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January, 2006

Dear Wine Club members,

Happy New Year to our many new and longtime wine club members! As we have so many new members, I am reprinting last month's information to help them understand how to make the best use of our wine club program. Next month, I promise to be original again...

First off, everyone who receives the monthly Club selections has a profile within our K&L database. To retrieve your online id and password, please send an email to theclubs@klwines.com, requesting your id and password. If we have your email address, we can also let you know about certain wine-club-member-only specials. Use the system id to log in, and select My account at the top of the page. You may select a more personal id and password if you wish.

The online profile allows you to log onto our website and view the information we have for you in our database, including your order history. You may change addresses and credit cards online, but it is best to follow up with either an email or a phone call to me, so that I can make sure the changes were attached to the wine club information.

Most of you are able to order directly off our website. You may combine club wines with any wine we offer on the website. There is no minimum amount for orders. To view wine club selections, click on the Wine Club link and scroll down the page until you see the links to each club's re-orders. Special offers that are not part of any monthly package are listed at the top of each page. These special offers are available to any club member. Our website uses real-time inventory, so if you can't find the wine you are searching for, we may be out of it. Feel free to call us though, to make sure; we may be out only temporarily.

Of course, each monthly wine club newsletter also lists the wines available for re-order. All club members may order any wine listed on the re-order pages at the end of the newsletter, and the current month's wines for your club only.

You may also call us at 800 247-5987 to place orders. Any salesperson can take an order for both club wines and store wines.

Please let us know if you move, change credit cards or receive new expiration dates for credit cards. That way you will not miss a shipment. Finally, please let us know if you will be away during the first two weeks of any month. Your monthly packages usually arrive sometime within the first two weeks of the month, and we can hold onto your package and send it later.

Have a safe, healthy and happy year!

Dave Rosenzweig
Wine Club Director

Signature Red Wine Club

The Signature Red Wine Club offerings for this month include a juicy Pinot Noir and the 2001 vintage of a previous club favorite from the Rothschild family.

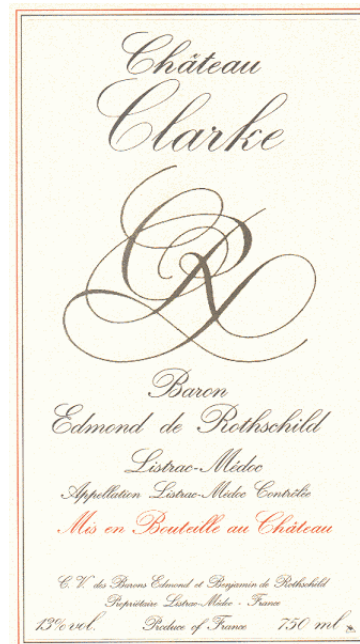
2001 CHÂTEAU CLARKE, BARON EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD

Last summer we sent out the 2000 vintage of this wine and it proved very popular with our club members. This wine comes from the famed Rothschild family, from the branch that owns Château Lafite Rothschild. The origins of Château Clarke are way back in the twelfth century, when the Cistercian monks of the Vertheuil Abbey planted the first vines there. Much more recently, in 1818, the Knight Tobie Clarke (A Knight named Tobie?) purchased the land that would permanently bear his name. After being repeatedly handed down to family and finally sold, the property was bought in 1973 by the Baron Edmond de Rothschild. The vineyard had been terribly neglected and the Baron chose to begin essentially from scratch. Today, the vines are planted on clay-limestone hilltops that enable the Merlot grape to fully express itself. The ancient buildings have been restored; the winemaking equipment and techniques have been brought into the 21st century; and, most importantly, particular attention and care is being paid to the cultivation of the vineyards. In 1978, the harvest was vinified in modern facilities for the first time, housed in entirely renovated buildings. Renovation of the cellars and construction of the farm buildings was completed in 1982.

In the Baron's own words: "If it is indeed true that the love of wine is the least selfish of the pleasures, then creating a vineyard is likewise a reflection of a withdrawn and solitary nature. When I took the decision to recreate a large estate at the very heart of the Médoc, it was in order to fling the doors wide open and allow everyone to discover my passion for wine. Wine is a living thing, and at each and every state of its production it translates all the complexity of life: the vegetative life of the vine, vinification (is fermentation not a living phenomenon?), and the lives of those who make the wine. I want you to understand all of these stages. The true sign of life is the continuity, the uninterrupted chain of operations that end only when your taste buds caress this Bordeaux that we have created with unstinting patience."

