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Wine News

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April 2006

VOL. 27, NO. 4

April

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Podere Rinascimento: Brunello Report

In southern Tuscany the tiny town of Montalcino sits upon an exposed ridge, its narrow stone streets act as accelerators, amplifying the frigid February winds, focusing their brutally cold, knife edge points into all who walk her streets. An occasional rain squall blows through just to add an unavoidable, horizontally moving accent to the cold humidity. Broken umbrellas litter the uncovered trash receptacles around the town, an ever-present reminder of the wind's fury. This vivid picture of nature flexing her muscles is an excellent cue to this vintage's beginning on a frozen Easter Sunday back in April 2001.

Montalcino's elite gathered in its Medici Fortress to debut this much anticipated 2001 vintage, yet the scoop was already out. Brunello di Montalcino's extremely long gestation period of more than four years allows wine aficionados to get many chances to watch the evolution of each vintage's wine. The 2001 was no secret, aging quietly for years waiting for its release. James Suckling of *the Wine Spectator* was the first to release his scores starting with 98 points for the 2001 Valdicava Brunello di Montalcino, and 90-point scores are falling like crumbs from a loaf of stale, unsalted Tuscan bread. Most of the American journalists I have talked to see this as a great vintage. The *Wine Enthusiast* is releasing their scores now and the *Wine Advocate* to follow soon after, finally catching up to the vintage this year.

In my article last month I wrote about this 2001 vintage being a synthesis 1997 and 1999. The lush, ripe, thick, low-acid 1997 vintage that put Brunello di Montalcino into America's wine lexicon and the classically elegant, long, graceful and fresher 1999 vintage that was the purists' favorite. 2001 has the weight, texture and structure that anyone who tastes it will recognize its importance immediately. The wines' dark, opaque character shows how this vintage's concentration levels are unusual for Montalcino, where the difficult to grow Sangiovese grape rarely lends itself to this level of density. The vintage has fully ripened fruit without a hint of the over-ripeness that plagued many wines from 1997. When one gets fruit from over-ripe vintages they tend to be mono-flavored behemoths, and this tends to make the wines less complex in the long run. 2001's fruit is truly special; the long hang time let the grapes develop complex flavors not just high sugar levels. The supple warmth of this seasoned fruit gives an easy entry into the mouth, yet behind the fruit lays significant tannic structure. The key to sangiovese is always the acidity, and it is the acidity that gives the wine length, elegance, grace and that ever-elusive balance. In 2001 the linear characteristic of sangiovese's acidity carries the powerful tannins into balance. Spice, fruit, structure, color, balance, complexity—everything one could want in a vintage! However, unlike

For up-to-date inventories, check www.klwines.com

2003 Bordeaux

If you're a lover of ripe and rich cabernet-based reds, this is the vintage for you. See Ralph's column on page 4.

Direct Buys from Around the World

K&L scours the universe...well, make that planet Earth... for new wine finds! See page 7-8.

The Next "It" Region of France?

That would be Corsica, of course! See Jeff's article on page 9.

Lockers Coming Soon!

New temperature-controlled lockers are coming soon to K&L's San Carlos facility. Please visit www.klwines.com to add yourself to a waiting list for notification. We expect the lockers to be ready in May. You will have the option to rent at that time, pending availability within your desired size.

2001 Arrowood Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$89.98)

96 points Robert Parker: "...One of the finest Cabernets of the vintage ...An extraordinary nose of creme de cassis, cedar, flowers, and toast emerges from this unctuously-textured, full-bodied effort. With sweet tannin, magnificent concentration, abundant notes of cassis, wood smoke, and licorice, and a long, 60-second finish..." (02/05)

the spectacularly balanced 1999 vintage where almost every producer's Brunello was a textbook example. This vintage seems to have been harder to make for some. I can't give a blanket stamp of approval for this vintage—the good and great producers have made outstanding wine, but there are still many wines out of balance. Fortunately the greatest number of these wines won't be coming to America so you won't have to worry. And, of course, we've tasted through 163 different wines and eliminated those we think won't be of interest to you.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

In This Issue

	PAGE
ALEXANDRE BRISOUX: BORDEAUX	2
ANNE PICKETT: SPAIN/CHILE	14
ARGENTINA	14
AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND	8, 14
AUSTRIA	15
BEST BUY WINE CLUB	24
BORDEAUX: 1997-2003	2, 4, 5, 6
BORDEAUX: 2003 FUTURES	3
BORDEAUX: 2004 FUTURES	3
BURGUNDY, RED	19
BURGUNDY, WHITE	18
CABERNET: CALIFORNIA	9, 10, 13
CALIFORNIA: OLD WINES	9
CALIFORNIA RED WINES	9, 10, 12, 13
CALIFORNIA SPARKLING WINES	17
CALIFORNIA WHITE WINES	10, 11, 13
CHAMPAGNE	17
CHARDONNAY	11, 13
CHILE	14
CLYDE BEFFA: NEWS!	2
DIRECT IMPORT BUYS	6, 7
ERIC STORY: AUSTRIA	15
ERIC STORY: LOIRE	18
FRENCH REGIONAL WINES	9
GARY WESTBY: CHAMPAGNE	17
GERMAN	15
GREG ST CLAIR: ITALIAN	20
IMPORTS: OLD AND RARE	6
INFORMATION AND HOURS	22
ITALIAN WINES	20, 21
JEFF VIERRA: FRENCH REGIONAL	9
JIM BARR	16
JIM CHANTELOUP: SOUTHERN HEM	8
JOE ZUGELDER: OLD WINES	16
K&L STAFF	9
KEITH WOLLENBERG: BURGUNDY	19
KIRK WALKER: SPAIN	14
LEOVILLE-LAS-CASES CASES	9
LOIRE VALLEY	15, 18
MARTIN REYES: DOMESTIC	11
MERLOT: CALIFORNIA	13
MIKE PARRIS: ITALY	21
MICHAEL JORDAN: CALIFORNIA	13
MULAN CHAN: GERMANY	15
MULAN CHAN: RHONE	8
PINOT NOIR: CALIF, OREGON	12
PORT	6
RALPH SANDS: BORDEAUX	4
RIEDEL GLASSWARE	23
RHÔNE/FRENCH REGIONAL	8, 9
SAUTERNES	4, 5
SAUVIGNON BLANC: CALIFORNIA	13
SCOTT BECKERLEY: CHAMPAGNE	17
SCREWPULL LEVER PULL	23
SHAUN GREEN	10
SHIPPING AND TERMS	23
SPANISH WINES	14
SPIEGELAU CRYSTAL GLASSES	23
STEVE BEARDEN: BORDEAUX	2
STORAGE LOCKERS	23
STORE HOURS, LOCATIONS	22
SUSAN PURNELL: SPIRITS	22
TASTE OF SONOMA EVENT	17
TASTING ROOM DATES	20
TREY: CALIFORNIA	12
VINOTHEQUE STORAGE	23
WINE ACCESSORIES	23
ZINFANDEL: CALIFORNIA	12

April In France-Let the Hype Begin!

As you read this month's newsletter, Ralph, Chip, Steve and I will be in Bordeaux, tasting the newest "vintage of the Century," the much-heralded 2005 Bordeaux wines, already said to be better than 2003 and 2000, more of a combination of 1982, 1986 and 1996 ... great Cabernet year, etc, etc. We will beg for a few cases and we will be happy with what we get. It looks to be a sellers' market, and you know that means high prices. Our report should be out by the end of April. Now's the time to put your name on the waiting list for any wines you may want. There will be severe allocations for some of these wines.

Meanwhile, the absolutely delicious 2003 Bordeaux wines are arriving daily. We have 6000 cases coming from Bordeaux, so please be patient while waiting for these to arrive.

Our Pichon-Lalande dinner at Cetrella on March 2 was superb: great crowd (sellout), fabulous wines and delicious food. These are the best bargain dinners in the U.S.A. —Clyde Beffa Jr

How about Bordeaux Tonight?

I've come across a great wine recently, the **1997 Clos du Marquis, St-Julien (\$31.99)**. This second wine of the world-famous Léoville-Las-Cases is truly a superb wine for tonight. The succulent sweet concentrated dark fruit is well integrated with the oak and offers great balance. I think this is one of the better second wines from the 1997 vintage. Enjoy it by itself or any cheese.

One other great value now back in stock is the **2001 Haut-Vigneau, Pessac-Leognan (\$13.99)**. Helped by the winemaking crew at Carbonnieux, Haut-Vigneau offers a solid wine. Showing sweet berries, cassis and little oak as well as good mineral tones, this wine can be enjoyed today (with decanting) and over the next five years.

The **2002 Haut-Bergey, Pessac-Leognan (\$19.99)** is another great Pessac that can be enjoyed today. Bright cherry, slight red berry with good structure, but not hard, nice acidity is what makes this one of the most elegant wines of Pessac in 2002. It's still young, but don't be afraid to open it and let yourself be charmed.

The **2003 St-Hilaire, Haut-Médoc (\$14.99)** is one of our better value wines of the 2003 vintage. As you might know, 2003 was an extremely hot vintage in Bordeaux. Plenty of ripe concentrated fruit, cassis and blackberry come to mind. The tannins are present but not aggressive. Still young, but with the warm weather coming and the charcoal already warming up, this will be great with any grilled beef from strip sirloin to burgers. —Alexandre Brisoux

Bordeaux for April and Beyond

Tax time is here, and not many of us are in the mood to take a chance when it comes to spending money. But we still crave good wine, so what should we do? By sticking to the most consistent producers we get great value without feeling like we have to gamble with our tax return.

2002 Pagodes de Cos, St-Estèphe (\$22.99) Cos d'Estournel is one of the best and most consistent wines of St-Estèphe, and their 2nd wine is always a delicious value. This shows a bright, smokey herbal nose and lots of firm, ripe berry fruit with supple texture. Decant this rich and versatile bargain tonight or cellar some for several more years.

2002 La Fleur de Bouard, Lalande de Pomerol (\$25.99) Run by the folks at Château Angelus, this property always seems to craft incredibly tasty wines that are easy to drink as soon as they are released. This silky wine displays lots of rich, ripe fruit and toasty oak in a flashy style that remains elegant and balanced. This wine is always a crowd favorite at my monthly tastings consistently beating out Bordeaux that costs twice as much.

2002 P'eglise Clinet, Pomerol (\$74.99) At a recent event in San Francisco the 2001 vintage of this wine was my choice for best of the 60 Bordeaux poured, beating out several First Growths and two super expensive Right Bank "garage" wines. Despite boasting some of the oldest vines in Pomerol, microscopic production (only 12,000 bottles) allows this château to fly under the radar. Yet it has one of the most consistent track records in all of Bordeaux. Super refined and complex, showing silky raspberries and mineral. This satin-textured wine is truly profound.

1998 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (\$57.99) Our favorite Bordeaux hits the mark year after year, even in difficult vintages. The big firm cabernet shows in the aromatics with complex herb, cedar and smoke that leap from the glass. The high percentage of merlot shines on the palate giving this round, silky wine a lushness you won't often find in 1998 Médocs. Pichon-Lalande is the closest thing to a slam dunk regardless of the vintage, and this is a shining example. Enjoy now or age 15 more years. —Steve Bearden

2004 BORDEAUX FUTURES

See our Vintage Report and list of wines available on our website. A very fine vintage, classic style and well priced.

Alter Ego de Palmer, Margaux-Spectator: A lovely, silky wine.....	\$32.99
Angélu, St-Emilion (1.5L)	\$179.99
Angélu, St-Emilion-92-94 points Parker and Spectator	\$86.99
Ausone, St-Emilion-91-93 points Robert Parker	\$229.99
Barde Haut, St-Emilion-91-93 points Robert Parker	\$27.99
Bernadotte, Haut-Médoc	\$14.99
Branais-Ducru, St-Julien (1.5L)-90-93 points Robert Parker	\$56.99
Branais-Ducru, St-Julien	\$28.99
Brane-Cantenac, Margaux (1.5L)-90-91 points Robert Parker	\$59.99
Brane-Cantenac, Margaux.....	\$30.99
Calon Segur, St-Estèphe (1.5L)-90-93 points Robert Parker	\$78.99
Calon Segur, St-Estèphe.....	\$37.99
Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc	\$17.99
Cantenac-Brown, Margaux	\$24.99
Carruades de Lafite, Pauillac-87-90 points Tanzer	\$34.99
Clerc-Milon, Pauillac-89-91 points Wine Spectator	\$29.99
Climens, Sauternes	\$59.99
Climens, Sauternes (375ml)	\$31.99
Clos du Marquis, St-Julien (1.5L)	\$49.99
Clos du Marquis, St-Julien-89-91 points Wine Spectator	\$24.99
Clos Marsalette, Pessac	\$16.99
Cos d'Estournel, St-Estèphe-92-94 points Robert Parker and WS	\$69.99
Cos d'Estournel, St-Estèphe (1.5L)	\$144.99
d'Aiguilhe, Côtes d'Castillon-88-90 points Stephen Tanzer	\$18.99
d'Angludet, Margaux-An outstanding value	\$22.99
d'Armailhac, Pauillac-88-90 points Stephen Tanzer	\$23.99
du Tertre, Margaux (1.5L \$51.99)-90-92 points Robert Parker	\$24.99
Destieux, St-Emilion-Tanzer: sweet berry and dark chocolate flavors ..	\$23.99
Doisy-Vedrines, Sauternes (375ml).....	\$14.99
Doisy-Vedrines, Sauternes-89-91 points Wine Spectator	\$29.99
Domaine de Chevalier Rouge, Pessac-88-91 points Tanzer	\$29.99
Ducru-Beaucaillou, St-Julien (1.5L)-92-94 points Robert Parker..	\$129.00
Duhart Milon, Pauillac	\$24.99
Fontinel, Fronsac	\$20.99
Gigault "Cuvee Viva" Cotes de Blaye.....	\$14.99
Giscours, Margaux-90-92 points Robert Parker	\$29.99
Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac (1.5L \$71.99)-88-91 points Tanzer ..	\$34.99
Grand Puy Ducasse, Pauillac.....	\$24.99
Gruaud-Larose, St-Julien (1.5L)	\$69.99
Gruaud-Larose, St-Julien-89-91 points Wine Spectator	\$35.99
Haut Brion Blanc, Pessac.....	\$299.00
Haut-Brion, Pessac-Léognan-93-95 points Robert Parker	\$139.99
La Fleur de Bouard, Lalande de Pomerol-88-90 points Tanzer	\$25.99
Lafon-Rochet, St-Estèphe	\$26.99
Lagrange, St-Julien-89-91 points Wine Spectator	\$27.99
Langoa-Barton, St-Julien.....	\$32.99
Langoa-Barton, St-Julien (1.5L)-89-91 points Spectator.....	\$66.99
Larcis-Ducasse, St-Emilion-90-93 points Robert Parker	\$27.99
Laville Haut Brion, Pessac	\$169.00
Léoville-Barton, St-Julien-92-94 points Robert Parker	Inquire
Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien-95-100 points Wine Spectator	\$74.99
Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien (1.5L)-95-100 points Spectator	\$154.99
Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien-90-93 points Robert Parker	\$35.99
Les Forts de Latour, Pauillac (1.5L).....	\$89.99
Les Forts de Latour, Pauillac-89-93 points Stephen Tanzer	\$46.99

Les Ormes de Pez, St-Estèphe-Spectator: nice wine for the vintage ..	\$21.99
Lynch-Bages, Pauillac-89-91 points Wine Spectator and Tanzer	\$39.99
Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (1.5L)	\$84.99
l'Evangile, Pomerol-90-93 points Tanzer.....	\$84.99
Malartic Lagraviere Blanc, Pessac	\$34.99
Malescot St-Exupéry, Margaux (1.5L \$58.99)-91-93 pts Parker ..	\$28.99
Meyney, St-Estèphe-Excellent wine	\$22.99
Monbousquet, St-Emilion	\$34.99
Mouton-Rothschild (1.5L \$289.00)-92-94 points Spectator	\$139.99
Nenin, Pomerol-89-91 points Spectator.....	\$29.99
Pagodes de Cos, St-Estèphe	\$21.99
Pape Clement, Pessac-92-94 points Robert Parker	\$66.99
Pavillon Rouge, Margaux (1.5L)	\$69.99
Pavillon Rouge, Margaux-87-90 points Stephen Tanzer	Inquire
Phelan-Ségur, St-Estèphe-Tanzer: "supple and lush..."	\$24.99
Pichon-Baron, Pauillac (1.5L \$99.99)-90-93 points Robert Parker..	\$51.99
Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac-91-94 points Robert Parker	\$59.99
Pichon Lalande, Pauillac (1.5L).....	\$129.99
Pontet-Canet, Pauillac (1.5L)-92-94 points Robert Parker	\$79.99
Poujeaux, Moulis	\$21.99
Rieussec, Sauternes-92-94 points Wine Spectator.....	\$39.99
Rieussec, Sauternes (375ml)	\$20.99
Smith-Haut-Lafitte Blanc, Pessac-Léognan-91-92 points Tanzer..	\$37.99
Smith-Haut-Lafitte Rouge, Pessac-Léognan-91-93 points Parker ..	\$36.99
Sociando-Mallet, Haut-Médoc-90-92 points Parker	\$36.99
Troplong Mondot, St-Emilion (1.5L)-92-94 points Parker	\$78.99

2003 BORDEAUX FUTURES

Exceptional vintage for collectors. Check out our Vintage Report. Scores are from The Wine Advocate. Wines are starting to arrive.

Brane-Cantenac, Margaux (90-93)	\$35.99
90-93 points Parker: "... sweet black currant, herbaceous aroma with hints of earth, blue fruits, and some of the forest floor characteristics ..."	(04/05)
Clos d'Oratoire, St-Emilion (89-92)	\$36.99
d'Issan, Margaux (90-92)	\$30.99
90-92 points Robert Parker: "...Elegant, focused bouquet of floral notes inter-mixed with blueberry, black currants and some earth and spice, this wine reveals elegance, ripeness, good freshness, and a medium-bodied, attractive finish with low acidity, outstanding depth, and overall balance."	(04/05)
Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Pauillac (91-94)	\$44.99
Haut-Brion, Pessac (93-95+)	\$279.99
Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien (93-95)	\$169.99
95-100 points Wine Spectator: "...Very complex. Layers of cashmerelike tannins, turning to leather. Warm and inviting, yet rich and powerful; fantastic purity, yet voluptuous. This is what exciting wine is about."	
Margaux, Margaux (96-100)	\$369.00
Mouton-Rothschild, Pauillac (95-96)	Inquire
95-100 points Wine Spectator: "Complex aromas of blackberries, citrus and tobacco. Currants. Subtle nose yet complex..."	
Palmer, Margaux (88-91)	\$114.99
Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac (93-95)	\$99.99
95-100 points Spectator: "This tastes like crushed grapes and red fruits. It's big and rich, full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long, long finish. Juicy wine."	
93-95 points Robert Parker.	
Potensac, Médoc (88-90)	\$19.99
Poujeaux, Moulis (88-90 sleeper)	\$22.99
Smith-Haut-Lafitte, Pessac-Léognan (90-93)	\$39.99

BORDEAUX 1961-2004

1961 Lynch Bages, Pauillac.....\$399.00
1961 Palmer, Margaux\$1799.00
 Direct from Mahler-Besse cellar, best in Bordeaux.
1970 Léoville-Las-Cases, St-Julien\$99.95
1970 La Lagune, Medoc\$129.95
1975 Poujeaux, Moulis (1.5L).....\$169.99
 Awesome value! Sweet fruit, lingering aftertaste.
 Old school wine-perfect with a rack of lamb.
1982 Cheval-Blanc (1.5L)\$1699.00
1982 Canon, St-EmilionInquire
1982 Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien\$179.99
 94 points Robert Parker: "The 1982 Leoville-Poyferré possesses great concentration, full body as well as considerable structure." (6/2000)
1988 l'Arrosee, St-Emilion\$79.95
1989 d'Armailhac, Pauillac (1.5L) ..\$189.00
 92 points *Wine Spectator*: "A burly, tannic wine. Dark ruby-colored. Plenty of cherry, bark and mint aromas. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a long, minty, cherry aftertaste." (1999)

1990 Pichon-Lalande (1.5L)\$279.00
1993 Pichon-Lalande (1.5L)\$139.99
 4 stars *Decanter* magazine: "Good solid nose. Tannic fruit on the palate. Good, big and sound."
1994 Haut-Bailly, Pessac.....\$42.99
 According to Robert Parker: "One of the finest 1994s... The wine is rich yet ethereal in the mouth..." (02/97)
1994 Haut Brion, Pessac.....\$159.99
 94 points *Wine Spectator*: "Has wonderful richness and suppleness, lovely fruit and harmony. A superb example of a graceful, balanced wine that is delicious now and can evolve over many years."
1994 Latour, Pauillac\$189.99
 93 points Robert Parker: "It is a superbly rich, concentrated, full-bodied Latour with remarkable intensity. The wine exhibits fabulous intensity, excellent richness, a sweet inner-core of fruit, and a powerful, tannic but brilliantly well-defined, long finish." (04/96).
1994 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac\$34.99

Robert Parker: "...sweet, smoky, cassis scented nose, supple, round tannin...excellent richness..."

