



K&L Wine Merchants  
3005 El Camino,  
Redwood City, CA 94061  
Orders: (800) 247-5987  
Wine Club Extension: 2766  
wineclubs@klwines.com

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Dear Wine Club Member,

Happy July 4th everyone! I hope you all can have an excellent celebration with some friends and family. I'm really excited to be introducing some of my favorites this month. The Sangiovese in the Signature Red Collection is from Baja California. It is very special to me, as Baja was the first wine region I visited. For those of you who've been skeptical about wine from Baja or think wine from there is just average, this will surprise you. The wineries are passion projects and unpretentious, and the warm welcome and local hospitality are authentically Mexican. We also have Riesling from Central Otago in our Premium Club! The bright acidity is exactly what I want on a hot summer day to transport myself to this southernmost wine region, where it's winter currently down there. I had planned to take myself on a trip to Europe in Spring 2020, but of course that didn't happen. One of the stops I was going to make was in Alsace, just in time for their asparagus season—but I'll have to wait till next year! In the meantime, I'm thrilled to be able to offer a Crémant d'Alsace for our Le Club Francais this month. We have customers asking for this by name in our stores, and as a club member, you get first dibs! As always, if you'd like to reorder any previous club wines, just scan the QR code below.

Tchin-tchin,

Jin Zhang | Wine Club Director & Head Sommelier | wineclubs@klwines.com



## Best Buy Wine Club

### 2019 Allram Grüner Veltliner Kamptal (\$9.99)

In the post-war era, Walter Allram transformed a small farm with a couple of fields and vineyards into a winery of about 12 hectares. He distributed his own wines and made a name for himself. In the 1980s, Walter passed the winery down to his daughter Michaela and her husband Erich and in 2015, their son Lorenz Haas-Allram took over. By the way, Walter Allram, now 90 years old, is still in the vineyard every day ... and he claims to know each vine personally.

This wine is the new vintage of a club favorite because it combines quality and value. On the nose, you can expect notes of lemon verbena and lemongrass, as well as that classic white pepper note. On the palate, you can expect delicious notes of lemon curd and Granny Smith apples with herbal notes in the background. If you are unfamiliar with this varietal, you can think of it as Sauvignon Blanc's more exotic cousin. It's known to be a versatile pairing for some more challenging dishes such as asparagus and artichoke. My personal favorite pairing is with Southeast Asian cuisines that have lots of spiced and aromatic components.



## 2019 Radley & Finch “Flyin’ French” Cabernet Sauvignon Western Cape (\$9.99)

While there are five geographical units in South Africa designated for grape growing and winemaking, the one to know is the Western Cape in the southwestern part of the country. It’s bordered on the west by the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean on the south. Cabernet Sauvignon is the most planted grape in South Africa.

The name of this producer, Radley & Finch, comes from the book *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but unlike the serious nature of the book, the wines aim to reflect an easy-going and light-hearted style of wine. Their motto: Optimism, beats the pants off pessimism. This entry level Cabernet Sauvignon is fruit-forward and medium-bodied with smooth tannins, meant for everyday drinking. Notes of red cherries, blackberries, and plums are balanced with herb and smoke, perfect for any summer BBQ.

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## Signature Red Collection

### 2017 Paoloni Sangiovese Grosso Valle de Guadalupe Baja California (\$24.99)



In 1888, the first modern Mexican winery was established in Baja California. This region produces 85% of all Mexican wine from approximately 60 wineries. Like California’s vineyards in the north, Baja sees fog rolling in from the Pacific coast and cool nights in the valleys.

Valle de Guadalupe is only 60 miles south of Tijuana. When you drive across the border U.S.-Mexican border, you’ll start seeing signs pointing toward “Ruta del Vino.” It’s a beautiful drive down

with scenic bits of the Pacific Coast. I once flew down to San Diego from San Francisco then drove down to Mexican wine country in the same amount of time it would have taken me to get up to Napa.