The Baron hired the famed Michel Rolland in 1998 to add his special touch to the wine. Among other changes, Michel increased the amount of Merlot in the blend, to make a wine that would be more approachable in its youth.

The vineyards are planted with 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The wine spends 14 to 18 months in oak, 60% to 100% of the barrels being new each year. This vintage is a touch softer than last year's, with lovely cherry and berry flavors marked by soft tannins and a bit of new oak. This is a lovely wine to enjoy with Prime Rib. Drink now or hold for five to seven years.



2003 SUMMERLAND PINOT NOIR “SOLOMON HILLS,” SANTA MARIA

Summerland Winery was founded by Nebil “Bilo” Zarif in 2001. Previously, “Bilo” was the owner and founder of Barnwood and Laetitia wineries in Santa Barbara County. Born and raised in Iskenderun, Turkey, Nebil Zarif received his introduction to wine at a young age, around the family dinner table. His passion for fine and rare wines began in the 1970s in France, where he was introduced to the regions of Bordeaux, Burgundy and the Rhône Valley while studying in Paris. Later, after he settled in the United States, he directed his wine interests towards the prestigious wineries of Napa. He visited regularly to explore the harvests at Mondavi, Silver Oak and Duckhorn vineyards.

As he learned more about California wines and the people who were producing them, Zarif became convinced that the future of the wine industry would be revealed in the diverse growing regions of the central coast. In 1994, Zarif acquired 30 acres of land in the Cuyama Valley, located high above Santa Barbara County. It was there that he founded Barnwood Vineyards and over the course of the next seven years, he would expand the vineyards to encompass more than 2,000 acres with over 800 planted to wine grapes.

During this same time period, Zarif acquired Maison Deutz winery with a silent partner. They expanded the property and produced superb Pinot Noir under the Laetitia Vineyard and Winery label. Zarif’s most notable contributions to the California wine industry include planting the highest elevation commercial vineyards in California. Those vineyards are the warmest and most conducive climate in Santa Barbara county for Rhône and Bordeaux varietals. He was also one of the first in the state to plant Tempranillo and to implement Dijon clones of Pinot Noir.

In 2001 Zarif sold his interest in Barnwood and Laetitia to pursue new possibilities, most notably, Summerland winery. An avid polo player and resident of the coastal town of Summerland, Zarif selected that name for his winery to reflect upon fond memories of his time there. The winemaker is Etienne Terlinden, who had earlier worked with Zarif at Barnwood and Laetitia wineries.

This wine is part of the Summerland single-vineyard collection. Each of the wines in this collection expresses the distinctive terroir of an individual vineyard. Once a vineyard is selected, close contact is kept with the growers throughout the year to maintain the highest quality and desired yields for the fruit we harvest. All the wines in this line are aged in small French oak barrels and subject only to traditional wine-making techniques. These selections are limited and exquisite.

This 100% Pinot Noir was aged for 11 months in French oak, 33% of which was new. Elegant and showy, the wine displays bright cherry and raspberry flavors with aromas highlighted by a hint of vanilla, spice and black tea. Drink now or hold for four to five years. Excellent with roast poultry.



The tasting rooms at Summerland Winery.

Signature Red Club, January 2006 wine re-orders

For the month of January, 2006, these selections are available to Signature Red Club members only. Tax (in California) and shipping will be added to each order.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Château Clarke, Baron Edmond de Rothschild @ \$23.95 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Summerland Pinot Noir, Santa Maria @ \$23.95 per bottle

Premium Wine Club

For the Premium Wine Club we offer a brilliant white Bordeaux and an incredible value from Châteauneuf du Pape.

2004 S DE SUDUIRAUT, BORDEAUX

This is an exciting wine as it is the first dry white released by the famous Sauternes producer Château Suduiraut. This Château is situated just down the road from Château d'Yquem, abutting Yquem's vineyards on the north. Robert Parker calls Suduiraut "one of the great estates of Sauternes."

The Château was built in the seventeenth century after the earlier fortress was destroyed by the Governor of Aquitaine under the reign of King Louis XIII. Its label features the legend "Ancien Cru Du Roy." This relates to both the Duroy owners and the subsidies given by King Louis XIV in recognition for the quality of the estate's wines. Mr. Fonquernie, a businessman, purchased the estate in 1940, and later passed it into the hands of his five daughters. The French group AXA-Millésimes bought it in the late 1980s. This Château is now managed by the well-known Jean-Michel Cazes. The vineyards are planted to 90% Semillon and 10% Sauvignon Blanc, the classic white grapes of Bordeaux.



