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Dear Wine Club Members,

April is one of my favorite months. I always look forward to my Easter feast with great wines accompanied by a wonderful meal. It's usually the end of the cold, rainy weather and the start of spring. It is also the beginning of the baseball season and as a lifelong San Francisco Giants fan I always start the year with the same enthusiasm and end with the same bitter disappointment. Consistency in life is usually a good thing except when it is associated with failure! Luckily our wine of the month choices are consistently outstanding; this month's selections keep the streak going.

The Signature Red Club this month has two 2007 single-vineyard pinot noirs from Loring Vineyards. Usually we mix up the offerings, but when we had the opportunity to get two amazing wines from this producer we jumped at the chance. What's even better is they come from two distinctively different areas, the Russian River area and the Santa Lucia Highlands, and each is a unique take on its respective terroir. Both have already received critical acclaim from the *Wine Spectator* with scores of 92 points and 91 points respectively. These two wines are a great prelude to what we can expect from the 2007 pinot noir vintage from California and should provide immense enjoyment.

The two wines in this month's Premium Club are testaments to the areas from which they originate. We have a quintessential California chardonnay from Santa Lucia Highlands and a succulent Australian shiraz. These wines demonstrate the capabilities of the two regions to produce the very best quality in these grapes while keeping the costs down enough that these wines can be considered everyday drinkers.

In this economy, finding great values for the Best Buy Wine Club has taken on even greater importance. When choosing wines for the Best Buy Club I am always taking into consideration a few important qualities; I ask, would I want to drink more than one glass of this, and secondly, would I buy a case of this? As long as the answer to both of these questions is yes and the wine fits our other requirements (price, timing, quantity), it gets in. We have two wonderful wines for you this month: a tasty zinfandel from Napa and a crisp, zippy sauvignon blanc from New Zealand. We consider both of these wines to be valuable additions to Obama's stimulus package and hope they stimulate you this month.

The last two clubs, Italiano and Champagne, truly demonstrate what we do best, which is to uncover fantastic gems from undiscovered producers, or unusual varietals. Our Champagne Club has two wines from Francois Diligent, one of the great artisanal producers whose wines we import. The Italiano Club this month has two great red wines that showcase two of Italy's top wine regions in Tuscany and Sicily. If you're a fan of either Italian wines or Champagne then our two specialty clubs are the perfect match.

Clyde and I take great care to pick the Club wines by tasting through dozens of possibilities each month, in order to come up with the best possible wines every month. I think the club selections get better and better, and hope you think so too. If you have any feedback, negative or positive, please share it so I can be sure to make sure the clubs remain the truly great value we believe them to be. I hope you enjoy this month's selections as much as I enjoyed choosing them.

Cheers,

Alex Pross

Wine Club Director, K&L Wine Merchants

# Signature Red Collection Wine Club

It is often said that pinot noir is where every wine aficionado eventually ends up—the idea being that as your palate matures and you drink more wines, the subtlety and complexity of the pinot noir grape is unmatched except maybe by that of the Nebbiolo grape. Usually when we're offered pinot noirs as possibilities for the club their "QPR" (quality-to-price ratio) is not very good, but when Brian Loring offered me a chance to feature several of his single-vineyard pinot noirs I jumped at the chance.

Brian Loring is a self-confessed pinot noir fanatic, and has set out to find the best possible sources to make vineyard specific, terroir-driven pinot noir. Every pinot noir made by Loring Wine Company showcases the uniqueness of the vineyard from which it originates and also embodies Brian's passion for great pinot noir. Loring Wine Company came about from Brian's fascination with pinot noir and he credits several visionaries of the California pinot noir community including Josh Jensen at Calera, Adam Lee at Suduri and Norman Beko of Cottonwood Canyon. Along the way Brian has established Loring Wine Company alongside the luminaries he credits with helping and motivating him. We are pleased to offer two spectacular single-vineyard pinot noirs from the 2007 vintage, each from a unique and distinguished region known for producing world-class pinot noir.

## 2007 Loring Pinot Noir "Gary's," Santa Lucia Highlands

Our first wine is from Gary's Vineyard, which was planted in the Santa Lucia Highlands by two childhood friends, Gary Francioni and Gary Pisoni (Pisoni Vineyards). They decided after the immense success of Pisoni Vineyard to plant the same clone in a vineyard in this area of Monterey County.

The 2007 Loring Wine Company "Gary's Vineyard" Pinot Noir delivers the moment it hits your glass. Ruby red in the glass with a slight hint of purple, it displays delightful aromas of sandalwood, red cherries, red plum, herbs and vanilla accents. On the palate it has rich red fruit flavors along with velvety tannins, rich oak and perfect acidity, which allows the big and rich wine to remain both balanced and harmonious. This wine delivers the full experience with tones of fruit, balance and the size and weight the California pinot noir fan expects. 91 points from *Wine Spectator*.



*Pinot noir grapes destined for Loring wines.*

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is: Please Inquire.**

## 2007 Loring Pinot Noir "Keefer Ranch," Russian River Valley

Our second wine is the 2007 Loring Wine Company "Keefer Ranch Vineyard" Russian River Valley. Along with the Central Coast region, the Sonoma coast and specifically its Russian River Valley is an ideal location for growing world-class pinot noir. The vineyard actually sits in a small sub-appellation in the southwest part of the Russian River Valley known as Green Valley, which is surrounded by the towns of Sebastopol, Forestville and Occidental. The soil and climate of this micro-region are remarkably consistent and produce some of the area's most sought-after grapes.