The golden rule of wine pairings has always been “what grows together goes together.” Perhaps I can convince you to try some Mexican wine on your next Taco Tuesday or enchilada night. Tomato based Italian dishes have classically been paired with Sangiovese. This Baja California rendition has shyer acidity than a Chianti but work equally well with tomato based Mexican dishes. After all, tomatoes are from here. Don’t skimp on the cotija or queso Oaxaca either.

### 2017 Marietta “Game Trail” Estate Yorkville Highlands Cabernet Sauvignon (\$24.99)

Yorkville Highlands is on the southeast side of Mendocino County. Cooling influence from the Pacific and large diurnal temperature swings yield smaller berries with thicker skins. The resulting wines are deeply pigmented and well-structured. The fruit used in this wine is sourced from a small block of vines perched on a 1400ft ridge looking south. Game Trail is one of three special sites Marietta has identified with a pure expression of place.

Owner Scot Bilbro is a second-generation winemaker who learned the craft from his father. He took over the operation after graduating from UC Davis. This Cab is focused, tart, and perfumed. Savory dry herbs and smoke are the first notes that will hit the nose, followed by gravel and menthol. On the palate, there’s plenty of dark ripe fruit, but like other Yorkville Highlands wines, there is good natural acidity. Unlike cabs from Napa Valley, there’s only a small trace of oak, since this wine aged 20 months in neutral oak barrels.





## Premium Wine Club

### 2019 Mount Edward Riesling Central Otago (\$14.99)

Despite its newcomer status, New Zealand has gained solid ground in the wine market today. It's easy to forget that the country's production accounts for less than 1% of the world's total because close to 90% of its wine production is exported. In the mid-1980s, Sauvignon Blanc put New Zealand on the wine map, and the number of wineries skyrocketed from 30 in 1994 to over 700 in 2013. Mount Edward Winery was founded during this boom, in 1997.

The climate in New Zealand's winegrowing regions is on the cooler side, and no vineyard is more than 80 miles away from the sea due to the narrow shape of the two main islands. Central Otago is on the southern end of the South Island, and its vineyards are the southernmost in the world. Proximity to the sea moderates the climate and allows grapes to ripen evenly over a long growing season. Sustainably grown and certified organic, this Riesling is pure, crisp, intense, and direct. The sharp acidity begs for food—seek out Southeast Asian, Polynesian, and other South Pacific cuisine. Don't forget to check out the winery cat Susie on IG @ mountedwardwinery.

### 2010 de Belcier, Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux (\$14.99)

Castillon-Cotes de Castillon is a Merlot-dominant blend due to an abundance of clay soils ideal for growing the varietal in this region. There are also small pockets of limestone for Cabernet Franc. The area is on the Right Bank of Bordeaux and the geological extension of St-Emilion. The terroir very much reflects this similarity. The Château was built at the end of the 18th century and then rebuilt by Francois de Belcier, a counter-revolutionary who was guillotined in 1794. The property overlooks the rolling landscape of Les Salles de Castillon where woodlands alternate with vines.

Supple and round, this wine carries lots of ripe fruit notes, especially plum. There's hardly any tannin left after 11 years of aging, making this a great wine to enjoy on its own.

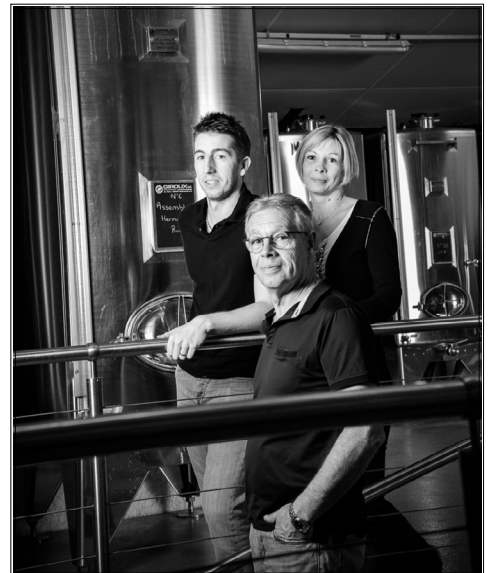
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## Le Club Francais

### 2018 Domaine des Remizières "Cuvée Christophe" Crozes-Hermitage (\$30.99)

Crozes-Hermitage is the largest of the Northern Rhône crus, and like most of its neighbors, it is dedicated to Syrah-based red wine production.

