

Draeger's
MARKET

UNCORKED

FALL 2024 / WINE NEWSLETTER

FALL WINE SALE NOVEMBER 6 THROUGH NOVEMBER 12 20% OFF! — 7 DAYS ONLY!

Our fall wine sale begins Wednesday, November 6 and ends Tuesday, November 12. We'll take 20% off most domestic and imported wines when you buy 12 bottles or more, mix or match, standard 750ml size. We stock over 3,000 of the world's finest wines, hand selected by our friendly and knowledgeable staff. Wine stewards are on duty 10-6 every day.

Some already reduced or net-priced wines are not included. Supplies are limited to stock on hand and sold on a first-come, first-served basis. We cannot hold wine for future purchase.

PRICES IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE VALID WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 THROUGH TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31.

Reminder: We offer a 10% discount on any purchase of 12 or more 750ml bottles of regularly priced wine, mix or match, every day of the year.

SPARKLING WINE SPECIALS FOR THE 2024 HOLIDAY SEASON



MIONETTO
NV VALDOBBIADENE
PROSECCO

\$19.99
Regularly \$22.99



MOUTARD
GRAND CUVEE
CHAMPAGNE

\$33.99
Regularly \$39.99



ROEDERER ESTATE
NV ROSÉ

\$33.99
Regularly \$39.99



SCHRAMSBERG
2021 BLANC DE
BLANCS

\$37.99
Regularly \$44.99



TAITTINGER
NV BRUT LA
FRANCAISE

\$59.99
Regularly \$67.99

66



Wine is the
only artwork
you can drink.

LUIS FERNANDO OLIVERRI

99

G4 BLANCO
TEQUILA
\$39.99

Regularly \$49.99



Are you fond of cheeses? Olives? Cured meats? Nuts? Citrus fruits or apples? Sushi or tacos? Jams and jellies, even honeycomb? You'll find stellar varieties of all of these at Draeger's, of course. Better yet, you'll also find a spirit that happens to complement all of these: G4 Blanco Tequila. Everybody knows about Margaritas, but not everybody realizes that great food and superb quality tequila are a match. G4 tequila is made by Felipe Camarena at El Pandillo, his self-designed no-additive, sustainable distillery in Jesus Maria, Jalisco, in Jalisco's eastern highlands. There the Weber Blue agave plants grow on the home ranch for 6 years or more until the piñas (the heart of the plant after the spikey leaves are stripped off) are finally ready for harvest. They are cooked slowly for three days in Felipe-designed custom stone steam ovens before the pulp is mashed, mixed with the ranch's spring and captured rain water, and dosed with a yeast strain begun by Felipe's grandfather in 1937. The distillery is a stainable operation to minimize its impact on the surrounding lands. Its roof is a rainwater collector that feeds into a 200,000-liter underground storage tank. And unlike some other producers there are no glycerins or mellowing agents added during production to camouflage inferior ingredients or distilling shortcuts. G4 Blanco is a clear spirit, not wood aged, offering the purest of tequila flavor. (If you've never made a martini with quality blanco ["silver"] tequila rather than vodka or gin you ought to try it.) You might note suggestions of citrus and other fruits, floral aromas, and a peppery quality. G4 Blanco is bottled in simple clear glass, not wildly artistic bottles. Felipe has a saying: "I'm not in the business of making fancy bottles. I'm in the business of making great tequila."



95 Wine Spectator

BARON DE MONTFAUCON, 2020 "CUVEE BIMARD" CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

\$43.99 Regularly \$49.99

Château de Montfaucon, on the west side of the Rhône River a few miles from Avignon, makes terrific red blends that Draeger's has highlighted several times in past years. In 2019 the owner, Rudi de Pin, scored a lease for a walled vineyard named Clos Bimard across the river in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape district. The resulting wine, Cuvée Bimard, is composed of Grenache, Cinsault, and Mourvèdre. It serves up a mix of plummy, berry-ish and cherry-ish flavors accented with hints of herbs, smoke, mocha, and tobacco with a persistent finish. Steaks, stews, leg of lamb, cheeses—any of these and more would make for a memorable dining experience. 3 Stars- Exceptionnel-Hachette Guide.