The 2007 Loring Wine Company "Keefer Ranch Vineyard" Russian River Valley absolutely sings from the glass with scents of black raspberry, black cherry, milk chocolate and sweet oak. The wine fleshes out quite nicely on the palate with a silky-smooth mouthfeel accompanied by flavors of black plums, blackberries, plums and hints of baker's chocolate. This wine is big and powerful yet manages to never be heavy or disjointed. It's a good example of "an iron fist in a velvet glove" and should age well for the next five to ten years. This is the kind of pinot noir that, 25 years ago, got people excited about what could be achieved by vineyards in California. 92 points from *Wine Spectator*.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is: Please Inquire.**

# Champagne Club

Last October at our tent event, Mr. Moutard, the owner of Champagne Diligent, poured some Champagnes that we did not yet have in stock. Those proved so popular at the tasting and so delicious to the staff that we are (for the first time ever) featuring two wines from one producer in this shipment to the Champagne Club.

The Moutard-Diligent family has been growing grapes in Champagne since 1642. Its many generations garnered a lot of experience in those 350-plus years. They are located in Buxeuil, which is in the southernmost part of Champagne, the Aube. They are very near the historic city of Troyes, which has the reputation of being the most beautiful city in all of Champagne. This region has been growing wine since the Cistercian order began planting vineyards there in the eleventh century. That's well before any record of organized viticulture in the Marne!

These two Champagnes from Diligent have a number of things in common. They are both stainless-steel fermented; they did not go through malolactic fermentation; and they are both completely delicious right now!

## **François Diligent Cuvée Tradition Brut**

The 2004 François Diligent Cuvée Tradition Brut Champagne is all chardonnay, a rarity in the southern part of Champagne, where the pinot noir grape is king. The grapes are grown both in Buxeuil and in Polisy, a village just to the northwest. The vineyard sites are rich in kimméridgien clay. That's the same soil as in Chablis, which is less than 40 miles southeast of here. Not surprisingly, the chardonnay here has a very Chablienne character to it, with more rich warmth than one expects from a Mesnil or Avize Blanc de Blancs. This wine is quite delicious now and would make fine company with some scallops. It is also great by itself as an apéritif.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$33.99.**

## **François Diligent Carte Blanche Brut Rosé**

The François Diligent Carte Blanche Brut Rosé Champagne is a decadent, full-flavored rosé made entirely of pinot noir. The Moutard family makes this the hard way, by maceration, with all of the juice contacting the skins to get the color and flavor. This Champagne will go fantastically well with a starter such as smoked salmon or a rich paté, but it's equally at home as an accompaniment to a light, fruit-based dessert.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$31.99.**



*M. Moutard, owner of Champagne Diligent, and his assistant pour at our tent event last October.*



*Diligent vineyards in Polisy, Champagne.*

# Club Italiano

## 2003 Monastero Chianti Classico Riserva

Lionello Marchesi is unlike almost any wine producer I've ever met. He doesn't come from a family background of wine. He's not a country squire. He didn't even drink wine before he became involved in the wine business. Lionello is a human business dynamo and an industrialist par excellence. In the late 1970s a friend invited him to visit him in Tuscany at a country estate. Lionello refused, saying he was too busy. The friend responded by saying yes, that's why I'm inviting you: You need to stop being so busy and smell the roses! Lionello finally said okay. But when he arrived it wasn't the roses he smelled, it was the sleeping countryside alive with business possibilities. He's someone who knew how to get things done in a country where change is glacial at best. Lionello, who is from Milan, really fell in love with Tuscany. He purchased a winery in Montepulciano, then one in Chianti and then one in Montalcino; he became the first producer to make wines in all three D.O.C.'s.



*Lionello Marchesi.*

Lionello's main business was selling car parts for manufacturing in the former Soviet Union, and it did extraordinarily well. But when the East-West "wall" came down so did the business, and in a scramble to stay alive Lionello sold his three wineries and bought a ... well, he bought a town. Before too long he was back on his feet. Not one to think small, he bought himself wineries in Chianti Classico and in Montalcino, and started another Tuscan winery in the Morellino di Scansano D.O.C. This man keeps himself busy.

The vineyards for the 2003 Castello di Monastero Chianti Classico Riserva come from just south of Radda in Chianti, along the via della Malpensata near the Poggio Petroio. It is made with 85% sangiovese and a 15% blend of merlot and cabernet sauvignon, the proportions depending on the vintage. It is aged for one year in small French oak barrels. The wine is lush on the palate, with lots of ripe plum and toasty vanilla, full flavored and broad. This wine is great for spicy, grilled meat or just with a hunk of Parmigiano Reggiano.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$24.99.**

## 2006 Tenuta Scilio Etna Rosso

Sicily is one of the most fascinating places in the world; hardly any other region on earth has such an extraordinarily rich and culturally diverse background. Its geographic setting has placed it at the center of western civilization for more than 2000 years. This wine was made within site of an active volcano! I'm not going to try and fool you; I will declare right up front that I am in love with Mount Etna. Since my arrival the first night was greeted with an eruption, I've been hooked.