Domaine des Remizières is run by fourth-generation winemakers of the Desmeures family—Phillipe Desmeures, his daughter Emilie and son Christophe. Emilie oversees the winemaking, with her brother Christophe tending to the vineyards. The Cuvée Christophe is 100% Syrah, fermented in large oak tanks and aged in a mix of new and used oak barrels. It has earthy depth and classic smoky pepper notes to round out its luscious blueberry and blackberry. This wine comes from the most select parcels of the Crozes portion of Remizières' property. The vines average around 65 years of age, all on clay-limestone soils. Our Rhône expert in San Francisco, John Majeski, recommends this classic beauty to pair with a rich, spicy lamb and eggplant moussaka.



## 2016 Albert Boxler Cremant d'Alsace Brut (\$28.99)

Cremant d'Alsace, the sparkling wine produced in the northeast corner of France along the German border, is made exactly the same way as Champagne, but of course, you can't call it that. There are over 500 bubbly producers in this region, and it is one of the most popular sparkling wines consumed in France. While it is not exactly Champagne, Cremant d'Alsace has very strict production standards that ensure quality. The grapes used here are 30% Pinot Blanc, 50% Pinot Auxerrois, and 20% Pinot Noir. They are hand-picked and harvested earlier than grapes for the still wines to preserve acidity. The wine is aged in bottle for 24-30 months and rotated by hand in the cellar.

The humble Domaine Albert Boxler is currently ran by Jean Boxler, many generations removed from his ancestor of the same name who moved here from Switzerland in 1673. Jean is intense and serious about his land, his craft, and his wine. You can taste it in the glass. The beads are fine and notes of marzipan, Meyer lemon, and orange blossom jump out of the glass. Pair this with a tarte flambée, a local specialty that's described as pizza x onion tart.

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## Club Italiano

by Greg St. Clair

### 2019 Paolo Caciorgna "Ciauria" Etna Rosso (\$24.99)

I don't think I have ever met a more serene person than Paolo Caciorgna (Ca-chore-nya). He just seems to float effortlessly, and his shy, contagious smile is intoxicating. Paolo is a consulting enologist, that means he works for many wineries on their technical winemaking and stylistic direction but he isn't the guy dragging the hoses around. He tastes, suggests and has a broad knowledge of style and a keen ear for what the producer wants. Yet for me it was only when he purchased his own vineyards on Mount Etna that his true soul begun to shine through. Etna is a magical place and Nerello Mascalese—the grape for Etna Rosso—when grown in these lava fields produces wines with mystical souls, heavenly fragrance, and a silken character. This wine is made from 100+ year old vines on their own roots grown in vineyards at 2400'. They are located on the north side of Mount Etna, not far from Passopisciaro. The wine is fermented in stainless steel and aged in barrique for six months. I think you will find it captivating, nuanced and be taken it by its subtle charm. I have been.



### 2018 Tenuta di Sesta Rosso di Montalcino (\$14.99)



Montalcino is a quiet place already, but as you get further away from the center of this 10 x 10 mile square DOCG, you find some places that seem hardly touched by time. On Montalcino's southern slope overlooking its southern boundary is the Orcia River valley and facing the extinct volcano Mount Amiata is Sesta. It lies on the ancient road leading from coastal Tuscany to Chiusi and this was the sixth stop, hence its name. This is one of Montalcino's most serene spots and Tenuta di Sesta produces wines that reflect that character. Bold, overt flavors

that burst out of your glass are not the personality of this estate. Instead these wines are subtle, savory, balanced and have a flavor spectrum more along the lines of umami. Their Rosso di Montalcino is aged in large 30-35hl Slavonian oak barrels and there is no obvious "winemaking." They let their grapes and terroir express themselves in the wine. The Ciacci family, who've been on the estate since 1850, are a reflection of their wines, calm, composed yet dedicated. Sit back and spend some time with this wine—I think you'll find peace within.