Château Suduiraut, famous for Sauternes.

Of this new venture, Pierre Montégut, Technical Director of Château Suduiraut, says: "Although all plots in our vineyard are producing high quality sweet wines, we have noticed that some of them could also, if picked earlier, produce some outstanding dry white wines with fresh and vivacious primary aromas. It made us seriously think of the crafting of a dry white. For some years now, we have tried with several blends but now believe that we have found the most harmonious one, focusing on aromatic freshness and body coming from its maturation on the lees. [Lees are the sediment that settles at the bottom of a barrel. They consist of dead yeast cells, grape seeds, pulp, stem and skin fragments, etc. They give the wine added richness, before filtering them out.] The grapes are selectively and individually handpicked taking only the most golden ones. After pressing, the fragments of skin and color are cleared from the must at low temperature. Fermentation is carried out in barrels of different ages including 25% new oak. The wines are then matured in the same barrels on fine lees with regular *bâtonnage* (stirring of the lees) for approximately six months."

This wine consists of 60% Semillon and 40% Sauvignon Blanc. The grapes were picked from three plots of Sauvignon Blanc and two plots of Semillon, their vines an average age of 35 years. Just over 1000 cases were produced, making this a truly rare wine. The wine shows juicy flavors of grapefruit, citrus, and cut grass. Barrel aging gives the wine a great mouthfeel. This is an outstanding food wine, pairing beautifully with grilled fish or most chicken dishes. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

2003 PIERRE BOVIS, CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

A Châteauneuf-du-Pape from 2003 for less than \$20? Yes! For our club members, that is. 2003 was a brilliant year in the southern Rhône and the Châteauneufs are uniformly outstanding. The extreme heat of that vintage was good to Rhône grapes. This particular wine comes from a small producer and is bottled under the Pierre Bovis label. I was unable to learn much about the winery, so here is some information on Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

The history of wine in Châteauneuf-du-Pape begins in 1305, when the College of Cardinals, deadlocked eleven months in the Vatican over the appointment of a new pope, finally elected Bertrand de Got as Pope Clément V. The new pope was not Italian but French, and as former Bishop of Bordeaux founded the vineyards of Château Pape-Clément. A nationalist of true French temperament, Clément V moved the seat of the church from Rome to Avignon, at the Comtat Venaissan, which belonged to Rome as part of the settlement of the Treaty of Meaux of 1229. The 72-year period ending in 1377 during which the



The town of Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

papal seat remained at Avignon is known in ecclesiastical history as the “Babylonian Captivity.” To escape the broiling Avignon summers, it was decided that a country residence would be established, and Clément V decided on a plateau site ten miles north of the city overlooking the river. He named it Châteauneuf-du-Pape, “the new castle of the pope.” It is believed that Clément V’s successor, John XXII, was the first to plant the vineyards there. The tremendous wealth accrued to the papal treasury under his reign was certainly in part due to the excellent wines produced from the vineyards of the summer palace. In 1552, the Château was burned in the religious wars; the ruins, visible on their promontory from a distance, still stand.

The Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation covers approximately 8,000 acres, the second largest of the A.O.C.s of France. Thirteen vine varieties are authorized in the production of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, in proportions more or less of the producer’s discretion. They include Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault, Mourvèdre, Clairette, and other, lesser-known grapes. The predominant grape is Grenache, often accounting for at least 50% of any wine made in the region.

This wine consists of 60% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault and 5% Terret Noir. The wine shows notes of leather, berries, and a touch of spice and is very lush and easy to drink. The tannins are there, but beautifully balanced with the fruit. Great choice with winter stews. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

Premium Wine Club, January 2006 wine re-orders

For the month of January, 2006, 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 2004 S de Suduiraut, Bordeaux @ \$13.99 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Pierre Bovis, Châteauneuf-du-Pape @ \$13.99 per bottle

Best Buy Wine Club

This month's Best Buy Wine Club selections include a new vintage of a previous favorite from the Côtes du Rhône and another wonderful Sauvignon Blanc from Mendocino.