Tenuta Scilio is an amazing 60-acre property located northeast of the volcano in the Valle Galfina near Linguaglossa. The vineyards are 2300 feet above sea level where the diurnal fluctuations between mid-day and nighttime temperatures are dramatic, allowing the grapes to keep their freshness and acidity. The 2006 Tenuta Scilio Etna Rosso is made with 80% nerello mascalese and 20% nerello mantellato, which is also known as



*The Scilio family gathers at Tenuta Scilio.*

nerello cappuccio (they don't try to make it easy).

The organically farmed vineyards have an average age of 40 years. In this mineral-rich volcanic soil, the vines yield about two tons per acre. A long, cold maceration allows the wine to gather character and flavor before going through fermentation. Although Etna is not the kind of volcano that will explode like Mt. Vesuvius or Mt. St. Helens, it does erupt constantly. The eruptions spread ash or actual lava flows over the region. Farming in this zone is a constant challenge but the results are extremely rewarding.

I love this grape blend. On the palate it reminds me of what nebbiolo or burgundian pinot noir feel like on the palate: a sweet, ripe center with a veil of tannin surrounding it and holding its richness inside. The nose of the 2006 Tenuta Scilio Etna Rosso is delicate, wafting, more hinting than bold, waiting for a food accompaniment to merge its aromatics. On the palate it is delicate yet very full flavored, with plums, cherries and hints of wild herbs. The long layers of minerals slowly expose themselves. A persistent, elegant and full finish seems to pull you back for another sip. It's subtle but unforgettable. This wine and grape blend always needs to have the right glass to see the most of what it has, so break out your Burgundy glasses and live an evening with the fruit of Mongibello!

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$12.99.**

## Premium Wine Club

### 2006 Pessagno "Sleepy Hollow" Chardonnay

One of my many philosophies about wine choices is, whenever possible go with a single-vineyard-sourced wine, because they tend to have more clearly delineated flavor profiles. Pessagno winery happens to be run according to this philosophy. Stephen Pessagno, the winery's founder, makes exceptional single-vineyard chardonnays and pinot noirs, sourced throughout Monterey and San Benito counties. He got his start in the wine field in 1974, crushing zinfandel grapes at his grandfather's ranch in the Santa Clara Valley. Before starting to make his own wines under the Pessagno label in 1999, Stephen did stints as winemaker at both Jekel and Lockwood wineries.

The 2006 Pessagno "Sleepy Hollow Vineyard" Chardonnay Santa Lucia Highlands comes from a vineyard that sits atop the Santa Lucia Highlands in Monterey County. These hills are an ideal location, where chardonnay is able to attain ideal ripeness without becoming overripe. This allows the 2006 Pessagno "Sleepy Hollow Vineyard" Chardonnay to be elegant yet display deep, concentrated layers of apricot, pear and pineapple flavors along with subtle hints of oak and clove. The wine has a creamy, butterscotch finish that displays its tropical and rich fruit flavors. This is a sexy, hedonistic wine that should please anyone who has the quintessential California chardonnay palate. 92 points from *Wine Enthusiast*.



*Stephen Pessagno*

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$13.95.**

### 2006 Hesketh "Usual Suspects" Shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia

I was lucky enough to meet Jonathon Hesketh, the maker of this wine, last year when he was in the states to showcase his wines. When we tasted through his lineup I was struck by how deftly he was able to balance purity of fruit in each wine while maintaining elegance and complexity. Usually when I taste Australian wines I find they are extremely fruit-forward and pleasing on the palate yet they lack clarity and balance. This was not the case with the Hesketh offerings. My challenge was to find room in the clubs so we could properly showcase this new up-and-coming producer. After waiting a while and re-tasting his wines several times we settled on what we believed the best wine out of all his offerings: the 2006 Hesketh "Usual Suspects" Shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia.

This wine is a blend of 96% shiraz from McLaren Vale and 4% viognier from Mt. Baker in the Adelaide Hills. Aged in a combination of one-, two- and three-year-old French oak barrels, the wine is fresh, bright and round with vibrant fruit flavors such as blackberry and raspberry along with subtle notes of vanilla oak. The wine has deep aromas of dark berry fruit, anise, plums, dried apricots and floral aromas that linger on the lush, intoxicating finish. This wine is the perfect foil for rack of lamb and should age effortlessly for the next five to eight years.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$13.95.**



*Jonathon and Trisha Hesketh.*

## Best Buy Wine Club

### **2007 The Crossings Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand**

The 2007 Crossings Sauvignon Blanc is the epitome of New Zealand sauvignon blanc. Sourced from the Marlborough region in the northeastern corner of the South Island of New Zealand, this is one of the few sauvignon blancs to come out of the Awatere Valley. The Crossings Winery was founded by Europeans who chose this plot of land for their vineyards after crossing the fast-flowing waters of the Awatere River. In 2001, with the first release of Crossings wines, their dream was realized.

The wine has a pale yellow/green hue in the glass with aromas of passion fruit and tropical notes. On the palate it is vibrant with flavors of melon and stone fruits nicely complimented by mineral accents and racy acidity. This wine would go perfectly with oysters or any kind of shellfish or can be enjoyed as the perfect apéritif after a long day at work. If you like New Zealand sauvignon blanc, then this is the wine for you; and if you're not, this may be the wine that converts you. And the price can't be beat!

