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February 1, 2005

Important Note: The shipping companies have recently raised their rates, and UPS has added a fuel surcharge to ground shipments. Although the increases were effective in early January, we will not increase our shipping charges until March. Members who have their packages shipped via UPS will see an increase of approximately fifty to seventy-five cents per two-pack. Those who use either DHL or Fed-ex will see a slightly higher increase.

Dear Wine Club Member,

Welcome to February, where we celebrate Valentines Day, Black History month, and also Bird Feeding month, Cat Health month, Potato Lovers month, and a host of other odd celebrations. It is amazing what strange and often useless information is available over the Internet!

I receive many questions about various aspects of our monthly club selections, so I thought I would explain a bit about how we choose our monthly selections for each wine club.

First and foremost, our choices always come down to the quality of the wine. No wine is chosen that has not been tasted by myself, the owner - Clyde Beffa, and a few other staff members. We either search out specific wines or are presented with choices from various wineries or wholesalers. There is a specific price that they must be willing to sell to us. The price factors in both the price we ultimately pay and also the price that the wine is generally available to other retailers. We do our best to insure that nobody in the entire country will offer the same wine for a lower price than we offer through our wine clubs. Once they determine that they can meet the price, samples are then submitted, usually two bottles of each to test for bottle variation. At that point, we look for a number of factors. For the Best Buy and Premium clubs, we are looking for wines that are approachable now. We want these wines to be good as soon as you open the bottle. Some may certainly benefit from aeration, but we are not looking for very tannic wines or very lean wines. We want the fruit to be immediately apparent, with a relatively soft mouth-feel, and also possess some degree of complexity and structure. Stylistically, we look for similar attributes in the wines chosen for the Signature Red Collection, but these wines may also possess a higher level of tannin and may require a longer decanting time. Many of these selections will also have the capability of aging for many years. Even in this club, however, we do not want to send wines that are "closed", meaning they reveal very little flavor. Wines that are closed may eventually be wonderful, but we want the merits of a wine to be apparent right away.

Another aspect involves choosing between domestic and imported wines. We want to offer a varied selection in each of our clubs, but the weakness of the dollar vs. the Euro is causing difficulty in finding more imports. We are planning on making more deals when the wine is still overseas so we might combine multiple wines on a shipment in order to lower the cost. The Signature Red Club, particularly, sees a lot of California Cabernet. The primary reason is that these wines are outstanding and the values are absurdly low. It is hard to pass up these wines when they are offered. We will continue to search for more imports, however, in hopes of keeping our clubs as varied as possible.

Make sure we have your email address so that you may be able to log onto our website to place orders and manage the status of your account.

Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions. 800 247-5987 ext. 2740 or daver@klwines.com.

Cheers,

Dave Rosenzweig
Wine Club Director

Signature Red Wine Club

The Signature Red Wine Club offerings for the month of February 2005 include a brilliant red blend from Australia and a sublime Pinot Noir from Santa Barbara.

2002 Burge Family “The Renoux”, Barossa Valley

Here is a wonderful wine from one of the top wineries in Australia celebrating their 75th vintage. One of Australia’s greatest winemakers, Rick Burge is self-effacing, ironic and interested in many other things beyond winemaking like flying, Formula One auto racing and his own record label where he produces blues music. All of the fruit is estate grown, and some of the vineyards in Rick’s family are over 80 years old. The wines are made in limited quantities and are comprised of either a single variety or a combination of blends such as Grenache, Mourvedre, and Shiraz.

Robert Parker, publisher of *The Wine Advocate*, named Rick as one of his Wine Personalities of the Year, and had this to say:

“One of my favorite Barossa Valley winemakers, Rick Burge is increasingly moving toward creative blends that showcase the quality of his impeccable winemaking. His wines combine the best of Barossa Valley old vine fruit intensity with a rarely encountered degree of elegance and finesse. This winemaker fashions some of the great Down Under versions of Châteauneuf du Pape, Gigondas, and Côte Rôtie.”