2003 CHÂTEAU DE MONTFAUCON CÔTES DU RHÔNE

Another favorite from the past makes a return to our wine clubs. Château de Montfaucon lies on the west bank of the Rhône, across the river from Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It was in the eleventh century that the Château's first tower was built on the summit of the rock peak. The castle belonged to the powerful Laudun family, which exercised control over river traffic up and down the Rhône. Montfaucon became one of the line of fortresses marking the boundary between the Kingdom of France and the Holy Roman Empire. In 1828, Eugene de Pertuis, Baron de Montfaucon, served as mayor of Avignon. In 1855 their son, the Baron Louis de Montfaucon, began the restoration work that would eventually be completed in 1891. On his death, the Baron Louis left the chateau to his young niece, who on her marriage became the Comtesse Odon de Pins. Rudolphe de Pins has run the family domaine since 1995. After graduating in agricultural engineering, including a year at UC Davis, he made wine in Australia and Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Rudolphe's reign has seen the estate taken to ever higher levels of quality. Today the estate covers some 250 acres, of which 88 acres are given to vineyards growing the various Rhône grapes.

This wine contains 60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Carignane and 10% Cinsault. The average age of the vines is over 40 years. The wine is very fruity with hints of cherries, raspberries, spice and licorice. The tannins are soft, making this a very easy wine to sip and enjoy by itself. It would be a good match served with hearty stews. Drink now and over the next three to five years.



Church and buildings in Montfaucon.

As a K&L Wine Club member, you have an online account. If you don't know your online ID and password, please tell us and we will e-mail your information. Please make sure we have your email address so that you can log onto our website to place orders and manage your account. Feel free to call or email if you have any questions. (800) 247-5987 ext. 2740 or davero@klwines.com.

We don't want you to miss any shipments! Please get in touch with us:

- Whenever you change your credit card number or the expiration date changes.
- Whenever you change shipping addresses or phone numbers.
- *If you will be away when the shipment arrives during the first two weeks of the month. We will hold the shipment until you are there to receive it.*
- To update your e-mail address. Through e-mail, we can let you know of Wine Club member-only specials in a more timely fashion than through the Club newsletter.

2004 KALINDA MENDOCINO SAUVIGNON BLANC

Here is another superb Sauvignon Blanc from Mendocino. Thanks to the Mendocino Winegrowers alliance for the following information.

Wine grapes were first planted in Mendocino County in the years following the California Gold Rush, in the 1850s. Immigrant farmers, failing as prospectors, turned to agriculture as a way of life in their new home. Saving the flatter lands on the river plains for food crops, these pioneer winegrowers planted their vineyards on the more rugged hillsides and sun-exposed ridge tops.

Isolated from larger city markets to the south, Mendocino's early winegrowers sold, traded and drank their wines close to home. Vintners in Napa and Sonoma Counties, closer to San Francisco, transported their wines to the big city market by boat, gaining greater exposure and broader markets for their bottlings. By the time the railroad and highways had pushed farther north, to Mendocino County, Napa and Sonoma wineries were already well known and established in the burgeoning San Francisco wine market, a gateway to the world for California's wines. Mendocino winegrowing still remained relatively unknown.

Prohibition nearly put a complete stop to Mendocino's nascent winegrowing industry. The small wineries disappeared and vineyard acreage declined. Only the efforts of the Parducci family in Ukiah kept wine being made in Mendocino County in the difficult post-Prohibition years, from 1933 until the 1960s. The "wine boom," beginning in the 1960s, inspired an increase in Mendocino grapes and wines. Shipping was no longer a problem. Old vineyards were revived, new vineyards were planted, and local wineries began to make wine from grapes that, just a few years earlier, had been shipped south to generic wine producers in Sonoma County. Through the 1970s and, especially, the 1980s, winegrowing expanded in Mendocino County. Grape growers and winemakers became more skilled with the wine varieties and styles demanded by the American public. Mendocino wineries, led by Parducci Wine Cellars and Fetzer Vineyards, gained great acclaim and world-wide distribution.

Today, Mendocino vineyards and wineries prosper, as the name "Mendocino" and the special qualities of the wines become increasingly well known. Attention in the region has now turned to focus upon the particular grape varieties and wine styles that, in each particular Mendocino microclimate, can produce the best and most distinctive wines.

Sauvignon Blanc is ideally suited for the region and this wine shows why. This 100% Sauvignon Blanc, made from Mendocino fruit by folks with Aussie roots, shows aromas of exotic citrus, fresh grapefruit and lime, which lead to a palate of ripe grapefruit and more lime framed by crisp acidity and a clean finish. Great choice with grilled rainbow trout and similar fish. Drink now and over the next two to three years.



A vineyard in Mendocino's Anderson Valley.