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$7.99.**

### **2006 Wall Cellars Zinfandel, Napa Valley**

One of my favorite value wine varietals is zinfandel. When this grape is "on," it is truly outstanding, with bright, zippy red fruit, spicy notes and a high-octane feel (thanks to the high alcohol level). It has been a while since we have had a zinfandel in the Best Buy Club and I really hadn't given it much thought until I tasted the 2006 Wall Cellars Zinfandel Napa Valley. The minute I smelled this wine in the glass I knew I had a possible wine club candidate. It had all the hallmarks I wanted from a zinfandel.

The 2006 Wall Cellars Zinfandel Napa Valley is a deep red hue with subtle notes of cherry kirsch, roasted meats and white pepper. On the palate the wine is juicy and full with flavors of red raspberry, apricot, plum, spice cake and notes of smoke. The wine has great balance and depth with a good mix of tannin, fruit, sugar, alcohol and acidity with everything in its proper balance. This wine is perfect for your next meal of pizza, simple pasta dish with red sauce or grilled red meat. It could probably age well for a few years, but who cares? This wine is meant to be drunk young and enjoyed.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$9.99.**



*Willow Flat vineyard, The Crossings, Awatere Valley.*

# Re-order Form

As a member of a K&L Wine Club, you have the opportunity to order previous offerings from any of our clubs. The following pages contain a “backlist” of each club. Please note the prices for each wine. The phone number to place orders is 800-247-5987. The order desk is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any wine club-related issues, call us at x2766 and we will help you resolve them. We have a voice-mail system, and if we can't take your call immediately we will return it as soon as possible. In addition, you can email us at [theclubs@klwines.com](mailto:theclubs@klwines.com).

**All wine can be purchased by the single bottle. Prices are shown after each wine listed.**

**Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.**

***For a complete, up-to-date inventory listing visit us online at: [www.klwines.com](http://www.klwines.com)***

## Champagne Club Previous Offerings

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of Franck Pascal Cuvee Reserve Extra Brut @ \$36.99 per bottle

This bottling comes from old vineyards and is a blend of 90% meunier, 5% chardonnay and 5% pinot noir. It is 70% from 2004 with the balance coming from 2003 and 2002. The Champagne has an attractive straw color and a very nice, compact bead. On the nose it has an exotic, flowery personality anchored by savory croissant butter. It is exceptionally clean on the palate, with subtle pineapple fruit and just a hint of doughy richness. It finishes quite dry, as it should at only 5.6 grams per liter of dosage. — *Gary Westby, K&L*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of Henriot “Souverain” Brut @ \$30.99 per bottle

This bottling has quite a high proportion of reserve wines. One third of the blend is made of multiple old vintages, and the wine is aged for three years on the lees. It is a blend of 60% pinot noir and 40% chardonnay and is fermented in stainless steel tanks. This is a great bottle to have in the refrigerator for spontaneous get-togethers and surprise good news. It is very well balanced, and not so individualistic as to need a particular food partner or a group of fussy wine geeks to appreciate it. It combines the toastiness that one often finds in big house, non-vintage Champagnes with some nice apple and pear flavors and a little refreshing zing as well.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of Francois Diligent Carte Blanche Brut @ \$33.99 per bottle

The Moutard-Diligent family has a lot of experience growing grapes and making wine in Champagne's Côte de Bar area—they have been doing it since the 1600s! This very tasty Champagne is a blanc de noir made entirely from pinot noir harvested from vines that are ten to 20 years old. It is given three years of ageing on the lees. In the glass it has a pale color with a hint of gold from the pinot noir and a slow, spiraling bead. The wine is very savory on the nose, and reminds me of Côtes de Beaune Burgundy with Champagne brioche integrated perfectly into the aroma. On the palate it is full bodied and has plenty of forthright pinot fruit. It is dosed at an extraordinarily light one gram per liter, and finishes dry, refreshing but not at all harsh.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of Demoiselle, Tête du Cuvée @ \$33.99 per bottle

The Demoiselle Tête du Cuvée Brut Champagne is 80% chardonnay and 20% pinot noir and goes through primary fermentation in 100% stainless steel. It completes malolactic fermentation in stainless steel and is then bottled and aged for three years on the lees. It's quite golden in color with a touch of green from the high chardonnay content, and has a decadent, generous nose that the pinot dominates. Flavors of buttered toast, apples and even a bit of chanterelle mushroom unfold on the complex palate. This is very vinous, potent Champagne with quite a bit of length. The unusual bottle has flowing, curved linear glass at the bottom, inspired by *art nouveau* of the Nancy school.

## Signature Red Club Previous Offerings

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2004 Amici Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley @ \$23.99

The 2004 Amici Cabernet Sauvignon is aged for 24 months in French oak barrels and is a blend of 95% cabernet sauvignon and 5% merlot. This wine benefits from 2004's exceptional growing season. The conditions were just