South Australia’s Barossa Valley is the heart of the Australian wine industry. Settled in 1842 by Silesian and Prussian refugees on the invitation of local English landowner and entrepreneur George Fife Angas, Barossa townships today retain an audible trace of their heritage with a form of German called "Barossa Deutsch" still spoken in some circles. The 1,970 square kilometer Barossa was mapped out in 1838 by the colony's Surveyor-General Colonel William Light. Originally named after the Spanish town of Barrosa, where the English were victorious over the French in the Spanish Civil War, it was later misspelled by its Lutheran settlers and came to be known as Barossa.

This wine was created by Rick in honor of one of his culinary heroes, Michael Renoux, the chef at The Galloping Goat restaurant. A blend of 54% Shiraz, 24% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine is made to match with food. It is aged in a combination of French and American oak and features black currants, licorice and vanilla notes mixed with an attractive earthiness. Drink now with an hour’s aeration or hold for 5 –7 years. Great choice with Rib-eye steak.

2002 Babcock “Grand Cuvee” Pinot Noir, Santa Barbara

This wonderful Pinot Noir has been a big seller in our retail stores for a number of years. I was thrilled when they made an offer for our wine club.

Babcock winery began in 1978, when Walt and Mona Babcock were seeking a retreat from Walt's dental practice and the rigors of being restaurateurs (Walt's Wharf in Seal Beach and Oysters in Corona del Mar). Their search led them to purchase 110 acres of land on the western edge of the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County. At that time the area was considered a fledgling wine region. This inspired and prompted the Babcock's to plant a 25-acre vineyard in 1980. By the end of 1983, various notable winemakers had purchased Babcock fruit and made compelling wines. It was quickly becoming apparent that the soil and cool climate of the Babcock estate was ideal for producing ultra-premium wine grapes. In 1984, the Babcock's decided to produce their own wine. Fortunately, their son, Brian, was just completing his studies at UC Davis, working toward his master's degree in food science, with an emphasis in enology. Fortunately, his studies primed him for the first Babcock harvest, as he was awarded a double gold medal for Babcock's 1984 Estate Sauvignon Blanc. This was the first of the many honors and awards that Babcock Winery would receive. Today, Brian is one of the stars of California

winemaking. Bryan selected by the Los Angeles Times as one of the "Ten Best Winemakers of the Year", and also selected as "Most Courageous Winemaker of the Year" for his daring style. The prestigious James Beard Foundation chose Bryan as one of the "Top Ten Small Production Winemakers in the World," the only American chosen for this oenological dream team. In choosing Bryan for this award, David Moore wrote, "Bryan Babcock best exemplifies the traits I look for in a great winemaker. The quality of Bryan's wines speak for themselves, yet it is his personal commitment to excellence that stands out so much. His relentless experimentation, his willingness to explore the possibilities with so many grape varieties, and his aesthetic are a world apart from the usual American approach to winemaking."

Here are Bryan's notes on this wine:

"It used to be that there were only a few Pinot Noir vineyards in our area, let alone a few great ones. It's amazing what the discovery of great terroir and 15 years will do. Now we have 30 or so vineyards in our new appellation (currently called Santa Rita Hills) and most of them are either great vineyards, or they are hinting at it. While the border for our reserve Grand Cuvee Pinot Noir used to be my fence line, now, as a reflection of what's happening, it's the border of the Santa Rita Hills. This year's vintage is predominantly Babcock estate grown fruit backed by our neighbor Cargasacchi Vineyard.

In 2002 the Pinot Noir grapes from both vineyards were remarkably uniform in acid, sugar, flavor and ripeness. 2002's beautiful growing season enabled us to harvest exactly when we wanted leading to ripe fruit with great color. Our estate grown fruit took the lead providing firm structure, earthy, spicy notes and great aromatics. The Cargasacchi contributed deep berry fruit, intense color and minerality. Together, they created a beautifully balanced wine that is fully extracted with layers of intriguing flavors. Aromas of juniper berries, violets, and earth are brought together in the developing nose. They are joined by rich flavors of dark cherries, bathed in sweet oak."

Drink now or hold for 3 –5 years. Excellent with Roast chicken or Ham. This wine was recently awarded 92 points from Wine Enthusiast magazine.

Signature Red Club, February 2005 wine re-orders

For the month of February 2005, these selections are available to Signature Red Club members only. Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Burge Family "The Renoux", Barossa Valley @ \$23.95 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Babcock "Grand Cuvee" Pinot Noir, Santa Barbara @ \$23.95 per bottle

Premium Wine Club

For the Premium Wine Club, we offer two red wines this month – A multi award winning Cabernet from the 1999 vintage and the 2001 vintage of Chateau Bois Martin – whose previous vintage was a favorite from last years club selections.