Best Buy Wine Club, January 2006 wine re-orders

For the month of January, 2006, 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 2003 Château de Montfaucon Côtes du Rhône @ \$8.49 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Kalinda Mendocino Sauvignon Blanc @ \$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. The phone number to place orders is 800-247-5987. Dial extension 2740 for wine-club-related questions. The order desk is open Monday through 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 2001 Snowden Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle

This is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5.5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Merlot and 4.5% Petite Verdot. The wine was aged for 20 months in French oak barrels, 60% of which were new. Complex aromas of black cherry, coffee and earth lead to a palate that echoes the flavors and adds a few more. Firm tannins lend to a well structured wine. The finish is long and luxurious. Decant this for one to two hours for near term drinking. You may cellar this for another 10 to 12 years. Listed at \$60 on the *Wine Spectator* website.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Lancaster Estate, Alexander Valley @ \$23.95 per bottle

A blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 2% Malbec, 1% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the wine was aged for 22 months in French oak barrels, 60% of which were new. Aromas of wild berries, cassis, and violets, along with ripe, black-cherry and chocolate flavors, toasted-oak nuances, and supple tannins, make this an easy wine to enjoy. It will definitely impress your guests. This wine has been a multiple-gold-medal winner at various competitions throughout the country. For current drinking, give this an hour's aeration. You can cellar it for eight to ten years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 1999 Casisano Colombaio Brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany @ \$23.95 per bottle

This is a traditionally styled Brunello, soft upon entry in the mouth, developed and aromatic. A complex blend of fruit, with hints of tea, leather and dark bitter chocolate, balances on the palate, with tannins in check and an excellent finish. Decant this wine at least two hours ahead of time, preferably three to four, and serve it with a pork loin roasted with rosemary and potatoes, the perfect match. You can cellar this wine for eight to fifteen years. *Wine Spectator* score: 90 points.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Flora Springs “Trilogy”, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle

This wine consists of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Malbec. Lots of black cherry and chocolate notes combined with the right touch of oak make this an easy wine to enjoy now after giving it an hour's aeration. You may hold this for an additional seven to ten years. Incidentally, the wine is listed at \$60 on Robert Parker's website.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Craneford Shiraz, Barossa @ \$23.95 per bottle

This 100% Shiraz is a mouth-filling wine with aromas of leather, spice, plum Christmas cake, and chocolate. Soft tannins and full flavors lead to a finish with lingering dark chocolate, cherry, and mocha flavors. Robert Parker scores it 92 points! Drink now and over the next three to five years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Château Grangeneuve, Pomerol @ \$23.95 per bottle

This Merlot-based wine from the great 2000 vintage is so easy to enjoy. Lush, with complex aromas of raspberries and a hint of mocha, the wine feels like silk on the palate and has a long, lingering finish. It drinks beautifully now and will hold for another five to seven years. Excellent match with Filet Mignon.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Schweiger Cabernet Sauvignon, Spring Mountain @ \$23.95 per bottle

This is a big, dark, deeply flavored wine, with notes of chocolate, coffee, blackberry, earth, and a host of other flavors, brilliantly supported by a fine tannic structure. Often, wines from Spring Mountain require years of

cellaring to let the tannins integrate more fully. This wine will benefit from aeration for an hour or two, but it is almost silky in the mouth. You may also cellar this for at least eight to ten years. Just a great wine.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Louis Martini “Monte Rosso” Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma @ \$23.95/bottle
This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon spent about 22 months in a combination of new French and American oak barrels. *The Wine Enthusiast* gave it 92 points with these notes: “Martini’s flagship Cab is a blockbuster. It is exceptionally ripe, with lush currant and cassis flavors that have a laser-like concentration. There’s a good deal of new oak, but the massive flavors are easily able to handle it. The result is a special success for this vintage.”