93

Wine Spectator **JEB DUNNUCK**

94

DIATOM, 2023 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CHARDONNAY

\$23.99 Regularly \$29.99

Chardonnay grapes are "persuadable," they reflect the way they were treated in a winery. New wood aging, full malolactic (secondary) fermentation, and other techniques create the lush, buttery style that many of us enjoy. But sometimes a meal experience such as cracked crab, steamed clams or mussels, simply grilled fish, or sushi shine when accompanied by lean, crisp, slightly "saline" Chardonnay. Diatom Chardonnay (Greg Brewer, winemaker) is exactly that. The grapes, from mineral-laced Mission Hills vineyard in Los Alamos, are fermented in stainless steel barrels and aged without wood influence. Chardonnay doesn't get more "pure." Enjoy flavors and aromas suggesting exotic flowers, white peach, lemon, or pineapple, all wrapped in crunchy acidity ("wet sand") in a medium-bodied, mouthwatering wine.



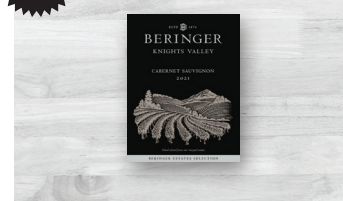
66 A bottle of wine contains more philosophy than all the books in the world.

LOUIS PASTEUR

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90

vinous



BERINGER, 2021 KNIGHTS VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

\$32.99 Regularly \$39.99

Two of the most popular beefsteaks at Draeger's legendary butcher counters are ribeye and strip loin ("New York"). Both cuts have enough natural marbling to be good candidates for pairing with a red wine that has both power and elegance, like Beringer Vineyards Knights Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. It's grown about 17 miles west of the St. Helena winery in the warmest of all the recognized wine zones in Sonoma. Carefully ripened grapes grown in Knights Valley's volcanic soils result in this richly layered aromatic red. You might note hints of red and black berries, plum, cassis, dried herbs, leather, tobacco, cedar, lavender, or vanilla. Tannins (the gritty stuff) and acid are beautifully balanced in a wine that's potent and bold but smooth and silky.

92

WINEENTHUSIAST **jamesuckling?**



TRIMBACH, 2019 RIESLING

\$24.99 Regularly \$29.99

Thinking fish or seafood? Maybe curries or other Asian-inspired dishes, or a classic Alsatian meal like sausage-laced choucroute garnie? Consider Riesling, a grape that makes bright and juicy wines that star with food. Most of them are dry; the fruity aromas and flavors found in Riesling fool lots of people. Good ones are vibrant and high in acid; they often have a steely quality. Trimbach, a winery that has been making excellent wines since 1626, resides in Ribeauville, Alsace, in eastern France. Its dry but fruity Riesling offers apple, pear, citrus and mineral notes in a delicious, juicy, light bodied mouthful.

93

Wine Spectator



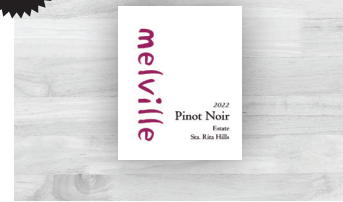
TURLEY, 2022 "JUVENILE" CALIFORNIA ZINFANDEL

\$24.99 Regularly \$29.99

Emergency room physician Larry Turley founded a Napa winery in the mid-1990s that has specialized in, among other wines, Zinfandel and Petite Sirah. They're mostly from vineyards with very old vines, the oldest likely dating from 1885. Many of the 50-odd vineyards that Turley farms have needed some replanting over the years; the replanted vines (6- to 25-years old) are labeled and vinified separately to make his "Juvenile" line of wines. This wine comes from 27 different vineyards in 11 counties, and is aged in a mix of French and American oak, 95% used. The flavor profile is richly fruity, revealing cherry-raspberry aromas accented with spice, finishing with zest. This is a big wine—think pizza, grilled sausages, hearty stews, cheese enchiladas, or rich pastas.