2001 Chateau Bois Martin, Pessac-Léognan

This is the follow-up to the 2000 vintage of this wine that was sent in January of 2004.

Château Bois Martin is in a superb location in the village of Leognan, situated between the classified growths Château Fieuzal and Château Malartic-Lagravière. The vineyards are planted with 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot, in the gravel for which the region is famous.

The estate has belonged to the Perrin family since 1998. The Perrin family, making wine since 1909, are best known for the wines they produce in the various regions of the southern Rhône valley: Châteauneuf-du-Pape (Château de Beaucastel, Perrin Les Sinards), Vinsobres (Perrin les

Cornuds, Perrin les Hauts de Julien), Gigondas (Perrin la Gille), Vacqueyras (Perrin les Christins), Rasteau (Perrin l'Andéol), Côtes du Rhône (Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Perrin Réserve). Chateau de Beaucastel is considered one of, if not the best wine from Chateauneuf du Pape. Other properties owned by the Perrin family include Châteaux Carbonnieux, Haut Vigneau and Le Sartre in the Pessac-Leognan region of Bordeaux.

The 2001 Bordeaux vintage is hampered by having to follow the spectacular 2000 vintage, one of the best in the last century. The primary difference between the two is the grapes did not achieve the ripeness in 2001 that they achieved in 2000. As a general rule, the 2001 wines are not quite as opulent, though they have excellent balance. It is important to remember, however, that this is just the general overview. As in all years, good winemakers are able to produce good wines with what nature gives them in a given year.

This vintage of Bois Martin is typical of many other wines from the vintage. Still very young, the wine shows excellent structure with good acidity and tannins balanced with lovely fruit. Black cherries and dark berries are the predominant flavors and there is also a touch of spice and almonds. This wine will benefit from 1 – 2 hours of aeration and will continue to improve for 5 – 8 years. Good choice with Filet Mignon.

1999 Van Asperen, “Signature Reserve” Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

When I was offered this wine as a potential club selection, I thought it was for the Signature Red Collection. I was quite pleased when they were willing to make this available for the Premium club. This is a tremendous value.

Ernie Van Asperen had spent most of his life in the beverage business, for many years operating over eighty Ernie's Liquors Stores throughout California. He and wife Virginia decided to make a lifestyle change, to the mellow pace of the largely undiscovered Napa Valley. Shortly after their move to the hills west of historic St. Helena, gentleman grape grower, Ernie decided to learn home winemaking. After their first successful vintage, the couple, along with long-time friend Charlie Abela, decided to try selling their wines to a few retailers. The response was overwhelming, so their next step was the founding of Round Hill Cellars, in what had been a "ghost" winery near St. Helena. Before long, they were producing thousands of cases of mostly Napa Valley wines and quickly outgrowing the little winery on Lodi Lane. Always the 'master of the deal', Ernie located a beautiful vineyard on the Silverado Trail, just east of the hamlet of Rutherford. Construction of a new facility was begun in early 1986 and by the time the grapes were mature, the new winery was ready for its first harvest. Coincidentally, the International Wine Review named Round Hill 'Winery of the Year'! The founder's little hobby had been transformed into a major force, within the quickly developing varietal wine business. The Van Asperen wines are among the finest examples of their varietal origins. These select offerings, all limited in the number of cases produced, come from the very best hillside vineyards in the heart of the Napa Valley. Each vintage is carefully tended and brought to harvest with one thing in mind ... crafting a bottle of wine that is a superb example of each grape variety.

The 1999 Signature Reserve consists of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot, aged for 21 months in a combination of French and American oak. The grapes come from The Robinwood, Stagecoach and Spring Lane vineyards. This is an elegant wine with some real depth. Flavors include black cherry, currants, chocolate framed by spicy oak. A lush mouth-feel leads to a lingering finish. Outstanding with rack of lamb or lamb sausage.