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Isole e Olena “Cepparello”, Tuscany @ \$23.95 per bottle
Cepparello is somewhat unusual for a Super Tuscan in that it is comprised of 100% Sangiovese. The wine was aged for 14 months in barriques, one third of which were new. This is a beautiful effort in a difficult vintage, marked by complexity and purity. Notes of black cherries, plums and leather are framed by slightly austere tannins, making this ideal for decanting for at least a few hours. The wine will continue to improve for another seven to ten years. Great with Osso Buco.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Amici Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle
A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (87%) from two Rutherford benchland vineyards, Merlot (8%), Cabernet Franc (3%), and Petit Verdot (1%), this incredible 2001 exhibits a deep black-ruby color with youthful purplish fringes. Its ever expansive, opulent set of aromas of currants, blackberries and plums is underscored and supported by a touch of lightly toasted cedary oak and a hint of coffee bean and bittersweet chocolate.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Morlanda “Crianca,” Priorat @ \$23.95 per bottle
This lovely red shows black cherries and dark spice marked by a lovely minerality. The mouth-feel is lush and complex and the finish is long and tasty. Wonderful now with some aeration, the wine will continue to improve for three to five years and hold for up to ten years. This is a great choice for a rich veal stew or pepper steak. Think big flavors. *The Wine Spectator* gave it 89 points and listed its price as \$48.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Gigondas ‘Ventabren’, Moulin de Gardette @ \$23.95 per bottle Back in stock!
Clyde was recently able to find a few more cases of this tremendous wine, but it won’t last long! Generally about 500 cases of this wine are made, in only the best years. This vintage is a deeper, more powerful wine than last year’s version, consisting of 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Cinsault. It is perfumey with vanilla undertones. Red fruits abound along with a dash of tannin. Extremely ripe, this wine will pair well with a nice hearty meal. Aerate it for one or two hours for drinking now, or hold it for up to ten years.

Premium Wine 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 2002 Terraces Zinfandel, Napa @ \$13.99 per bottle
This wine consists of 92% Zinfandel and 8% Petite Sirah, aged for 19 months in a combination of French and American oak. Only 670 cases were produced. The wine is reminiscent of old-style Zinfandel, similar in texture to Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of blackberry and oak lead to a palate that adds notes of spice and earth to the fruit. Drink now and over the next three to five years. This wine is an outstanding value—it usually sells for \$25 to \$30 per bottle.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Flora Springs Soliloquy, Napa @ \$13.99 per bottle
The Oakville vineyard continues to produce grapes that are ripe, juicy and delicious. In the 2003 Soliloquy, tropical fruit in the aromas leads to flavors of melon, fig and gooseberry with just a hint of vanilla. The finish is smooth and long, with just a hint of tartness to give it that extra “zing” at the end. It is an incredibly well balanced wine, refreshing and complex at the same time. Great choice with sea bass or roast chicken.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Domaine de la Maurelle, Gigondas @ \$13.99 per bottle
This wine is a blend of 60% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre. Wonderful aromas of rich black fruit and

leather lead to a palate where those flavors are echoed and a little spice is added to the mix. This has a lovely combination of elegance and power. Good choice with hearty beef stews and strongly flavored cheeses. Drink now and over the next four to seven years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Weingut Pfaffl Gruner Veltliner, Austria @ \$13.99 per bottle

This is a lively Gruner Veltliner, with a typical peppery tone complemented by aromas of citrus fruits. It is very clear and stimulating, racy and slimly structured, yet has a pronounced mineral finish. Drink this now and over the next twelve years with light meals, roasted birds, simply prepared white fishes or trout; or for a real treat, with fresh asparagus or other vegetables. This really will match an incredible variety of food.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Weingut Spreitzer Oestricher Doosberg Spätlese @ \$13.99 per bottle

The 2004 Weingut Spreitzer Oestricher Doosberg Spätlese is spicy and juicy, full of violet and iris aromas, very clean and polished with a tangy and, yes, snappy mouthfeel. The firmness is there, albeit in the background; it just helps to sharpen the flavors and add length to this most charming of wines. You can drink this wine now and over the next 20 years or so.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Jean-Luc Colombo Côtes du Rhône Blanc, Les Figuières @ \$13.99 per bottle

This is a blend of 70% Viognier and 30% Rousanne. The Viognier offers elegance and aromatic complexity, while the Rousanne brings structure to the wine. Flavors of mangoes and apricots are perfectly balanced by good acidity. Drink this just slightly chilled to let the aromas of peaches and honey fully develop. It's excellent as an *apéritif*, but also a great match for fish or chicken in a cream sauce. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Jean-Luc Colombo Côtes du Rhône, Les Forots @ \$13.99 per bottle

The Forots consists of 100% Syrah from 60-year-old vines. The wine is aged for nine months, 25% in one- or two-year-old oak barrels prior to bottling. Wonderful aromas of violets, spice and licorice lead to a palate loaded with ripe berry fruit. The mouth-feel is soft and elegant in spite of the rich fruit flavors. This is a great choice with Moroccan lamb with couscous. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Five Geese Shiraz, McLaren Vale @ \$13.99 per bottle