1994 Pichon-Lalande (1.5L)\$159.99
 91 points Robert Parker: "One of the stars of the vintage, a gorgeously perfumed, exotic, smoky, blackcurrant, Asian spice, and sweet vanillin-scented bouquet. It is followed by thick, rich, moderately tannic flavors that exhibit medium to full body, good structure, outstanding purity, and a classically layered, long, pure finish." (02/97)
1995 Pichon-Lalande (1.5L)\$309.99
 96 points and a Cellar Selection designation from the *Wine Spectator*: "...This powerhouse needs time. Best after 2003." (01/98)
1995 Pichon-Baron (1.5L)\$149.00
1996 Palmer, Margaux\$129.99
1996 Phelan Segur, St-Estephe.....\$31.99
1996 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac\$54.99
 92 points *Spectator* and \$20 less than 2003.
1996 Pichon-Lalande (1.5L)\$299.99
 96 points Robert Parker: "Deep and full-bodied, with fabulous concentration and a sweet, opulent texture. Anticipated maturity:2004-2025." (04/99)
1997 Clos du Marquis, St-Julien\$31.99
1997 Ormes de Pez, St-Estèphe\$17.99
1998 Carillon d'Angelus, St-Emil.....\$24.99
1998 Malartic-Lagraviere, Pessac.....\$26.99
 Good minerality and lingering finish. Fine plus.
1998 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac.....\$57.99
1998 Pontet Canet, Pauillac\$26.99
 According to Robert Parker: "Pontet-Canet's dark ruby/purple-colored, closed 1998 (50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Merlot) is undoubtedly a vin de garde."
1998 St Georges Trilogie, St-Emilion\$19.99
1998 St Georges Trilogie (1.5L)\$39.99
1999 d'Angludet, Margaux\$34.99
 Super sweet and silky black fruit notes. Hints of orange zest. Really soft tannins and quite broad on the palate. Very similar to Palmer. Terrific length.
1999 Lalande Borie, St-Julien.....\$18.99
 65% cabernet sauvignon, 25% merlot and 10% cabernet franc. Elegant, perfect drinking right now.
1999 Phelan-Ségur, St-Estèphe.....\$26.99
 Robert Parker: "The 1999 is charming. It exhibits strawberry, cherry, and black currant fruit, a touch of minerals, earth, and underbrush." (04/01)
1999 Pichon-Baron, Pauillac\$39.99
 Black currant and spicy aromas, with nice thickness in the mouth. It has a tinge of coffee and vanilla on the palate. An exotic wine.
1999 Smith-Haut-Lafitte (1.5L)\$79.99
1999 Smith-Haut-Lafitte, Pessac\$39.99
 One of Clyde's favorite '99s. Elegant-fruity.
1999 Talbot, St-Julien\$29.99
2000 Bellerose Figeac Reserve, St-Emilion\$27.99
 The ripe round fruit is wrapped around a core of

2003 Bordeaux: Perfect for the American Palate!

The yearly unveiling of Bordeaux's new vintage at the Union des Grand Crus tasting on the West Coast is usually a pretty serious event. Serious concentration on the faces of the American tasters, many tasting the wines for the very first time, and taking serious notes. The Bordelais pouring the wines are also a bit intense as they listen politely to comments about their wines and wonder if people really understand them. This year was completely different with 2003 Bordeaux; it was a lovefest! Smiles abounded from everyone's faces. The wines showed fabulous ripe fruit, rich textures, and they tasted great, which solidified the fact that this vintage will be legendary in America, without question the best-tasting high-quality young Bordeaux vintage since 1982. With this kind of appeal the assumption of course is that the wines will be very expensive, and this is true for the most famous estates in wine. But the reality is that there are also plenty of great wines and many are fine values.

The 2003s are trickling in, and here are some of the early examples of these superb wines.

2003 Ch. Fontenil, Fronsac (\$21.99) The estate is owned by the world's most famous enologist Michel Rolland, so it is no surprise that it has huge amounts of sweet, ripe merlot fruit with nice backbone. Flat out delicious.

2003 Ch. Bernadotte, Haut-Médoc (\$20.99, \$42.99 1.5L) We call it baby Pichon-Lalande as it is owned and made by the great second growth. It captures the hallmark characteristics of Pichon: freshness, elegance, and in 2003 the ripeness brings the berry flavors to the forefront and raises the wine up to another level of quality.

2003 Ch. Reignac, Bordeaux Superior (\$24.99) This estate went from bulk wine producer to being the superstar of all Bordeaux Superiores! Smoky berry fruit dominate, with hints of dark chocolate, not overdone or over extracted as it has been in some vintages, a real winner.

2003 Ch. La Couspaude, St-Emilion (\$45.99) From the Aubert family in St-Emilion. If you love flashy, exotic, ripe merlot fruit and heavily scented new french oak, you will love this wine. Its bold character really reflects the need to be cellared for a few years, if you can stay away.

Claire Villars brings generations of winemaking knowledge to her craft and could be the hottest winemaker in all of Bordeaux. She makes the wine at the smallest of all the classified growths, the 5,000 case production 3rd growth, Ch. Ferriere. The fruit in her **2003 Ch. Ferriere, Margaux (\$28.99)** is so attractive it's almost tropical with hints of raspberry jam, soft and round in the mouth with silky tannins. Wow! Her Pauillac estate, 5th growth **2003 Haut-Bages-Liberal, Pauillac (\$26.99)**, located next to Ch. Latour and Pichon Comtesse de Lalande is more masculine and firm, of course, but has good ripe, bright middle fruit and will drink earlier than most Pauillacs. The time is now to get on board with Claire's wines before she gets too popular.

Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or advice on the wines of Bordeaux at ex 2723 or Ralph@klwines.com. Cheers and Go Giants!
 —Ralph Sands

BORDEAUX 2000-2004

dark chocolate and earthy spice.

2000 Clerc Milon, Pauillac\$49.99

2000 Cos d'Estournel, St-Estèphe ..\$114.99
Number 2 of the *Spectator's* top 100 wines of 2003! 96 points from the *Wine Spectator*.

2000 d'Angludet, Margaux\$39.99

88 points Robert Parker: "The 2000 is a traditional claret, displaying a deep ruby color and a nose of cedar, damp earth, plums, and currants. Medium to full-bodied, solidly tannic, and attractive, it will age well for 10-15 years..."

2000 Feytit Clinet, Pomerol\$34.99

Great value Pomerol from 2000 vintage with plenty of dark fruits, toasty oak, hints of spice and earth. The palate is round and quite juicy.

2000 Lalande Borie, St-Julien.....\$24.99

2000 Greysac, Médoc\$16.99

Sweet and lush. 89 points *Wine Spectator*.

2000 Meyney, St-Estèphe\$24.99

2000 Mondorian, St-Emilion\$19.99

2000 Mouton-Rothschild (5L)Inquire

97 points Robert Parker. Special box and bottle-collector's item.

2000 Phelan-Ségur, St-Estèphe.....\$26.99

89 points *Wine Spectator*: "Refined and silky."

2000 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac.....\$49.99

2000 Pressac, St-Emilion\$24.99

2001 d'Angludet, Margaux\$34.99

Robert Parker: "A sleeper of the vintage, this excellent offering possesses a deep ruby/purple color as well as a sweet nose of melted asphalt, cedar wood, black currants, gravel and tar."

2001 Haut-Brion, Pessac\$149.99

94 points Robert Parker: "...currants, licorice, smoke, and crushed stones. Medium bodied with excellent purity, firm tannin ..." (06/04)

2001 La Fleur de Bouard,

Lalande de Pomerol\$31.99

2001 La Roche Amavinum, Castill....\$18.99

75% merlot. Coffee and chocolate aromas. Good middle and fine length. Sweet and lush.

2001 Margaux, Margaux.....\$164.99

2001 Montlisse, St-Emilion\$23.99

Wine Spectator: "A intense red, with fresh herbs and berries on the nose and palate."

2001 Ormes de Pez, St-Estèphe\$24.99

Excellent. From the Jean Michel Cazes group.

2001 Palmer, Margaux\$129.99

2001 Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac.....\$66.99

95-100 points *Spectator*: "Very well-integrated."

2001 Reserve de Comtesse Lalande ..\$27.99

"Super delicious! As good as any Reserve I have ever had. Silky and elegant," Clyde Beffa Jr.

2002 Clos du Marquis, St-Julien\$29.99

90 points *Wine Spectator*: "Wonderful aromas of currants and berries with hints of flowers."

2002 Cos d'Estournel, St-Estèphe....Inquire

93 points Robert Parker: "One of the candidates for wine of the vintage..."

2002 de Pez, St-Estèphe\$18.99

2002 de Sales, Pomerol\$24.99

According to the *Wine Spectator*: "...with berry and cherry character, medium body, fine tannins and a delicate finish. Very nice indeed."

2002 Eglise-Clinet, Pomerol.....\$74.99

2002 Eglise-Clinet (1.5L)\$129.99

90-92 points Robert Parker: "An exceptionally strong effort from a vigneron, Denis Durantou..."

2002 Haut-Bailly, Pessac.....\$34.99

90 points Parker: "...displaying notes of tobacco smoke intermixed with sweet currant, cherry, and some toast... has the hallmark purity married graciously with nicely concentrated fruit."

2002 Haut-Bergey, Pessac.....\$19.99

2002 Haut-Brion, Pessac\$149.99

2002 La Fleur de Bouard,

Lalande de Pomerol\$25.99

2002 Latour-Martillac, Pessac\$19.99

2002 Lafite-Rothschild, Pauillac\$159.99

94 points Parker: "A brilliant offering and a candidate for wine of the vintage, this is classic Lafite that reminded me somewhat of the 1976..."

2002 l'Evangile, Pomerol\$79.99

2002 Montrose, St-Estèphe.....\$45.99

2002 Pagodes de Cos, St-Estèphe\$22.99

2002 Pape Clement, Pessac.....\$51.99

2002 Pedesclaux, Pauillac.....\$24.99

On the palate there is a soft attack, drawing one's attention to the excellent fruit. Very charming with notes of coffee and toast developing.

2002 Petrus, Pomerol\$529.99

2002 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac.....\$29.99

92 points *Wine Spectator*: "Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a long finish."

2002 Potensac, Médoc\$17.99

2002 Reserve de Comtesse Lalande ..\$25.99

Pichon-Lalande's 2nd wine. Bright and deep with dark blackberry and cherry fruit, hints of herb and mineral, plenty of plump merlot juiciness.

2003 Bahans de Haut-Brion, Pessac..\$41.99

2003 Bernadotte, Médoc\$20.99

2003 Cambon la Pelouse, H Medoc Inq

According to Robert Parker: "Cambon La Pelouse has been consistently excellent over recent vintages, and 2003 is no exception. Firm tannin in the finish needs to be shed, but this Haut-Medoc exhibits excellent berry fruit along with hints of saddle leather, licorice, and earth..." (04/04)

2003 Chauvin, St-Emilion (1.5L)\$56.99

2003 de Pez, St-Estephe\$27.99

2003 Ferriere, Margaux\$28.99

2003 La Gatte, Bordeaux\$10.99

Great aromas, deep cherry, touch of spice; classic Bordeaux, very pure. Can be drunk now or in 5 years. Will be very elegant around 2010. This property dates back to the 16th century!

2003 Haut Gay, Bordeaux Superior ..\$13.99

2003 La Chapelle de La Mission.....\$23.99

2003 La Couspaude, St-Emilion.....\$45.99

2003 La Couspaude (1.5L)\$92.99

2003 Larcis-Ducasse, St-Emi (1.5L) \$65.99

2003 Le Gay, Pomerol\$57.99

2003 Reignac, Bordeaux Superiore ..\$24.99

2003 Roc de Cambes, C du Bourg\$29.99

2003 Rouget, Pomerol\$26.99

2003 Teyssier, St-Emilion\$26.99

70% merlot and 30% cab franc. Rich, balanced.

White Bordeaux

2000 Château "Y"-From d'Yquem\$139.99

2002 Clos Floridene Blanc, Graves ..\$17.99

2003 Reynon VV, Graves\$11.99

Fabulous, delicious minerally wine.

2003 Les Plantiers Haut Brion\$29.99

2003 Carbonnieux Blanc, Pessac\$24.99

90-93 points Robert Parker.

2004 Marjosse Blanc.....\$9.99

2004 Roquefort Blanc.....\$9.99

2004 "S" de Suduiraut\$18.99

A must try-this dry wine is exceptional.

Sauternes

d'Yquem Vertical Case.....\$4,499.00

One each of 12 vintages: 1982, '83, '84, '85, '86, '91, '94, '95, '96, '98, '99, '00. Due in soon!

1991 d'Yquem\$159.00

1993 d'Yquem\$144.99

1994 d'Yquem\$159.99

1999 d'Yquem\$149.99

2000 Grand Enclos du Cerons Blanc

(375ml)\$13.99

2001 Castelnau de Suduiraut\$29.99

2001 de Faugeres (375ml).....\$51.99

2001 de Faugeres.....\$99.99

2001 Rayne-Vigneau.....\$37.99

2002 Doisy-Védrières\$29.99

2002 Dauphin de Guiraud (375ml) ..\$13.99

2002 Grand Enclos du Cerons Blanc

(375ml)\$12.99

2002 Petit-Védrières (375ml)\$10.99

2002 Suduiraut\$39.99

2002 Rieussec\$54.99

92-94 points Robert Parker.

2005 Ch. Cos d'Estournel

On Friday March 10, Jean Guillaume Prats visited K&L Redwood City and poured a barrel sample of the magnificent 2005 Cos, the first taste of this wine in the U.S. It had traveled with him from France to South Africa to New York to Boston to Phoenix to us. And it was fabulous!! A carbon copy of the 1982 vintage with 20 more years of winemaking and vineyard tending knowledge. Elegance with power behind it.

DIRECT BUYS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

K&L buys many imported wines directly from the producers or negociants. We taste the wines at the property and negotiate with the seller, often finding wines that are not available in the U.S. market. And we get the wines to our customers for less. There are no middle-men taking a percentage while passing it through distribution.

France:

Alsace/Loire Valley

- 2004 Pinot Blanc, Charles Baur\$9.99
 2003 Muscat Grand Cru Froehn, J.P. Becker\$16.99
 2001 Gewürztraminer Grand Cru Froehn, J.P. Becker\$17.99
 2001 Gewürztraminer Eichberg, Charles Baur.....\$19.99
 2004 Riesling Grand Cru Eichberg, Charles Baur\$19.99
 2004 Muscadet, Ch La Moriniere\$9.99
 Crisp, clean, flinty...bring on the oysters!
- 2004 Cour Cheverny, Tessier\$12.99
 2004 Touraine Cot Vieilles Vignes, Grand Tiphaine.....\$13.99
 2004 Menatou Salon Rouge, La Tour St Martin\$13.99
 2004 Menatou Salon Blanc, La Tour St Martin.....\$13.99
 Great value sauvignon blanc. As good as Pouilly-Fumé for much lower price.
- 2004 Quincy, Adele Rouze-Quite dry and some earthiness\$14.99
 2002 Savennieres "Cuvee des Genets," Domaine Laureau\$15.99
 Delightful, mineral driven white.
- 2004 Sancerre Blanc, Franck Millet-Superb value\$12.99
 2004 Sancerre Rouge, Franck Millet-Another great value!\$14.99
 2003 Sancerre Blanc "Insolite," Franck Millet\$19.99
 Our best selling Sancerres-clean, balanced, earthy.
- 2004 Sancerre Chavignol Blanc, Gerard Boulay.....\$18.99
 These are wines of the soil, that echo the land with precision and delineation found in only the greatest of white wines.
- 2002 Quincy, Silice de Quincy\$24.99

Bordeaux: White/Clairet/Red/Stickers

- 2004 Château Roquefort Blanc, Bordeaux\$9.99
 Great balance with almost Alsatian Pinot Blanc richness. Lingering finish.
- 2004 Château St Jean des Graves, Graves\$10.99
 Clean, crisp, refreshing and a great value.
- 2004 Château Thieuley Blanc, Bordeaux\$10.99
 A bit richer style with plenty of semillon in blend.
- 2003 Château Reynon, "V.V" Bord Blanc\$11.99
 One of the best 2003 white wines from Bordeaux-perfect acidity.
- 2004 Grand Enclos de Château Cerons Blanc\$13.99
 Superb elegance and refinement. Soft, fruity mid palate with very dry finish.
- 2002 Clos Floridene Blanc, Graves\$17.99
 Very similar to Domaine de Chevalier. Richness and tons of mineral.
- 2004 La Peyrere du Tertre Clairet\$12.99
 A deep colored rosé style wine rich enough to serve with a beef course.
- 2003 Château Souvenir, Bordeaux\$9.99
 Ripe and very fruity, forward red. Enjoy now.
- 2003 Château Peyraud, Premieres Cotes de Blaye\$9.99
 90% merlot, 10% cabernet sauvignon, very aromatic and bright and perfect for consumption now and over the next three years. Sweet and lovely. Ripe and lush on the palate. Tastes great right now. Long finish. (Clyde Beffa, K&L Bordeaux buyer)
- 2000 Château Trebiac, Graves\$13.99
 Tons of crushed berries. Enjoy now.
- 2003 Haut Vigneau, Pessac\$13.99
 From the Perin family of Carbonnieux fame. Fabulous value!
- 2003 Château St. Hilaire, Médoc.....\$14.99

Blended from 44% merlot, 56% cabernet sauvignon aged for 12 months in one-year-old barrels (50% American and 50% French oak) and bottled without fining or filtration, this heady unctuous red is ready to drink now.

- 2003 Petit Manou, Médoc\$14.99
 2nd wine of Clos Manou. Perfect crossover from California Cab to Bordeaux.
- 2000 Château Thieuley Cuvee Reserve F Courselle\$16.99
 It is back and still great. Toasty, full-flavored from the great 2000 vintage.
- 2003 Château Perron, Lalande de Pomerol.....\$18.99
 Black fruit aromas and flavors-spicy and round. Soft tannins.
- 2003 Château Serilhan, St-Estèphe\$19.99
 Ripe from the vintage and richness from the good terroir.
- 2000 Grand Enclos de Château Cerons Blanc (375ml)\$13.99

Rosé/White Burgundy

- 2003 Bourgogne Cotes d'Auxerre Rosé, Domaine Goisot\$9.99
 NV Plaisir des Princes Vin de Pay (Chardonnay)\$6.99
 Will sell out quickly.
- 2004 St Veran, Domaine des Nembrets, Barraud\$13.99
 2004 Bourgogne Chardonnay "Signature" Champy\$14.99
 It is all barrel fermented in small French oak barrels, 80% new.
- 2003 St-Veran, Domaine de la Croix Senaillet\$14.99
 The 2003 St-Veran has a delicate nose, with honey and rich flavors.
- 2004 Pouilly Fuissé, "Les Chataignieres,"
 Dom des Nembrets, Denis Barraud\$18.99
- 2003 St Romain, Champy\$19.99
 2002 Meursault, Maison Maurice Chenu\$19.99
 Rich and concentrated, with classic Meursault nuttiness and weight.
- 2004 Pouilly Fuissé, "La Roche," Vieilles Vignes,
 Domaine des Nembrets, Denis Barraud\$23.99
 This is his Old Vine Cuvée Pouilly Fuissé, which comes from the slopes of the Roche de Vergisson. It sees a bit more new oak, and more lees stirring, resulting in a very rich, creamy style of Pouilly Fuissé. (Keith Wollenberg, K&L Burgundy buyer)

Red Burgundy

- 2003 Pernand-Vergelesses, "Les Fichots," 1er Cru, Champy ..\$21.99
 2003 Gevrey-Chambertin, Vieilles Vignes, Maison Champy ..\$29.99
 The nose shows licorice and earthy notes, followed by lovely, bright Cherry fruit, with teh charcterisitic size and meatiness of Gevrey. The tannins are plentiful, but so beautifully fine in character that they are unobtrusive.
- 2001 Volnay, "Ronceret," 1er Cru, Domaine N. Rossignol\$49.99
 2002 Volnay, "Taillepieds," 1er Cru, Nicolas Rossignol\$51.99
 Clive Coates writes: "65 year old vines which belong to his grandfather. 29 hl/ha. Medium-full body. ripe, ceramy and sophisticated. good tannins. Long. Intense. Very classy. ..."
- 2002 Volnay, "Caillerets," 1er Cru, Nicolas Rossignol\$51.99
 Clive Coates writes: "Fragrant, p[lump and stylish. Very elegant. Medium full body. Cool and composed. Very good acidity. this is fat, round and ample. Quite fat. Long. very good indeed."
- 2002 Volnay, "Santenots," 1er Cru, Rossignol-Jeanniard\$51.99
 2003 Vosne-Romanée, "Les Suchots," 1er Cru, Champy\$59.99
 2003 Vosne-Romanée, "Beaux Monts," 1er Cru, Champy\$59.99
 Rich, chocolatey, round, this is classic Beaumonts.