93

WINEENTHUSIAST



MELVILLE, 2022 STA. RITA HILLS PINOT NOIR

\$39.99 Regularly \$43.99

Ron Melville was a Knights Valley (Sonoma) grower who recognized that he could also raise excellent Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Syrah in the cooler climate of the western Santa Ynez Valley near Santa Barbara. In 1996 he and sons Chad and Brent founded Melville Winery in what later became an official AVA known as Sta. Rita Hills. The west to east ocean breezes there support low yield, high quality farming that results in fruit with deeply concentrated flavors. This Pinot Noir is a superbly balanced wine that suggests rose petals, fresh sage, cherries, spice, minerality, and fine tannins. It would be quite happy paired with duck breast, roast chicken, pork tenderloin or a cheese tray!

93

jamesuckling?



97

Decanter

TREFETHEN, 2021 DRAGON'S TOOTH RED BLEND

\$54.99 Regularly \$64.99

Trefethen Winery's Dragon's Tooth is 49% Malbec, known for soft texture and earthy, ripe fruit flavors. It is also 37% Petit Verdot, which contributes intense color, rich flavor and tannin. A little Cabernet Sauvignon completes the mix, and the result is a stellar mouthful revealing hints of blueberry, plum, cherry, cassis, molasses and other flavors. 18 months of oak aging finished the blend, which packs a balance of rich, earthy flavors, good acidity, and a long, polished, toasty finish. Not bad for a winery that has survived phylloxera in the late 1800s, Prohibition, and the 2014 6.0 Napa earthquake that nearly destroyed its historic main building. Try this with grilled onions and peppers with spicy sausage!



GRAHAM'S, 10-YEAR TAWNY PORT

\$34.99 Regularly \$41.99

Grab a Draeger's apple pie at the bakery counter one of these days, for two great reasons: they're superb quality with an all butter crust, and they pair spectacularly with Tawny Port wine. Port wines are made in Portugal and lightly fortified with clear grape brandy at a certain point to stop fermentation; light sweetness remains in the wine. Tawny Ports, so named because of their color, are blends of many barrels with the average age shown on the label. Graham's 10 Year Tawny is a world class wine that needs no further aging. It packs seductive, creamy rich flavors of brown sugar, dried fruits, nuts, figs, and vanilla. The wine is sediment free, so no decanting is necessary, and the twist off stopper means no corkscrew is required. They're best served lightly chilled in a not-too-small glass that leaves room for swirling.

92

jamesuckling?



93

James Suckling

FRANCO PACENTI, 2017 BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

\$69.99 Regularly \$79.99

About an hour south of the Chianti Classico district in Tuscany is the walled mountaintop village of Montalcino. Local clones of Sangiovese ("Brunello") have adapted to that warmer area for hundreds of years and make Brunello di Montalcino one of the most prized red wines in the world. Franco Pacenti's vineyards lie on a northeast side of the hill at about 900'. Its Brunello is medium- to full-bodied, with a backbone of tannin and acidity backing up rich flavor notes such as earth, red plum, cherry, mocha, and spice. Its structure calls for flavorful, saucy dishes like braised lamb shoulder chops or Italian sausages with mushroom risotto. Aged Parmigiano-Reggiano would shine, too!