right and the resulting wine is the perfect combination of gorgeous fruit, fine tannins and balanced acidity. What is truly amazing about this wine is the alcohol level of only 13.7%, low for any California cabernet sauvignon and especially low for one this powerful. The wine has a ruby red color with sexy, intoxicating aromas of cigar box, cocoa powder, graphite and black exotic fruits. On the palate this wine is silky-smooth with a layers of black and red fruits which seamlessly mingle with the rich, luscious oak. On the finish the wine holds strong, never losing its power or vigor thanks to its combination of tannins and acidity. This wine will age effortlessly for the next 15 years and will pair handsomely with almost any red meat dish you can come up with.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2006 Seghesio Family Vineyards Zinfandel “Cortina” Dry Creek Valley @ \$24.99  
The name Seghesio is synonymous with Sonoma County zinfandel, and the Cortina Vineyard in Dry Creek Valley is the perfect expression of terroir-driven zinfandel. Dry Creek Valley’s combination of weather and soil suits it ideally to high-quality zinfandel. The 2006 Seghesio Zinfandel “Cortina” is a big, powerful zinfandel. In the glass the wine is a deep garnet color with aromas of black raspberries, boysenberry, raspberry kirsch, briary/brambly spice and white pepper. The palate is an array of rich fruits including raspberry, blackberry and exotic fruit flavors that marry well with the firm tannins and gripping acidity. This is a zinfandel worthy of a fine meal instead of a lowly pizza and can be consumed now or cellared for five years. This wine begs to be drunk with any meat you have—grilled, smoked, braised or rubbed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2005 Clos Kalinda, St-Emilion Grand Cru @ \$21.99 per bottle  
Our first Bordeaux wine under the Kalinda label. We waited some thirty years, and 2005 was the perfect vintage for us to do a Bordeaux wine with our name on it. We tasted and blended up a wine we thought would be a great drinker now and also a fine cellar candidate. The brilliant color is bordered with brick-red tints; the expressive bouquet offers a succession of cherry, cinnamon and fine toasted oak. On the palate, the flavor is at the same time fruity and woody. Supple in the mouth, fine chewy tannins, flavors of black fruit, and a very good finish. Like most of the 2005 Bordeaux, this wine should be decanted if you are drinking it now. I think this wine will grace the table the next time we have a prime-rib dinner.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2000 Château Verdignan, Haut Medoc @ \$18.99 per bottle  
Jean Miaillhe became owner of Château Verdignan and its neighbor Coufran in 1972. He has transformed it into an important, yet little known Bordeaux Château. We carried their wines in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when they were quite hard and tannic. Since 1999, the Verdignan wines have been more supple and forward. It’s still old-style Bordeaux, but it shows much more fruit. The 2000 is a great bargain. This was a great year, and this wine just tastes very good. It is certainly the best vintage ever produced by this property. It is balanced, with silky tannins complimented by great acidity and red berry fruit. Perfect with a prime rib roast or rack of lamb.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2006 Savigny Les Beaune Aux Fourches, Champy @ \$23.99 per bottle  
Aux Fourches is a single vineyard located just to the right after the fork in the road toward Pernand Vergelesses, as you come from Beaune to the village of Savigny. This shows a very pretty floral nose, bright red fruit, and lots of length. Lovely though it is, this is serious wine, with very good concentration and substantial tannins at the finish. It’s drinkable now, particularly with decanting, but it will age very well in your cellar. —*Keith Wollenberg*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2005 Château Cantelys Rouge, Pessac-Leognan @ \$25.99 per bottle  
The vineyard plantings are 60% cabernet sauvignon, 35% merlot, and 5% cabernet franc, and the average vine age is 16 years. The 2005 vintage will long be remembered for drought conditions. We had great success selling the 2003 Cantelys in the club and now we are proud to offer the even better 2005 vintage. James Suckling of the Wine Spectator scored it 89-91 points and said: “Intense aromas of blackberry and wet earth follow through to a full-bodied palate, with round and soft tannins. Silky. Impressive.” I could not have said it better. —*Clyde Belfa Jr.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2005 Gigondas “Ventabren” Moulin de Gardette @ \$26.99 per bottle  
The Gigondas Moulin de la Gardette “Cuvée Ventabren” is the estate’s top cuvée, and hails from the estate’s oldest vines, some of which are nearly 100 years old. The 2005 Cuvée Ventabren is composed of 70% grenache, 20% syrah and 10% cinsault, with the latter two varietals fermented together. It has a beautiful garnet color and a gorgeous nose of cherry, licorice, wet stones and a hint of bacon. On the palate, it is medium-full bodied and opulent, with great depth, length and persistence. The 2005 Cuvée Ventabren is simply a gorgeous example of what can happen when talent, dedication and great terroir come together. Bravo Jean-Baptiste!

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2005 Chante Cigale Châteauneuf-du-Pape @ \$25.99 per bottle

Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate* scores this 90 points and lists the retail price at \$30 to \$38. "2005 Châteauneuf-du-Pape has a deep ruby/purple color and classic Provençal aromatics of garrigue, ground pepper, kirsch, and loamy soil notes. Medium to full-bodied, richly fruity, it has soft, silky tannins and decent acidity. This is a 2005 Châteauneuf-du-Pape to drink now and over the next 10-12 years."

## Club Italiano Previous Offerings

*Notes by Greg St. Clair, K&L's Italian wine buyer.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2004 Selvapiana Chianti Rufina Riserva "Bucerchiale" @ \$27.99 per bottle

2004 Selvapiana Chianti Rufina Riserva "Bucerchiale" is 100% sangiovese fermented in temperature-controlled stainless steel, then aged in a mixture of barriques and big wooden barrels for 15 months, then blended, and aged in the bottle for another year before release. The wine is stunning. The powerful 2004 vintage gave ripeness, structure and aromatics; the Bucerchiale vineyard's 1300-foot elevation and galestro soil gives the wine length, brightness and an uplifting finish. This wine while drinkable now. It will last up to 20 years easily; it will be best at 10 to 15 years from the vintage.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2006 Tenuta Coppadoro Pescorosso IGT @ \$8.99 per bottle