Southern France/Rhône

- 2004 Provence Domaine de l'Attilon (Marselan)\$8.99
 Marselan is cross of cabernet and grenache. Organic and delicious.
- 2004 Garrigues Blanc, Jean Louis Denois-Delicious!\$9.99
 2002 Garrigues Rouge, Jean Louis Denois-Great value!.....\$9.99
 2004 Côtes du Rhône, Domaine de la Maurelle\$9.99
 Meaty and spicy aromas follow to the palate. Good sweet middle palate fruit.

DIRECT BUYS FROM AROUND THE WORLD CONTINUED

2004 Coteaux du Languedoc Domaine La Sauvageonne "Les Ruffes"	\$10.99
2004 VdT Coteaux du Languedoc Domaine Beau Thorey "Patus" Pic St Loup (ORGANIC)	\$11.99
NV Brut Rosé Pinot Noir, Jean Louis Denois	\$12.99
Here is the last of this sparkling beauty.	
2004 Cotes du Roussillon Domaine du Roc des Anges "Segna"	\$13.99
2003 Coteaux du Languedoc Domaine Beau Thorey "Danse des Ceps" (ORGANIC)	\$15.99
2003 Côtes du Rhône "Baron Louis" Ch Montfaucon	\$14.99
New vintage, but same great wine. Packed with spicy fruit.	
2002 Grand Cuvee Red, Jean Louis Denois	\$14.99
Sold out quickly last time-last 50 cases have arrived.	
2002 "La Riviere" Chenin Blanc, Jean Louis Denois	\$16.99
Sold out immediately last time-here is last 25 cases.	
2000 "Vins Rares" Rosé, JL Denois	\$14.99
2001 "Vins Rares" Blanc "Les Ruchers," JL Denois	\$16.99
Two new arrivals from the great Jean Louis Denois.	
2004 Gigondas, Domaine de la Maurelle	\$16.99
Spicy, rich, minerally. Lots of black fruit on the palate. Decant.	
2003 Cotes du Roussillon Domaine du Roc des Anges "Vieilles Vignes"	\$17.99
2003 Les Baux de Provence Château d'Estoublon Rouge	\$17.99
2004 Les Baux de Provence Château d'Estoublon Blanc	\$19.99
Fabulous wines-just arrived.	
2003 Gigondas Tradition, Moulin de Gardette	\$18.99
Black fruit, spicy, and a bit peppery. Long finish.	
2003 Cotes du Roussillon Domaine du Roc des Anges "VV" ..	\$19.99
2001 Gigondas "Ventabren" Moulin de Gardette	\$26.99
89 points Robert Parker: "The black/purple-colored 2001 Gigondas Ventabren possesses enormous concentration in addition to high tannin (some of it rustic), but a rich, full-bodied, muscular personality with abundant fruit and structure."	
2004 Château Simone Palette Rose, Provence	\$31.99
2003 Château Simone Palette Blanc, Provence	\$31.99
Champagne	
Ariston Carte Blanche Brut	\$22.99
Our best deal in bubbles? Powerful!	
Franck Bonville Brut Selection Blanc de Blancs	\$24.99
Launois "Cuvee Reserve" Brut Blanc de Blanc	\$25.99
Marguet-Bonnerave Brut Rosé-Fantastic!	\$25.99
Tarlant Brut Reserve	\$26.99
Quality obsessed grower, direct pricing!	
Tarlant Brut Zero	\$26.99
Our driest. No sugar added.	
De Meric Sous Bois Brut-Rich style	\$27.99
Philippe Gonet Brut Reserve Champagne	\$27.99
Ariston Brut Rosé	\$28.99
1998 Franck Bonville Brut Millesime Blanc de Blanc	\$28.99
Leclerc-Briant "La Croisette" Single Vineyard Brut	\$29.99
1998 Ariston Vintage Brut	\$29.99
Ariston Aspasia Brut Prestige	\$34.99
De Meric Grande Sous Bois Bouzy Rose Brut	\$34.99
1996 Leclerc-Briant "Cuvee Divine" Brut	\$39.99
2000 Philippe Gonet Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru	\$39.99
Philippe Gonet Brut Roy Soleil Blanc de Blancs	\$39.99
Rene Collard Brut Carte d'Or	\$39.99

Tarlant Cuvee Louis Brut Prestige-New 1996/1997 cuvee	\$39.99
1990 Rene Collard	\$49.99
Tarlant Single Vineyard Blanc de Blancs	\$49.99
De Meric Grande Reserve Sous Bois Brut (1.5L)	\$56.99
Franck Bonville Cuvee Belles Voyes	\$59.99
1985 Rene Collard	\$59.99

Corsica

2003 Clos Canarelli "Petit Clos" (Organic)	\$14.99
The red "Le Petit Clos" from Clos Canarelli is a blend of younger vine syrah, nielluccio and sciacarello. It displays bright violet and hibiscus flora-matics along with juicy canberry and cassis fruit.	
2003 Clos Canarelli Corse Figari (Organic)	\$24.99

Italy:

Tuscany/Montalcino

2003 La Fortuna Rosso di Montalcino	\$17.99
2 Glasses Gambero Rosso.	
2003 La Fortuna Sant'Antimo Rosso	\$27.99
2000 La Fortuna Brunello-2 Glasses Gambero Rosso	\$36.99
2003 Baricci Rosso di Montalcino-2 Glasses Gambero Rosso	\$18.99
2000 Baricci Brunello-2 Glasses Gambero Rosso	\$36.99
1999 Pian dell'Orino "Piandorino" Super Tuscan	\$19.99
2000 Pian dell'Orino Brunello di Montalcino	\$39.99
2000 Sesta di Sopra Brunello-92 points Wine Spectator	\$42.99
1996 Casisano Colombaio Brunello-1 Glass Gambero Rosso	\$24.99
1997 Casisano Colombaio Brunello Riserva	\$54.99
92 points Wine Spectator and 2 Glasses Gambero Rosso.	
1999 Casisano Colombaio Brunello Riserva	\$54.99
95 points Wine Spectator and 2 Glasses Gambero Rosso.	

Piedmont

2004 Ruggeri Corsini Barbera d'Alba	\$12.99
1 Glass Gambero Rosso.	
2002 R Corsini Nebbiolo delle Langhe	\$14.99
1 Glass Gambero Rosso.	
2001 Ruggeri Corsini Barolo	\$31.99
2 Glasses Gambero Rosso and 90 points Wine Spectator.	

Veneto

Silvano Follador Prosecco Valdobbiadene Brut	\$10.99
2 Glasses Gambero Rosso.	
Silvano Follador Prosecco Valdobbiadene Extra Dry	\$10.99
2 Glasses Gambero Rosso.	

Friuli

2004 Blason Merlot DOC Isonzo	\$7.99
2004 Blason Chardonnay DOC Isonzo	\$8.99
2003 Blason Venc Bianco DOC Isonzo	\$14.99
1 Glass Gambero Rosso.	
2002 Blason Vencjar Rosso DOC Isonzo	\$19.99
2004 Ermacora Merlot COF	\$14.99
2004 Ermacora Sauvignon COF	\$14.99
2004 Ermacora Tocai Friulano COF	\$14.99
2004 Ermacora Pinot Bianco COF-2 Glasses Gambero Rosso	\$14.99
2004 Ermacora Pinot Grigio COF-2 Glasses Gambero Rosso	\$14.99

New Zealand

2004 Griffin Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc	\$11.99
Tank fermented with lees contact, this 2004 offers a focused red-pepper to classic SB grassy nose that carries through on the palate in a clean, crisp, focused style with undertones of white peach and excellent acid structure.	

RHÔNE VALLEY

2003 Cotes du Rhone Jean-Luc Colombo, Forots	\$18.99
2003 Cotes du Rhone Montfaucon "Baron Louis"	\$14.99
2004 Crozes-Hermitage Blanc Domaine Combiere (Organic)	\$17.99
2004 Côtes de Ventoux Domaine de Fondreche "O'Sud"	\$11.99
2004 Costieres de Nimes Château Grande Cassagne Blanc	\$9.99
2004 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, Senechaux	\$36.99
2003 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Monpertuis "Classique"	\$31.99
2003 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Monpertuis "Tradition"	\$62.99
2003 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Patrick Lesec "Pierres Dorees"	\$36.99
2003 Châteauneuf du Pape, Domaine de la Côte de l'Ange	\$28.99
2003 Châteauneuf du Pape, Domaine Bois de Boursan	\$39.99
2001 Gigondas Moulin de la Gardette "Ventabren"	\$26.99
2003 Gigondas Domaine Santa Duc	\$36.99
2003 Gigondas Montirius (Bio-dynamic)	\$29.99
2003 Gigondas Moulin de la Gardette "Tradition"	\$18.99
2003 Vacqueyras Bastide St. Vincent "Pavane"	\$16.99
2003 2003 Vacqueyras Montirius (Bio-dynamic)	\$22.99
2004 Cairanne Domaine Richaud	\$23.99
2001 Cairanne Domaine Richaud "l'Ebreascade"	\$36.99
2003 Cairanne Feraud-Brunel	\$14.99
2002 Côte Rotie Clusel Roch (Organic)	\$39.99
2003 Côte Rotie, Patrick Jasmin	\$62.99
2004 St. Joseph Cave de Chante Perdrix (Organic)	\$21.99
2003 Cornas Eric and Joel Durand	\$39.99
2001 Crozes Hermitage Albert Belle "Cuvée Louis Belle"	\$28.99
2003 Crozes Hermitage, du Colombier, "Cuvee Gaby"	\$21.99
2003 Crozes Hermitage Yann Chave "Tete de Cuvée"	\$24.99
2003 Hermitage Domaine du Colombier	\$69.99

Moulin de la Gardette

Ecoutez s'il vous plait! The 2003s from Moulin de la Gardette have arrived! These Gigondas beauties from Jean-Baptiste Meunier have been on our list of favorites here at K&L for the last several vintages now, and boy are we stoked about the recent arrival of these Rhones from the very sunny and warm 2003 vintage. Meunier's small domaine encompasses approximately 17.5 acres from clay and limestone soils located on both the terraced vineyards as well as the lower plateaus of Gigondas. The average vine age here is around 60 years, and from very low yields, Meunier crafts a range of powerful yet fine grenache-based reds. Are you curious about all of the hoopla over these wines? Then read on!

The **2003 Moulin de la Gardette Gigondas "Tradition" (\$18.99)** is a lovely southern Rhone with super bright cherry notes, along with hints of saffron, lavender and cocoa power. This southern Rhone possess very nice balance, with juicy fruit and medium-fine tannins that make the finish on this wine elegant rather than coarse and chewy. Crack open a bottle of the Tradition and enjoy with grilled chicken and fig sausages or a homemade wild mushroom pizza!

Think of the **2003 Moulin de la Gardette Gigondas "Cuvee Ventabren" (\$27.99)** as the "Tradition's" big brother, which hails from the estates oldest vines, some of them being nearly 100 years in age! Notes of Provencal garrigue and black olive come to mind, along with lush black cherry and boysenberry fruits. The "Ventabren" is a step up as far as depth, focus and age-worthiness are concerned. Best from 2008, or decant for a couple hours and enjoy with heartier fare like a grilled rib-eye steak slathered in black olive butter! Enjoy!

—Mulan Chan

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE-COMMONWEALTH

South Africa

2004 Excelsior Cabernet Sauvignon	\$7.99
2005 Le Bonheur Sauvignon Blanc	\$7.99
2004 Porcupine Ridge Syrah	\$10.99
2004 Glen Carlou Chardonnay	\$12.99
2005 Mulderbosch Sauvignon Blanc	\$18.99
2003 Fairview "Caldera"	\$22.99

New Zealand

2005 Matua Valley Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc	\$7.99
2004 Griffin Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc-Delicious!	\$11.99
2004 Pencarrow (Palliser) Martinborough Sauvignon Blanc	\$11.99
2005 Kim Crawford Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc	\$12.99
2005 Whitehaven Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc	\$13.99
2004 Goldwater "New Dog" Marlborough Sauvignon Bl	\$14.99
2004 Nautilus Marlborough Pinot Gris	\$15.99
2004 Seven Terraces Marlborough Pinot Noir	\$15.99

Australia

2004 Water Wheel "Memsie"-90 points Parker and Spectator	\$9.99
2004 Thorn-Clarke "Terra Barossa" VS Cabernet	\$10.99
2001 Mitchelton "Crescent" SMG, Victoria	\$10.99
Reynella "Old Cave" Tawny Port (500ml)	\$13.99
2004 Sylvan Springs "Hard Yards" Shiraz-90 points Parker	\$14.99
2004 The Black Chook Shiraz-Viognier-91 points Spectator	\$15.99
2004 Three Rings Barossa Valley Shiraz	\$15.99
2004 Longwood Estate "Sheep Shearer" Shiraz, McLaren	\$16.99
2002 Cullen "Ephraim Clarke" Sauvignon Bl/Semillon	\$17.99
2004 Hewitson "Miss Harry" GSM	\$17.99
2003 d'Arenberg Laughing Magpie Shiraz-Viognier	\$19.99
2003 Yalumba Hand Picked MGS	\$21.99
2003 Longwood Estate Shiraz, McLaren Vale	\$27.99
2003 Henry's Drive Shiraz Padthaway	\$31.99
2004 Oliverhill "Jimmy Section" Shiraz, McLaren Vale	\$31.99
2003 d'Arenberg "The Dead Arm" Shiraz	\$49.99

Jim C's View Down Under

While you are hopefully reading this, my cohort in Southern Hemispheric interests, Shaun Green, will be on his way to South Africa for the first time. So, I'm going to share a couple of those wines with you now as I have a feeling he will be waxing poetic about the wines of South Africa upon his return.

2003 Fairview "Caldera" Swartland South Africa (\$22.99) This wine is made by Charles Back, the man who produces Goats do Roam, the biggest selling South African wine in the States. With this effort, he has blended 47% grenache from 61-year-old bushvines with 29% mourvèdre and 24% shiraz. The grapes are hand sorted and fermented in open-top barrels and then basket pressed. The bouquet has notes of dusty raspberry, earth, red licorice, smoke and pepper. On the palate the wine has silky tannins with hints of cedar and chocolate.

2004 Glen Carlou Chardonnay Paarl South Africa (\$12.99) The Glen Carlou Chardonnay has got to be one of the great bargains in the wine business. The wine is barrel aged for 10 months in assorted French oak with 5% of the final blend in American. The nose is bright and fresh with notes of citrus, spiced pear, apple, light toasty oak and nuts. All of these elements are enhanced by a Burgundian minerality and supported by fine acidity giving a juicy mouth feel with a long finish. I like to think of this wine as a mini Meursault, so take note Francophiles and give it a shot. Cheers!

—Jimmy C

OLD & RARE DOMESTIC

1978 Robert Mondavi Reserve \$109.99	1987 Heitz "Bella Oaks" \$79.95	1993 Burgess "VS" \$44.99
The 1978 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve has consistently been a 90-point wine.	1987 Kenwood Artist (3L) \$349.95	1993 Silverado Res Napa \$99.00
1980 Beaulieu Vineyard P Reserve.... \$89.99	1989 Beringer Private Res Napa \$99.00	1993 Stag's Leap "Cask 23" \$149.00
1980 Caymus "Special Select" \$269.00	1989 Gauer Estate \$49.95	1994 Anderson's Conn Valley..... \$89.95
1980 Heitz "Bella Oaks" \$89.95	1990 Beaulieu Vineyard P Reserve.... \$84.99	1994 Groth Reserve \$199.00
1982 Beringer Private Res (9L) \$1,499.00	Clyde just tasted this beauty. Sweet mid-palate, plenty of richness. Delicious.	1994 Stag's Leap "Cask 23" (1.5L) .. \$399.00
1983 Beaulieu Vineyard P Reserve.... \$49.99	1990 Caymus Special Selection \$225.00	1995 Beaulieu Vineyard P Reserve.... \$89.99
1984 Heitz "Bella Oaks" \$79.95	1990 Heitz "Bella Oaks" \$79.95	93 points and a Cellar Selection designation from the <i>Wine Spectator</i> : "Complex and elegant, with ripe, round, plush, currant, cherry, berry and spice flavors, and a long, rich finish that gains nuances of cedar, anise, tobacco and mineral. Echoes toasty, spicy, vanilla-tinged oak on the aftertaste. Impressive finesse and polish. Best from 1999 through 2007."
1984 Stag's Leap "Cask 23" \$229.00	1990 Silver Oak Alex Valley (6L) \$999.00	1996 Beaulieu Private Reserve \$84.99
1985 Dunn Howell Mount (5L) \$1,299.00	1991 Abreu \$249.00	92 points <i>Wine Spectator</i> : "Ripe, round and smooth, with a core of coffee, currant, sage, cedar and spice. Gains nuance and complexity on the finish, where the tannins are firm and integrated. Wonderful texture and polish. Drink now through 2008." (11/99)
1985 Heitz "Martha's" \$299.00	1991 Araujo "Eisele" \$269.00	
1985 Silver Oak Alexander Valley .. \$129.99	1992 Caymus "Special Select" \$199.95	
1986 Robert Mondavi Reserve \$99.99	1992 Caymus "SS" (1.5L) \$449.00	
1986 Sterling Reserve \$89.95	1993 Beaulieu Vineyard P Reserve.... \$74.99	
1987 Beaulieu Vineyard P Reserve.. \$109.99	91 points <i>Wine Spectator</i> : "Complex and harmonious, with a pretty core of ripe plum, cherry and currant flavors and shades of herb and cedary oak..." (11/96)	
91 points <i>Wine Spectator</i> : "Generous, soft and big, with a dark ruby color and mint, plum and smoke character. Full-bodied and very velvety, with lots of ripe berry and chocolate flavors and a long, long finish." (02/2000)	1993 Beringer Private Reserve \$99.00	

French Regional: Corsica, Isle of Wine

Yes that is right, Corsica! This month I am pleased to be able to make this guest appearance here and talk about some of the wines that I really love to drink. Along with all the Riesling, Grüner Veltliner and funky Loire and Alsace wines that I drink, I am also keenly interested in the South of France. Granted the South of France is a large area. I cannot comment on everything in such a short space but let me say that after traveling there briefly last summer I was impressed with the energy and passion of the quality growers. I predict that in the next few years we will be hearing much more about these dynamic and evolving growing regions that are now producing wines that can now hold their own on the world stage. Now on to Corsica!!

We are now importing one of the real stars of the Corsican wine scene, Yves Canarelli who produces wines near Figari on the ferociously windy southern tip of the Island. The soils are granitic in base with alluvial material and, of course, they are very poor, making for vines that must reach deep for sustenance. Corsica though the southernmost growing region in France is not by any means its hottest. It is essentially a mountain rising from the sea to heights of over 8500 feet with peaks where the snow never melts and winds that never quiet.

The potential for Corsican wine is only limited by the producer's dedication to the incredible terrior their home possesses. The **2003 Clos Canarelli "Le Petit Clos" (\$14.99)**, a blend of syrah, nielluccio (sangiovese) and sciacarello is friendly and easy with ripe round flavors, a juicy bright mouth feel and an intriguing nose of floral and sage brush notes with hints of sandalwood and earth. Can you say lamb!!

The top wine of the domaine is the **2003 Clos Canarelli (\$24.99)**. This blend of old-vine syrah and nielluccio aged in wood is one of the great wines of the island and of Southern France. It is dense and powerful with a strong mineral component even in a hot year like '03, yet it is still fresh and very supple due to the cooling winds of Figari. The nose is exotic in the way you would imagine a Sultan's tent to smell with incense and dates, smoke from a fire roasting meats and that elusive term, *garrigue*, the sweet, warm smell of herbs and soil and brush. You can drink this now if you decant it, but the wine will be at its best from 2008-2015+

—Jeff Vierra

Special Vertical Packs from Léoville-Las-Cases

Direct from Château Léoville-Las-Cases, and in stock—very few available.

Clos du Marquis "Special Vertical Case" (\$499.99)

Two bottles of each of the last six vintages of the '90s. (1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000). Only four sets left

Léoville-Las-Cases "Best Value Case" (\$1399.00)

A set direct from the château containing twelve 750ml bottles, two each of 1983, 1988, 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1999. Only three sets left.

Léoville-Las-Cases "100-point Dream Case" (\$2519.00)

A set direct from the château containing two 750ml bottles each of 1982, 1986 and 2000 vintage Léoville-Las-Cases. All 100-point Robert Parker wines (new 2005 edition). The perfect dream case! Four sets left.

