



The Wine and Cheese Cask

407 Washington Street • Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

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June 19, 2025 – July 14, 2025

La Loire and New Zealand

Cab Franc, Melon B, Chenin, Sauv Blanc, and Pinot Noir.

These grapes sing for their summer supper with delicious deep and dry flavors.

Straight from the Cave

2024 Bourgueil Rosé (Lamé-Delisle-Boucard)

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

2014 Bourgueil ‘Prestige’ (Lamé-Delisle-Boucard)

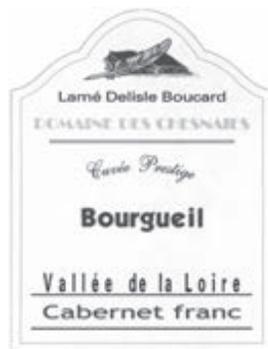
Sale Price \$19.99 – \$203.90 case of twelve



The folks at L-D-B continue to impress with great wines and an admirable quality-to-price ratio. The juicy and fresh 2024 rosé has a cool stony flavor and light strawberry fruit which glides into a dry finish. A lovely apéritif.

Over the years we’ve developed an excellent relationship with this multi-family winery. Enough so that they offer some older vintages at extremely

reasonable prices. The 2014 is one of our favorite vintages of their Prestige cuvée. This beauty has just reappeared and it is superb. This shipment rested in their actual cave until earlier this year, ensuring perfect storage. Upon opening it’s hard to believe this Cabernet Franc is over a decade old, but as it breathes the dark fruit recedes and is replaced by a fine balance of aged dryness along with an earthy finish and gorgeous mellow tannins. We also have half bottles and a few magnums available for those interested.



Chinon’s Chenin

2023 Chinon Blanc (Jean-Maurice Raffault)

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



Most Chinon is red, but a few producers dabble with white. If you’re allowed to plant a great grape like Chenin Blanc, then why not have some fun? Jean-Maurice Raffault makes a racy, minerally Chinon

blanc from flinty soils. This lively dry white is wonderful with goats milk cheese and sautéed greens.



Briords Remains Briords

2023 Muscadet Sèvre et Maine ‘Briords’ (Domaine de la Pépière)

Sale Price \$21.99 – \$224.30 case of twelve

Here’s a quick history. Decades ago, we meet Marc Ollivier, a terrific producer of Muscadet at Domaine de la Pépière. His basic Muscadet is delicious and sells like crazy. Around 1999, he introduces an old-vine, single-vineyard Clos des Briords bottling. It’s even better and it ages beautifully. Then, Muscadet producers successfully lobby to create a Cru Communale system of vineyard/village designated wines. Turns out the Briords vineyard is planted on a slab of granite in the commune of Thébaud. So Marc carves out a Thébaud cuvée but leaves the Briords as it is. Marc retires, but his successors continue to make Briords. Yeah. The 2023 is another in a long line of this fantastic overachiever. New Englanders, rejoice, because this is a great wine for shellfish.

New Zealand

2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Black Cottage)

Sale Price \$15.99 – \$163.10 case of twelve

2022 Pinot Noir (Black Cottage)

Sale Price \$21.99 – \$224.30 case of twelve

The team behind Black Cottage strives for balance in their Sauvignon Blanc.

To achieve this they use grapes from both the Wairau Valley and the Awatere Valley in Marlborough. The Wairau grapes give the big gooseberry, lime, and grapefruit notes, while the Awatere fruit lends a more herbal, grassy flavor. A few months on the lees in stainless steel to round out the texture, and you have a snappy, refreshing wine. Have this with a big plate of sautéed shrimps piled high with garlic and herbs. Dandy.



And here’s a juicy little buddy you can throw in the chilly bin for your next backyard grill n’ chill. The 2022 Pinot Noir from Black Cottage is a low tannin, invigorating quaff. With its crunchy cranberry and cherry fruit, touch of spice, and dry finish, you can guzzle this guy all summer long with some moist BBQ chicken off the grill.

Bandol

2024 Bandol Rosé (Domaine Dupuy de Lôme)
Sale Price \$26.99 – \$275.30 case of twelve

This excellent Bandol estate is named after the maritime engineer Stanislas Charles Henry Dupuy de Lôme (1816-1885). Among his many achievements he designed the first truly operational submarine, the “Gymnote,” which inspired Jules Verne’s description of “Nautilus” in *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*. The wine estate began in 1903 when his daughter purchased the estate and vineyard. In 2006 the family refurbished the vineyard, keeping the old vines and converting to organics. They have been on a winning streak ever since, riding the wave of the rosé revolution. Their 2024 is a superb fresh rosé with Mourvèdre bringing deep fruit and peppery spice and with Grenache and Cinsault offering finesse. Have this with a grilled tuna.