Premium Wine Club, February 2005 wine re-orders

For the month of February 2005, these re-order selections are available to Premium Wine Club members only. Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Chateau Bois Martin, Pessac-Léognan @ \$13.99 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 1999 Van Asperen, "Signature Reserve" Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley @ \$13.99 per bottle

Best Buy Wine Club

This month's Best Buy Wine Club selections include a wonderful Spanish Rioja and a superb Chardonnay from Australia from an old favorite – Nugan Estate.

1999 Campo Viejo Tempranillo Reserva, Rioja

I was looking for a Spanish red wine for this club and so I asked Anne Pickett, our Spanish wine buyer, to put the word out to her sales reps. After tasting through about 5 choices, this wine stood head and shoulders above the rest. I took a bottle to my brothers house after their return from Spain and we had it with a variety of Spanish Tapas. What a great match. The wine was a big hit with the rest of my family.

The old Campo Viejo wine cellar, founded in 1967, has given way to the Bodega Juan Alcorta (named after its founder). The Bodega Juan Alcorta, perhaps one of the best in the world, is situated right in the heart of La Rioja. Located in Logroño, on the old road to Fuenmayor, the bodega is built on a plateau planted with vines and has panoramic views of the Ebro Valley. In order to integrate the bodega with the landscape and make it an enjoyable place to visit, the social part of the building is located above the vineyards chateau-style, while the actual Bodega, which covers over 147,000 square feet, has been buried into the hill, making it a veritable work of Land Art. In addition to its 400 acre Estate vineyard, the Bodega Juan Alcorta sources grapes from an area of almost 4700 acres. Most of the vineyards consist of old vines, over 25 years old, and mainly of the Tempranillo variety. The vines are arranged in plots, and are carefully selected for each wine. Elena Adell San Pedro is the head winemaker, or enologic director of Bodega Juan Alcorta. With a chair on five different professional associations, Elena holds considerable sway in the world of Spanish wine. Her greatest influence is at Campo Viejo, where she creates exceptional Reserva wines that have won numerous international awards.

For this wine, whole grape clusters are 100% gravity fed, without undergoing any type of pressure, which could adversely affect the quality of the wine. This gentle, painstaking winemaking process makes it possible to obtain smooth, harmonious wines, with lots of concentrated fruit aromas and flavors.

The wine consists of 75% Tempranillo, 15% Graciano and 10% Mazuelo grapes aged for two years in American oak, lending notes of vanilla, with a small use of French oak, which lends more spicy nuances. By combining the two, Elena was able to achieve aromas of great complexity, including coconut, vanilla, spices, and toasted wood. The flavors include ripe berries, cherries and vanilla with a hint of spice. The mouth-feel is wonderfully soft the finish lingers just enough to pair with food, particularly red and game meats, wild mushrooms, and Spanish cheeses such as Manchego or Iberico.

2003 Nugan Estate, Chardonnay, Australia

Last year, we offered the Nugan Estate Shiraz and sold out very quickly. They did not have enough of the Shiraz this time around, but offered a really lovely Chardonnay.

Nugan Estate is a product of the hard work and dedication of Alfredo Nugan, who began his career in Spain in the fruit export market. In the 1940s, Alfredo settled in Griffith, in southwestern New South Wales, and drew on his Spanish experiences to become a pre-eminent supplier of superior produce, first to Australia and then to the world. He chose Griffith because of its abundance of sunshine and availability of water, a combination that allowed for agricultural

applications all year 'round. Nugan Estate, with its blend of Old World tradition and the latest in New World winemaking technology, has a stable of wines sourced from vineyards in McLaren Vale, Limestone Coast, Coonawarra, King Valley and the Riverina. The Riverina region, where this wine comes from, is semi-arid, with about twelve inches of rain a year. With such dry conditions, disease is rarely a problem. The vineyards are irrigated through an elaborate series of underground pipes and wells with water so pure, it has been approved for brewing. The system allows complete control over all aspects of the irrigation. The focus is on quality rather than quantity; the vineyard yields are about half those of neighboring vineyards. The success of the Nugan Estate vineyards is nothing new. For many years, these vineyards have been the Riverina region's largest and best suppliers of fruit to Southcorp and Penfolds. They have been awarded over a hundred medals in various wine competitions.

