



# The Wine and Cheese Cask

407 Washington Street • Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

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## January 15, 2014 – February 14, 2014 Piedmont and Alto Adige Rosso

As you may know we love Italy's Piedmont region for its delicious variety of red wines. While Alto Adige supplies us with mainly white wines we are ever curious to taste their intriguing reds.

### Monferrato Rosso

2012 Monferrato Rosso (Tenuta La Pergola)

Sale Price \$13.99 – \$142.70 case of twelve



Superb importer Kermit Lynch has bravely crossed the border from Provence into Piedmont to mine some fine Italian wines. This 2012 Monferrato Rosso may be his best value red. We certainly appreciated its wonderful freshness and lovely aromatic spice. According to Lynch's own newsletter the blend is a mix of Barbera from

Monferrato and Barbera from Asti along with some Freisa and Bonarda. These contribute energy, deep fruit, perfume, and tannin.

### Langhe Rosso

2011 Langhe Rosso (Vajra)

Sale Price \$13.99 – \$142.70 case of twelve

While the wine above is a Barbera-based Piedmont blend, Vajra's equally delicious red is based on Dolcetto. Added to the purple fruit of Dolcetto is a mix of Barbera, Nebbiolo, and Pinot Noir. This leads to a bright, crisp balance and a long, fresh finish.



### Beautiful Barbaresco

2009 Barbaresco 'Vicenziana' (Silvio Giamello)

Sale Price \$39.99 – \$407.90 case of twelve



This is another Kermit Lynch selection and it is a beauty. The entire annual production of the Giamello family amounts to 850 cases. Fortunately most of it is from 40- to 50-year-old Nebbiolo vines in Barbaresco. Their farming practices are purely traditional, natural, and chemical-free. After a temperature-controlled fermentation in stainless steel, the wine is transferred into large old Slovenian

oak botti for two to three years. The aromas are a lesson in Nebbiolo from Barbaresco – red fruits, dried rose petals, and a subtle earthiness. The palate is a graceful combination of gentle fruits and ripe tannins. The finish, long and pure, generously returns the aromatics.

### In the Shadow of Monte Bianco

2009 Carema 'Etichetta Bianca' (Ferrando)

Sale Price \$54.99 – \$560.90 case of twelve



While the Carema zone is located in Piedmont its climate more closely resembles that of the Val d'Aosta. In a south-facing amphitheater in the shadow of Monte Bianco the Ferrando family trains their Nebbiolo on granite pillars to maximize sun in the high altitude. The soils are dominated by slate and this gives a deep minerality to the wine. To the eye this wine looks light, but there is a tensile strength of tannin and acidity that gives

it decades of life. For those who adore Barolo and Barbaresco this provides another gorgeous facet to the jewel that is Nebbiolo.

### The Sunny Side of the Alps

2012 Alto Adige Pinot Nero 'Meczan' (J. Hofstätter)

Sale Price \$19.99 – \$203.90 case of twelve

Bordering Austria, Alto Adige is Italy's northernmost growing area and it is certainly better known for Pinot Grigio than it is for Pinot Nero. Hofstätter's Pinot Noir will silence any critic who does not believe that world class Pinot Noir can be made in Italy. The 2012 has wonderful wild berry fruit aroma, graceful tannins, and an elegant, pure Pinot Noir finish.



### Lagrein

2012 Alto Adige Lagrein (Colterenzio)

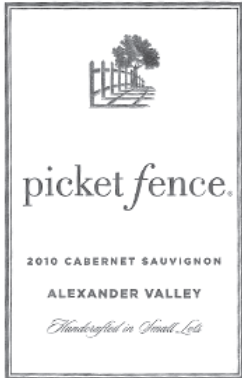
Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve

Another great red surprise from Alto Adige is the mysteriously well-connected Lagrein. Recent DNA parentage analysis reveals that Lagrein is a natural cross involving Teroldego, a sibling of Marzemino, a nephew/niece of the parent of Syrah, a grandchild of Pinot, and a cousin of Syrah. And you thought that your family reunions were complicated.