Cantina Convento

2023 St. Magdalener Klassisch (Muri-Gries)
Sale Price \$15.99 – \$163.10 case of twelve



This lovely organic red comes from the Benedictine monastery of Muri-Gries, located outside of Bolzano in northern Italy. St. Magdalener Klassisch is a showcase region for Schiava, where at least 90% must be from the grape (only Lagrein and Pinot Noir are allowed to make up the balance). In this case, the

Muri-Gries is 95% Schiava with a dash of Lagrein. Its brambly raspberry fruit is tempered by hints of bitter herbs and a meaty undercurrent, making it a charming partner for charcuterie. Better yet, chill a bottle for a half hour and serve with portobello mushroom schnitzel and a vinaigrette-based potato salad.

Mokoroa

2024 Getariako Txakolina (Mokoroa)
Sale Price \$14.99 – \$152.90 case of twelve

With our previous selection of Txakolis all north of \$20, we were pleased to recently discover this affordable new one from Mokoroa. This beachy white wine from Spain’s Basque region has been soaring in popularity in recent years, with good reason. From a relatively young family winery, Mokoroa’s 2024 ticks all the Txakoli boxes: it is fresh and zippy, has a light spritz, crisp fruit, peppery nuances, and a very dry salty finish. This makes a refreshing partner for a fried seafood platter.



Other Burgundies

2023 Bourgogne Aligoté (Domaine Marc Morey)

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

Despite the fact that the acreage for Aligoté in France is the same as it was 50 years ago, interest from growers and drinkers has increased. We’ve narrowed it down to two reasons: one, the prices of most other Burgundies have shot up; two, a warmer climate has made the usually acidic Aligoté into a richer, fuller white. Marc Morey of Chassagne-Montrachet has long produced a good Aligoté, but the current winemaker, Sabine Mollard, has harnessed the extra sunshine to make a zesty, full-flavored white. It still has crisp acidity, but there is weight and texture as well. Excellent with crab cakes.

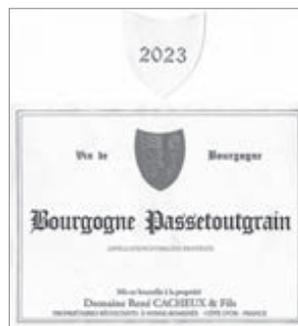


2023 Bourgogne Passetoutgrain (Domaine René Cacheux & Fils)

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

Because the appellation of Bourgogne Passetoutgrain encompasses all of Burgundy and is a blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay (with a tiny percentage of white grapes also allowed), it’s never had the

status of other Burgundy appellations. In a region rightfully obsessed with location and microclimate, the fact that the grapes could come from anywhere often resulted in an enjoyable but somewhat generic red. However, in the hands of a talented producer, a Passetoutgrain can be a serious and delicious value in Burgundy. Case in point is this 2023 from René Cacheux & Fils. Sourced



from 55-year-old vines in their vineyards near Vosne-Romanée, this Passetoutgrain is a 60/40 blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay. Full of juicy cherries, red currants, and crushed leaves, this nicely concentrated red is this month’s clear pick for a roast chicken.

Deux Albion

2023 IGP Vacluse Blanc ‘Les Deux Albion’ (Domaine de Saint Cosme)

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

Though the vast majority of their production is red wine (including venerated Rhône Crus such as Gigondas, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and Côte Rotie, as well as a few wonderful Côtes du Rhône) we’ve long had a soft spot for Saint Cosme’s white wine. So we jumped on a recent steep price reduction—seriously!—to feature the excellent 2023 Les Deux Albion Blanc. Organically grown Viognier, Picpoul, and Marsanne make up the bulk of this blend. The ripeness of the fruit is wonderfully balanced by herbs, bitter almonds, and crisp acidity, giving ample freshness. This will be excellent alongside a variety of dishes, from goat cheese to bouillabaisse to lobster.



Crespaia

2024 Bianchetto del Metauro (Crespaia)

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

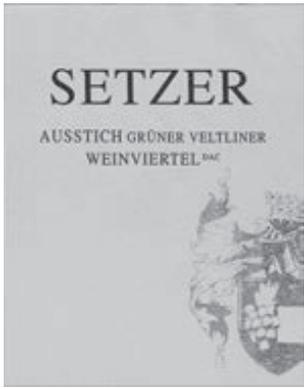
Bianchetto del Metauro is a hyper-local grape variety from the northern Marche region of Adriatic Italy. Crespaia's version is made from hand-picked organic grapes. The 2024 is fresh and floral with a crisp dry finish. This is terrific with a fish soup.