K&L Staff

In Redwood City: Linda A, Alex B, Dan B, Jim B, Clyde B Jr, Trey B, Jim C, Jeff G, Shaun G, Brian H, Thornton J, Matt K, John L, Susan P, Anne P, Sharon R, David R, Martin R, Greg S, Ralph S, Jeff V, Jorge V, Gary W, Keith W, Molly Z, Brian Z, Todd Z and Joe Z.

In San Carlos: Gary A, Scott B, Sal C, Randy C, Don D, Peter D, William E, Andy G, Kevin I, Brian K, Rick N, Kit O, Julio S and Sal S.

In San Francisco: Michael B, Scott B, Steve B, Mulan C, Jeff J, Mark J, Michael J, Mike P, David R, Eric S and Kirk W.

In Los Angeles: Chip H, Tommy M and Elisabeth S.

In Phoenix: Kerri B.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2001 Aia, Oakville	\$21.99
2001 Allora "Tresca" Napa	\$29.99
This small-production wine is labeled Cabernet Sauvignon though it contains all five Bordeaux varietals grown in the Stag's Leap District and Howell Mountain in Napa Valley.	
2001 Arrowood, Sonoma	\$39.99
2001 Burgess, Napa	\$29.99
2001 Chimney Rock Elevage	\$59.99
2001 Dominus, Napa	\$99.00
2001 Guilliams, Spring Mnt	\$36.99
2001 Heitz "Bella Oaks"	\$59.99
2001 Heitz "Martha's"	\$119.00
2001 Jordan, Alexander Valley	\$39.99
2001 Kenwood "Artist Series"	49.99
2001 La Jota Howell Mnt	\$39.99
2001 Mount Veeder Res. Meritage	\$49.99
2001 Paradigm, Napa	\$49.99
2001 Paradise Ridge "Rockpile"	\$21.99
2001 Philip Togni "Tanbark Hill"	\$54.99
2001 Rombauer, Napa	\$29.98
2001 Santa Cruz Mountain Viney	\$24.99
2001 Schweiger, Spring Mnt	\$44.99
2001 Silver Oak, Napa	\$99.00
2001 Spring Mountain "Elivette"	\$69.98
2001 Trefethen, Napa	\$29.99
Lush and full, the use of oak is masterfully integrated so as to provide perfect spice without an overshadowing influence.	
2001 Vine Cliff "Oakville"	\$46.99
2001 White Rock Claret	\$42.99
2002 Altamura, Napa	\$59.99
2002 Benziger, Sonoma	\$12.99
2002 BV Res. "Georges de Latour" ..	\$69.98
2002 Cain Concept	\$46.99
2002 Cain Five	\$89.99
2002 Chateau Souverain, Alex Vly	\$16.99
2002 Cloverdale Ranch, Alex Vly	\$16.99
2002 Corison, Napa	\$59.99
2002 Cornerstone, Napa	\$49.99
2002 Darioush, Napa	\$59.99
2002 Dominus	Inquire
2002 Far Niente, Napa	\$89.99
2002 Flora Springs, Napa	\$22.99
2002 Groth, Napa	\$42.98
2002 Hanna, Alexander Valley	\$26.99
2002 Hess Collection, Napa	\$36.99
2002 Kamen Estate, Sonoma	\$47.99
Aromas of sweet blackberries, dark cherries and plums leap out of the glass and are interlaced with notes of violets, cinnamon, nutmeg and cocoa dust.	
2002 Larkmead, Napa	\$39.98
2002 Lewelling, Napa	\$44.99
2002 Mount Eden Santa Cruz	\$29.99
2002 Miner Family, Oakville	\$46.99
2002 Mi Sueno, Napa	\$57.99
2002 Michael Scott "Bondio/Bella" ..	\$29.99
2002 Nickel & Nickel	Inquire

2002 Pine Ridge, Rutherford	\$24.99
2002 Ridge "Home Ranch" Red	\$54.99
2002 Robert Craig "Affinity"	\$36.99
2002 Robert Mondavi Res	\$99.00
2002 Sequoia Grove, Napa	\$26.99
2002 Serdonis, Napa	\$69.99
2002 Silverado, Napa	\$27.99
2002 Spring Mountain Vineyards	\$39.99
2002 St. Clement "Oropas"	\$37.99
2002 Stags' Leap Winery, Napa	\$32.99
2002 Stuhlmuller, Alexander Vly	\$29.99
2002 Terra Valentine, Napa	\$26.99
A great follow-up to the delicious 2001! The Terra Valentine '02 shows even more richness and depth of fruit.	
2002 Veraison, Napa	\$46.99
2002 Viader, Napa	\$74.99
2002 Vine Cliff, Napa	\$34.99
2002 Whitehall Lane Reserve	\$59.99
2002 Woodward Graff "A-Frame"	\$21.99
2003 Alexander Valley	\$14.99
2003 BR Cohn "Silver Label"	\$14.98
2003 Beringer Founders	\$7.99
2003 Buehler, Napa	\$29.99
2003 Buehler Estate, Napa	\$27.99
2003 Caymus "Special Select"	\$129.00
2003 Chappellet, Napa	\$39.99
2003 Ch. St. Jean, Sonoma	\$19.99
2003 Chimney Rock, SLD	\$44.98
2003 Elizabeth Spencer, Napa	\$26.99
2003 Five Vintners, Napa	\$24.99
2003 Hawk Crest California	\$9.99
2003 Hess Select, California	\$11.99
2003 Hess Estate, Napa	\$16.99

2003 Hoffman "Block 16," Napa	\$39.99
2003 Honig, Napa	Inquire
2003 House Wine, Washington	\$9.99
2003 J. Lohr "Seven Oaks"	\$10.99
2003 Jan Kriss "Crossfire"	\$8.99
2003 Joseph Phelps, Napa	\$36.98
2003 Kalinda, El Dorado	\$12.99
2003 Kenefick Ranch, Napa	\$56.99
2003 Philip Togni, Spring Mnt	\$84.99
2003 Provenance, Rutherford	\$29.99
Great balance and purity of fruit!	
2003 Redmond "Stage 9," Napa	\$31.99
2003 Robert Mondavi, Napa	\$19.99
2003 Sebastiani, Alexander Vly	\$24.98
2003 Selene, Napa	\$72.99
2003 Shafer, Napa	\$44.98
2003 Stag's Leap Cellars "Artemis" ..	\$44.99
2003 Stephen Vincent, California	\$8.99
2003 Tobin James "Notorious"	\$14.99
2003 Tor Kenward "Cimarossa"	\$74.99
2003 Tor Kenward "Mast"	\$59.99
2003 Turnbull Old Bull Red	\$14.99
A bit of everything: 61% cabernet sauvignon, 17% syrah, 9% merlot, 4% cabernet franc, 3% tempranillo, 2% petit syrah, 2% sangiovese and 2% petit verdot.	
2003 Turnbull, Napa	\$34.99
2003 T-Vine "Monte Rosso"	\$47.99
2003 Twenty Bench, Napa	\$14.99
2003 Two Tone Farm, Napa	\$7.99
2003 Whispering Dove, Napa	\$32.98
2003 Whitehall Lane, Napa	\$34.98
2003 ZD, Napa	\$34.99
2004 Avalon, Napa	\$9.99

Is it Spring? Is it Fall?

Well, it's both for me this month! I'll be spending the first half of the month in South Africa tasting my way through the Cape Wine Expo. Of course, I could never forget my home wines of California, and I have some delicious wines for you this month!

I do love the wines of Honig, and the **2005 Honig Napa Sauvignon Blanc (\$11.99)** is another winner in a long line of great SBs. Tropical fruits abound, papaya, guava, sweet grapefruit and a nice light mineral feel. Finishing fine and crisp, my mouth waters just thinking about it. Honig cabs have been improving year after year, and the **2003 Honig Napa Cabernet Sauvignon (\$29.99)** is now available. Rich and bright black raspberry with a Rutherford dust nose leads you to a wonderful mouthful of blackberries and black plums, smooth toasty vanillin oak and a sprinkling of black pepper and eastern spices. The wine has good structure but is nice and juicy with a smooth velvety texture, finishing pretty long with an elusive mocha note.

If you're in the mood for a New Zealand style Sauvignon Blanc, you must try the **2005 Pomelo Sauvignon Blanc (\$9.99)**. This is a perfect name for the wine. It has a spectacularly juicy exotic tangy grapefruit nose and a palate of exciting and mouthwatering tropical and citrus fruits laced with lemon zest. A zippy acidity keeps the whole thing bright and lively. This little beauty screams for seafood and a warm spring afternoon.

Tom Renaldi (of Duckhorn fame) is making fantastic wines at Provenance, and the **2003 Provenance Rutherford Cabernet (\$29.99)** is quite a bargain. This has it all, approachable pretty dense rich black fruits, Rutherford dust, cocoa, black spices, sweet oak, vanilla, with plenty of structure wrapped in velvety goodness! A big deal Napa Cab at a great price!

—Shaun Green

CHARDONNAY

2001 Marimar Torres	\$18.99	2003 Tantara "Talley/Rincon"	\$31.99	2004 Far Niente	\$34.99
2002 Mount Eden Estate.....	\$32.99	2003 Tolosa, Edna Valley	\$15.99	2004 Four Vines "Naked"	\$10.99
2002 Stony Hill, Napa.....	\$26.99	2003 Walter Hansel "Cahill Lane"	\$29.99	2004 Foxglove, Edna Valley	\$9.99
2002 Talbott "Sleepy Hollow"	\$29.99	2003 Wente "Riva Ranch Res"	\$12.99	2004 Franciscan, Napa	\$12.99
2003 Benziger, Carneros	\$9.99	Rich, golden in color with hints of vanilla cream, spice and cloves!		2004 Frei Brothers, Russian River	\$12.99
2003 Bernardus, Monterey.....	\$14.99	2003 West Slope, Edna Valley	\$11.99	2004 Groth, Napa	\$22.98
2003 Beringer "Sbragia"	\$39.98	2004 Acacia, Carneros	\$15.99	2004 Hartford, Sonoma	\$17.99
2003 Buehler, Russian River.....	\$9.99	2004 Ambullneo, "Big Paw"	\$54.99	2004 Heitz, Napa	\$12.99
A great buy in Chardonnay! Just enough acidity to balance out the rich, toasty fruit.		2004 Aquinas, Carneros	\$9.99	2004 Heron, California	\$7.99
2003 Chalone Estate	\$19.99	2004 Beringer, Napa	\$9.98	2004 Hess Collection, Napa	\$16.99
2003 Cuvaion, Carneros	\$15.99	2004 Beringer "Private Reserve"	\$29.99	2004 Hess Select, California.....	\$8.99
2003 Ferrari Carano, Alex. Vly	\$27.99	2004 Bogle, California	\$7.99	2004 J. Lohr, Arroyo Seco.....	\$10.99
2003 Foley "Rancho Santa Rosa"	\$21.99	2004 Cambria "Katherine's"	\$12.99	2004 Kali Hart, Monterey.....	\$9.99
2003 Gary Farrell, Russian River	\$29.99	2004 Carmel Road, Monterey	\$11.99	2004 Kendall Jackson Vint Res.....	\$9.98
2003 Grgich Hills, Napa	\$29.99	2004 Cartledge & Browne, Calif.....	\$8.99	2004 La Crema, Sonoma	\$12.98
2003 Handley, Dry Creek	\$16.99	Partial malolactic-fermentation and a moderate amount of oak ageing, makes this a fruit-driven wine with notes of citrus and tropical fruit in the background.		2004 Laetitia, Arroyo Grande	\$14.99
2003 Jordan, Russian River	\$21.99	2004 Chalone, Monterey	\$10.99	Ripe melon and pineapple are forefront in this wine with hints of tropical fruit coming through the nose.	
2003 Matanzas Creek, Sonoma	\$17.98	2004 Chappellet, Napa	\$27.99	2004 Logan, Monterey	\$12.99
2003 Mi Sueno, Los Carneros	\$32.99	2004 Ch. Souverain, Napa	\$12.98	2004 Landmark "Overlook"	\$21.99
2003 Miner Family "Wild Yeast"	\$44.99	2004 Ch. St. Jean, Sonoma	\$9.98	2004 Macrostie, Carneros	\$16.98
2003 Mount Eden "Wolff"	\$14.99	2004 Ch. St. Michelle "Indian Wls" Inquire		2004 Mark West, Central Coast	\$8.99
2003 Olivet Lane, Russian River	\$14.99	2004 Chehalem "Inox"	\$16.99	2004 Melville, Santa Rita	\$21.99
New vintage and always a favorite at K&L!		2004 Cinnabar, Monterey.....	\$14.99	2004 Meridian, Santa Barbara	\$5.99
2003 Qupe "Block Eleven"	\$23.99	2004 Edna Valley Vineyards.....	\$10.99	2004 Merryvale "Starmon"	\$15.99
2003 Ramey "Hyde Vineyard"	\$46.99	2004 Elizabeth Spencer, Napa	\$21.99	2004 Miner Family, Napa	\$27.99
2003 Ramey, RR and Carneros.....	\$29.98	2004 Esser, California.....	\$7.99	2004 Morgan "Double L"	\$27.99
2003 Robert Young Estate	\$27.99			2004 Morgan, Monterey	\$16.99
2003 Sbragia "Gamble Ranch"	\$34.99			2004 Mueller, Russian River.....	\$24.99
2003 Solitude, Carneros	\$23.99			2004 Napa Cellars, Napa	\$15.99

Spotlight on Divine Droplets

Here's a bit of irony for you: I was reading an article from UC Davis Dept of Ampelography last month and discovered something incredibly interesting. Studies on wine residues in clay pots in Haifa (known as Galilee in Biblical times), shows surprising genetic matches with what's believed to be none other than our much-maligned merlot grape! Apparently, this seemed to be the wine of choice for those settlements along what is now called the Holy Land. According to the article, there was more than a good chance the wine created from water in that very famous Canaan wedding was merlot (or some form of it)! While this data is not 100% conclusive, the way I see it, if merlot was good enough for heavenly consumption, it's good enough for me. So, who's laughing now, Miles?

2003 Cloverdale Ranch Alexander Valley Merlot (\$19.99) Consistently one of the more impressive Merlots we carry every year. This year, it's still stylishly seductive, but adds an extra element of soft, ripe tannins and subtle earthy tones that keep its posture straight and hair combed just right. What a great, full-bodied effort, and the most striking to date.

2003 Burgess Napa Merlot (\$14.99) You've got to love these guys. Besides being just killer nice people, their wines are remarkable and affordable. You don't often see serious Merlot this flat-out good at prices that can be considered "everyday." Yet this Merlot will never fail you in times of either friendly get-togethers or important dinners. Way to go!

And why not, let's throw in Merlot's friendly rival, Pinot Noir. Though not divinely inspired, the ever-consistent **2004 Olivet Lane Russian River Pinot Noir (\$23.99)**, loads up on the velvety, seductive sensory heaven that is Russian River Pinot Noir. Each new release, just like every new Mardi Gras, reminds you how good life is. It's foolish not to drink it on the first day of April, too. Oh wait, there's no Davis Department of Ampelography, you say? Fine, but the joke's on you. Enjoy anyway!

—Martin Reyes

Formally Raymond! Both the wine and the label have improved dramatically.

2004 Rusack, Santa Barbara

2004 Shafer, Napa

Never lasts long. Don't wait to buy this one.

2004 Silverado, Napa

2004 Sonoma-Cutrer, Russian Rivr ..

2004 St. Clement, Napa

2004 Storrs, Santa Cruz

2004 Storrs "Christie's," SC

2004 Stuhlmuller, Alexander Vly.....

Spicy pear and lemon custard dominate, followed by hints of pineapple, white flower and citrus.

Sounds good to me!

2004 Talley "Oliver's"

2004 Testarossa "Castello"

2004 Toasted Head

2004 Trefethen, Oak Knoll

2004 Two Tone Farm, Napa

2004 ZD Napa

PINOT NOIR

2002 Chehalem "Stoller"	\$34.99
2002 Oak Arbour "Toulouse"	\$29.99
2002 Walter Hansel "Cahill Lane"	\$27.99
2003 A to Z, Willamette Valley.....	\$14.99
2003 Ancien, Carneros	\$29.99
2003 Amici, Mendocino	\$39.99
2003 Andrew Rich, Willamette	\$26.99
2003 Argyle Reserve, Willamette	\$28.99
2003 Auteur "Hyland Vineyard"	\$42.99
2003 Brandborg, Umpqua Vly	\$16.99
2003 Chehalem "3 Vineyards"	\$21.99
2003 David Bruce, Santa Cruz	\$24.98
2003 Domaine Serene "Evenstad"	\$46.99
2003 Handley, Anderson Vly	\$19.99
2003 J.K Carriere, Willamette	\$34.99
2003 Londer, Anderson Vly	\$27.99
2003 Porter Creek "Fiona Hill"	\$29.99
2003 Robert Sinskey, Carneros	\$26.99
2003 Ryan "Gary's Vineyard"	\$34.99
2003 Scherrer, Sonoma.....	\$23.99
2003 Taz, Santa Barbara.....	\$17.99

Blackberry burst in the wine with cola spice and juicy jammy berry notes supported by a balancing act of tannins and structure.

2003 Varner "Hid Blck," Snt Crz	\$36.99
2003 Westry, Willamette.....	\$17.99
2004 Acacia, Carneros	\$19.99
2004 Ambullneo "Bulldog Res"	\$76.99
2004 Au Bon Climate, Santa Barb	\$17.99

Whether with fresh grilled salmon or left-over

roast chicken or just in a glass by itself, the pretty plum and spring strawberry flavors of ABC's Santa Barbara Pinot are simply delicious.

2004 Belle Glos "Clark & Telephone"	\$39.99
2004 Cambria "Julia's"	\$16.98
2004 Carter "Hillblock"	\$36.99
2004 Chalone Monterey	\$14.99
2004 Chalone Estate	\$21.99
2004 David Bruce Central Coast	\$18.99
2004 Etude, Carneros	\$38.99
2004 Erath, Oregon	\$12.99
2004 Foley, Santa Rita Hills	\$32.99
2004 Goldeneye "Migration"	\$27.99
2004 Hartford, Sonoma	\$18.99
2004 La Crema, Sonoma	\$14.98
2004 Macphail, Sonoma	\$39.99
2004 Melville, Santa Rita	\$24.99
2004 Morgan "Gary's"	\$39.99
2004 Morgan "Twelve Clones"	\$24.99
2004 Olivet Lane, Russian River	\$23.99
New vintage! Fat and ripe with elegance and balance.	
2004 Orogeny, Green Valley	\$21.99
2004 Ponzi "Tavola"	\$17.99
2004 Raptor Ridge, Reserve	\$29.99
2004 Rex Hill Oregon	\$17.99
2004 Roessler Cellars "Bluejay"	\$29.99
2004 Shea Wine Cellars Estate	\$34.99
2004 Smoking Loon, California.....	\$6.99
2004 Torii Mor, Willamette Vly	\$19.99

ZINFANDEL

2002 Amici "Panek"	\$26.99
2002 Martin "Talty," Dry Creek	\$15.99
This Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel is packed with abundantly ripe aromas and flavors of wild raspberry, plums, tar and inky, dark blackberries.	
2002 Renwood "Sierra Series"	\$9.99
2002 Sobon Estate ReZerve	\$19.99
2002 Storrs "Rusty Ridge"	\$24.99
2002 Storybook "Mayacamas"	\$25.99
2003 Alexander Valley "Sin Zin"	\$16.99
2003 Black Sears, Howell Mnt	\$36.99
2003 Brown Estate, Napa	\$32.99
2003 Carol Shelton "Rocky Res"	\$32.99
2003 Downing Family "Fly By N"	\$21.99
2003 Four Vines Old Vine Cuvee	\$10.99
2003 Girard, Napa	\$16.99
2003 Green & Red "Chiles Mill"	\$22.99
2003 J. Runquist "Z," Amador	\$18.99
2003 Klinker Brick "Old Ghost"	\$34.99
2003 Marietta, Sonoma	\$14.99
2003 Puccioni Old Vine Sonoma	\$26.99
2003 Rabbit Ridge "Westside" Paso ..	\$12.99
2003 Ravenswood-Single Vineyards	Inquire
2003 Ridge-Single Vineyards	Inquire
2003 Rombauer.....	\$21.99
2003 S.E. Chase "Hayne"	\$39.99
2003 Scott Harvey Old Vn, Amador ..	\$19.99
2003 St. Francis "Old Vine"	\$14.99
2003 Storybook Mnt "Eastern Exp" ..	\$36.99
2003 Tin Barn "Gilsson"	\$24.99
2003 Unti, Dry Creek	\$21.99
2003 Woodenhead Martinelli Road ..	\$36.99
2004 Amphora "Mounts"	\$17.99
2004 Artezin, California	\$13.99
2004 Bogle Old Vines	\$9.99
2004 Buehler, Napa.....	\$14.99
2004 Cline, California	\$7.99
2004 Cosentino "CigarZin," Lodi	\$19.99
2004 Earthquake, Lodi	\$23.99
2004 Folie á Deux "Menage á Trois" ..	\$8.99
2004 Gamba Old Vine Russian Rvr ..	\$34.99
2004 Hartford, Russian River.....	\$24.99
2004 Joel Gott, California	\$13.99
2004 Klinker Brick, Lodi	\$14.99
2004 Kunin "Westside" Paso Robl	\$18.99
2004 Michael & David 7Deadly Zins ..	\$13.99
2004 Plungerhead, Dry Creek	\$7.99
2004 Ridge "Three Valley's"	\$16.99
2004 Ridge Lytton Springs	\$29.99
2004 Rosenblum Paso/SF Bay	\$14.98
2004 Seghesio Sonoma	\$16.98
2004 Shenandoah Spec Rs. Amador ..	\$7.99
2004 Sobon "Rocky Top"	\$12.99
An outstanding Zinfandel of immense proportion, with very inviting aromas and flavors. Rich and satisfying with a long and velvety finish. Made entirely from organically grown grapes, too!	
2004 Tobin James "Ballistic"	\$14.99
2004 Windmill Estates Old Vine	\$9.99

Premier Napa Auction

Last month I spent a few days in the Napa Valley, attending the Premier Napa Valley Auction. Premier Napa Valley is a mid-winter barrel auction for the trade. This is one of the two auctions put together by the Napa Valley Vintners Association. The other auction is the Napa Valley Wine Auction, which is held in the summer. The weather was perfect, the food was great, and the 2004s showed surprisingly well. The auction itself is actually on Saturday, but many of the wineries have open houses, tasting events and parties on the days that lead up to the auction. One nice thing about the events that the wineries have is all the older vintages that they pour. Corison had a vertical tasting of 1989 through 1994. Shafer was pouring Hillside Select from '86, '91, '95 and '02. Duckhorn poured the oldest wine of the day, an '83 Three Palms Merlot, which was served from 6 liter. The main event is on Saturday. First there is a barrel tasting. Here you get a chance to taste the lots that will be auctioned off later in the day. Every winery does something special. The lots they auction off are unique and come from a specific barrel that will be bottled separately for the individual who buys it. So when you taste Silver Oak at the tasting, it is not the wine that will be released in a couple of years. It may be a component of or something totally different. It is still a good chance to get an idea of the fruit that 2004 produced. One thing for sure is that it was a small crop, and production will be down on most wines. I have heard mixed things about 2004's quality but the wines showed pretty well across the board.