All that aside, the 2012 Lagrein is a spicy, fruity alpine red with good, gripping flavor.

## Alexander Valley Cab



**2010 Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (Picket Fence)**  
**Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve**

California Cabernet Sauvignon is reliably good and often great. Finding delightful Cabernet that is neither simply good nor ridiculously priced can be a difficult proposal. This month the amiably named Picket Fence made the job easy. Sourced from the Alexander Valley, this is a well-balanced, deeply

fruited Cabernet with judicious oak and fine-grained tannins.

## Côt a.k.a. Malbec

**2012 Vin de Pays de Val de la Loire 'Côt' (La Pépie)**  
**Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve**

La Pépie is Marc Ollivier and Remi Branger's label for their red wines, an interesting side project from their more ambitious Muscadet production. Years ago Marc approached the folks at Touraine's Clos Roche Blanche about some cuttings from their 100-year-old plot of Côt/Malbec. These vines are now producing spicy, interesting wines in Pépie's Nantes Atlantic climate. The 2012 is the finest to date of this cherry, peppery red. This not-too-heavy red will be a fine match for a seared salmon steak.



## Chorey-Les-Beaune

**2011 Chorey-Les-Beaune (Joseph Drouhin)**  
**Sale Price \$23.99 – \$244.70 case of twelve**

If you go to Drouhin's website their description of how they make their Chorey-Les-Beaune reads like they are making one of their Grand Crus.

This may be why we consider this one of the best values in Burgundy. The 2011 is a graceful promenade around the tiny village of Chorey. The delicate aromas of ripe berries lead to a nuanced palate of fine tannins with a deep earthy core. Have this with a roast

chicken and a crisp salad.



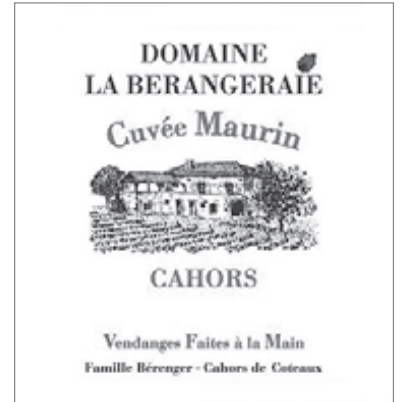
## Cahors a.k.a. Malbec

**2010 Cahors 'Cuvée Maurin' (Domaine la Bérangeraie)**

**Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve**

When we last traveled to Cahors the producer we visited was genuinely pleased by the success of Argentine Malbec, hoping it would shine a light back on the original home of the grape.

Now some Cahors producers put Malbec on the label, but the dark, brooding intensity of these wines gives them a truly Gallic charm. Domaine la Bérangeraie's Cuvée Maurin is a roaring fire of a wine, full in body, rich in weight, and warm in finish. This is a clear suggestion to serve with rich dark stews or a seared duck breast.



## GREK

**2012 Umbria 'Grechetto' (Palazzone)**  
**Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve**

One of our favorite Orvieto producers, Palazzone, has lately opted to produce a pure varietal Grechetto. The 2012 has strength and delicacy with aromas of honeycomb and thyme along with fine light green plum fruit. A subtle and elegant dry white for your favorite simple fish and shellfish dishes.

## Saint Syrah

**2012 Côtes du Rhône (Saint Cosme)**  
**Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve**



It takes a lot of effort to challenge Guigal for supremacy in the Rhone Valley, but Saint Cosme has become comparably adept with both Northern and Southern Rhone wines. Being based in Gigondas they have an abiding love for Gren-

ache, so it is curious that they produce a pure Syrah Côtes du Rhône. The 2012 is packed with bright raspberry fruit accented by Syrah's fabulous smoky and meaty flavor. Try this beauty with lamb chops.

