



The Wine and Cheese Cask

407 Washington Street • Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

(617) 623-8656

December 10, 2013 – January 14, 2014
Treats

Barbaresco

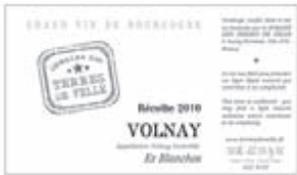
2009 Barbaresco 'Ovello' (Cantina del Pino)
Regular Price \$59.99 – Sale Price \$47.99 NET

There is no official rating system for the vineyards of Barolo and Barbaresco, but there are established sites that have earned an elevated reputation. The Ovello vineyard in the more than capable hands of the folks at Cantina del Pino is one of our favorite Barbaresco vineyards. With some aeration this gorgeously colored ruby red wine proves to be packed with aromatic cherry blossom and an earthy vein of minerals. The palate is saturated with ripe fruit and smoky tannins, leading to an exalted dry finish.



Volnay

2010 Volnay 'Ez Blanches' (Domaine des Terres de Velle)
Regular Price \$49.99 – Sale Price \$39.99 NET



Volnay is one of our favorite red Burgundies for its top-loaded aromatics and its overall grace. Domaine des Terres de Velle is a small new winery committed to minimal intervention in the vineyard and the cellar. Their 2010 Volnay is an impeccably balanced

Pinot Noir with elegant berry fruit and finely-etched tannins.

Bandol

2010 Bandol (Bastide Blanche)
Regular Price \$29.99 – Sale Price \$23.99 NET

The last few vintages from Bastide Blanche have been outstanding and the prices have yet to catch up to the quality. In the summer their Bandol Rosé is a gem. In the winter their red is a spicy yet smooth Mourvèdre-based mouth filler. This is a great match with a leg of lamb or a roasted duck.

Mags of Morgon

2011 Morgon 'Cuvée MMXI' (Marcel Lapiere)
Regular Price \$99.99 per 1.5L – Sale Price \$74.99 per 1.5L NET
Marcel Lapiere did more than anyone to transform the reputation of Beaujolais and in particular his home-based Cru – Morgon. He has been ably succeeded by his son Mathieu, and every vintage of Lapiere Morgon is a treat. In addition to the regular bottling the Lapieres occasionally produce a super Cuvée from the best parcels and vats. The 2011 is dear in price for Morgon, but it is the pinnacle of the appellation.

Umami Oh-Baby

2001 Rioja Reserve 'Viña Tondonia' (Lopez de Heredia)
Regular Price \$44.99 – Sale Price \$35.99 NET

Lopez de Heredia is a time-warp winery in Rioja. Their offerings in red, white, and pink spend long sojourns in old oak barrels before being bottled and then aged even longer. 2001 is a great vintage in Rioja and the Tondonia is an outstanding Reserva. At first whiff there is an amazing fermented soy bouquet, followed by elegant forest-like flavors and a lean and long, mineral finish.



Beereauslese

2006 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Beereauslese (Bollig-Lehnert)

Regular Price \$29.99 per 375 ml – Sale Price \$23.99 per 375 ml NET
Not every vintage yields luscious late harvest Riesling grapes of Beereauslese intensity, but the autumn of 2006 in the Mosel was golden and the grapes' sugars concentrated impressively. Bollig-Lehnert's is a truly decadent late harvest Riesling, with kaleidoscopic fruit and an even measure of zesty acidity. A rare treat.

Best Tawny

20 Year Old Tawny Porto 'Duque de Bragança' (Ferreira)
Regular Price \$59.99 – Sale Price \$49.99 NET



As we have observed before, producers of aged Tawny Port do consumers a great favor. By cask aging some of their finest lots and with the experience of skillful blending, growers like Ferreira offer consistent, wonderfully aged Ports. Their 20 Year is the finest of its kind. They use barrel-aged Ports that are up to forty years old to balance the overall blend. From start to finish this is smoothness personified, with an exquisite balance of wood character and grape sweetness.

