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March, 2007

Dear Wine Club Members,

We have another great group of wines this month. For the Signature Red Club, we are very pleased to offer the 2001 Whitethorn Pinot Noir and the 2002 Amici Cabernet Sauvignon. Whitethorn is consistently one of the most elegant Pinots produced in California and is found on the wine lists of some of the finest restaurants in the Bay Area, including Gary Danko and The French Laundry. Amici is no stranger to long-time K&L customers and we are glad to have this opulent, full-bodied Napa Cab back for a return engagement.

This month the Best Buy Club offers a rare treat from Spain and a crowd pleasing Cabernet-Merlot blend from Australia. **I have an important announcement for Best Buy Club members:** We will be raising the price of the Best Buy Club to \$19.95 per month effective June 1, 2007. The higher price will give us more options in purchasing and provide better overall value for you. We decided to make this change because at the current price of \$17.95 per month, it is becoming increasingly difficult to source wines of the quality that we want to deliver. With the new price we can increase the quality of the offerings and guarantee a better experience for you. Best Buy reorders will be priced at \$9.49 for wines entering inventory starting June 1, 2007. We hope you understand this move; we wanted to give you plenty of advance notice.

I also want to remind club members that our Champagne club will start next month. This club will ship every other month and provide you with top-quality Champagne from both artisan grower-producers and the grand-marquee Champagne houses. As with the other clubs, we will use our bulk purchasing power to get you the best deals possible on some of the finest wines available. The club will cost \$69.95 per bi-monthly shipment. Would you like to join? Please call or e-mail me or one of our sales associates and we will sign you up.

Cheers,

Thornton Jacobs
K&L Wine Club Director
K&L Wine Merchants

Signature Red Wine Club

2002 Amici Cabernet Sauvignon

Amici is Italian for “friends,” and the people at Amici Cellars have been good friends to us at K&L for several years. Amici Cellars was born out of a belief that good wine and good friends make natural partners. In 1991, Jeff Hansen and a group of friends crushed a few tons of grapes in the Napa Valley for their personal cellars. The resulting wines received such outstanding reviews that the group started producing wine to share with the public. In the fourteen vintages since the inception of Amici Cellars, their wines have gained stature as some of the finest reds in America. Because the primary concern is quality, not quantity, the wines are still hand crafted and highly allocated.

Amici's first commercial vintage was a 1992 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon that impressed even the skeptics. The group of friends knew they were on to something. What was once a hobby had become a mission: to create and share world-class wines at friendly prices. Jeff Hansen and his partners, John and Sharon Harris and Robert and Celia Shepard, have widened the original circle of friends to create loyal customers throughout the country.

Amici Cellars' winemaker, Jeff Hansen, is a self-made wine professional, justifiably proud of a very non-traditional path to winemaking. He was a professional photographer in Los Angeles for many years before moving to the Napa Valley to pursue his love of food and wine. Prior to founding Amici Cellars in 1991, Jeff worked for ten years at Spring Mountain and Flora Springs wineries, allowing him to work intimately with and learn from some of Napa's finest vineyard managers and winemakers. Now over 20 years later, he is more passionate than ever about his life pursuit: the artistry of wine and food.

Jeff Hansen's style of winemaking reflects his respect for the soils, geography and climate of the Napa Valley. He has learned from experience that winemaking starts in the vineyard, with the grapes. Armed with the knowledge that any wine will be only as good as the fruit it comes from, Jeff helped Amici locate several excellent, small vineyard sites. Year-round, Jeff moves carefully from one vineyard to the next using sustainable and organic planting and growing techniques to help pave the way for a near perfect bottle of wine. To say that he is a “hands on” winemaker is an understatement: Jeff is ever-present in the vineyards, where it all begins. Over the years, he has worked hard to identify vineyards that meet or exceed expectations and match his personal winemaking style.

Once the fruit is harvested, they crush, ferment and mature the wines at a custom crush facility in Napa Valley. Jeff is on hand through each step of the process. The 2002 Amici Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley is composed of 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot 2% Petite Verdot. The wine was matured in barrel for 24 months in 45% new French oak barrels. Only 1600 cases were produced. The small amount of Merlot and Petite Verdot adds richness to the mouth feel and increases the aromatics. The color is opaque and the wine has very soft tannins, which allow the currant-blackberry flavors to take center stage on the palate. The conservative use of new French oak adds just the right amount of vanilla and spices, helping to enhance the aromatics of the wine. In their youth, all great Cabernet Sauvignons show their fruit first. Then, as bottle aging takes place, the wine more fully reveals its terroir. Enjoy this wine tonight with all manner of hearty fare and toast to your *buoni amici!*



Jeff Hansen, Winemaker at Amici Cellars.