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## Ventoux, Mont

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### 2012 Ventoux (Château Pesquié)

**Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve**

Château Pesquié has risen above its station and into the upper echelon of Southern Rhone producers. Their wines from the southern slope of Mont Ventoux are distinctly Provençal, with generous plum fruit, herbal bouquets, and scents of olives and warm stones. The 2012 will match well with a rich cassoulet.



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## Since 1380

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### 2012 Sancerre (Gérard Boulay)

**Sale Price \$24.99 – \$254.90 case of twelve**

Since 1380 there have been Boulays making wine in and around Sancerre. We wonder what those first couple of vintages tasted like and which importer brought them in? All kidding aside,

this is one of the great historic producers in Chavignol. If they like basketball as much as the Cotats we can only imagine the skirmishes in the paint between Gérard Boulay and Francois Cotat in the local league. This 2012 is still on the young side but with time



it will blossom into a honey and beeswax beauty with minerals spread throughout. Have this with spicy crab cakes and a garlic and lemon aioli.

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## Turn the Boot Around

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### 2011 Salento Primitivo (Terremare)

**Sale Price \$9.99 – \$101.90 case of twelve**

Southern Italy is on the way. Even though our front page is all Northern Italian we have been finding some great Southern reds as well. The 2011 Primitivo from Terramare is a charmer. It has a lively, bright cherry fruit and a spicy, zesty finish. Gotta have something for that homemade red sauce.



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## Demi-Vouvray

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### 2012 Vouvray 'Les Aumones' (Le Capitaine)

**Sale Price \$11.99 – \$122.30 case of twelve**

Even though it's been many years since the Le Capitaine brothers took over production of 'Les Aumones,' we will always fondly remember their predecessors, Madame and Monsieur Villain, for their graceful hospitality and the pleasure of tasting older bottles of their Demi-Sec Vouvray. Fortunately the new producers have continued with the house style and the reasonable prices. The 2012 is a faultless, slightly sweet Chenin Blanc with Vouvray's distinctive chalky flavor. This is a classic with fish chowder.



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## Rioja, Very Rioja

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### 2008 Rioja Reserva (Bodegas Muriel)

**Sale Price \$17.99 – \$183.50 case of twelve**

Rioja deserves the revival it is experiencing. Traditional producers like La Rioja Alta and López de Heredia have upped their game and inspired others. This latest arrival from Bodegas Muriel is a marvelous Reserva that waltzes your palate with gentle wood

aromas, berry and mint flavors, and very good acidity. Have this with a spicy pork dish involving roasted peppers.

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## Wine Cask Discount Policy

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These are our EVERYDAY discounts.

15 % off of a whole case.

This reflects the case price listed for still wines on the first three pages of the newsletter.

10 % off of a mixed case

This refers to all wines in the store except 1.5L sizes.

Wines of the Month (four on last page). Champagne and fortified wines (Port, Sherry and Vermouth) receive a 10% discount.



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## Wines of the Month — January 15, 2014 through February 14, 2014

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### 2012 Rosso Piceno (Saladini Pilastrì)

**Sale Price \$7.99 – \$86.29 case of twelve**

The new vintage of Saladini Pilastrì's Rosso Piceno is a winner with its deep black fruits and its dusty dry finish.

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### 2012 Vin de Pays d'Orange (Secret de Campane)

**Sale Price \$6.99 – \$75.49 case of twelve**

This fruity Southern French delivers again with ripe Mediterranean fruit with a sprinkling of Provençale herbs.

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### 2012 Côtes de Gascogne 'Cuvée Marine' (Haut Marin)

**Sale Price \$7.99 – \$86.29 case of twelve**

Gascon whites are some of the best values coming out of France. The 2012 Haut Marin is clean, crisp and concentrated.

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### 2012 Alentejano (Montaria)

**Sale Price \$5.99 – \$64.69 case of twelve**

The 2012 Montaria is a superb bargain from Portugal's Alentejo. This has a pleasing combination of red fruits and an earthy dry finish.

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