This 100% Shiraz was aged for 18 months in a combination of new and used American oak. The wine shows a smooth, full-bodied palate exhibiting plenty of black-fruit character, with hints of fruitcake spices and a lingering milk-chocolate finish. This wine drinks beautifully now, but may also be held for six to eight years. Great choice with braised beef short ribs.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Domaine Lareau "Cuvée des Genets," Savennieres @ \$13.99 per bottle

The Cuvée des Genets is aged almost completely in tank and is easy to get to know much earlier than most Savennieres. This wine consists of 100% Chenin Blanc aged for 18 months, 90% in tanks and 10% in oak. The wine is redolent of acacia honey, butter, and almonds, with a mineral backbone that is classic Savennieres. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

Best Buy Wine 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 2003 Chateau Peyraud, Premières Côtes de Blaye @ \$8.49 per bottle

In this age of monster Bordeaux, it is very nice to find a wine like this: 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, very aromatic and bright and perfect for consumption now and over the next three years. This is a lovely, soft, fruity and aromatic wine that is great drinking by itself or would make a good match with lamb or simply prepared beef dishes.

_____ Bottle(s) of Silvano Follador Prosecco Valdobbiadene Brut @ \$8.49 per bottle

This is a marvelous wine, clean and crisp. It's what you'd expect from a sparkling wine, but these wines are extraordinarily expressive. Delicate fruits and suggestions of mineral all waft out of your glass, subtle and balanced, without the explosive bubbles you get from many sparklers. This is the perfect *aperitivo* for sipping with friends and for holiday gatherings, but it is surprisingly versatile paired with food.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Concannon “Stampmaker’s White,” Livermore @ \$8.49 per bottle

This is a blend of the traditional Rhône varietals. It’s 57% Viognier, 29% Marsanne and 14% Rousanne. The wine was aged for seven and a half months in a combination of French and American oak. The nose is floral, with notes of kiwi, toast and lime. Refreshing acidity and outstanding balance along with notes of peaches and citrus lead to a smooth finish. This would be a great choice with roast chicken. Drink it now and over the next one or two years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Domaine de La Maurelle, Côtes du Rhône @ \$8.49 per bottle

This entirely hand-harvested wine is a blend of 55% Grenache, 40% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre. The vines are over 50 years old, providing a wine of excellent concentration and richness. Aromas of dark fruits and spice lead to a rich palate with notes of blueberries, blackberries and a hint of pepper. It is well balanced with silky tannins and would make a great choice served with rack of lamb. Drink now and over the next four to five years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Kirkham Peak Sauvignon Blanc, Mendocino @ \$8.49 per bottle

This 100% Sauvignon Blanc comes from Mendocino and is made by Aussie winemakers. The wine is crisp, clean and flavored with notes of exotic citrus, grapefruit and lime. Wonderful acidity and a clean finish make this wine an ideal choice served with grilled fish. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Purisima Canyon Sonoma County Chardonnay @ \$8.49 per bottle

About 55% of this Chardonnay comes from the Russian River Valley. This portion was entirely barrel fermented in new and used French oak barrels, with full malo-lactic fermentation and frequent *batonage* (hand-stirring). It was big, broad, butterscotch, and a bit low in acid. The other 45% comes from Alexander Valley, and was cold fermented on stainless steel, with no barrels and no malo. It was bright with crisp acidity, but a little simple. Joining the two resulted in a complex and balanced Chardonnay that displays the style of the vintage: ripe, spicy apple fruit, butterscotch tones, and lovely texture.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Jean Louis Denois Garrigues Blanc, Limoux @ \$8.49 per bottle

The 2004 Denois Garrigues Blanc is a complex blend of Grenache Blanc, Rolle (a.k.a. Vermentino), Muscat, Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay. These five cépages hail from several carefully selected parcels from the areas of the Gard, Herault, Roussillon and Limoux. The white grapes are carefully selected and then fermented in temperature-controlled tanks where they remain on the clean lees for two months to develop added richness and complexity. After two months in stainless steel, the wine is bottled with a light fining and filtration. The result is a pure and elegant wine that exhibits a vibrant freshness on the palate. Enjoy this wine now and over the next two years as a light apéritif, or with a nice grilled fish or salad.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Jean Louis Denois Garrigues Rouge, Limoux @ \$8.49 per bottle