2001 Whitethorn Pinot Noir

We are very pleased to be able to offer the 2001 Whitethorn Hyde Vineyard Pinot Noir. The driving force behind Whitethorn Winery is Tasha McCorkle McKee. Tasha began making blackberry and rose-petal wine at the age of 16. Fascinated with the magical transformation of fruit during fermentation and the more subtle changes that occurred during the aging process, she came to see wine as a living being—not always predictable, but sometimes evolving into something unexpected and wonderful.

After getting her degree in Fermentation Science at UC Davis, Tasha worked at Simi Winery, where she became Associate Winemaker. She visited Bordeaux and was impressed by how well the winemakers understood their vineyards and applied this understanding to making wine that expressed the fullest potential of each vineyard.

In 1991 Tasha founded a small family winery in her home town of Whitethorn, located in a remote and rugged coastal valley of southern Humboldt County in Northern California. Production is now 1500 cases annually, including Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Merlot. Whitethorn wines are served in many of the Bay Area's finest restaurants, including Chez Panisse, the Ritz-Carlton, Masa's, Gary Danko, Spago, Auberge du Soleil, and The French Laundry.

Tasha believes the most interesting thing about making and drinking wine is appreciating the diversity that comes from the vineyard—the land with its climate and soil, the grape selection and the farming. Each wine tells the story of a vineyard evolving from vintage to vintage. The grapes for this wine come from the renowned Hyde Vineyard, located in the Carneros region of Napa Valley, which has a low elevation and a relatively even climate influenced by morning fog from the Bay. This 2001 Hyde Vineyards Pinot Noir comes from the Whitethorn Block, a 3.5 acre, east-facing block planted with six selections of Pinot Noir. Each selection has distinctly different flavors and tannin structure.

The Calera selection (55% of the blend) has flavors of dark berry, evergreen forest, dark earth, spice and milk chocolate. It is the most tart of all the selections and important to the wine's structure and long ageing potential. The Dijon 115 (14%) has flavors of cherry, mineral and spice and is the most tannic. Its tannin is also an important contribution to structure and ageing potential. The Beba (14%) is fruity and spicy and adds flavor complexity. The Pommard (9%) also adds flavor complexity with its aromas of mincemeat, spice and roses. It is full bodied and velvety in texture. The Dijon 667 and 777 (8%) are fermented together and have intense red berry, dark berry and cherry flavors.

The 2001 vintage was unusually early and hot. By June it was clear that it would be challenging to make a balanced wine with ripe but not overripe flavors and moderate alcohol. Tasha decided to leave more clusters per vine to slow down the ripening process. She also decided to irrigate closer to harvest than usual to keep the vines from dehydrating and the grapes from shriveling in the heat. Using these techniques, she was able to harvest the grapes with a balanced ripeness.

This 2001 Pinot Noir exemplifies Tasha's style. The flavors of the vineyard are foremost, with the winemaking and oak in the background. The warmer vintage resulted in more of the red-berry, red-cherry fruit tones and less of the dark berry/earthy tones of cooler vintages from this block. However, the wine shows the distinctive character of this block with its complex flavors of red and dark berry, mincemeat, spice and milk chocolate with notes of evergreen forest and a hint of roses. The French oak adds background notes of vanilla, smoke and cedar. The wine is medium bodied with a silky texture and a long elegant finish. It is delicious alone but even better with food. Its structure with its balanced acidity and spicy tannin makes it a great complement to a wide spectrum of foods from spinach salad to roast lamb.

Signature Red Wine Club wines can be reordered for only \$23.95 per bottle.



The Hyde Vineyard, source for the Whitethorn Pinot Noir, is in Napa's Carneros region.

Premium Wine Club

Note to our online readers: Due to a last-minute inventory substitution, the Premium Club Merlot is from the Rutherford Grove winery. The wine written up in the printed newsletter is not the wine included in the Premium shipment.

2001 Rutherford Grove Merlot

Established in 1993, The Rutherford Grove Winery and Vineyards is a small, family-owned winery located in the historic Rutherford appellation of the Napa Valley. The winery is owned and operated by the Pestoni family, whose Swiss-Italian roots span five generations in the Napa Valley.