This wine consists of 98% Chardonnay and 2% Semillon. A portion of the wine was aged for 10 months in a combination of French and American oak. Robert Parker enjoyed this wine and offered this review: "Readers will enjoy the 2003 Chardonnay, a Mâcon-Villages-styled white exhibiting notes of lemon meringue, orange, and citrus. While it sees a bit of oak, that component is not apparent in its elegant, fruit-driven, medium-bodied personality." I agree. This wine is complimented rather than being dominated by oak. This is a very clean and fresh Chardonnay that will make an excellent match with Roast chicken or Dungeness Crab.

Best Buy Wine Club, February 2005 wine re-orders

For the month of February, 2005, these selections are available to Best Buy Wine Club members only.

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

_____ Bottle(s) of 1999 Campo Viejo Tempranillo Reserva, Rioja @ \$8.49 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Nugan Estate, Chardonnay, Australia @ \$8.49 per bottle

Re-order Form

As a member of a K&L Wine Club, you have the opportunity to order previous offerings of any of our clubs. The following pages contain the full "backlist" of each club. Please note the prices for each wine. Our phone numbers for the Wine Club are (650) 364-8544 ext. 5, then 1; or outside the 650, 415, Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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 e-mail us at theclubs@klwines.com.

Signature Red Club: Previous Offerings

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.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Schweiger Cabernet Sauvignon, Spring Mountain @ \$23.95 per bottle

The wine consists of 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, aged for 20 months in a combination of French and American oak. Aromas of blackberry, currants and plums lead to a lovely palate where the fruit is comforted by lush tannins, leading to a long and lingering finish. This wine is approachable now, but will hold for another seven to ten years. Great with Prime Rib.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Oakford Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville @ \$23.95 per bottle

This 100% Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon was bottled unfinned and unfiltered to retain as much of its natural character as possible. Aged in French oak for 24 months, the wine begins with aromas of blackberry, and ripe red raspberry liqueur with notes of spice and vanilla from the oak. On the palate, the wine is soft and juicy with very lush tannins and layers of fresh ripe fruit. On the finish, the subtle character of the oak, adding more spice and perfume, frames the lovely fruit.

Drink now or hold for five to eight years. Try with lamb sirloin.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Reserve de la Comtesse, Pauillac @ \$23.95 per bottle

Robert Parker had this to say about this wine: "The 2001 Reserve de la Comtesse is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, and 11% Cabernet Franc. The wine was produced from 43% of the production and reveals complex aromas of cedar, tobacco, and black currants with a hint of chocolate in the background. A sweet attack is followed by a ripe, supple effort that should drink well upon release, and last for ten to twelve years."

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Snowden Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle

A blend of 78.9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.4% Cabernet Franc, 6.3% Merlot and 6.4% Petit Verdot. This is a well-balanced wine of depth and complexity. Fruit flavors of wild berry and cassis are mixed with notes of leather, coffee and earth. The flavors are persistent and though tannins appear on the finish, this is a marvelous wine to drink now after giving it an hour or two of aeration. It may also be held for seven to ten years. Suggested retail is \$60!

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Cornerstone, "Cornerstone" Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle

This wine is a blend of 96% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Cabernet Franc, aged for 20 months in a combination of new and one-year-old French oak. Complex aromas of new hay, mulberry and sweet anise are complemented by undertones of cedar, tarragon and sage. The fruit expresses a briar/bramble character reminiscent of fresh currant and wild blackberry with a slight dusty, cocoa quality. The oak lends a nuance of freshly baked bread in a toasty, caramelized, slightly vanilla finish. The wine benefits from one to two hours of aeration and is a great choice served with Filet Mignon. Hold for eight to ten years.

Premium Wine Club: Previous Offerings

All wine can now be purchased by the single bottle. Prices are shown after each wine listed Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Buehler "Reserve" Chardonnay, Russian River @ \$13.99 per bottle

This 100% Chardonnay rests *sur lie* for ten months with the lees stirred weekly to flesh out the mid-palate to a creamy textured, seamless wine. The wine does not leave the barrel until it is time to bottle.