This wine, the Pescorosso, is a blend of two indigenous grape varieties. It's 85% primitivo (genetically linked to zinfandel) and 15% nero di troia. I like this blend. I have found that 100% primitivo wines from Puglia tend to be a little low in acid and often have over-ripe aromatics. Riccardo Cottarella has fashioned a magnificent combination, taking the soft ripeness, forward and effusive fruitiness of the primitivo and balancing it with the nero di troia, which adds structure, a spiciness to balance the richness, and more freshness with a clean, bright finish. This is a completely stainless steel-aged wine; it sees no wood at all but because of the richness inherent in the grapes it goes well with rustic pasta dishes, beef, barbecue or just a plain ol' burger.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2007 Blason Franconia @ \$7.99 per bottle

I love drinking this wine. It has a supple, ripe and soft richness as it flows across the palate. In the mouth is full and fleshy and the wine lingers languidly while its terroir-driven flavors emerge. The nose is complex; ripe plummy fruit is combined with black pepper and hints of sage and gravel. It's like a cross of a Côte du Rhône and a Bordeaux. Franconia is very food friendly and although Friulian cuisine (like Friuli in general) is not well known in America anyone returning from the area can attest to the superb quality, variety and preparation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2003 Ca del Bosco Pinero @ Inquire

Ca del Bosco is one of Italy's most famous wineries, *Gambero Rosso*, Italy's leading wine reviewer, named it the Winery of the Year for 2003 and has awarded more than thirty of its top 3-Glass awards to the winery over the years. 2003 Ca del Bosco Pinero is uniquely Italian, a ripe and robust pinot with lots of up front fruit. Blackberry, currant, and cherry, raspberry all seem to be there. The wine is aged in small oak barrels (60% new) and that adds toasty vanilla and cocoa aromatics to the smooth, round and fleshy palate feel. This wine is elegant yet robust and drinkable now. This wine sells for \$80 or more on the open market but we were able to work a tremendous deal and can offer you the wine for \$28.99. Sssssssshhhhhh we can't show the Club price on this wine because the winery doesn't want the general public to know you're getting an unbelievable deal! Take advantage.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2006 Ferrero Rosso di Montalcino @ \$16.99 per bottle

The 2006 vintage is a blockbuster, intense, fully ripened, and potent and will produce Brunello of considerable character when released in 2011. The Rosso from this vintage are really good, stunning power and depth. In 2006 Claudia and Pablo made a wine with deep color, ripe plummy fruit that just flows out of the glass with layers of lush black cherry. The lush palate feel commands attention and still is classic, but the sangiovese acidic bite has been replaced with supple, satiny-like chords that give the wine length without coarseness. This wine is wonderfully full bodied yet really drinkable now. Try it with grilled meats drizzled with extra virgin olive oil, or a classic pinci pasta with meat ragu.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2005 Bricco Del Cuci "Bricco San Bernardo" @ \$17.99 per bottle

This winery is about as big as your garage, ok maybe slightly bigger, and was built around the time Columbus was dodging hurricanes in the Caribbean. *Bricco* is a Piemontese word for the top of the ridge—and from this ridge the view of the Alps is unbelievable. The San Bernardo vineyard produces powerful, dark fruit, classic dolcetto, rich and

broad on the palate. The yield is a very low (for dolcetto) three tons per acre. The wine is powerful, dark and full of exotic fruits with great balance and wonderful length. This is a wine for aged cheese, game or lamb.

\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2005 Gianni Brunelli Rosso di Montalcino @ **SUPER SPECIAL PRICE \$19.99** per bottle  
The 2005 Gianni Brunelli Rosso di Montalcino is a throwback to the days when wines were under 14% alcohol. Is that still possible? Yes, this is 13.5% alcohol. This wine is classically styled. It has the classic dark Marasca cherry aromatics and flavors that are so representative of this side of Montalcino while being true to its long, lean and elegant origins. No new oak here; this wine is aged for eight months in 30HL Slavonian oak barrels and has been in the bottle now for two years. It needs some decanting or aeration and should be served with rich dishes like lasagna with a béchamel sauce or spicy beef stews. It is also good with high-fat-content cheeses. Enjoy!

\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2005 San Vincenti Chianti Classico @ **SPECIAL PRICE \$18.99** per bottle  
Very rich, with great mid-palate feel. The nose is molten galestro, sweet earth, tobacco, new saddle leather, sage, and rosemary, spicy, vibrant and full of mineral. On the palate the wine really comes together. The density is balanced by length and touches of sweet plum and bright cherry fruit, alternating with the earthy nose to create a sensational wine. I'd drink it with grilled, rosemary-marinated pork chops or a big thick T-Bone steak.

## Premium Wine Club Previous Offerings

\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2005 Clarendelle Rouge Grand Vin de Bordeaux@ \$13.95 per bottle  
The 2005 Clarendelle Rouge is an exceptional value. This wine embodies everything that is great about Bordeaux and the famed 2005 Bordeaux vintage. A blend of 82% merlot, 13% cabernet sauvignon and 5% cabernet franc, it displays the intensity, power and complexity associated with the 2005s. The wine is a deep purple hue with stunning aromas of red fruits, crushed geraniums, volcanic rock and graphite notes which give way to a palate consisting of sexy, exotic dark fruits, toasted nuts, fresh cream and oak accents. The wine has a silky texture and great mouthfeel, that bely the rather low price point. If you are looking to drink good Bordeaux every day on a small budget then this is the wine for you. This wine will age for approximately the next 25 years but can be consumed and enjoyed in its youth. It will pair well with grilled meats and heavier fare.