Drunk in 5 or Cellared for 20

2010 Pessac-Léognan (Domaine de Chevalier)
Regular Price \$135.00 – Sale Price \$99.99 NET

Some Bordeaux require many years of patient aging to reach their peak. As we are relatively impatient we tend to prefer wines from Saint-Emilion and the Pessac-Léognan that feature softer tannins and have longevity. One of our all-time favorites is Domaine de Chevalier. Their 2010 is a masterpiece.

Apulia

2010 Salice Salentino (Vinicola Resta)

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

The continuing challenge of warm weather wine regions is how to make their wines graceful. Apulia, with its beefy bruisers, was one of the last places we expected to achieve this. The 2010 Salice Salentino from Resta is a revelation. This is not too reliant on its primary fruit flavors. Instead it has earthy and dry flavors without any heaviness.



3 Bordeaux

Medoc

2010 Lustrac-Médoc (Chateau Fonréaud)

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



Red Bordeaux is a lion in winter. Faced with a standing rib roast and a roaring fire these wines do their job. They need not be classed growths cellared in a Scottish castle, purchased at auction, and decanted by your butler.

They can be a traditional Lustrac-

Médoc from Fonréaud with its classic aromas of pencil shavings and iron filings.

Blaye

2009 Blaye Côte de Bordeaux (Château Capron)

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

At nearly five years of age the 2009 Bordeaux are gushingly beautiful wines with gobs of blackberry and currant fruit, soft tannins, and substantive finishes. The 2009 Capron fills the entire frame with its dense purple fruit, fine structure, and intense, long flavors.



Saint Estèphe

2011 Saint-Estèphe (Les Hauts de Pez)

Sale Price \$29.99 – \$305.90 case of twelve



The 2011 Les Hauts de Pez Saint-Estèphe is a sturdy red with mouth-filling richness, plummy fruit, and ripe tannins. While young, its full flavor will fare well with a prune-stuffed pork loin and all the trimmings.

Oregon Pinot

2012 Pinot Noir (Underwood)

Sale Price \$12.99 – \$132.50 case of twelve

Underwood once again achieves a best value in Oregon for its Pinot Noir. The 2012 has deeper, darker fruit than we recall from previous vintages.



My My SB

2012 Hawkes Bay Sauvignon Blanc (Maimai)

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

Popularity easily breeds imitation and New Zealand's Marl-

borough Sauvignon Blanc epitomizes that truism. They are amazingly consistent, grassy, grapefruity whites, but we found the Maimai from Hawkes Bay to be a pleasant variation. Austere at first, it then reveals

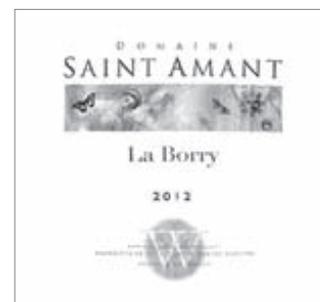
some gentle citrus fruit and keeps a composed, dry character throughout.

Viognier in Rhône Form

2012 Côtes du Rhône Blanc 'La Borry' (Domaine Saint Amant)

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

A white Côtes du Rhône can be a mixture of six or seven different grape varieties. Most producers like to toss in a dollop of the sexy Viognier along with the other grapes, but Domaine Saint Amant tosses in a little Roussanne (5%) to accent the Viognier. This is a peachy, floral delight. A fresh orchard of aroma, good weight, and a dry, not too heavy finish.



Champagne of Choice

Brut Champagne Reserve (Jean Vesselle)

Sale Price \$34.99 – \$377.90 case of twelve



There will never be a product placement for Jean Vesselle in a hit movie and you will never see an advertisement for it in a glossy magazine. At this family-run grower Champagne, the budget is in the bubbles, and we love it.



Fizz Italian Style

Prosecco Brut (Bianca Vigna)
Sale Price \$14.99 – \$161.90 case of twelve

This new Prosecco has two more positive attributes going for it than other Proseccos in its price range. The bubbles are more present and the finish is drier. Have this with the feast of the seven fishes.

2012 Lambrusco Grasparossa 'Becco Rosso' (Fiorini)

Sale Price \$14.99 – \$161.90 case of twelve

Lambrusco's time has come. We are extremely fond of the bracing combination of chilled, bubbly red wine and dry tannins. Have this with salumi, cheeses, and lardo.