Flavors and aromas of peach, graham cracker and citrus are presented on a creamy palate, with hints of oak and butter, leading to a long finish. Great with roast chicken.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Kirkham Peak Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley @ \$13.99 per bottle

This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon is aged in American oak, 50% new and 50% two-year-old. Lovely aromas of blueberries, vanilla, and cassis lead to a palate with dark cherry notes framed by slightly toasty oak. The finish is long and luxurious. This would be a great choice with rack of lamb. Drink now and over the next four to seven years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Sesta di Sopra Rosso di Montalcino, @ \$13.99 per bottle

This 100% Sangiovese is a full, complex, rich wine with body and structure, full of wild cherry and plum aromas, with scents of smoke and earth. It has hints of tannin but is still balanced and drinkable now. Classic Rosso di Montalcino. A pork loin roast marinated with rosemary is perfect for this wine.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Iby Blaufränkisch Hochäcker @ \$13.99 per bottle

The wine shows wonderful aromas of Bing cherries, red berry fruit, smoke and spice. The palate shows more cherries with blackberries and a hint of vanilla. The finish is long and rich. Although dry, this wine has a lovely fruitiness and soft, ripe tannins that make it just a pleasure to drink. Drink now and over the next three to seven years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Eagle Vale Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc @ \$13.99 per bottle

The wine is a blend of 73% Semillon and 27% Sauvignon Blanc. Lovely aromas of lemon-citrus are balanced by a rich mid-palate with some stone and herbal notes. This is a great match with fish. Drink now and over the next one or two years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Denois Grand Cuvée Red @ \$13.95 per bottle

40% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Grenache. The wine begins with wonderful aromas of cassis and berries. The palate is soft and lush and picks up some spice notes from the Syrah in the blend. This is a very easy wine to enjoy, with its sweet fruit and smooth mouth-feel. Drink now or hold for three to five years. Great choice with steak or lamb.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Torbreck "Juveniles," Barossa Valley @ \$13.95 per bottle

From Robert Parker: "The unwooded blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, and 20% Shiraz, the 2002 Juveniles is a crunchy, deliriously fruity red offering aromas of kirsch liqueur, pepper, and spice box in a fruit-driven, full-bodied style that is immensely captivating as well as satisfying. It is meant to be enjoyed over the next 5-6 years. 90 points."

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Katnook Estate Shiraz, Coonawarra@ \$13.95 per bottle
100% Shiraz, aged for 21 months in a combination of French and American oak *barriques* (small barrels), 50% of which were new. Aromas of ripe raspberry and a hint of licorice lead to a palate that echoes the raspberry and adds plum and blueberry with notes of spice, pepper and subtle smoky oak. Relatively soft tannins make this ideal for drinking now or laying down for six to eight years. Great with game birds and red meat.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Wattle Creek Sauvignon Blanc, Mendocino@ \$13.95 per bottle
100% Sauvignon Blanc from the Mendocino Ranch vineyard, this shows lovely aromas of lime, lemon and citrus which follow through to the palate with a crisp, vibrant feel. This is a great summertime wine, excellent with grilled fish. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Frazier "Lupine Hill" Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa@ \$13.95 per bottle
85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, aged for 18 months in a combination of new and used French and American oak. Aromas of strawberries and earth lead to a deep palate with notes of blackcurrant and red meat. The wine will benefit from at least one hour's aeration and will hold for four to six years. Try with lamb tenderloin. Incidentally, *The Wine Spectator* lists this at \$45!

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Griffin Pinot Noir, Marlborough @ \$13.95 per bottle
Lovely plum and cherry aromas lead to a palate in which a touch of oak and earth are added to the mix. This wine would pair beautifully with turkey or salmon. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Pascal Jolivet "Attitude", Loire Valley@ \$13.95 per bottle
This wine shows juicy fruit flavors of apple and grapefruit balanced by a refreshing minerality and grassiness. It's very clean and crisp, excellent for warm spring and summer days. A great choice with grilled fish. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Edgewood Estate Syrah, Napa@ \$13.95 per bottle
100% Syrah aged in French oak for nineteen months. The complex nose shows hints of black cherries, spice and violets. The palate echoes those flavors and adds black pepper and plums to the mix. This deep, full-bodied wine will benefit from one to two hours of aeration and can be held for eight to ten years. Great with game.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Château Bois Martin, Pessac-Leognan@ \$13.95 per bottle
A typical Graves nose of mineral and earth leads to a marvelously smooth palate with sweet oak, cassis and plum. A very easy wine to enjoy due to its round tannins, this should be consumed now and over the next three to five years. Enjoy it with pork chops.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Fournas Bernadotte, Haut-Médoc@ **\$12.00 per bottle**
This is lovely and elegant, with notes of cassis, coffee, toasty oak and a hint of cedar. Soft tannins and a long finish will have you finishing every last drop. Try with grilled filet mignon. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