The 2002 Garrigues Rouge is a blend of 30% Merlot, 30% Grenache, 20% Syrah 10% Mourvèdre, and 10% Carignan. This unusual red wine exhibits a gorgeous pomegranate color, with aromas of small red berry fruit and hints of spice box. On the palate it is round and rich, with subtle hints of cassis and licorice. Despite its palate-pleasing fruit, it still manages to remain very bright and fresh, thanks no doubt to the cooler vineyard sites found in this part of the Languedoc. Enjoy this wine over the next few years with roast pork, grilled quail or perhaps a nice cut of rare ahi tuna with tapenade.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Jean-Luc Colombo Viognier, La Violette @ \$8.49 per bottle

This 100% Viognier comes from the Domaine de Salente, an old property situated 25 miles from Montpellier in the Languedoc region. All of the grapes used in this wine come from 45-year-old vines. Thirty percent of the wine is matured in one- and two-year-old barrels, 70% in stainless steel tanks. Aromas of flowers and peaches lead to a crisp and clean palate that echoes the flavors. This is a great choice served as an apéritif or with mixed appetizers. It is very versatile with food. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

Special Offers—Available to all club members

2003 Ey Banyuls “Vigne d’en Traginer” \$24.99 NEW

2003 Ey Muscat de Rivesaltes “Vigne lo Clavell” \$13.99 NEW

These two dessert wines are spectacularly good. I wanted to purchase much more than I was able to, and offer it as a special offer last month; but we were not able to have them delivered in time, nor in the quantity needed. When we tasted them, we were blown away by the richness and brilliance of these dessert wines. As soon as these came in, a number of our staff members grabbed a bottle of each for their personal use. I cannot recommend these highly enough!

The newly created Ey brand encompasses only high quality Single Vineyard Wines selected from different Catalan winemakers from the Roussillon and is the result of a three-year study of the Roussillon wines, visiting and meeting almost 50 of the top wineries in the region.

2003 Leeuwin “Prelude” Chardonnay, Margaret River, Western Australia \$19.99

91 points from *Wine Spectator*: “Distinctive, with earthy pear, grapefruit and dusky spice aromas and flavors, remaining lively and juicy through the long, multilayered finish. The oak is well-submerged under other characteristics, making for a harmonious feel. Drink now through 2012.” (10/05) Stephen Tanzer’s *International Wine Cellar* wrote: “(\$29) Pale gold. Yellow apple, fresh peach, jasmine, honeysuckle and mint aromas are clean and brisk. At once layered and delicate, with fresh citrus and pineapple flavors and a smoky, oak-spicy complexity. An easygoing, nicely focused and fresh example of the regional style.” (Jul/Aug 05)

2002 Amici “Old Vine - Panek Vineyard” Napa Zinfandel \$24.99

The Panek vineyard is from an area legendary for Zinfandel. Bordered by the infamous Turley Wine Cellars to the south and the highly regarded Aida vineyard to the north, these gnarled, 35-year-old dry-farmed vines yield only two tons of fruit per acre. Aromas of black cherries, currants, blackberries and exotic spices explode from this deep ruby/garnet Zinfandel. Rich and dense with multiple layers of blackberries, kirsch liqueur, currants and spice that drench the palate. This is an exuberant, full-bodied wine, intense and pure with a long concentrated finish.

2002 Cos d’Estournel, St-Estèphe \$89.99 (Regularly \$99.99)

95-100 points from *Wine Spectator*: “This is very exceptional. The team at Cos worked hard on the 2002, and it shows. Intense aromas of crushed berries, with wet earth and licorice. Full-bodied, with super fine tannins and a long, subtle finish. This is impressive, firm and powerful.” (04/03)

Louis Roederer Brut Premier Champagne \$29.99 (Regularly \$34.99)

From the makers of Cristal, this is made in a rich, toasty style. Robert Parker calls it “a particularly good value.” 89 points from *Wine Spectator*: “A Pinot-dominated cuvée, full-bodied and powerful, hinting at red berry, citrus and honey notes. It starts out elegantly, gaining grip and intensity, with appealing flavors and a persistent finish. Drink now.” (10/04)

1999 Roederer L’Ermitage \$29.99 (Regularly \$32.99)

Creamy, deep and every bit as fascinating and complex as many a *tête de cuvée* from Champagne, this vintage bubbly from Roederer’s Anderson Valley outpost shows subtle notes of honey and flowers with a lively and elegant mouth feel and a clean, pleasantly acidic finish. Rich enough to accompany an entire meal.