

## New Wines We Like...Top Quality.



### **CAGGIANO FIANO DI AVELLINO \$21.99 ❖**

Italian wine guru Ian D'Agata claims Fiano may well "be Italy's greatest native white grape." Pino Caggiano and his dad Antonio are making a stellar example of Fiano, a grape that's been embraced by many wineries outside its native Campania.

It's a non-oaked dry white with hints of ripe apple, dried flowers and a touch of a smoky note. Please get out of the Pinot Grigio "rut" and give this a try...it's delicious!

### **ABADIA RETUERTA "SELECCIÓN ESPECIAL"**

**\$29.99 ❖**

Here's a classy Spanish red from the Sardón de Duero (but only a few minutes' drive from Ribera del Duero). This is primarily Tempranillo with a bit of Cabernet and a splash of Syrah.

Matured for about a year in French and American oak barrels, it's elegant & supple on the palate with dark fruit notes and a whiff of wood.

### **VON WINNING SAUVIGNON BLANC \$39.99❖**

If you like those \$100+ bottles of French white Bordeaux, pick up a bottle of this remarkable Sauvignon Blanc from Von Winning. Tasting this wine "blind," nobody identifies it as coming from Germany, for one thing. It's lavishly oaked, so it may not be for everyone, but if you're a fan of Pessac-Léognan whites, this is an exciting discovery.

### **CHAUMEAU SANCERRE \$22.99 ❖**

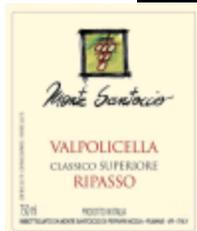
This Sauvignon Blanc comes from a small, family-operated domaine in the Sancerrois village of Bué, a prime location for top Sancerre. The cellar temperature is usually quite cold following the harvest and the wine ferments slowly in tank, taking perhaps as long as 12 weeks. This displays lots of grapefruit notes and you might describe it as a bit flinty, too. It's a delectable seafood white.

### **MONTE SANTOCCIO RIPASSO \$29.99 ❖**

Nicola Ferrari worked for the legendary Valpolicella winemaker, the late Giuseppe Quintarelli. He learned what to do and what not to do and this education served him well, as his "Ripasso" Valpolicella is stellar. It's aged on the Amarone lees for longer-than-normal and this contributes to the remarkably showy character of this brilliant wine. We like young, fruity Valpolicella as a "picnic" red, but this is worthy of grilled or roasted red meats.

### **VIRNA 2013 BAROLO Cannubi Boschis \$69.99 ❖**

Virna Borgogno's 2013 Cannubi Boschis is brilliant and a fraction of the price of her friend's (and neighbor) Luciano Sandrone. Very cellar-worthy. Dark berry, faintly floral. Moderately tannic, as it should be.



### **OJAI VINEYARD 2016 PINOT NOIR \$32.99 ❖**

Adam Tolmach enjoys Old World wines and makes some impressive bottlings in the New World environs of Santa Barbara. His 2016 Pinot Noir is a delight, displaying red cherry fruit with hints of a floral tone. Oak is well in the background. Similarly graceful is Ojai's 2016 Santa Barbara Syrah (\$29.99❖), a shade fuller than the Pinot Noir and sporting some beautiful spice notes reminiscent of our favorite Crozes-Hermitage and St. Joseph wines from France.

### **GIROLAMO RUSSO 2016 ETNA ROSSO \$31.99❖**

Giuseppe Russo's Nerello Mascalese wines are showy and outstanding examples of Sicily's Etna region. His "A'Rina" is magnificent. We had thought it was named to honor Giuseppe's Mom, Rina. But he told us it refers to the sandy soils found on the slopes of Etna. It's a beautiful wine displaying dark berry notes and a high-toned floral aspect. If you want to taste an even more deluxe version, pick up a bottle of his San Lorenzo (\$59.99❖), a benchmark bottling of Etna Rosso. We call it a great "Etna Russo."

### **LA GERLA 2012 BRUNELLO di MONTALCINO \$49.99**

Founded by the late Sergio Rossi in the mid-1970s, the property is less than 12 hectares featuring solely the Sangiovese Grosso grape. The 2012 combines notes of cola and cherry with a suggestion of a woody tone in the background. It's matured in large Slavonian vats, not small barrels. An elderly friend who dislikes Sangiovese thought this was excellent, so we did not tell her what grape Brunello is made of.

### **DOMAINE des PAÏSSELS SAINT-CHINIAN \$22.99❖**

A young couple was gifted a hectare of vines that had been going to a local co-op and the wine garnered great acclaim. They now farm 6 hectares. Carignan & Syrah comprise 70% of this luscious red, with Grenache and Mourvèdre. Thirty to 80 year-old vineyards produce very small yields, accounting for the remarkable intensity and depth. We find berries and earthy spice notes. Perfect with well-seasoned lamb.

### **STROPPIANA 2013 BAROLO "Leonardo" SALE \$29.99**

Located in the Barolo appellation town of La Morra, the Stroppiana family cultivates grapes and another local specialty, hazelnuts. Their "Leonardo" Barolo, named after their son, comes from vineyards in La Morra and nearby Verduno. The excellent 2013 vintage is offered at a most attractive price. It's drinkable now if decanted and given an hour to breathe and can be cellared for another 10+ years. Don't miss it!

### **MASSICAN Napa "ANNIA" WHITE BLEND \$32.99 ❖**

Friuli's "Ribolla Gialla" and "Tocai Friulano" have found a home in Napa and Massican's dry white blend is terrific.