Macon

2012 Mâcon-Villages (Verget)

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



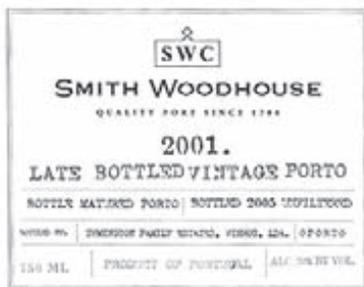
wonderful Mâcon-Villages, a delightful Chardonnay with just enough fruit to give it body and the proper balance to finish deliciously dry.

We hesitate to praise the wines from Verget because the proprietor already has a pretty big head, but here we have to give credit where it is due. This is a

The Smithy

2001 Late Bottled Vintage Porto (Smith-Woodhouse)
Sale Price \$29.99 – \$323.90 case of twelve

Smith-Woodhouse is one of the last to produce 'traditional' Late Bottled Vintage Port. The current release 2001 was bottled in 2005 and kept at the winery until this year. It has deep, dark, plummy fruit and a fine mineral thread throughout. Break out the Stilton and walnuts.



The Price of Prestige



2010 Bourgueil 'Prestige' (Lamé Deslisle Boucard)

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

Forgive us if we gush over the new vintage of Bourgueil 'Prestige' from Lamé Deslisle Boucard, but for a few vintages now it truly is the reigning red wine value. The 2010 has fine tannins, lovely fruit, and exquisite balance. This may not be as forward drinking as the

2009, as it has more structure. Yet another great wine from the gentle folks at Lamé Deslisle Boucard.

Etna

2012 Etna Rosso (Tenuta delle Terre Nere)

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

The volcanic black earth of Sicily's Etna is as much a component in this wine as the old-vine Nerello Mascalese grapes. This is deep in fruit and loaded with minerals; the finish is spicy.

In many ways this winery is out of this world.



Rosso di Montepulciano



2011 Rosso di Montepulciano (Podere Sanguinetto I e II)
Sale Price \$19.99 – \$203.90 case of twelve

Dora Forsoni and her partner Patrizia Castiglioni do virtually all the work at Podere Sanguinetto, so when Dora broke her femur the estate nearly shut down. Dora finally

became well enough to bottle the 2011 Rosso, and the drought of one of our favorite Tuscan wines has ended. The choice to harvest early during the hot 2011 vintage paid off with this full-bodied yet graceful blend of Prugnolo Gentile, Canaiolo Nero, and Mammolo. It's earthy and leathery with fine structure.



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407 Washington Street
Somerville, Massachusetts 02143
email: wine@thewineandcheesecask.com
phone: (617) 623-8656
fax: (617) 628-2075
www.thewineandcheesecask.com

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Wines of the Month — December 10, 2013 through January 14, 2014

2012 Côtes du Rhône (À l'Ombre des Fontaines)

Sale Price \$9.99 – \$107.90 case of twelve

The excellent cooperative winery Vignerons de Caractère continues its run of great value Rhone wines with the 2012 Ombre des Fontaines. The blend of Grenache, Syrah, and Carignan produces a classic, spicy and earthy red with generous fruit and a dry herbal finish.

2012 Falerio dei Colli Ascolani (Saladini Pilastrì)

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

Italian value winery of the year? Plus it's organic! Saladini Pilastrì's white 2012 Falerio is crisp and clean, with peachy aromas and flinty, dry flavors. The blend is Trebbiano, Passerina, and Pecorino. Hailing from Italy's Adriatic coast, it is ideal for seafood.

2011 Douro (Delaforce)

Sale Price \$8.99 – \$97.09 case of twelve

Portugal produces some of our favorite red wines of the month. This deep, flavorful Douro is a powerful mix of Tinta Roriz, Touriga Franca, and Touriga Nacional. Try this with hearty winter stews.

2009 Alicante 'Puerto' (Bodegas Sierra Salinas)

Sale Price \$8.99 – \$97.09 case of twelve

This structured, elegant Alicante blend of Monastrell, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Garnacha Tintorera is a rich dry red with gentle fruit, full body, and an earthy, spicy finish.