Best Buy Wine Club: Previous Offerings

All wine can now be purchased by the single bottle. Prices are shown after each wine listed Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Chateau Routon Zinfandel, Amador County @ \$8.49 per bottle
This 100% Zinfandel is juicy and brimming with dark berry fruit and spice. It has the intensity that comes from 60-year old vines. Another wine that is easy to enjoy by itself, this also makes a great match with barbecued ribs or hamburgers. Drink now and over the next two to four years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Step Road Sauvignon Blanc, Adelaide Hills @ \$8.49 per bottle
Brilliant aromas and flavors of tropical fruits are framed by a bright acidity and lead to a juicy, Mouth-watering finish. This is easy to drink by itself, or is a great match for most fish dishes. Drink now and over the next one or two years. Brilliant New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Domaine Rimbert, Saint Chinian @ \$8.49 per bottle
This wine consists of 40% Carignan, 30% Syrah and 30% Cinsault, aged in fermentation tanks to highlight its fruitiness. Aromas of berries and currants lead to a palate of plums, cherries and a hint of pepper. Fruity

and very easy to drink, this would be a good match with ham or pork roast. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Chateau Maine-Bonnet, Graves @ \$8.49 per bottle

This blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon is an outstanding example of white wine from the Graves region. Aromas of pears and apples lead to a palate with citrus and mineral notes. The wine is rich and crisp, and has a refreshing aftertaste. This is a great match with grilled fish or chicken dishes. Drink now and over the next two to three years

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Kalinda Sauvignon Blanc, Lake County @ \$8.49 per bottle

Lip-smacking tropical fruit, crisp acidity and a clean, refreshing finish make this a steal and a no-brainer for parties or Tuesday night suppers, whenever a white-wine dish is served. Notes of gooseberry and grass on the finish elevate this from the sea of so-so Sauvignon Blanc!

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Domaine de Verquiere Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau @ \$8.49 per bottle

A typical Côtes du Rhône blend of Grenache (70%) and Syrah (30%). Aromas of truffle and berry lead to a palate with more berry flavors and a hint of raspberry and spice. This is a deep, thoroughly enjoyable wine that is meant to be drunk now and over the next three to four years. This would be a great choice with beef stew and game meats. Also good with hard cheeses that are not too salty.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Segura Viudas Creu de Levit, Penedès @ \$8.49 per bottle

This lovely wine, made of a native Spanish grape variety called Xarel-lo, has a floral nose with hints of spice, leading to a palate with notes of apples, a bit of citrus and a hint of pepper. A third of the wine ages *sur lie* in oak, lending a slightly creamy mouthfeel that leads to a long, yet crisp finish. This is an excellent match for grilled fish or chicken. Drink now or hold for two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Watts Zinfandel, Lodi @ \$8.49 per bottle

This is a very fruit-driven, juicy Zinfandel with aromas of black cherry and vanilla oak. The palate shows plum and berry flavors along with a bit of cocoa and pepper. The finish is long and lush. This is excellent as a sipper or as a match for full-flavored and spicy foods. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 McDowell Syrah, California @ \$8.49 per bottle

90% Syrah, 6% Grenache, 4% Durif aged in two-year-old American and French oak. A dense, full-bodied Syrah, full of lovely berry-spice flavors, with jammy berry aromas and a bit of toasty oak. The mouth feel is big and round, with flavors of ripe blackberry and blueberry fruit and white pepper spice. This is a versatile wine that goes great with almost everything: burgers, ribs, pasta, grilled salmon, pizza and even fajitas. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Purisima Canyon Syrah, Dry Creek @ \$8.49 per bottle

95% Syrah, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged in 25% new oak (a ratio of 75% American and 25% French) for 24 months. A lovely nose of dark fruits and berries leads to a palate that echoes those flavors and add hints of vanilla and spice. The Cabernet adds a lovely depth and the finish is smooth and lingering. This would be a great choice with hamburgers right off the grill. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Purisima Canyon Cabernet Sauvignon, North Coast @ \$8.49 per bottle

