Pinot noir. **Mencia** is the red variety originated from Bierzo, Spain. It has remained relatively obscure until only recently. It is floral, earthy with plum and cherry flavors, rustic and delicious. Thought to be a distant cousin to Cabernet Franc but the jury is still out... **Carignan**, (aka *Mazuelo*, *Samsó*, *Carinena*) is argued to derive somewhere on the France/Spain border. Big and bold with aggressive tannin and high alcohol that produces spicy and robust black fruit wines. It is often blended with softer varieties that are found in Priorat. **Zinfandel** is probably the most recognizable grape on this list. Often the "spicy" style that intrigues the palate. Many debate that it is **Primitivo** or a derivative of the variety but without question is a "go to" grape: typically higher in alcohol, with loads of ripe fruit and extra peppery spice. **Monastrell** (also **Mourvedre** & **Mataro**) is a common field variety not notable in the Rhone--it is also an essential blending grape in Spain, the lead in Tempier Bandol and of late, one of the "new" players in New World activity. In the Canary Islands, look to its indigenous variety, **Listan Negro**, a volcanic derived varietal that is as complex as it is versatile--producing medium-acid, medium bodied, smoky, easy going wines that are great with seafood and rich meats. **Schioppettino** is the nearly extinct red wine hailing from Friuli that is making its way back on the scene. Full bodied without being heavy, earthy, with balance and finesse...one of my new favorite wines. Another new (yet old) Italian varietal on the scene is Frappato--of Sicilian decent thought to be a cousin of Sangiovese--charming & polished reminiscent of a more earthy & full-figured Pinot Noir.

(#) "friends of the program"

please allow 10 minutes (!)

steward's selection (@)

(*) limited/allocated inventory

Steward's Disclaimer: Vintages are subject to change without notification from our suppliers. Even with bi-weekly inventory of 300+ bottles it is possible that I may make a mistake. Please accept my sincerest apologies for any human error.

3/28/2018