\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2005 Château Bois Chantant, Bordeaux@ \$13.95 per bottle  
This is a very delicious, international-styled Bordeaux wine made by Michel Rolland and his team. The property owner is none other than Bernard Magrez, who owns many prestigious Bordeaux châteaux including Pape Clément in Pessac. This property has forty hectares (about 80 acres) that contain about 75% merlot, 15% cabernet sauvignon and 10% cabernet franc. As you know by now the 2005 Bordeaux vintage is the best since 1961 (in my opinion). This wine has the structure of a classified growth and the sexy palate impression of a new-world wine. Toasty oak and tobacco aromas with tons of very ripe fruit and rounded tannins make this wine taste quite good right now. It will age well for five or six years easily. This wine was blind tasted at my Big Bordeaux tasting in New York last December—and we gave it a top 100 score. Please decant it one hour before serving.

\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2005 Château de l'Estang, "Clos Kalinda Cuvee" Côtes de Castillon @ \$13.95 per bottle  
This property is a 26-hectare (53-acre) piece planted on rolling hills in Saint Genes de Castillon at a density of 5000 vines per hectare (lots of vines in small area). The planting is 70% merlot and 30% cabernet franc with the average vine age being 35 years. We love the vibrant style of this wine. Deep color and blackberry aromas with a touch of cassis. The tannins are round and the wine has great acidity so it will age well in your cellar. We recommend decanting this wine one hour before serving it. Perfect with a winter stew or even a prime rib roast. Very informative back label here. Enjoy! — *Clyde Beffa Jr.*

\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2005 Château Maurac, Haut Medoc Cru Bourgeois@ \$12.95 per bottle  
This château-bottled wine is a K&L Direct Import and an excellent value, too! Fabulous year; if you liked their 2003, you'll love this 2005. The wine has blackberry aromas that follow to the palate. It shows some power and richness from its northern Médoc location. It has a fine sweetness on the palate and a lingering finish. It will cellar well. If you drink it now, decant it one hour in advance and serve it with a rare New York Steak.

\_\_\_\_ Bottles of 2007 Jean Merieau Gamay de Touraine "Bois Jacou" @ \$13.95 per bottle  
Ruby red in the glass, this starts out with aromas of white pepper, rhubarb and minced-meat pie that seamlessly

flow to a palate that displays elegance and balance. The wine's lithe structure is bolstered by great acidity, which showcases the subtle flavors of sour cherry, minerals, wild herbs and exotic spice. On the finish the wine comes all together and lingers on the palate before fading away with pepper notes. This wine will pair well with roasted chicken, plank-roasted salmon and foods that call for a red wine with good acidity without harsh tannins.

\_\_\_ Bottles of Kalinda Sekt Riesling @ \$12.95 per bottle

Sekt is the German name for sparkling wine, which the Germans are passionate about and drink on a regular basis. Produced of 100% riesling, this sparkling wine is fresh and vibrant with fine bubbles and a creamy mouth feel underscored by the beautiful stone fruits and snappy acidity that we love in riesling. At 11.5% alcohol this is a lighter style of bubbly that won't overwhelm the palate before a meal or become too taxing when many wines are served.

\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2005 Domenico California Montepulciano @ **SUPER SPECIAL PRICE \$11.95** per bottle

The 2005 Domenico Montepulciano is sourced from vineyards in California's Central Valley and is a blend of 88% montepulciano, 10% petite sirah and 2% merlot. The wine spent 18 months in French and American oak. The result is a medium-bodied on the palate with oaky flavors and aromas of cherry, anise, plum and blackberry. The wine has soft, lush fruit that has a velvety texture with just enough oak to accentuate and frame the abundant fruit flavors. This wine can pair wonderfully with veal or lamb and of course your favorite pasta dish.

\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2006 Kirkham Peak Napa Merlot @ **SPECIAL PRICE \$12.95 per bottle**

From one of Napa Valley's most respected family-owned wineries. Grapes come from the Yountville and Stags Leap area of the Napa Valley. This is something of a Bordeaux blend, as there are small amounts of cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc in the wine. It was aged for almost two years in new French oak. This wine has firm acidity and structure as well as an elegant bouquet of red berry fruit with a hint of menthol, cherries and spice. It is a thoroughly satisfying wine that will make a perfect addition to your rack of lamb dinner. It is young; decanting one hour in advance will soften it. This wine will age well for several years in your cellar.

## Best Buy Wine Club Previous Offerings

\_\_\_ Bottles of 2006 Simi Sonoma Valley Sauvignon Blanc @ \$8.49 per bottle

The 2007 Simi Sauvignon Blanc Sonoma Valley was made by Steve Reeder, who took over head winemaking duties at Simi in 2003. Reeder made his reputation at another Sonoma winery, Chateau St Jean, where he was responsible for fashioning the *Wine Spectator's* Wine of the Year in 1999. The 2007 Simi Sauvignon Blanc is a light golden color with aromas of acacia flowers, lanolin, citrus fruits, zesty herbs and fig notes. A blend of 95% sauvignon blanc and 5% semillon aged 100% in stainless steel, this wine exhibits flavors of lemon/lime, grapefruits, green apples and minerals, all nicely buffered by good, crisp acidity. The wine has a wonderful palate presence with a good, viscous mouthfeel and a long, silky texture on the tongue. This wine is the perfect springtime apéritif. It will pair well with fresh seafood, winter salads or as a starter wine for your next sit-down meal.