82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17.5% Merlot, and 1.5% Petite Sirah. A wonderfully lush wine, with loads of fruit and soft tannins. A perfect red for summertime. Drink now and over the next two to three years. Great with hamburgers on a sunny day.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 La Posta Cabernet Sauvignon, Argentina @ \$8.49 per bottle

100% Cabernet Sauvignon from vines with an average age of over 30 years. It spent nine months in second-use French and American oak barrels. Notes of currants and black cherries with a hint of sandalwood lead to a palate of cassis and plums and a touch of earth. This is a great choice with hamburgers or roast chicken. Drink it now and over the next three to six years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 1999 Jean-Luc Colombo Syrah "Les Collines de Laure" @ \$8.49 per bottle

100% Syrah. The nose exhibits a wide range of ripe red fruits with spicy overtones and silky tannins. The palate shows dark black and red fruits with a hint of spice. This is a rich and generous wine that is very easy to enjoy. Great with roasted meats and stews. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

Special Offers—Available to all club members!

2002 Water Wheel “Memsie” Red, Bendigo

This is a superb, very enjoyable red from Down Under. Jim Chanteloup, our Australian wine buyer, approached me with an offer to make some of this available to our club members. He could get a better price if he made a larger purchase. Upon tasting the wine, I readily agreed to offer it our club members. This has been a big hit through our retail store at \$12.99. Club members save \$3 per bottle!

This is “a wonderful value,” according to Robert Parker. “Its deep, ruby/purple color is followed by copious quantities of flowery blue and black fruits, impressive purity, and a nicely textured, medium bodied finish.” *The Wine Spectator* gave it 89 points and designated it a Smart Buy: “Jazzy and snappy, brimming with blueberry, blackberry and bright spicy flavors that skip merrily through the juicy finish. Delicious stuff. Shiraz, Malbec, and Cabernet Sauvignon.” (August 2003.)

Winemaker Peter Cumming fashioned this terrific wine from 84% Shiraz, 11% Malbec and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon from the Bendigo region in Victoria. The bouquet is full of smoky blackberry fruit with notes of earth, chocolate and anise. On the palate, the wine is rich and juicy with fine tannins and a hint of mint in the finish. And one more thing... it’s the first red wine in a screwcap to hit our shelves from Down Under. Don’t miss this great value.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Water Wheel “Memsie” Red, Bendigo @ \$9.99 per bottle

Chateau Routon Vintage Character Port

You can read about Chateau Routon on page 7; Best Buy Club members received their Zinfandel this month. This Vintage Character Port has the deep color and intense complexity of Vintage Port, tempered by long aging. Smooth and silky, it’s a fine match for all things chocolate. Very tasty!

_____ Bottle(s) of Chateau Routon Vintage Character Port, California @ \$9.99 per bottle

Scharffenberger Brut N/V, Anderson Valley

This Scharffenberger Brut is a blend of two-thirds Pinot Noir and one-third Chardonnay. The predominance of the Pinot Noir creates a sparkling wine that is fruit forward with noticeable aromas of strawberry/raspberry and some plum notes. The Chardonnay expresses itself with subtle tropical flavors of pineapple with pear. All of the fruit for Scharffenberger Brut undergoes 100% malolactic fermentation, making the wine rich with complex flavors and a round, lengthy finish.

_____ Bottle(s) of Scharffenberger Brut N/V, Anderson Valley Special Price: @ \$13.99 per bottle

2000 Dominus Estate, Napa

This is the flagship wine of Dominus Estate. Robert Parker says, “Christian Moueix and his talented winemaking team continue to rewrite the definition of a Napa Valley reference point wine.” This wine lists for \$99 on the *Wine Spectator* website. We believe nobody else in the country is offering it as low as our member-only price of \$59.99. The 2000 vintage is 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 5% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, aged for 18 months in French oak barrels. It’s a big, complex wine with flavors of blackcurrants and dark fruit and notes of coffee and earth. The aromatics are a bit more open than the palate impressions at this early stage and the wine is still fairly tannic. It will require two to four hours of aeration if opened now. It can be held for eight to twelve years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Dominus Estate, Napa Special Price: \$59.99 per bottle