Grüner Leben

2022 Grüner Veltliner 'Ausstich' (Setzer)

Sale Price \$15.99 – \$163.10 case of twelve



Our new go-to Grüner for the summer is Setzer's Ausstich from the Austrian region of Weinviertel. The Setzer family estate has been in continuous operation there since 1705, though the early focus was more on livestock and produce. Over the centuries the family made the wise decision to put increasing focus on the vineyards and wine-making. Weinviertel is known for

producing especially peppery Grüner Veltliner, which makes up half of the grape plantings in the region. Setzer's lively 2022 is layered with fresh apple and pear fruit, an herbaceous streak, and plenty of peppery spice. A lovely choice for sea bass with braised fennel and new potatoes.

Spice Garden

2022 Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling (Karl Erbes)

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

Travel down the Mosel and you'll be struck by the steepness of the rocky slopes which tower over the river, and the seemingly impossible vineyards that cover them. It's clear that tending the vines here is extremely difficult and labor-intensive, which makes the affordability of Karl Erbes' single-vineyard Rieslings all the more impressive. Karl's son Stefan now heads the family estate, which owns 5 hectares of own-rooted Riesling in famed vineyards such as Erdener Treppchen and Ürziger Würzgarten. The latter vineyard name translates to 'spice garden', alluding to the lush and spicy nature of the wines made here. Dripping with a heady mix of ripe fruit, ginger, and spice, this has balanced sweetness and a pleasing finish. Great with Szechuan shrimp.



Specialty Foods

Herbs & Flowers

While we don't always have a theme for our features, this month's selection came together quite *naturally*. Chance recently brought us two new Alpine cheeses made with an added herbal element. Feeling inspired, we gathered two other favorites which feature native flora. In each case, the herbs, greens, or flowers are not added to make up for a lack of flavor in the cheese. Instead they enhance the elements of terroir which are already there thanks to the milk and microbiome. So, dig in and explore what nature has to offer!

Cannalina \$26 per lb

Koch Käse — Appenzell, Switzerland

It may seem like a gimmick, but this Swiss Alpine cheese made with hemp extract (derived from hemp leaves, flowers, and oil) is delicious and singular. The maker describes it as a "tribute to nature...inspired by the green world of plants," and we think it works. The piquancy of the raw cow's milk nicely meets the grassy and herbaceous flavors from the hemp, all carried by the perfect fudgy texture.

Entlebucher Bärlauchkäse \$28 per lb

Käsekellerei Beromünster — Luzern, Switzerland

Bärlauch (translates to 'bear's garlic') is a form of wild garlic in the Allium family which is foraged in the spring in Europe. The medium-firm paste is studded with the chopped green leaves, giving a striking appearance. Made with raw cow's milk, there is just a touch of earthy funk to the cheese, but overall it has a relatively mild milky sweetness which carries the delicate, garlicky flavor, while the finish is lifted with an oniony bite. Though delicious as a snacking cheese, this would be a great candidate for melting and culinary uses such as in an omelette.

Alp Blossom \$28 per lb

Hofkäserei Kraus — Bavaria, Germany

A long-time favorite among both customers and staff, this Alpine cheese is quite eye-catching thanks to its coating of dried flower petals, which are sourced from the alpine meadows where the cows graze in summer. Also made with unpasteurized milk, it is robust and flavorful. The current batch is perfectly balanced between the brothy and umami flavors typical of an alpine cheese and bright, fruity, and floral notes.

Fleur de Maquis \$32 per lb

Ottavi — Corsica, France

Yes, we have already featured Fleur de Maquis this year, but this seemed like a worthy occasion to bring it back. Hailing from the Mediterranean island of Corsica, the name references the dense shrubland that covers the island. This one makes a nice contrast to the others as it is made with sheep's milk. The small wheels are coated with herbs and spices including rosemary, fennel, juniper, and pepper. Thanks to the small size of the wheels, the herbs on the rind really penetrate and influence the flavor of the cheese. There is a mix of bright citrus and savory herbs with a slightly tangy finish.

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Wines of the Month – June 19, 2025 through July 14, 2025

2024 Pinot Grigio (Gorgo)

Sale Price \$10.99 – \$118.69 case of twelve

The amazing organic Gorgo Grigio is back in a new 2024 vintage. Ripe fruit and a dry finish make this a great value all summer long.

2024 Vinho Verde (Quinta da Raza)

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

Vinho Verdes offer a fascinating look into the vineyards of Northern Portugal. Raza's 2024 is a mix of Arinto, Azal Branco, and Trajadura. Great for cod cakes and clams.

2023 Saumur Blanc 'Les Pouches' (Cave de Saumur)

Sale Price \$11.99 – \$129.49 case of twelve

This terrific Loire Valley cooperative has again delivered an incredible value in dry Chenin Blanc. The 2023 Les Pouches is a winner with pear-like fruit and a cool mineral finish. Fine with seared salmon and fresh peas.

2022 Castillon-Côtes de Bordeaux (Château Lartigue)

Sale Price \$10.99 – \$118.69 case of twelve

The 2022 Lartigue is a gold medal-winning Bordeaux. It's super ripe and smooth with gentle tannins and a big finish. Great for grilled fare.