This 2001 Merlot carries a Napa Valley appellation. It is a blend of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon. The production was only 1800 cases. The fruit for this wine came from the Rutherford Grove Estate Vineyard, located in the heart of Rutherford. The wine also includes fruit from the Abreu Madrona Ranch in St. Helena and the Kenefick Ranch in Calistoga. A small percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon from the Estate vineyard in Rutherford was added to the final blend. The 2001 Rutherford Grove Merlot was barrel-aged in French oak for 14 months; about 30% of the barrels were new.

This is a classic Merlot, rich with a complex array of berry-fruit. Dark cherry and blueberry exude from the nose. Entering silky and round, the mid-palate balances the characteristic Rutherford Dust with a dark fruitiness that coats the palate. The lengthy finish is luscious and supple, replete with subtle oak tannins.

2003 Source-Napa Heart Block Sauvignon Blanc

The Source-Napa Heart Block Sauvignon Blanc is the result of a partnership between two long-time friends whose families have been instrumental in the recent history of the Napa Valley. Tom Gamble and Bill Davies met on the first day of nursery school in St. Helena, Napa Valley, in September of 1965. The Davies family has made Schramsberg wines in Napa since 1965. The Gamble family has farmed and ranched in Napa County (Oakville, Yountville, Knoxville) since 1916.

Tom Gamble went on to pursue his higher education, achieve success as a Hollywood producer, marry, and embark on numerous successful business ventures. But as they say, you can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy. In the late 1990s, Tom returned home to his beloved Napa Valley dirt and his roots as a Napa Valley farmer. Now back on the ranch, Tom is working hard on both Source-Napa and his grass-fed beef operation. Tom believes that paying extraordinarily close attention to detail is critical when it comes to determining the quality of a vineyard and the fruit it produces. A longtime advocate of organic farming practices, Tom has no doubt that natural farming translates into tangible attributes of quality and distinction that can be detected in Source-Napa wines.

When he was four, Bill Davies moved to a 200-acre wonderland. The year was 1965 and his parents, Jack and Jamie Davies, had just purchased an old, decrepit winery on a mountainside above St. Helena. That's now the world renowned site of Schramsberg sparkling wines. Bill grew up in the wine business, with a who's who of wine icons as his mentors. He brings a wealth of practical experience to the Source-Napa operation. Bill is motivated by the intangible facets of the craft. "The greatest wines make me feel alive and in the presence of something rare and momentous," he says. Tom and Bill's natural farming philosophy promotes soil and vine balance to achieve pure fruit expression. Their winemaking emphasizes micro-lot fermentation, gentle handling and thoughtful blending. They favor low yields, native yeast and minimal filtration to honor the character of the land.

The 2003 "Heart Block" Sauvignon Blanc comes from the center, or heart, of the 16-acre Gamble Vineyard in Yountville. These rows were selected because they exemplified the site and the character of the original cuttings (massale selection). The rows are planted with both the Sauvignon Musque clone (Loire Valley in origin) and the Preston clone (taken from the Graves region of Bordeaux). In addition to the inherent distinctiveness of this micro-block, each vine was individually trained, pruned and coddled in an effort to push the site to its limit. Yielding three to four tons per acre, the Heart Block was hand-harvested on two separate occasions (August 27 and September 9) at varying levels of ripeness. The final blend was 77% vrais Sauvignon Musque de Loire and 23% Preston Sauvignon Blanc. After gentle pressing, the juice was fermented in barrel on the "bourbes" or the bits of grape pulp containing essential oils and important flavor components. Only the native yeast that occurs naturally on the grapes was used for fermentation. The wine was aged on its lees (stirred often) in French oak barrels (28% new) for 19 months. Only 350 cases were produced, with a suggested retail price of \$50.00 a bottle.

From the start, the goal with "Heart Block" was to create a Sauvignon Blanc with underlying rather than obvious power, a wine that simultaneously embodied force and grace. A tight mineral and apple nose opens up after a few moments yielding complex layers of nutty white floral aromas. The texture of this wine is full and viscous, yet balanced with significant acid definition. It is completely dry with flavors of quince, apricot and white flowers interwoven with toasted hazelnut, kumquat and lime marmalade. We hope you enjoy this rare treat!



Tom Gamble and Bill Davies.

Premium Wine Club wines can be reordered for only \$13.99 per bottle.