Everyone we talked to was very excited about 2005s. After the tasting the auction starts. It is held in a packed room, there is very little oxygen, and it is loud. The bidders who are smart get pre-orders from their customers and bid accordingly. However, if you want to get a lot from a big name, Lewis, Shafer or even Rombauer, be prepared to pay for it. These lots can sell from \$30k to \$80k. For five cases that could be around \$1000 per bottle! The good news is it all goes to charity.

—Trey Beffa

OTHER DOMESTIC WINE

Domestic White

2001 Corazon Gewürztraminer	\$19.99
2003 Elyse L'Ingune	\$29.99
2004 Conundrum White Blend	\$21.99
2004 Cold Heaven "S&B" Viognier ..	\$32.99
2004 Graff Chalone Pinot Blanc	\$15.99
2004 Londer Gewürztraminer	\$19.99
2004 Poet's Leap Riesling	\$21.99
2004 Luna Napa Pinot Grigio	\$16.99
2004 Michael Austin Viognier	\$16.99
2004 Pine Ridge Chenin/Viognier	\$11.99
2004 Ponzi Willamette Valley Arneis	\$19.99
2004 Smoking Loon Viognier	\$6.99
2004 Thomas Fogarty Gewürzt	\$12.99
2004 Trefethen Napa Riesling	\$14.99
2004 Tremani RR Pinot Gris	\$14.99
2004 Willakenzie Pinot Blanc/Gris ..	\$17.99
2005 Bonny Doon Malvasia Bianca ..	\$11.99
2005 Cycles Gladiator Pinot Grigio ..	\$11.99
2005 Dry Creek Chenin Blanc	\$9.99

Sauvignon Blanc

2003 Bernardus, Monterey	\$10.99
2003 Ruston, Napa	\$19.99
2003 Spring Mountain, Napa	\$24.99
2003 Source "Heart Block"	\$46.99
2003 Wattle Creek, Mendocino	\$16.99
2004 Chance Creek, Redwood Vly	\$12.99
Delicious wine that leans more toward the fruity (and non-grassy) style of Sauvignon Blanc! A huge local favorite! Crisp, clean and organic.	
2004 Château St. Jean, Sonoma	\$9.99
2004 Duckhorn, Napa	\$21.99
2004 Geysler Peak, California	\$7.99
2004 Grgich Hills, Napa	\$19.98
2004 Husch, Mendocino	\$9.99
2004 Joel Gott, California	\$9.99
2004 Kalinda, Mendocino	\$9.99
Clean and fresh! Staff Pick!	
2004 Kathryn Kennedy	\$18.99
2004 Mason, Napa	\$12.98
2004 Matanzas Creek, Sonoma	\$14.99
2004 Morgan, Monterey	\$10.99
2004 NO Lake County	\$11.99
2004 Rock Rabbit, Central Coast	\$7.99
2004 Saracina, Mendocino	\$21.99
2004 Sauvignon Blanc Republic	\$12.99
2004 Source "Gamble"	\$24.99
2004 St. Supéry, Napa	\$13.99
2004 Voss, Napa	\$14.98
2005 Ferrari Carano, Sonoma	\$11.98
2005 Girard, Napa	\$12.99
2005 Groth, Napa	\$12.98
2005 Hanna, Russian River	\$12.98
2005 Honig, Napa	\$11.99
2005 Merryvale, Napa	\$14.98
2005 Pomelo, California	\$9.99

Winemaker Randy Mason handcrafted this fresh, bright and lively sauvignon blanc. Delicious!

Merlot

2001 St. Clement, Napa	\$19.99
2001 Vine Cliff, Napa	\$21.99
2002 Ch. Souverain, Sonoma	\$13.99
2002 Ch. St. Jean, Sonoma	\$18.99
2002 Ferrari Carano, Sonoma	\$19.99
2002 Flora Springs, Napa	\$19.98
2002 Franciscan, Napa	\$17.99
2002 Markham, Napa	\$15.98
2002 Rombauer, Napa	\$19.98
The '02 shows layers of black cherry, plum, clove, and cinnamon in both the aroma and flavor.	
2002 Simi, Sonoma	\$16.99
2002 Swanson, Napa	\$22.99
2002 Twomey, Napa	\$64.99
2003 Bogle, California	\$6.98
2003 Burgess, Napa	\$14.99
2003 Chappellet, Napa	\$27.99
2003 Cloverdale, Alexander Vly	\$16.99
2003 Duckhorn, Napa	\$44.99
2003 Frei Brothers, Dry Creek	\$12.99
2003 L'Ecole No. 41, Columbia Vly ..	\$29.99
2003 Matanzas Creek, Sonoma	\$19.98
2003 Parcel 41, Napa	\$14.99
2003 Provenance, Carneros	\$24.99
2003 ScrewKappa Napa	\$11.99
Nine percent petite sirah helps darken up and round out this tasty Merlot!	
2003 Shafer, Napa	\$39.99
2003 T Vine "Kenefick Ranch"	\$29.99
2003 Whitehall Lane, Napa	\$21.98
2004 McManis California	\$7.99
Domestic Red	
2002 Altamura Sangiovese	\$32.99
2002 Palmina "Stolpman" Nebbiolo ..	\$31.99
2002 William Harrison Cab Franc	\$32.99
2003 Four Vines "Anarchy"	\$24.99
A blend of syrah, mourvèdre and zinfandel.	

2003 Graff Chalone Mourvèdre	\$15.99
2003 Paraduxx, Napa Red	\$39.99
2003 Rocca Bad Boy Red	\$29.99
2003 Tablas Creek "Esprit B." Red	\$34.99
2004 Bonny Doon Sangiovese	\$11.99
2004 Cline Ancient Vines Mourvèdre ..	\$12.99
2004 Margerum "M5" Red Blend	\$23.99
2004 Orin Swift "The Prisoner"	\$27.99
2004 Owen Roe "Abbot's Table"	\$24.99

A zingy nine varietal red blend!

2004 Palmina "Zotovitch" Dolcetto ..	\$19.99
2004 Porter Creek Carignane	\$17.99
2004 Rabid Red California Blend	\$11.99
2004 Unti Dry Creek Barbera	\$21.99

Syrah/Petite Sirah

2001 Marr Cellars Napa	\$14.99
2001 Miner, Napa	\$19.99
2001 Steele "Parmelee Hill"	\$15.99
2002 La Sirena, Napa	\$54.99
2002 Martella "The Hammer"	\$19.99
2002 Project 3000 Lake County	\$17.99
2002 Stags' Leap Winery Petite Sr	\$29.99
2003 David Bruce CC Pet Sirah	\$14.99
2003 EXP, Dunnigan Hills	\$9.99
2003 JC Cellars "Caldwell"	\$42.99
2003 K Vintners "Milbrandt"	\$27.99
2003 Melville, Santa Rita	\$18.99
2003 Olabisi Knights Valley	\$21.99
2003 Piedrasassi California	\$49.99
93 points Robert Parker: "This is a brilliant Syrah made by Sashi Moorman..."	
2003 Rock Rabbit, Central Coast	\$9.99
2003 Stolpman "Hilltops"	\$31.99
2003 T Vine "Frediani Vineyard"	\$31.99
2004 Earthquake Lodi Petite Sirah ..	\$28.99
2004 Margerum "Colson Canyon"	\$29.99
2004 Red Car "Boxcar"	\$19.99
2004 Vinum Cellars "Pets," Petite	\$9.98

San Francisco Focus

Woodenhead Winery? If you have read my article before, you might remember me mentioning them in the past. In March, they released their long-awaited zinfandels. I'm a big supporter of this winery and great wines are just part of the reason. Owners Nikolai and Zina are wine lovers and have a great passion for making the best wine possible. They are also very nice people who always have a smile for everyone. They continue to have "day jobs" and can be found at the winery most weekends. If you're planning a trip to Sonoma, give them a call (707) 887-2703 and maybe you can drop by. We currently have the following wines in stock:

The **2003 Zinfandel, Martinelli Road Old Vine, Russian River Valley (\$36.99)** is a big, bright and attractive with a little chocolate and soft tannin, which adds great structure. That structure sets this wine apart from other wines from this vineyard. It's like biting into a big slice of berry pie. 182 cases made. The **2003 Woodenhead Sonoma Zinfandel (\$26.99)** shows dark raspberry and cherry in the mouth with hints of clove and vanilla. 333 cases made. The **2003 Woodenhead Anderson Valley Pinot Noir (\$44.99)** is a super smooth, plush and powerful pinot. This wine shows great balance and is one of the best Anderson wines you could ever try. 310 cases made.

See you in the City...

—Mike Jordan

ARGENTINA/CHILE/PORTUGAL/SPAIN

Chile/Argentina

2003 Elsa Syrah (Argentina)	\$5.99
2005 Bodegas J.F. Lurton Pinot Gris (Argentina)	\$6.99
2004 Casa Lapostolle Sauvignon Blanc (Chile)	\$7.59
2004 Alamos Malbec (Argentina)	\$7.99
2003 Bodegas J.F. Lurton Cabernet Sauvignon (Argentina)	\$7.99
2004 Elsa Malbec (Argentina)	\$7.99
2004 Terrazas de los Andes Malbec (Argentina)	\$7.99
2003 Bodegas J.F. Lurton Cabernet Sauvignon (Argentina)	\$7.99
2004 Altos Las Hormigas Malbec (Argentina)	\$8.99
2004 Loica Carmenere (Chile)	\$8.99
2004 Casa Lapostolle Rapel Valley Merlot (Chile)	\$9.99
2005 Dominio del Plata, Crios, Rosé of Malbec (Argentina)	\$9.99
2004 Bodegas Caro, Amancaya, Malbec/Cabernet (Arg)	\$12.99
2005 Dominio del Plata, Crios, Torrontes (Argentina)	\$12.99
2003 Los Vascos Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Chile)	\$14.99
2003 Casa Lapostolle, Cuvée Alexandre, Cabernet (Chile)	\$16.99
2004 Nativo by Paul Hobbs, Malbec, El Felino (Argentina)	\$22.99
2003 Luca Syrah (Argentina).....	\$31.99

Portugal/Spain

2004 Marques de Riscal Rueda Verdejo	\$6.99
2003 Candela Carro, Murcia	\$7.99
2004 Encostas do Lima Vinho Verde.....	\$7.99
2004 Las Rocas de San Alejandro, Garnacha, Calatayud	\$7.99
2004 Yasa Garnacha, Calatayud	\$7.99
NV Broadbent Vinho Verde (Portugal).....	\$8.99
2001 Casa Ferreirinha Esteva (Portugal)	\$9.99
2004 Cuevas de Castilla "Con Class" Rueda, Blanco	\$8.99
2003 Casa Castillo, Monastrell Jumilla	\$9.99
2003 Hecula Yecla	\$9.99
2004 Vinos Sin-Ley G4 Garnacha, Cariñena.....	\$9.99
2002 Castell del Remei Gotim Bru	\$10.99
2004 El Quintanal, Ribera del Duero	\$10.99
2004 Naia Rueda Blanc	\$10.99
2000 Mont Marcal Cava	\$11.99
2004 Valminor Albariño, Rias Baixas	\$11.99
2004 Bodegas Y Vinedos Luna Beberide, Mencia	\$12.99
2004 Bodegas Arrocal, Arrocal	\$13.99
2003 Finca Luzón Jumilla Altos de Luzón	\$13.99
2003 Dominio de Tares, Bierzo	\$14.99
2001 Viña Izadi, Rioja, Crianza.....	\$14.99
2004 Vinos Piñol Sacra Natura, Terra Alta (Organic)	\$15.99
2004 Fefiñanes Albariño	\$16.99
2002 Gramona "Grand Cuvee" Cava.....	\$16.99
2001 Marques de Riscal Reserva Rioja	\$16.99
2003 Pago Florentino, La Mancha.....	\$16.99
2004 Pazo de Senorans Albariño.....	\$17.99
2001 Viña Izadi, Rioja, Reserva	\$23.99
2001 Remondo Palacios, Propiedad, Rioja	\$26.99
2000 Bodegas Muga Reserva Selección Especial Rioja	\$29.99
2003 Buil & Gine, Buil, Toro	\$31.99
2001 Finca Villacreces Reserva, Ribera de Duero.....	\$31.99
2001 Quinta de la Quietud Muestra, Toro	\$34.99
2003 Dos Victorias Gran Elias Mora Daniel	\$41.99
1999 Arzuaga, Ribera del Duero, Reserva	\$44.99
2000 Viña Izadi, Rioja, Selección	\$46.99

Big Points, No Whammies...Plus 1!

As I put this column together, I am preparing for a buying trip to Spain! Look for an update in the May newsletter!

2004 Las Rocas de San Alejandro, Garnacha, Calatayud (\$7.99) 89 points Stephen Tanzer: "...Perfumed aromas of liqueur-like dark berries and black cherry, licorice and spicy oak. Smooth, ripe, fat and full, with an enticing dark cherry flavor. This is wonderfully lush and pliant for a red wine under \$10. Finishes with big, mouthdusting tannins and lingering sweetness. Exceptional value."

2004 Bodegas Y Vinedos Maurosos Prima, Toro (\$14.99) Wow! An awesome wine for an awesome price! Made by famous Spanish winemaker, Mariano Garcia, this tempranillo packs a punch with loads of ripe cherry/blackberry fruit, a lush mid-palate, and a long spicy finish. The plush mouth feel is balanced with bright acidity and a little kick of tannin. Enjoy this red with grilled leg of lamb!

2003 Celler de Capcanes Mas Donis Barrica (\$10.99) 92 points Robert Parker: "...aged ten months in both American and French oak. Its dense ruby/purple color is followed by sumptuous aromas of blueberries, black currants, cold steel, and minerals. Evocative of a baby Priorat, it possesses an amazing fragrance, considerable nobility as well as complexity, medium to full body, and a long, concentrated, heady finish. Enjoy it over the next 5-7 years."

2003 Bodegas Castano Solanera, Yecla (\$11.99) 91 points Robert Parker: "...a beautiful blend of 75% Mourvedre and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache. A dense ruby/purple color is accompanied by a smoky, scorched earth-scented nose displaying notions of black cherry jam, licorice, and truffles. Ripe and medium to full-bodied, with wonderful sweetness, it possesses purity, suppleness, and balance...another example of why Spain is beating virtually every other viticultural area in the world when it comes to high quality wines that sell for a song." Saludos! —Anne Pickett, anne@klwines.com

Spanish Reds for Dinner

The Spanish dish that I most closely associate with wine is paella. When we recently tried the **2004 Bodegas Mustiguillo Mestizaje (\$13.99)**, I immediately imagined myself in the countryside enjoying this wine while waiting for and then eating paella. Fifty percent of this wine is bobal, a grape that Bodega Mustiguillo seems to single-handedly put into the category of fine wine grapes (The remaining proportion is cabernet sauvignon, merlot, syrah and grenache). Dark cherries, and a lot of them, on the nose and the palate. Spiced and accentuated with oak, flowers and minerals. Medium bodied, supple and elegant, it has soft tannins and a fresh long finish. Also try it alongside roast chicken, pork, veal or simply jamon y quesada.

The next two wines' structure and size makes them cry out for meat! Roasted, broiled, braised and grilled. The **2001 Cillar de Silos, Ribera del Duero Crianza (\$24.99)** has a delicious Graves-like note of minerality to it. This is not a shy wine, with plenty of ripe, dark fruits and toasty oak on the nose. On the palate it is big, with concentrated red and dark fruits, chewy tannins, spicy oak and a considerable finish. Drink tonight with about an hour of decanting or cellar for a few more years. The **2001 Bodegas Balbas, Ribera del Duero Crianza (\$21.99)** has more of a Crus Bourgeois Exceptionnels character, think Poujeaux with American oak. Dark cherries, berries, earth and sweet oak dominate the nose. On the palate this has more dark fruits that are accented with a pleasant tobacco earthy spice. Medium to full-bodied with good structure, there is a seamless quality to this wine that makes it a pleasure to drink. —Kirk Walker

ALSACE/LOIRE

Alsace

2004 Martin Schaezel Pinot Blanc	\$12.99
2004 Martin Schaezel Riesling	\$15.99
2004 Charles Baur, Pinot Blanc	\$9.99
2004 Domaine Roland Schmitt Tokay-Pinot Gris	\$14.99
2003 Becker Muscat Grand Cru Froehn	\$17.99
2001 Jean Becker Gewürztraminer Grand Cru Froehn	\$17.99
2000 Marcel Deiss Burlenberg Pinot Noir	\$31.99
2002 Domiane Charles Schleret Sylvaner Cuvée Reserve.....	\$13.99

Loire

François Pinon Vouvray Pétillant Brut	\$13.99
2001 Clos Rougeard Saumur Champigny	\$32.99
2001 Clos Rougeard "Les Poyeux" Saumur Champigny	\$39.99
2002 Chinon Couly Dutheil Clos de l'Echo	\$25.99
2002 Domaine de la Fontainerie Vouvray Sec	\$13.99
2002 Domaine Laureau Savennieres "Cuvée des Genets"	\$16.99
2003 Domaine Fouet Saumur Champigny	\$18.99
2003 Domaine Philippe Alliet Chinon Coteau de Noire	\$34.99
2003 Xavier Frissant Touraine Amboise "Renaissance"	\$12.99
2004 Tessier Cour Cheverny Les Sables	\$12.99
2004 La Tour St. Martin Menetou Salon Blanc	\$14.99
2004 Domaine Philippe Alliet Chinon	\$16.99
2004 Grange Tiphaine Touraine Côt Vieilles Vignes (Malbec).....	\$13.99
2004 Didier Dagueneau Blanc Fumé de Pouilly	\$42.99
2004 Saumur Blanc "Julian Fouet," Domaine Fouet	\$11.99
2004 Gerard Boulay Sancerre Chavignol	\$18.99
2003 Gerard Boulay Sancerre Chavignol Rouge.....	\$18.99
2004 Gerard Boulay Sancerre Chavignol "Clos du Beaujeu" ..	\$24.99
2004 Domaine de la Pépière Cuvée Eden Muscadet Sur Lie.....	\$13.99
2004 Domaine de la Pépière Classique Muscadet Sur Lie	\$10.99
2004 Guy Bossard Muscadet Sur Lie, Expression de Gneiss.....	\$13.99

All About The Focus

Let us concentrate on a winery that concentrates on red wine, and red wine only. Yes, we will need some concentration from you also! In the Mittelburgenland region of Austria you will find the village of Horitschon and within this village you will find Rotweingut Iby (Red winery Iby). Yes, this wine house grows and produces only red wines of the highest quality possible. There is no outside sourcing of fruit and the vineyard and cellar practices are extremely rigorous. At Iby the goal is a simple one: to produce wines that rich, full and harmonious. Since the beginning of the 20th century Iby has been naturally cultivating vines on there 20 hectares of vineyards. They make multiple passes during the growing season in order to thin and concentrate the yields that will eventually be harvested completely by hand. Depending on the varietal, some will be aged in oak some will not. The following two are un-oaked wines that are great examples.