HONIG, 2023 NAPA/LAKE COUNTY SAUVIGNON BLANC

\$19.99 Regularly \$22.99

Sauvignon Blanc is grown in warm to very cool climates around the world. Honig Vineyard and Winery grows its estate grapes in Rutherford, Napa Valley. That warm climate helps produce notes of honeysuckle and peach. 1% of both Semillon and Muscat are included, adding richness and aromatics. 42% of the grapes are from Lake County, helping the wine to display a bit of lime and ruby grapefruit to go along with the herbaceous hints that Sauvignon Blanc offers. The wine was made and lightly aged in stainless tanks in Honig's sustainable and solar powered facility. Its bottles have no capsule covering the neck, a step the winery took to minimize landfill pollution. Try goat cheese, herbaceous pasta salad, and dishes including artichokes or asparagus.

93

jamesuckling?

CHÂTEAU LABÉGORCE, 2020 MARGAUX

\$38.99 Regularly \$44.99



North of the French city of Bordeaux, on the west side ("left bank") of the Gironde Estuary, lies Château Labégorce, just several miles north of the famed village of Margaux. It makes a Bordeaux blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, and tiny amounts of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Soils in the area tend to be thin and gravelly, leaving the roots to struggle deeply to gain nutrition. That's exactly what makes for more concentrated wine flavors, and this glassful is loaded with notes of cherries, berries, cassis, and licorice. It is a full-bodied and beautifully aromatic wine with a silky, creamy, persistent finish. Grilled lamb loin chops, a selection of cheeses, or red wine beef stews would all be standouts.

66

Where there is no wine there is no love.

EURIPIDES

99



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**MACROSTIE,
SONOMA
COAST 2022
CHARDONNAY**

\$21.99

Regularly \$25.99

**2023
PINOT NOIR
\$29.99**

Regularly \$34.99



93 CHARDONNAY
WINE ENTHUSIAST

Sonoma County has been a prime source of excellent quality meat, poultry, seafood and produce for the hundred or so years of Draeger's existence. The last 50 of those years, give or take, has also seen the rise of Sonoma as a world class wine growing region. One of the wineries that shares a lot of responsibility for that is MacRostie. Steve MacRostie began working in Sonoma wineries in the early 1970s, when there were about 40 small producers. (Today there are hundreds.) In 1987 he and his wife Thale founded their own winery, developing their home (Thale) vineyard on Westside Road as well as Wildcat Vineyard in Sonoma's Petaluma Gap region. They've secured a well-deserved reputation for making Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in a fresh and elegant style. Grapes are sourced from their own and other standout Sonoma vineyards. Winery processes ensure that no heavy-handed oak treatment, or over-the-top secondary (malolactic) fermentation occurs. In 2013 Steve elevated 29-year old Heidi Bridenhagen to winemaker. Steve's mentoring and Heidi's previous experience (at Sonoma-Cutrer and other wineries) led her to seek a leadership role in developing forwarding-looking winery techniques. She and Steve together run 130 or more fermentations of Pinot Noir every year, tracking each small lot to develop a broad palette of taste profiles for use in blending sessions.

The 2022 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay is a blend of fruit from several vineyards. 77% was fermented in French oak barrels, only 15% new. 23% developed in stainless steel tanks. Only partial malolactic (secondary) fermentation was permitted to prohibit overly buttery flavor nuances. You might note aromas and flavors including green apple, pear, lemon zest, apricot, and hazelnut. It's a full, creamy mouthful of elegantly made wine.

The 2023 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir offers aromas and flavors including red plum, ripe red cherries, baking spice and supple tannins balanced by bright acidity. It aged 10 months in French oak, only 16% new.



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Wine cheers the sad, revives the old, inspires the young, and makes weariness forget his toil.

LORD BYRON



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MENLO PARK

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Store Hours: Menlo Park - Los Altos - San Mateo Open 7am - 9pm; Blackhawk 7am - 8pm

DRAEGERS.COM

Special prices in this newsletter are effective October 16 through December 31 or as supplies last. Should a pricing error occur the posted price in the store will prevail. We offer an every-day 10% case discount for the purchase of 12 or more bottles of regularly priced 750ml-size wines, mix or match. All items in this newsletter are net priced, no further discount.