Best Buy Wine Club

2003 Peregrino Graciano Crianza

The 2003 Peregrino Graciano Crianza is made by the Spanish producer Bodega Biurko Gorri. You might recognize the photo below; this winery also produced the 2001 Peregrino Reserve Grenache, which we sent out last month to the Premium Club. They are located in Bargota, a small town on the slopes of Mount Yoar, which is part of the foothills of the Sierra Cantabria, the mountain range that forms the natural northern border of Rioja. The winery belongs to the Llorens family, who also own thirty hectares of vineyards in the adjacent towns of Labraza, Viana and Bargota. The family employs traditional techniques that limit production and ensure grapes with high tartaric acid content, great color intensity and potent yet fruity tannins. Their vineyards contain a high percentage of old vines native to the area; the majority of the vines are planted on relatively poor chalky soils. The high altitude and lots of sunny days lead to large temperature fluctuations between day and night. This makes grapes that are ripe but retain good acidity and freshness.

At Biurko Gorri, the production of organic grapes stems from a deep-rooted family tradition. They aim to obtain a quality product while respecting the natural cycles of the vines. The family has a holistic, painstaking approach to winemaking, starting with the treatment of the soil. Only organic animal and plant fertilizers are used. The intention is to obtain a well balanced soil that leads to hearty vines, naturally protected against disease. Preventive vine treatments are based on natural elements (sulfur, copper in small quantities, clay, purines, sexual confusion techniques, etc.). The wines are made according to Riojan tradition with the added advantages of modern technology. The current bodega was built in the early nineties when the family decided to make a major investment to adapt their older wine-making systems. These improvements allow them to produce high-quality wine that faithfully retains the purity of the grape.

This month's selection is made from the Graciano grape. Many of you may not be familiar with this traditional varietal. It is one of the oldest in Rioja but is becoming less and less prevalent there. This is because the vine is low yielding and requires some spraying or intense vineyard work to maintain late-season, healthy fruit. The grape makes delicately scented, subtle wine of high quality. There are now only a few hundred hectares of Graciano left, all of them in the oldest vineyards of Rioja Alta. The wine is also known for its ability to age. The high acidity of the Graciano grape makes it a good candidate for blending with low-acid varieties such as Tempranillo. Unfortunately, Graciano's sparse yield is prompting many Spanish growers to replace this quality varietal with more productive vines.

The grapes are de-stemmed before crush and fermentation. Maceration lasts for 20 days in stainless-steel vats. The fermentation is carried out in temperature-controlled, stainless-steel vats. The grapes are then gently pressed using a pneumatic press. The wine is made with minimum sulfur dioxide and low filtration. The wines are matured in French oak casks and in bottle until they are ready for sale.

Graciano is typically a small component of the Rioja blend, but, here it really shines as a mono-varietal bottling, displaying gorgeous aromatics of jammy red fruits, leading to a palate of bright cherry fruit, with refreshing acidity, especially given the heat of the 2003 vintage. Enjoy this wine with all manner of roast meat and hard cheeses. Parker gave this wine 89 points, writing, "A knock-out effort, the 2003 Graciano exhibits a dense ruby/purple color along with sweet, floral, black cherry and currant aromas as well as flavors. Enjoy it over the next 1 to 2 years."



The Llorens family, producers of the Peregrino wines. An image of their vineyards is in the background.

2005 Richmond Grove Cabernet-Merlot

Richmond Grove's 100-year-old restored winery is located on the banks of the North Para River in South Australia's Barossa Valley. Richmond Grove produces a range of premium wines from grapes grown in Australia's best viticulture regions. The winery location began life more than a century ago in 1897 when Ernst Gottlieb Hoffman (better known as E.G.) established it on the river bank. E.G.'s father was among the original Lutheran settlers from Silesia who had left Germany in the mid-nineteenth century to escape religious persecution. E.G. began planting vines on his 120 acres of land and chose to call his vineyard and winery "Orange Grove Wine Cellars." In 1945, due to ill health and a lack of male heirs, E.G. sold Orange Grove to Leo Buring, a leading figure in the Australian wine industry. Orange Grove became Leo Buring's "Chateau Leonay." In 1955, a year before his retirement, Buring appointed as winemaker a promising young Roseworthy graduate, John Vickery. John would become one of Australia's most influential and respected winemakers.