2000 Iby Blaufränkisch Hochäcker (\$14.99) A clean, full bodied wine with ripe tannin and a soft, juicy acidity. The dark ruby color will lead you into a world of fully ripened cherries and dark berries and then linger on your palate teasing you palate into wanting more. I'm sure Jim Barr would be willing to give this nine doggies!!!

2003 Iby Zweigelt Classic (\$11.99) If you are wanting something that has a bit more weight and concentration, this could be right up your alley. Some even say this could be the Austrian equivalent to a spicy Cotes du Rhone. A perfect springtime BBQ wine, I think Jim would give this one eight kitty faces!!!

—Eric Story

AUSTRIA/GERMANY

Austria

2000 Iby Blaufränkisch Hochäcker	\$14.99
2001 Bründlmayer St. Laurent	\$25.99
2002 Malat Grüner Veltliner Dreigärten.....	\$14.99
2003 Türk Grüner Veltliner "Vom Urgentein"	\$12.99
2003 Peter Schandl Blaufränkisch.....	\$14.99
2004 Schloss Gobelsburg Riesling "Gobelsburger"	\$16.99
2004 Hiedler Grüner Veltliner Löss	\$13.99
2004 Berger Grüner Veltliner 1L.....	\$11.99
2004 Weingut Pfaffl Gruner Veltliner Weinviertal DAC	\$17.99

Germany

1997 Franz Karl Schmitt Niersteiner Pettenthal Auslese	\$15.99
1998 Franz Karl Schmitt Niersteiner Hipping Spätlese	\$14.99
2002 J.&H.A. Strub Niersteiner Hipping Kabinett	\$16.99
2002 Weingut Vollenweider Wolfer Goldgrube Spätlese	\$22.99
2003 August Kessler Spätburgunder	\$22.99
2004 Alfred Merkelbach Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett # 1	\$15.99
2004 August Kessler 530.3 Spätlese-Off-dry.....	\$25.99
2004 August Kessler Estate Riesling	\$11.99
2004 Florian Weingart Schloss Fürstenberg Spätlese	\$28.99
2004 Fritz Haag Brauneberger Juffer-Sonn. Aus (375ml)	\$26.99
2004 Fritz Haag Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Spätlese	\$32.99
2004 Fritz Haag Estate Riesling.....	\$17.99
2004 Gunderloch Nackenheimer Rothenberg Spätlese	\$26.99
2004 Josef Leitz Rüdesheimer Drachenstein "Dragonstone" ..	\$14.99
2004 Josef Leitz Rüdesheimer Klosterlay Spätlese	\$14.99
2004 Schloss Lieser Niederberg Helden Spätlese	\$21.99
2004 Schlossgut Diel Dorsheimer Pittermännchen Spätlese ..	\$39.99
2004 Spreitzer Winkeler Jesuitengarten Spätlese	\$28.99
2004 Weingut Binz Nackenheimer Spätburgunder	\$12.99
2004 Weingut Spreitzer Oestricher Doosberg Spätlese	\$18.99

A Lily of a Wine!

This month, dear reader, I have stumbled (no, flitted) my way onto Jeff Vierra's German wine page in order to talk about one of my favorite, and in my opinion, most beautiful wines in the world: riesling! Now don't get me wrong, I do love wines from my old stomping ground of, say, Corbieres, Cornas and Cahors. On the palate these hearty reds can be full of black fruit, beef blood and exhibit a magnificent sinewy texture. But could I, would I, drink these wines all the time? Hell no! Enjoying wine, as with Life, is all about finding balance, and along with the brawn, I absolutely must have beauty to make my wine drinking life meaningful.

The **2004 Schmitt-Wagner Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Kabinett (\$19.99)** is a riesling that puts a smile on my face and a kick in my step. I've even been known to start dancing with myself after a glass or two. This '04 Mosel is so pure and clean, that drinking it makes me feel like a kid again. Young, alive and VIBRANT!! And would you believe that this snappy, zippy, bright, lithe gem of a wine hails from 107-year-old un-grafted vines grown on pure Blue Devonian Slate? Despite all of its green apple and nectarine charm, this assuming kabinett has the structure to last 15 plus years. Have you fallen in love yet? There is a Chinese proverb concerning beauty that encourages the following: When you have only two pennies left in the world, buy a loaf of bread with one, and a lily with the other. Well folks, riesling is my lily, and my world is certainly more rich and beautiful for drinking it.

—Mulan Chan

The April Fools Of K&L

Sometimes it's really hard to tell where the truth ends and unreality begins at this establishment. The saying "truth is stranger than fiction" is never more true than within these walls. In the spirit of the month of fooling, I invite you to play the April True or False game with me.

Our Champagne buyer Gary Westby has introduced all of us to the great Champagnes of Rene Collard. Mr. Collard is a perfectionist to the point of producing a grand total of three vintage-designated wines in the last 26 years. The **1990 Rene Collard Cuvee Reservee Millesime (\$49.99)** is the third of the latest of the triumvirate. Collard Champagnes show abundant breed and finesse. This bottling, consisting of 90% meunier and 10% chardonnay, is focused and fresh. As no secondary fermentation is induced, the Cuvee Reservee is crisp and intense with notes of melons and peaches. Fresh as a daisy at the sweet age of sixteen.

Westby once went dumpster diving for a bottle of Thomas Kruse non vintage Sauvignon Vert that I tossed out. He drank it! True or false?

1996 was a watershed vintage in Bordeaux, producing wines of great power and longevity. A prolific vintage such as this presents the opportunity for additional bottlings, or "second" wines. The **1996 Pagodes de Cos (\$29.99)** is such a wine, the little brother to the world-class Cos d'Estournel. The Pagodes carries the house style of exotic ripe black and red fruits and allspice. The quality is absolutely superb, better than many châteaux produced with their flagship bottlings. A great value.

Jim Barr once mistook a plastic decoy owl for a real one, and claimed to have seen it spread its wings. True or false?

Jim's April Gems

There has been some new and interesting wine terminology that has evolved the last several years; for instance, the term "Vintnervous: to worry that wine comes from a non-prestigious winery." With that in mind, I am extremely happy that our group of wine buyers at K&L are not vintnervous when they are scurrying around Europe, South Africa, South America, New Zealand and Australia, finding wonderful wines of incredible quality from some very talented, and, in some cases, obscure producers. I am also extremely happy that our ever-expanding customers have come to respect our buyers' wine-buying decisions and are not afraid to venture where many vintnervous customers will not, and experience some truly remarkable productions.

The first case in point is the fabulous **2004 Maison Champy Bourgogne Chardonnay "Signature" (\$14.99)** that Keith discovered on one of his buying trips to Burgundy last year. The 2004 whites from Burgundy are breathtaking, wondrous creatures. As one of the oldest houses in Beaune (founded in 1720), this very fine production from Maison Champy is a blend of barrel-fermented (80% new French oak) chardonnay from vineyards from Puligny-Montrachet, Meursault and Rully, and is a pure statement as to the greatness of this vintage. With just a touch of toasty oak, the bouquet erupts with wet-stone minerality intermingled with white peach and hints of honeysuckle. Your tongue will be rewarded with lush, complex, finely honed fruit flavors that offer incredible structure and backbone, and a mouthwatering finish that goes on forever. This is the perfect, everyday chardonnay, and Eby has told me it will be our house white for the month or else (put the claws away, girl; it will be!). (🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾)

The second case in point is the **2004 Château Marjosse Entre-Deux-Mers Bordeaux Blanc (\$9.99)** that Clyde and Ralph discovered on



JIM BARR AND HIS CAT

Time for dessert: 1997 was not a year for greatness in Sauternes. Yet it is an important one, as these are the wines to enjoy while the longer-lived wines mature. The restaurants of France are so adept at selecting and showcasing wines from years like '97, as the wines are more evolved and marry with the food sooner. Here in the

states we go for the great vintages, disregarding where the wine may be in its aging cycle. The better houses produced wines of balance in '97, but with the plump, forthcoming fruitiness that suggests early enjoyment. The sweet **1997 Guiraud (\$47.99)** has two faces: A lovely drink now with warm, buttery fruitiness, and the potential to age gracefully for a number of years.

Clyde Beffa once drove through an outdoor restaurant in the Rhone valley, scattering diners. True or false?

O.K. Two more: Jim Barr is the only K&L employee to throw up on the vines of Château Latour. True or false?

Trey Beffa once listed the city of an Iowa-based customer as Cedar Rabbits. True or false?

Answer: All true of course.

—Joe Zugelder

one of their buying trips to Bordeaux last year. Under the leadership of Pierre Lurton (Cheval Blanc), this new property's 2004 production is a blend of semillon (85%) and sauvignon blanc. Providing a lovely aroma of lime zest, lanolin and fig, in the mouth, this pretty white offers a nicely framed wine that is clean and crisp, yet with an underlining richness that carries into the finish. (🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾)

The third case in point is the **2003 Château Peyraud Premieres Cotes de Blaye (\$9.99)**, another Clyde and Ralph discovery. This deeply colored wine is vinified to drink now. Aged in tank only with no small barrel aging, it is mostly merlot (90%) with the balance being cabernet. Lush, ripe cassis to currant-like fruit on the nose and in the mouth, this drinking Bordeaux is soft and silky and is perfect to consume for the next three-plus years while you wait for your classified growths to pick up some bottle age in your cellar. Anderson says this will be one of our two house reds for the month. (🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾)

Finally, the fourth case in point is the **2004 Domaine Phillippe Alliet Chinon (\$16.99)**, a Jeff Vierra Loire Valley discovery from one of his buying trips last year. This is one of my favorite red wines in our massive inventory. Deep ruby in color, this exhilarating cabernet franc is flashy and bold on the nose, yet not over-the-top. There is an uncompromising purity on the tongue with this wine showing complete balance, fleshiness, focused dark fruits, terroir, complexity, tons of structure, soft tannins, and a silky, sleek finish. This is a Gem de la Gems, and Anderson and I both agree it will be our house red for however long it is available. (🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾)

If you have any questions, you can email me at jimbarr@klwines.com. Enjoy this month's selection or else! —Jim, Anderson, & Eby

CHAMPAGNE/SPARKLING WINE

Ariston Carte Blanche Brut.....	\$22.99
Our best deal in bubbles? Powerful!	
Michel Dervin Brut.....	\$24.99
Franck Bonville Brut Selection Blanc de Blancs.....	\$24.99
Ariston Brut Rosé.....	\$25.99
Marguet-Bonnerave Brut Rosé-Fantastic!.....	\$25.99
Launois "Cuvee Reserve" Brut Blanc de Blanc.....	\$25.99
Laurent Perrier Brut.....	\$27.99
Tarlant Brut Reserve-Quality obsessed grower, direct pricing!.....	\$26.99
Tarlant Brut Zero-Our driest, no sugar added.....	\$26.99
De Meric Sous Bois Brut-Delicious.....	\$27.99
Philippe Gonet Brut Reserve Champagne.....	\$27.99
Leclerc Briant "La Croisette" Single Vineyard Brut.....	\$29.99
Charles Heidsieck Brut Reserve.....	\$29.99
1998 Ariston Vintage Brut.....	\$29.99
1999 Michel Dervin Vintage Brut Champagne.....	\$29.99
Pol Roger Brut Champagne.....	\$29.99
Taittinger La Francaise Brut Reserve Champagne.....	\$29.99
Ariston Aspasie Brut Prestige.....	\$34.99
De Meric Grande Sous Bois Bouzy Rose Brut.....	\$34.99
Louis Roederer Brut-One of Clyde's favorites.....	\$34.99
2000 Philippe Gonet Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru.....	\$39.99
Philippe Gonet Brut Roy Soleil Blanc de Blancs.....	\$39.99
Lallement Brut.....	\$39.99
1996 Laurent Perrier Brut.....	\$39.99
Rene Collard Brut Carte d'Or.....	\$39.99
Fleury Brut Rosé.....	\$39.99
1996 Laurent Perrier Vintage.....	\$39.99
Tarlant Cuvee Louis Brut Prestige-New 1996/1997 cuvee.....	\$39.99
Laurent-Perrier Brut Rosé (1.5L \$110.00).....	\$49.99
Lallement Brut Réserve.....	\$49.99
1990 Rene Collard.....	\$49.99
Tarlant Single Vineyard Blanc de Blancs.....	\$49.99
De Meric Grande Reserve Sous Bois Brut (1.5L).....	\$56.99
Franck Bonville Cuvee Belles Voyes.....	\$59.99
1985 Rene Collard.....	\$59.99
Laurent Perrier "Grand Siècle"-The new '96, '95, '93 cuvee!.....	\$74.99
1995 Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs.....	Inquire
1998 Dom Perignon.....	Inquire
1992 Krug Clos de Mesnil Champagne.....	Inquire
Domestic Sparkling Wine	
1999 Schramsberg Reserve.....	\$54.99
1999 Roederer "L'Ermitage" Rosé.....	\$59.99
1999 Roederer "l'Ermitage".....	\$32.99
2000 Argyle Willamette Valley Brut.....	\$16.99
2000 Iron Horse Classic Vintage Brut.....	\$24.99
2000 J Wine Company.....	\$23.99
2002 Domaine Carneros Brut.....	\$19.99
2001 Schramsberg Blanc de Blanc.....	\$24.99
2002 Iron Horse "Wedding Cuvée".....	\$26.99
2002 Schramsberg Blanc de Noir.....	\$24.99
NV Domaine Chandon Brut /Blanc de Noir.....	\$14.99
NV Gloria Ferrer Brut/Blanc Noir.....	\$14.99
NV Mumm Brut/Blanc de Noir.....	\$13.99
NV Scharffenberger Brut.....	\$13.99
NV Roederer Estate Anderson Valley Brut.....	\$16.99

Marne Valley Star!

After an all-to-long absence the Champagnes of Michel Dervin are back. These are exciting and unique Champagnes from a little-known and very tiny village called Cuchery. They are made by Michel Dervin, who is also the wine maker for Domaine J. Laurens in Limoux. The **Michel Dervin Brut Champagne (\$24.99)** has a wonderful brioche and subtle fruit nose. The flavors are quite concentrated and complex. The Champagne has a great toastiness balanced by lightness on its refreshing and long finish. The cuvee is a blend of 85% 2002 and 15% 2001 vintages. It is made out of 95% estate fruit from small plots in the picturesque valley of the Marne. The **1999 Michel Dervin Brut (\$29.99)** is a step up in length and balance. With more pinot noir and chardonnay in the blend (70% pinot noir, 30% meunier), this wine has more intense aromas. The flavors are big, broad and very unique. For lovers of a rich style this wine will not let you down. If you have never had a valley of the Marne meunier-based Champagne, these two are a great place to start. Please feel free to contact me at 1 (800) 247-5987 ex 728, or at garyw@klwines.com with any of your champagne (or sherry!) needs. Please also drop me a line if you would like to be on my list of Champagne customers. A toast to you! —Gary Westby

Jewels from the Valley of the Marne!

This area of Champagne is famous for being one of the most extensively harvested for Champagne production. It is also home to some of the best pinot noir and pinot meunier grapes grown in Champagne. For April, I am pleased to present two red grape-based Champagnes.

Many of you are familiar with the **Philippe Gonet Brut Reserve (\$27.99)**, a masterful blend of 60% pinot noir, 30% chardonnay and 10% pinot meunier. I have a soft spot for this producer because the vintner and his associates are some of the best people in the business. It takes more than an amiable personality to make a good wine, however! All grapes for the Brut Reserve are estate grown, Gonet fruit. The current release is a particular blend from the 2000 (30%) and 2001 vintages (70%). The 2000 stock is from reserve wine. A flavorful, slightly toasty character with a nose of vanilla, fresh-baked bread and citrus fruit. Nectarine fruit in the mouth, with subtle vanilla and a leaner character than the nose suggests. Perfection with lobster soup!

Wine number two is somewhat of an oddity. In the case of the **Michel Dervin Brut (\$24.99)**, this is not a bad thing! A blend of 60% pinot meunier, 35% pinot noir and 5% chardonnay, this one's unusual due to the high percentage of meunier used. Those of you who have come to our Champagne tastings know that pinot meunier lends an almost caramel/cognac aspect to Champagne. This results in a nose of brioche, crème caramel and delicate red fruits. In the mouth, there is a distinct toastiness with roasted nuts, dried cherry notes and a hint of lemon curd. An excellent choice for those who like toasty and yeasty Champagnes. The price makes it a MUST have! —Scott Beckerley

Taste of Sonoma in San Francisco

An evening of fine wines, bubbles and food!

More than 50 wineries will pour their latest releases and local chefs will showcase the culinary bounty of the county. K&L is the exclusive retail sponsor for this fantastic event to be held Monday, May 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. at 3rd in San Francisco. Cost is \$45 per person. Tickets can be purchased by at www.YBCA.org or by calling 415.978.ARTS (2787).

WHITE BURGUNDY

NV Plaisir des Princes-Our favorite, a declassified '04 Mâcon	\$6.99	2004 Chassagne-Montrachet, "Truffieres," 1er, V. Girardin ..	\$49.99
2003 Pouilly-Vinzelles, En Paradis, Louis Latour (375ml)	\$6.99	2003 Meursault, Poruzots, Château de Puligny Montrachet ...	\$53.99
2002 Bourgogne Aligoté, Domaine Rollin	\$12.99	2001 Chablis, "La Moutonne," Grand Cru, Long Depaquit	\$56.99
2003 St-Veran, Maison Drouhin	\$12.99	2004 Chass-Mont, "Caillerets," 1er, Domaine Marc Colin	\$56.99
2004 St-Veran, Denis Barraud.....	\$13.99	2003 Chass-Mont, "Tête du Clos" (Morgeot) Vincent Dancer	\$59.99
2003 St-Veran, Domaine de la Croix Senaillet	\$14.99	2004 Puligny-Montrachet, "Folatières," 1er Cru, Paul Pernot	\$64.99
2004 Bourgogne Chardonnay, "Signature," Champy	\$14.99	Broad, rich and ripe, but also very bright, mineral-driven and alive. Yummy!	
Rich and toasty, with nice minerality. From Meursault, Puligny and Rully.		2003 Morey-St-Denis, "Mont Luissant," 1er Cru, Dujac	\$67.99
2004 Bourgogne Blanc, Thierry & Pascale Matrot	\$14.99	2004 Puligny-Montrachet "Champ Gain," 1er, Marc Colin	\$69.99
Lovely white from a grower in Meursault, with richness and length.		2003 Meursault, "Perrieres," 1er Cru, Vincent Dancer	\$71.99
2003 Bourgogne Chardonnay, Domaine Jomain	\$15.99	2002 Meursault "Genevrières," 1er, Dom. Francois Mikulski	\$74.99
2003 Bourgogne Aligoté, 1902, Alice & Olivier de Moor	\$16.99	Lovely minerality, floral nose and long, long finish.	
2004 Givry 1er Cru, La Plante, Deaunjean-Berthoux	\$16.99	2004 Puligny-Montrachet, "Pucelles," 1er Cru, V. Girardin....	\$79.99
2002 Bourgogne Chardonnay, "Vero," Joseph Drouhin	\$17.99	2004 Puligny-Montrachet, "Caillerets," 1er Cru, V. Girardin	\$81.99
Made by Veronique Drouhin. Old World Chardonnay with New World appeal.		2004 Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru, V. Girardin	\$81.99
2004 Bourgogne Blanc, Domaine Paul Pernot	\$18.99	2004 Corton-Charlemagne, Grand Cru, Marc Colin	\$89.95
Lovely Puligny-Montrachet character at a great price.		2004 Puligny-Montrachet, "Pucelles," 1er Cru, Paul Pernot ..	\$89.99
2004 Bourgogne Blanc, Domaine Bernard Morey	\$18.99	2004 Bienvenues-Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru, P. Pernot	\$123.99
2004 Pouilly Fuissé, Les Chataigniers, Denis Barraud	\$18.99	2004 Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru, Paul Pernot	\$149.99
Focused minerality, rich palate and charm. Only our Direct Import makes this price possible.		2003 Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru, Marc Colin	\$179.95
2004 Bourgogne Blanc, Domaine Paul Pernot	\$18.99	2004 Bâtard-Montrachet, Grand Cru, Marc Colin	\$180.00
2003 Chablis "Saint Martin" Domaine Laroche	\$19.99	2003 Chevalier-Montrachet, Grand Cru, Marc Colin	\$199.95
2003 St. Romain, Maison Champy-Great, with bright minerality	\$19.99	2003 Le Montrachet, Grand Cru, Marc Colin.....	\$375.00
2002 Meursault, Maison Maurice Chenu	\$19.99	2003 Le Montrachet, Grand Cru, Louis Latour	\$549.95
An unbelievable value on a Meursault, thanks to an airline backing out.			
1999 Meursault, Chartron & Trebuchet-Was \$36.99 elsewhere....	\$19.99		
2003 Pernand Vergelesses Blanc, Maison Champy	\$20.99		
A mini Corton-Charlemagne for a song!			
2002 Bourgogne Blanc, Domaine Tollot-Beaut	\$23.99		
Lovely floral nose and beautiful balance, with Pernand/Savigny character.			
2004 Pouilly-Fuissé "La Roche" V.V., Denis Barraud	\$23.99		
Rich, concentrated single-vineyard Pouilly with weight, charm and minerality.			
2003 Chablis, Rosette, Domaine Alice & Olivier DeMoor	\$24.99		
Bright and concentrated, from very old vines. Classic Chablis flintiness.			
2002 Cote de Beaune, Grande Chatelaine, Dom. Giboulot	\$24.99		
2004 St-Aubin "Murgers Dent de Chien," 1er, V. Girardin.....	\$29.99		
2004 St-Aubin "Les Charmois," 1er Cru, Marc Colin	\$29.99		
2004 St-Aubin "En Remilly," 1er Cru, Domaine Marc Colin ..	\$29.99		
2004 Meursault Chevalières, Thierry & Pascale Matrot.....	\$29.99		
2004 Auxey-Duresses, La Canée, Deux Montille	\$31.99		
2004 St-Aubin "Murgers Dent de Chien," 1er, Deux Montille	\$34.99		
2004 St-Aubin "Sur Gamay," 1er Cru, Deux Montille	\$34.99		
Two fabulous St-Aubins, pure and focused, from the emerging star, Alix de Montille.			
2004 Meursault, Les Tillets, Vincent Girardin	\$36.99		
2004 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos St. Jean," 1er, B. Morey	\$37.99		
2003 Chassagne-Mont 1er, "Macharellles," J-C Bachelet	\$38.99		
2004 Chassagne-Montrachet, "Encégnières," Domaine Marc Colin	\$39.99		
2004 Puligny-Montrachet, Domaine Paul Pernot	\$39.99		
Classic Puligny minerality, very bright, long and alive. Lovely!			
2004 Puligny Montrachet, "Trézin," Domaine Marc Colin	\$39.99		
2004 Chass-Montrachet, Vieilles Vignes, Bernard Morey	\$43.99		
2004 Puligny-Montrachet, Domaine Bernard Morey.....	\$43.99		
2004 Puligny-Montrachet, Les Enseignières, V. Girardin	\$46.99		
2003 Puligny-Montrachet, Château de Puligny Montrachet ..	\$48.99		

Loire, Alsace and Beyond: A Revolution!!!