\_\_\_ Bottles of 2006 Chateau Souverain Chardonnay Alexander Valley @ \$9.49 per bottle

The 2006 Chateau Souverain Chardonnay Alexander Valley is everything you could want from a California chardonnay. The wine starts out with a tantalizing nose of white flowers, tropical fruits and sweet, rich oak. On the palate the wine has surprisingly good balance with bright zippy fruit, good mouthfeel, sweet, rich oak and enough acidity to keep the wine lively and not appear heavy at all. If you're on the constant search for a case-worthy chardonnay then your odyssey is over, because the 2006 Chateau Souverain is the "holy grail" of chardonnay values.

\_\_\_ Bottles of 2006 Bourgogne Pinot Noir, Emile Chandesais @ \$9.49 per bottle

Subtle garnet color. Delicate floral and spicy nose. Alluring, round palate with flavors of cherries, berries and spice. The assemblage from different terroirs results in a very pleasant feeling of structure and balance. Straight and clean finish, with a good length. Perfect with white meats in sauce (veal, rabbit, etc.), pasta and lightly grilled foods, this modern-style wine offers a good introduction to Burgundy pinot noir. Drink now and through the next four years. — *Clyde Belfà Jr.*

\_\_\_ Bottles of 2003 Chateau Ste Michelle "Indian Wells" Merlot Columbia Valley Washington @ \$9.49 per bottle

The 2003 Chateau Ste Michelle "Indian Wells" Merlot Columbia Valley Washington has an intoxicating nose of cocoa powder, kirsch, red cherry syrup and cigar box which on the palate turns into a smooth, supple red wine

featuring flavors of crushed red and black fruits, graphite, volcanic rock, bittersweet chocolate and herb flavors. The finish is lively with good structure and a harmoniously long finish that not only accentuates the wine's fruit but also its touch of oak, helping to frame the ample fruit and body of the wine. *Wine Spectator* obviously agreed, giving it 89 points and designating it a "Smart Buy."

\_\_\_ Bottles of 2006 Kalinda Niersteiner Riesling (GA Schneider) @ \$9.49 per bottle  
Produced by our friends at Weingut Georg Albrecht Schneider, this comes from Nierstein in the Rheinhessen, famous for its red slate soils that render silky, refined rieslings of great aromatic richness and above all, value. You will love this riesling's nose of apricot and peach and its vibrant and refreshing personality, infused with the warmth and mineral-tinged smokiness of red slate. With an ever-so-slight hint of fruity sweetness, this makes a wonderful companion to yellow curries or spicy Asian dishes. Drink now and over the next 5 to 8 years.

\_\_\_ Bottles of 2006 Penfolds Chardonnay Thomas Hyland South Australia @ \$8.49 per bottle  
Penfolds has delivered to us a wonderful value in chardonnay. The Thomas Hyland chardonnay has a wonderful core of bright fruit with aromas of lanolin, white flowers and crushed stones which creates a harmonious and well-balanced wine. This bottling is made from grapes sourced from the Adelaide region and this wine has much in common with its more heralded and expensive sibling, the Yattarna chardonnay made by Penfolds. The quality attained by this bottling is achieved by the unique climate of Adelaide.

## ***Additional Club Specials***

### **2005 Chateau de la Gardine Châteauneuf du Pape**

#### **Special Club Price Inquire (Regular K&L price \$29.99)**

This is showing magnificently right now, like many of the magnificent 2005 Châteauneuf du Papes. The wine has a seductive nose of black plums, spice, minced meat and creosote aromas that give way to a palate that displays a kaleidoscope of flavors such as dark chocolate, espresso, cherry liqueur and black fruits, all framed by sweet, opulent oak. The finish, while bold, is buffered nicely by the racy acidity and copious tannins, which hint at a wine easily capable of aging gracefully for the next five to 15 years. –*Alex Pross*

### **2005 Chante Cigale Châteauneuf du Pape "Vieilles Vignes"**

#### **Special Club price \$34.99 (Regular K&L price \$39.99)**

93 points Robert Parker. "Deeper, fuller, broader, and fuller-bodied than the regular bottling with greater concentration, depth, length, and I assume, much better aging potential as well, the 2005 Châteauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes is a beauty. This is a bold wine of considerable exuberance, with impressive levels of kirsch-like fruit intermixed with some blacker fruits, ground pepper, incense, and roasted herbs. It is very full-bodied, has admirable glycerin and depth, noticeable but sweet tannin, and a 40+-second finish. This is a super Châteauneuf du Pape that should hit its peak in 2-4 years and last for 15 or more years." (*Wine Advocate* #173, Oct 2007)

### **2006 Seigneurs d'Aiguilhe, Côtes de Castillon**

#### **Special Club price \$14.99 (Regular K&L Price \$16.99)**

This is the second wine of Stefan Von Neipperg's Château d'Aiguilhe. It is fresh, pure merlot with some spice—a perfect everyday Bordeaux. K&L's Steve Greer says: "Sweet fruit aromas dominate this wine's nose as well as its palate with a nice background of spice. The beauty here comes from the polished tannins and lower-than-usual acidity, which combine to give this wine its elegant mouthfeel. A lovely wine with a slightly spicy finish."