I am declaring a sauvignon blanc revolution!!! The world-class grape is consistently overshadowed by that thing we call chardonnay, and I, for one, am not going to stand for it anymore!!!

Here in the Loire Valley you can find some of the world's best sauvignon blancs, from racey, sharp-edged wines to rich and succulent ones. If I was to pick one place (in the wine world, that is... let's face it, Hawaii is pretty nice), to be surrounded by everything I needed, it would be here. Take, for instance, the region of Quincy, second in France to receive AOC status in 1936, just behind Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Quincy is only allowed to produce white wines. Growing in these soils of clay, sand and chalk come wines that are typically harvested a full week earlier than those in Sancerre, with softer acidity levels and a bit more richness.

The 2002 **Silice de Quincy, Quincy (\$24.99)** is a powerful, textured wine coming from 100-year-old vines that are farmed following the biodynamic model. Bright citrus fruits and stone are just the tip of the iceberg of the complexity this wine has. Jim Barr would say it is a must have and give it 27 kitties. You want something a little more quaffable? Then step into the 2004 **Adèle Rouzé Quincy (\$14.99)**, a fresh, zippy expression of the sauvignon grape. Filled with gooseberries and a wet mineral edge, this would be great with that fish you just caught (or pointed to and asked you fish monger to wrap up), which you then simply threw on a hot grill, with some of those herbs from the garden, along with early spring vegetables, also grilled, that are placed atop of a goat cheese crostini. Jim Barr would give this, I'm sure, at least 17 wagging dogs. I have to leave you know, I just made myself hungry. BUT, there are more Loire Valley wines out there that need our help. Don't just stop at Quincy. What about the Menetou? They, too, could be a strong force in our revolution!!!

—Eric Story

RED BURGUNDY

2002 Bourgogne Rouge, Domaine Vincent Sauvestre	\$11.99	2003 Clos Vougeot, "Maupertuis," Grand Cru, Anne Gros ..	\$124.99
2002 Bourgogne Rouge, Domaine Desertaux-Ferrand	\$13.99	2003 Chambolle-Musigny, 1er Cru, Comte de Vogue	\$149.99
2003 Ladoix, Les Chaillots, Prince de Mérode	\$19.99	2003 Bonnes Mares, Grand Cru, Domaine Robert Groffier	\$159.99
2003 Bourgogne Pinot Noir, Domaine Olivier Guyot	\$19.99	2002 Richebourg, Grand Cru, Domaine Xavier	
2003 Bourgogne Rouge, Domaine Mongeard-Mugneret	\$20.99	Liger-Belair	\$174.99
2003 Pernand-Vergeleses "Les Fichots," 1er, Champy.....	\$21.99	2003 Chambertin, Grand Cru, Louis Latour	\$189.99
2002 Bourgogne Pinot Noir, "Vero," Joseph Drouhin	\$21.99	1999 Romanée St. Vivant, Grand Cru, Louis Jadot	\$199.95
2002 Chorey-les-Beaune, Domaine Tollot-Beaut	\$23.99	2003 Romanée St. Vivant, Grand Cru, Louis Latour	\$229.95
2002 Gevrey-Chambertin, Domaine René Leclerc	\$24.99	2003 Charmes-Chambertin, Grand Cru, Louis Latour	\$229.95
2002 Santenay, Clos du Gatsulard, Raymond Launay	\$26.99	<u>Beaujolais</u>	
2003 Gevrey-Chambertin, V.V., Maison Champy.....	\$29.99	2004 Regnie, Domaine des Braves, Paul Cinquin.....	\$11.99
2002 Chassagne-Montrachet 1er, Domaine Blain-Gagnard....	\$29.99	2003 Morgon, Domaine Ruet	\$14.99
2002 Volnay, "Santenots," 1er Cru, Vincent Sauvestre	\$30.99	Spicy, bright and focused.	
2003 Meursault-Blagny "Piece Sous Bois," 1er Cru, Domaine		2003 Cote de Brouilly, Domaine Ruet.....	\$16.99
Matrot	\$44.99	2004 Julienas, Cuvée Especiale, P. Granger.....	\$14.99
2003 Nuits-St-Georges, Chaliots, Domaine Michel Gros.....	\$44.99	Raspberry nose, and very ripe, pretty fruit.	
2003 Chambolle-Musigny, Domaine Michel Gros	\$45.99	2004 Julienas, Domaine Pascal Granger	\$15.99
2002 Beaune, "Clos des Mouches," 1er Cru, Nicolas		2004 Chiroubles, Clos le Farge, Domaine Chrysson	\$14.99
Rossignol	\$46.99	2004 Chenas, Domaine Pascal Granger	\$15.99
2003 Vosne-Romanée, Domaine Michel Gros	\$46.99	2004 Moulin-a-Vent, Domaine Pascal Granger	\$17.99
2001 Volnay, "Ronceret," 1er Cru, Domaine Nicolas		2003 Moulin-a-Vent, Château des Jacques (Domaine Jadot) ..	\$19.49
Rossignol	\$49.99	2004 Fleurie, "Poncié," Domaine du Vissoux	\$19.99
2002 Volnay, "Caillerets," 1er Cru, Domaine Nicolas			
Rossignol	\$51.99		
2002 Volnay, "Santenots," 1er Cru, Domaine Nicolas			
Rossignol	\$51.99		
2002 Gevrey-Chambertin, V.V., Domaine Harmand			
Geoffroy.....	\$51.99		
2000 Corton-Bressandes, Grand Cru, Domaine			
Tollot Beaut	\$54.99		
2003 Vosne Romanée, "Suchots," 1er Cru, Maison Champy ..	\$59.99		
2001 Nuits-St-Georges, "Murgers," 1er Cru, Cathiard	\$59.99		
2003 Vosne-Romanée, Les Orveaux, Mongeard Mugneret	\$61.99		
2002 Vosne-Romanée, "Les Beaumonts," 1er Cru, Champy ..	\$64.99		
2003 Vosne-Romanée, "Malconsorts," 1er Cru,			
Domaine Moillard.....	\$67.99		
2002 Gevrey-Chambertin, "Lavaux St Jacques," 1er Cru,			
Harmand Geoffroy	\$69.95		
1996 Clos de Vougeot, Domaine Amiot Servelle	\$76.99		
2001 Vosne-Romanée, "Suchots," 1er Cru, Sylvain Cathiard ..	\$79.99		
2003 Clos Vougeot, Grand Cru, F. Esmonin	\$88.99		
2003 Clos Vougeot, Grand Cru, Domaine Moillard.....	\$89.95		
2001 Chapelle-Chambertin, Grand Cru, Pierre Damoy	\$91.99		
2002 Clos de la Roche, Grand Cru, Domaine Olivier Guyot ..	\$97.99		
2003 Chambolle-Musigny, "Hauts Doix," 1er Cru, Groffier ..	\$97.99		
2002 Latricieres-Chambertin, Grand Cru, Charles Vienot	\$99.95		
2003 Château Corton Grancey, Grand Cru, Louis Latour	\$99.99		
2003 Chambolle-Musigny, "Sentiers," 1er Cru, Groffier	\$99.99		
2003 Clos de la Roche, Grand Cru, V.V., Vincent Girardin	\$99.99		
2002 Clos de la Roche, Grand Cru, Domaine Louis Remy.....	\$99.95		
2003 Chambertin-Clos de Beze, Grand Cru, F. Esmonin.....	\$99.95		
2001 Morey-St-Denis, 1er Cru, Domaine Hubert Lignier	\$99.95		
2002 Clos Vougeot, Grand Cru, Domaine Xavier			
Liger-Belair	\$104.99		
1996 Chambolle-Musigny, Beaux Bruns, Denis Mortet	\$107.99		
2002 Clos Vougeot, Grand Cru, Domaine Michel Gros	\$108.99		
2002 Latricieres-Chambertin, Domaine Louis Remy.....	\$109.99		

Pour Votre Plaisir

A First Look at the 2004 Vintage

As I write this, I am getting ready to depart for Burgundy for my annual trip to evaluate the vintage. As you read it, I have just returned from that trip. Such are the time lags of writing for the newsletter a full month in advance. But, in the last month, I have had the chance to taste about one hundred 2004 red Burgundies, and I want to give you a report on what I have seen.

It is not a vintage that is easy to generalize about. The thing I like the most about the 2004s is their sense of place. It is a vintage where the terroir shows through extremely clearly. For those of us who love Burgundy, that is a very good thing to see.

The vintage started out a difficult one, and the skill of the grower was critical. A cool damp spring resulted in problems with powdery mildew, so controlling it quickly was critical. One grower lost all of their fruit in the lower portion of Clos Vougeot, where the dampness can be a problem, due to a well-known neighbor, who refused to intervene at all, and had terrible powdery mildew that escaped to affect others' vines. A cool summer led to many worried growers. But fair weather and the North wind in September performed a miracle, ripened the fruit, and led to a good vintage.

Some of the wines are very much like the 2000s, with supple fruit and charming forward character. Others are more like the classic 2001s, with higher acidity and more structure. Even within a single producer's portfolio, the character of the wines is not uniform, so dealing with a merchant you know, like K&L, is an important thing to do in this vintage. But overall, I like the vintage a great deal, and the recent improvement in the dollar should result in some lower prices than we saw for the 2003 vintage. I'll have more to report next month, and a complete version of our vintage report will be available online and in the stores by the end of the month. Á Santé.

—Keith Wollenberg

If you wish to be ahead of the game and get e-mail updates on things that don't make it into the newsletter or to be the first with an opportunity to buy, get on Greg's Italian Wine Update email list by contacting Greg at greg@klwines.com or call 800-247-5987 ex 2713.

Pre-Arrivals

2001 Brunello di Montalcino

The initial list, many more to come!

2001 Pogiarellino	\$29.99
2001 Ferrero	\$29.99
2001 Baricci-90 points <i>Wine Enthusiast</i>	\$34.99
2001 La Fortuna	\$34.99
2001 Pian dell'Orino	\$35.99
2001 Casanova di Neri	\$39.95
2001 La Rasina-94 points <i>Wine Spectator</i>	\$39.99
2001 Castelgiocondo-94 points <i>Wine Spectator</i>	\$39.99
2001 Piancornello	\$39.99
2001 Le Gode	\$39.99
2001 Lisini	\$39.99
2001 Gorelli Le Potazzine-93 points <i>Wine Spectator</i>	\$47.95
2001 Sesta di Sopra-95 points <i>Wine Spectator</i>	\$49.99
2001 Casanova di Neri "Tenuta Nuova"-97 points <i>Wine Spectator</i>	\$49.99
2001 Banfi Poggio alle Mura-94 points <i>Wine Spectator</i>	\$53.95
2001 Terralsole	\$59.99
2001 La Rasina "Il Divasco"-96 points <i>Wine Spectator</i>	\$59.99
2001 Siro Pacenti-97 points <i>Wine Spectator</i>	\$69.99
2001 Valdicava-98 points <i>Wine Spectator</i>	\$79.95

**In Stock
Tuscany**

2004 Maritma Sangiovese "4 Old Guys"	\$7.49
2003 Teruzzi & Puthod Vernaccia di San Gimignano	\$9.99
2004 Poliziano Rosso di Montepulciano	\$11.95
2002 Villa Antinori Toscano Rosso	\$15.95
2002 Felsina Chianti Classico	\$16.99
2002 Antinori Chianti Classico "Peppoli"	\$19.95
2003 Le Cinciole Chianti Classico-1 Glass <i>Gambero Rosso</i>	\$19.99
2002 Poliziano Vino Nobile di Montepulciano	\$21.99
2 Glasses <i>Gambero Rosso</i> .	
2003 Querciabella Chianti Classico	\$23.99
2001 Poliziano Vino Nobile di Montepulciano "Asinone"	\$33.99
92 points <i>Wine Spectator</i> and 3 Glasses <i>Gambero Rosso</i> .	
1999 Fanetti Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Riserva	\$28.99
2000 Antinori Tenute Marchese Chianti Classico Riserva	\$29.95
2001 Castello di Fonterutoli Chianti Classico	\$34.95
3 Glasses <i>Gambero Rosso</i> .	
2001 Felsina Fontalloro-3 Glasses <i>Gambero Rosso</i>	\$34.99
2003 Querciabella "Batar"-2 Blue Glasses <i>Gambero Rosso</i>	\$74.99

Montalcino

2003 La Fortuna Rosso di Montalcino-2 Glasses <i>Gambero Rosso</i>	\$17.99
2003 Baricci Rosso di Montalcino-2 Glasses <i>Gambero Rosso</i>	\$18.99
1999 Pian dell'Orino "Piandorino"	\$19.99
1996 Casisano Colombaio Brunello-1 Glass <i>Gambero Rosso</i>	\$24.99

Brunello Report con't

The Wines: One ultimate word of caution: Don't buy the numbers! I received an email from a client who isn't familiar with Brunello. He's a self-proclaimed Burgundy/Pinot Noir nut who doesn't enjoy heavily oaked wines that hide the terroir or give a manipulated feel to the wines. He then asked to buy some well-known, oaky, manipulated wines from Montalcino because they got high scores. Know what it is you want to drink. Ask the questions. Fame and points are not the truest path to finding what you like.

The Valdicava is ...in a word, wonderful. I don't always agree with James Suckling's ratings. And truthfully, I don't ever remember agreeing with his top pick as the wine of any vintage. But it would be hard to argue that this wine isn't anything but superb. Casanova di Neri "Tenuta Nuova" has the feel of the new world, while not laden with obtrusive oak. It is extraordinarily well made, and with the 97-point rating it will be getting a lot of attention and will be in short supply. We at K&L decided several years ago that the only way to really sell Brunello was to import directly so we could offer you the best prices on less well-known wines. Sesta di Sopra is one of those. This year this tiny winery (333 case production of Brunello) garnered 95 points from James Suckling. Needless to say, we think he got this one correct. Since their debut vintage in 1999 they have made nothing but seriously good wine. By the time that you read this, the rest of our comments and some new surprise discoveries will be on the website for your perusal. This vintage will be selling out rapidly. The best way to keep up is for me to have your email address, and you'll be amongst the first to know. Send it to me at greg@klwines.com. Enjoy!

—Greg St. Clair

Tasting Bar Schedule for April, 2006.

All tastings are from noon to 3 p.m. in San Francisco and 1 to 4 p.m. in Redwood City. For further information about other special monthly tastings and dinners, please see our website at www.klwines.com and click on the "local events" bar. Tasting prices TBA.

Saturday, April 1: International Old Vine Tasting.

We will feature wines grown from old vines (30 years plus) from California, France, Spain and other countries. We will pour both red and white but, will emphasize old-vine reds. Twelve wines to be poured.

Saturday, April 8: New Arrivals from Italy.

Mike Parres and Jeff Garneau highlight new arrivals from Italy. Mike will be on hand to discuss upcoming releases that he tasted during a February/March trip to Italy. Ten wines to be poured.

Saturday, April 15: Wines from Alsace & the Loire.

Prepare for your Easter Sunday with the delicious wines of Alsace/Loire. Jeff Vierra and Eric Story pick their favorite red and white wines to make this holiday weekend all the more special. Ten wines to be poured.

Saturday, April 22: Bordeaux.

Clyde, Ralph, Steve and Alexandre tour the 2003 vintage. Steve and Ralph, just back from Bordeaux, will be on hand to discuss tasting notes from the 2005 vintage. Ten wines to be poured, including eight red, one white and one Sauterne.

Saturday, April 29: Cabernets from California.

Trey, Mike Jordan and Martin Reyes will finish the month with a tasting highlighting 2003 California Cabernets, featuring boutique wineries and some well-known vineyards. Ten wines to be poured.

—Scott Beckerley

ITALIAN WINES

- 2003 La Fortuna Sant'Antimo Rosso**\$28.99
- 2000 Baricci Brunello**-2 Glasses *Gambero Rosso*\$36.99
That classic Montosoli nose, elegantly spicy, full of cinnamon, cardamom, anise and leather. The wine exudes a feminine mystique, lithe, supple, delicate, giving then taking, hinting not demanding, complex. (Greg St. Clair, K&L Italian buyer)
- 2000 La Fortuna Brunello**-2 Glasses *Gambero Rosso*\$36.99
A warm, sweet ripeness, full of dark and intense plum aromatics rise from the glass and give you an immediate sense of density, weight, and richness. The wine is supple on the palate, complex, chocolaty amarena. (Greg St. Clair, K&L Italian buyer)
- 2000 Pian dell'Orino Brunello**\$39.99
Chocolaty, plummy, spicy array of complex wild fruits that just envelop you. On the palate the wine is bold, dramatic, lots of mid palate structure, like someone with powerful, muscular shoulders, a real depth of flavor flows from the chocolaty, plummy nose to more, herb, leather, a taste of the earth but finish with more ripe, yet very focused and structured plummy fruit. (Greg St. Clair, K&L Italian buyer)
- 2000 Sesta di Sopra Brunello**-92 points *Wine Spectator*\$42.99
The nose just jumps out at you spicy, complex, wild cherry fruit, with hints of sage, leather, intriguing, seductive and inviting. On the palate the wine is broad, full-bodied and rich yet not heavy, it has an elegance, more like a lithe, muscular athlete, supple yet forceful and is full of the complex character. (Greg St. Clair, K&L Italian buyer) 2 Blue Glasses *Gambero Rosso*.
- 1997 Casisano Colombaio Brunello Riserva**-92 points *Spectator*. \$54.99
- 1997 Caparzo La Casa Brunello**-94 points *Wine Spectator*\$84.99

Piedmont

- 2002 Ruggeri Corsini Nebbiolo delle Langhe**\$14.99
This is the poor man's Barolo I went crazy over when I first tasted it, the classic nebbiolo nose of rose and earth, yet soft and rich in the mouth at an unbelievable price! (Greg St. Clair, K&L Italian buyer)
- 2002 Ruggeri Corsini Barbera d'Alba "Armujan"**\$17.99
Vibrant fruit, incredibly balanced, great finish, drinking beautifully now!

Barolo/Barbaresco

- 2001 Paitin di Pasquero Elia Barbaresco "Serra Boella"**\$25.99
- 2001 Ruggeri Corsini Barolo**-90 points *Wine Spectator*\$31.99
There is a seductive elegance in this wine, it seems as if a feminine touch has softened the powerful structure of the nebbiolo grape,
- 2001 Paitin di Pasquero Elia Barbaresco "Sori Paitin"**\$32.99
- 2000 Famiglia Anselma Barolo**-92 points *Wine Spectator*.....\$43.99
- 2001 Azelia Barolo "San Rocco"**-95 points *Wine Spectator*\$59.95
- 1997 Famiglia Anselma Barolo "Adasi"**\$59.99
- 2001 Einaudi Barolo "Nei Cannubi"**-91 points *Wine Spectator*\$69.99
- 2000 Scavino Barolo "Carobric"**-94 points *Wine Spectator*.....\$78.95

Trentino-Alto Adige and Friuli

SILVANO FOLLADOR PROSECCO IS BACK!

NV Silvano Follador Brut Prosecco Valdobbiadene (\$10.99)

Stunning quality! This will be your new house sparkler!

NV Silvano Follador Extra Dry Prosecco Valdobbiadene (\$10.99)

Slightly off dry, the "classic" style for Prosecco.

- 2004 Volpe Pasini Chardonnay**\$12.99
- 2004 Ermacora Pinot Grigio**-2 Glasses *Gambero Rosso*\$14.99
- 2003 Convento Muri-Gries Pinot Grigio**-1 Glass *Gambero Rosso* \$14.99
- 2004 Ermacora Pinot Bianco**-2 Blue Glasses *Gambero Rosso*.....\$14.99
- 2003 Blason Venc Bianco DOC Isonzo**-1 Glass *Gambero Rosso*\$14.99
- 2004 Ermacora Tocai Friulano**-2 Glasses *Gambero Rosso*\$14.99
- 2004 Ermacora Merlot**-Great balance and richness\$14.99

- 2004 Ermacora Refosco**-Spicy, full and complex\$14.99
- 2004 Volpe P Zuc Volpe Ribolla Gialla**-2 Glasses *Gambero Rosso* \$18.99
- 2002 Vencjar Rosso DOC Isonzo**\$19.99
If you like Bordeaux you'll love this!

- 2004 Volpe P Zuc di Volpe Sauvignon**-3 Glasses *Gambero Rosso* ..\$21.99
- 2003 Vie di Romans Pinot Grigio Dessimis**\$23.99
- 2004 Jermann Pinot Grigio**\$24.99

Sicily, Puglia, Campania, Basilicata, Lazio, Abruzzi and Sardegna

- 2003 d'Angelo Aglianico "Sacravite"**\$10.99
- 2003 Valle del Acate Poggio Bidini Nero d'Avola**\$12.99
- 2003 Caggiano Aglianico "Tari"**\$14.99
- 2001 d'Angelo Aglianico del Vulture**\$14.99
- 2004 d'Antiche Terre Fiano d'Avellino**.....\$16.99
- 2004 Valle dell'Acate "Il Frappato"**-2 Glasses *Gambero Rosso*\$17.99
- 2000 La Lumia "Torreforte" Nero d'Avola IGT**\$19.99

Lombardia, Umbria, Veneto, Marche and Other

- 2003 Corte Rugolin Valpolicella Classico**-1 Glass *Gambero Rosso* ..\$8.99
- 2001 Corte Rugolin Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso** \$16.99
- 2002 Buglioni Valpolicella Ripasso**\$25.99
- 2001 Corte Rugolin Amarone "Danieli"**\$39.99
2 Glasses *Gamb Rosso*.
- 2000 Allegrini Amarone**\$59.95
- 2000 Venturini Amarone "Campo Masua"**\$59.99

April's Picks

Greg and I just got back from our visit to Italy, and I'm still waiting for my notes and luggage to catch up with me. In future articles (in this corner of the Italian page) you will be able to read about our GREAT finds this year!

2004 Ermacora Merlot (\$14.99) This Merlot is just delicious, ripe chocolaty dark fruits, soft and fleshy in the mouth with smooth, fine grain tannins, dense but easy on the palate. A pleasure to drink, more Pomerol in style than Californian. Lamb and this wine were meant for each other!

2004 Ermacora Pinot Grigio (\$14.99) 2 Glasses *Gambero Rosso*. Simply sensational! Perfect balance of acidity and tremendous aromatics, loaded with pear, apple, citrus and tropical fruit in an elegant, concentrated and superbly balanced wine. This wine will work well for your springtime entertaining.

2004 Ermacora Tocai Friulano (\$14.99) 2 Glasses *Gambero Rosso*. If there was any one varietal that showed better in Friuli in the glorious vintage, it is the often misunderstood Tocai Friulano. The wonderful balance, coupled with a depth of concentration you don't see often in Tocai is followed by hints of tarragon and layers of mineral. Balanced with delicate acidity and scintillating aromas of bitter almonds, apple and ripe pear highlighted by a very long finish, this is the perfect accompaniment to fish or crab.

2004 Ermacora Pinot Bianco (\$14.99) 2 Blue Glasses *Gambero Rosso*. This is the wine Ermacora is known for most in Italy. It has tremendous focus and concentration, rich and creamy, with custard like flavors and hints of apples and bergamot. It is majestic on the palate, with balance, complexity and character. Age this wine for 2-3 years, and you won't believe the incredible wine it will evolve into! Perfect for halibut, swordfish or cocktailing. Salute!

—Mike Parres

SPECIALTY SPIRITS

There is nothing like a nice glass of Bourbon or Rye on a fine Spring day. Of course my father loved Wild Turkey, thank you Jimmy Russell! Here is a list of the few outstanding U.S. whiskies that we have available. Happy Birthday Pop! —Susan Purnell

A. H. Hirsch 16-year Bourbon\$79.99

Michter's Distillery in Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania was the foster home of A.H. Hirsch Reserve bourbon. Dating back to the mid-eighteenth century, Michter's was distilling whiskey. As early as 1753 there was a small distillery on this Pennsylvania farmstead; that's long before Kentucky was even settled. Ranking with the world's best whiskies, the A.H. Hirsch 16 year old, is without question, one of the absolute highest quality available today. Distilled in the spring of 1974 (and no longer produced), Hirsch Reserve whiskies are the only example of their type available today. These rare Bourbon whiskies were distilled in the time-honored Kentucky pot-still tradition - a slower, more work intensive, more expensive relic of a bygone era. The whiskies show the benefits traditional cask aging gives to Bourbon. Hirsch Reserve stands in the class of top-flight single malt Scotch Whisky and Grand Champagne Cognac. Hirsch Reserve whiskies offer a unique taste experience showing silky smooth texture and perfectly balanced flavors of sweet oak, maple, and spice. The aftertaste is round, rich, very long and mellow.

Black Maple Hill, 14-year-old, Single Barrel.....\$49.99

Black Maple Hill bourbons are incredibly smooth, with complex flavors that range from baked apple pie, to smoky and rich butterscotch. The 14-year-old is the sweetest and most floral of the Black Maple Hill Bourbons that we carry. Cask #147, 47.5 alc./vol. Spirits Journal Rating: 4 Stars.

Blanton's Bourbon\$46.99

The nose is very deep and satisfying. The taste has a masterful start with powerful dry vanilla notes in perfect harmony with hints of honey mid the strong caramel. The long, creamy caramel holds the fort until some late soft peppers arrive to spice things up. The underlying dryness amid the spice and honey really makes for bourbon that should suit all tastes and one to keep the discerning whiskey drinker almost purring with delight.

Bulleit Bourbon Frontier Whiskey\$19.99

This has been aged seven years and has a high rye component in the mash, which gives the bourbon a rich, oak aroma with hints of vanilla. Made in small batches and very, very well balanced!

Eagle Rare 17-year-old Bourbon\$49.99

Distilled spring of 1988, released fall of 2005. Made out of Kentucky corn, Minnesota rye, North Dakota malted barley, Double distilled, beer still and doubler, barrel made out of new white oak, #4 char, charred for 55 seconds. 36 barrels selected to make this bottling. 90 proof.

Elijah Craig 18-year-old Bourbon.....\$35.99

This is an outstanding hand-crafted, single-barrel bourbon at a wonderful price. Aged 18 years in new charred oak barrels. The colour is a very deep amber with a burnt orange tone and ideal clarity. The mouth presence is divine, showing equal parts elegance and command. Layered flavors of cream, almonds, vanilla extract and smoke.

Elmer T. Lee Single Barrel Bourbon\$19.99

Medium gold in color; the nose brings notes of butterscotch, clover, vanilla, and old leather. The big body bears a palate with an almost wine-like character that balances intense fruits, honey, and vanilla with a light spiciness that shows off the distiller's craft. The finish is long and warm. 91 points *Wine Enthusiast*.

Evan Williams Single Barrel Bourbon.....\$24.99

Our staff loves master distillers Craig and Parker Beam. We believe that the Evan Williams Vintage Single Barrel is one of the best Bourbons for its price on the market today. The craftsmanship and the care to quality is what really makes this bottle shine! 92 points *The Malt Advocate*.

Michter's 10 Year Single Barrel Straight Rye.....\$54.99

Straight Rye distilled from select American rye. Single Barrel. Limited quantities. Fire-charred, new American oak barrels. 92.8 proof (46.4% alcohol by volume).

Old Forester Birthday Bourbon Fall 1995.....\$36.99

This vintage release of Old Forester was chosen to honor the birthday of George Garvin Brown, the Bourbon industry's pioneer. Once bottled, its unique character will never be replicated again. This spicy complex bourbon was entered into the Old Forester brick Warehouse L during a cycling period. The

interior temperature of the warehouse was warm and humid so the pores of the charred white oak barrel were open. This allowed the new bourbon to soak deeply into the barrel wood where it quickly began to absorb the perfect balance of wood, confectionary and spice character. The barrels were aged on the upper floors of Warehouse L and were exposed to sun from the east, west and south. It's this heat and moisture combination that contributes to the interesting aroma, palate and finish. The balance and complexity of this vintage Old Forester make it a rare treat.

Old Potrero Single Malt Straight Rye Whiskey.....\$56.99

Old Potrero re-creates the original spirits produced from grain in early America. Distilled in a small copper pot still from a mash of 100% rye malt, this release was aged for two years in oak barrels at the distillery on Potrero Hill in San Francisco. 45% alc./vol.

Pappy Van Winkle Family Reserve 20 Year Bourbon.....\$78.99

The nose is intensely fruited but also bears a tantalizing citrus zest note. The body is huge and almost chewable, and the palate is tremendously buttery with some sherry notes, a dash of dried fruits and some rich, creamy vanilla. 99 points *Wine Enthusiast* magazine.

W. L. Weller 12-year-old Bourbon.....\$16.99

"The deep bronze color beautifully reflects the light, perfect purity! The initial nosing pass finds fully nature aromas of lanolin, almond oil, and creamed corn, in the middle stage sniffings, following several minutes of air contact, a toasty oaky/vanilla perfume takes the aromatic helm. The fourth and last whiff highlights the oily grainy quality that's firm and pungent, a high-spirited, lusciously toasty, and animated bouquet that has top-notch Bourbon written all over it. The dry, complex and toasty palate entry is reminiscent of the Centennial 10-year-old's grand entry. The mid-palate flavor profile is heavily wheated (like Wheat Thins crackers), oily, layer, moderately sweet, and sap-like; the finish is long, sweet, oaky, and intensely grainy all for an unbelievable price," Paul Pacult, *The Spirit Journal*.

Wild Turkey Russell Reserve Bourbon\$29.99

Russell's Reserve is deep amber in color with a nose that is rich in vanilla, oak, toffee and a touch of old leather. The body is huge, and the palate is very spicy with notes of chili peppers, tamarind, almonds and cumin.

William Larue Weller Cask Strength Bourbon\$49.99

Distilled fall of 1993, released fall of 2005. Made out of Kentucky corn, North Dakota wheat and malted barley, double distilled, beer still and doubler, barrel made out of new white oak, #4 char. Charred for 55 seconds. 41 barrels selected to make this bottling. Aged 12 years and 2 months. 121.9 proof.

K&L Hours and Information

Mailing list: If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please call one of our stores. If you are receiving multiple newsletters, please let us know. Note: Some wines may be available in only one of the stores. We do not sell our mailing list nor our email list.

San Francisco hours: Monday-Friday 9 to 7. Saturday 9 to 6. Sunday 11 to 6. The store is located at 638-4th St, between Brannan and Bluxome. Private parking is south of the store on 4th St.

Redwood City hours: Monday-Saturday 9 to 7. Sunday 10 to 6. Wine lockers open Monday-Saturday 10 to 6 and Sunday 11 to 5.

Availability: Certain wines are in short supply and may sell out before you receive this newsletter. It takes weeks from the time the newsletter is written to the time you receive it.

Sale Dates: End April 30, 2006. Prices subject to change without notice. We reserve the right to correct errors in pricing.

Will Call/Hold Policy: We will gladly keep your wines at any of our locations for up to 90 days. If you still need to store your wines after 90 days, we have both short-term and long-term storage available in our San Carlos facility. Please contact us for details.

We accept American Express, Discover, Visa and Mastercard.

NEW!

Vinotheque Reservoir Series Wine Cabinet

Vinotheque has a new Wine Cabinet for Those looking for function and price performance: **The Reservoir.**

These cabinets hold 224 bottles in fixed wire racking and have 1000 BTU cooling units with humidity recirculation for perfect storage.

No need to worry about options and accessories; these are turn-key cabinets.

The units are ready to ship in black or can be ordered with a wood stain.

Standard Cabinet	\$1575.00
Window Cabinet	\$1995.00

Plus shipping and tax if applicable.

Lockers Coming Soon!

New temperature-controlled lockers are coming soon to K&L's San Carlos facility.

Please visit www.klwines.com to add yourself to a waiting list for notification.

We will use your entry to contact you when lockers have been completed. We expect the lockers to be ready in May. You will have the option to rent at that time, pending availability within your desired size.

Whisperkool Cooling Units Sale Prices!

If you have up to 2,000 cubic feet of cellar space to cool, this is the perfect solution for you. Please call either of our stores for additional information and a color brochure.

Whisperkool 1600 (300 cu ft)	\$1049
Whisperkool 3000 (650 cu ft)	\$1249
Whisperkool 4200 (1,000 cu ft)	\$1349
Whisperkool 6000 (1,500 cu ft)	\$1749
Whisperkool 8000 (2,000 cu ft)	\$1895

The above prices include the new digital PDT thermostat.

Prices do not include shipping.

LOWER PRICES!

VINOTHEQUE STORAGE CABINETS

It is extremely important to protect your wines from temperature fluctuation. The most convenient location for your collection is in an air-conditioned wine cellar at home. Unfortunately, most of us do not have the ability or space to build a home cellar that is cost-effective. We are pleased to offer you the next best alternative: a Vinotheque Wine Storage Cabinet.

A few prices are listed below. Please call our staff for additional details, a full-color brochure, pricing on all available options, and delivery charges. These prices are for custom orders.

Models	BOTTLES	RETAIL	K&L
Vinotheque 320	264	\$3650	\$2179
Vinotheque 500	368	\$3975	\$2489
Vinotheque 550	428	\$4325	\$2689
Vinotheque 700	528	\$4675	\$2789
QT Models			
Vinotheque 320	264	\$4750	\$2689
Vinotheque 500	368	\$5295	\$3189
Vinotheque 550	428	\$6225	\$3489
Vinotheque 700	528	\$6850	\$3789

LOW EVERYDAY PRICES!

We will beat any written quote on custom Vinotheque storage cabinets by at least \$25.



WINE OPENERS

Screwpull Lever Pull

\$69.95

Instapull Wine Opener

\$10.99

The world's fastest and least expensive lever-style corkscrew. Includes foil cutter, extra worm and manufacturer warranty.

Redwood City Wine Storage Lockers!

Our Redwood City wine locker facility is temperature-controlled and very secure.

We have six sizes for your convenience: 10-case, 16-case, 20-case, 32-case, 40-case, and 60-case. The size designations are based on the assumption that your wine collection includes a combination of both cardboard and wooden cases.

10-case locker,	\$13.50 per month
16-case locker,	\$18.00 per month
20-case locker,	\$24.50 per month
32-case locker,	\$35.00 per month
40-case locker,	\$43.50 per month
60-case locker,	\$52.50 per month
70-case locker,	\$75.00 per month
80-case locker,	\$86.00 per month

The minimum rental period is six months.

Our lockers are temporarily full. To get on the waiting list, please call Sharon at (650) 364-8544, ex 2733. For billing, call Sharon at ex 2733.

Wine Storage Lockers in San Francisco

The wine storage lockers in our San Francisco store are now full. There is currently a long waiting list. To add your name to the list, please call Sharon at (650) 364-8544 ex 2733.

Shipping Information

ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE SOLD IN CALIFORNIA AND TITLE PASSES TO THE BUYER IN CALIFORNIA. We make no representation to the legal rights of anyone to ship or import wines into any state outside of California. The buyer is solely responsible for shipment of alcoholic beverage products. By placing an order, you authorize us to act on your behalf to engage a common carrier to deliver your order to you. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES MAY BE SOLD AND DELIVERED ONLY TO PERSONS WHO ARE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD. IN PLACING YOUR ORDER, YOU REPRESENT TO US THAT YOU ARE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD AND THAT THE PERSON TO WHOM YOU ARE DIRECTING DELIVERY IS AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD.

When your alcoholic beverages are delivered, the per-

son receiving delivery may be required to show identification proving that he or she is at least 21 years old. If, between date of order and date of arrival, the laws of your state change so as to make it illegal to receive the shipment, you can return the order for a full refund.

Please call our sales department for rate quotes:

1-800-247-5987

Local Delivery Service is also available. Please contact your local K&L. Please note, there is a 5% restocking fee for returned or cancelled orders.

Why Join One of Our “Wine of the Month” Clubs?

1. Education: K&L's Wine Clubs provide an educational opportunity that surpasses simply buying a bottle at the store. The wines in each Club are only limited to this planet. We consider any wine from anywhere in the world that fine wine is produced. Each month, a newsletter is sent along with the monthly selections that offers a description of the wine and information on the winery, the winemaker, the history of the region in which the grapes were grown and food pairing.

2. Savings: We do our best to insure that any wine offered as one of our monthly selections will be less expensive than anywhere else in the country. Often, particularly in our Signature Red collection, we are not allowed to advertise the Club price because it is so low. For those of you who buy by the case, there have been certain wines that would essentially pay for nearly a full year's subscription with the savings offered compared to other retailers.

3. Convenience: This has to be just about the easiest way of buying wine. Each month two bottles of carefully selected wine will show up at your house. All you have to do is open and enjoy!

4. Quality: While our Wine Clubs offer spectacular value, it is the quality of the wines that determine whether they become a Club selection. Unlike many wine clubs, who make large deals based on price, we taste through a huge amount of wine each year and only pick the wines that we can put our reputation behind. We have many staff members taste potential choices so that we may get a variety of opinion. Our staff has very diverse palates and that is a huge benefit in choosing a wine. As always at K&L, quality matters.

Cheers!

—Dave Rosenzweig

SIGNATURE RED COLLECTION

This is a Club for the connoisseur and passionate wine lover. Two bottles of red will arrive each month. Wines in this Club normally sell for between \$30 and \$50 a bottle. Monthly Cost: only \$49.95 + Shipping (+ Tax for CA residents only). All reorders are \$23.95 per bottle. Previous Signature selections (*Wine Spectator*-listed prices): 1999 Oakford Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (\$100), 1999 Casisano Brunello di Montalcino (\$40), 2001 Morlanda “Crianca,” Priorat (\$48).

PREMIUM WINE CLUB

This Club features a tremendous selection of wines from around the world. These wines show complexity and true varietal character. See below for two of our past selections. Usually, but not always, we include a white and a red. Wines in this Club normally sell for between \$18 and \$30 a bottle. Monthly Cost: only \$29.95 + Shipping (+ Tax for CA residents only). All reorders are \$13.99 per bottle. Previous Premium selections (*Wine Spectator*-listed prices): 2001 Blackford Chardonnay, Sonoma (\$30), 2000 Waterford Cabernet Sauvignon, South Africa (\$25), 2000 Cloud 9 “Composition” (\$70).

BEST BUY WINE CLUB

A great way to learn about wines from around the world with a very high quality-to-price ratio. Usually we include a white and a red. Wines in this Club normally sell for between \$10 and \$15 a bottle. Monthly Cost: only \$17.95 + Shipping (+ Tax for CA residents only). All reorders are \$8.49 per bottle. Previous Best Buy selections (*Wine Spectator*-listed prices) 2003 Nugan Chardonnay, Australia (\$12) and 2003 Langwerth Von Simmern, Reisling (\$13).



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TO ORDER, call our toll-free number: (800) 247-5987.

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TO REACH the Redwood City store, call (650) 364-8544.

Check out our award-winning site at www.klwines.com