The original Richmond Grove winery was established in 1974 at Sandy Hollow in the upper Hunter Valley, and the first wines from Richmond Grove appeared on the market in 1977. Richmond Grove enjoyed considerable success throughout the 1980s, particularly in New South Wales and as a result, it needed to expand. Chateau Leonay was the ideal location with its beautiful setting, high-quality vineyards, state-of-the-art technology and legendary winemaker. So in 1993, Chateau Leonay was renamed Richmond Grove. Richmond Grove was delighted that John Vickery agreed to stay on with the company as Chief Winemaker. After almost 50 vintages, he was a revered Australian winemaking icon and still called Richmond Grove home.

The Weathervane is a delicious blend of Cabernet and Merlot that is aged in a combination of French and American oak for 12 months. It is a gorgeously perfumed wine, with notes of blackberry, eucalyptus and even sassafras. The palate boasts flavors of blackberry, eucalyptus and black pepper, with an incredibly lively mouth feel. This is a great-value Aussie blend that will be great as an apéritif or with a wide range of fare.

Best Buy Wine Club wines can be reordered for only \$8.49 per bottle.



K&L Australian wine buyer Jim Chanteloup, consulting with the locals on the merits of the 2006 vintage.

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 a “backlist” of each club. Please note the prices for each wine. The phone number to place orders is 800-247-5987. The order desk is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any wine-club-related issues you can call the wine clubs to resolve them at extension 2766. 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 White Rock Claret @ \$23.95 per bottle

Parker gave this wine 90 points and noted, “White Rock’s offerings always possess a distinctive Bordeaux-like personality, which is not surprising in view of the fact that they are blends of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. Fashioned from an organically run vineyard (no pesticides or herbicides), it boasts a deep saturated ruby/purple color as well as a nose of graphite, black currants, damp earth, and flowers. Medium to full-bodied and elegant, with well-integrated tannin and subtle background oak, it possesses wonderful sweetness, elegance, and restraint, which are not easy to achieve in California.”

_____ Bottle(s) of 2005 Summerland Pinot Noir @ \$23.95 per bottle

The wine is varietally correct; it is well balanced, with good acidity and vibrant, fresh-berry notes. The palate is dominated by dark fruits with cherry highlights along with notes of vanilla and cedar. These characteristics will develop nicely over time; the wine should age well given the quality of the 2005 vintage. The wine is still young and has the potential to develop but is certainly very tasty now. Enjoy with all manner of beef, lamb, pork or poultry.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Proprietà Sperino Uvaggio, Coste della Sesia Rosso DOC @ \$23.95 per bottle

The 2004 Uvaggio is composed of 75% Nebbiolo with the remainder being Vespolina and Croatina. The wine is deeply colored with a lovely spicy scent. It is medium bodied and slightly firm now with characteristic Nebbiolo flavors such as rose petals and tar as well as substantial tannins and the typical Nebbiolo mysteriousness. This wine will go well with all manner of roast and grilled meat, and with hard cheeses. This wine will continue to improve for many years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Pujanza, Rioja DOC @ \$23.95 per bottle

80% Tempranillo and 20% Graciano. Parker gave this wine 90 points and noted, “The 2003 Pujanza, aged 13 months in new French oak and bottled unfiltered, is an opulent, impressive Rioja exhibiting potent, fat, black cherry and tobacco-tinged fruit flavors nicely bolstered by toasty oak. It offers plenty of texture, purity, and spice. Drink it over the next 4-5 years.”

_____ Bottle(s) of 2005 Hewitson Cellar Selection Shiraz Mourvèdre @ \$23.95 per bottle

This wine has beautiful dark fruits and red flower notes on the nose. On the palate the wine is rich but balanced with yummy fruit, very polished tannins and lovely vanilla-oak notes. This is sure to be a big hit with those who love full-bodied Australian reds.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Craneford Merlot “John Zilm,” Barrosa Valley @ \$23.95 per bottle

This wonderful Merlot earned 92 points from Robert Parker. Here are Parker’s notes (October 2005 *Wine Advocate*): “I continue to be shocked by encounters with top-flight Merlot from Australia (it doesn’t happen that often). Craneford’s 2004 Merlot, a knock-out effort from the Barossa that spent 16 months in French oak, exhibits a dark ruby/purple color in addition to rich aromas of berry fruit, roasted coffee, chocolate, and subtle herbs. This fleshy, voluptuously-textured, hedonistic Merlot will provide immense pleasure over the next five to six years.”

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Schweiger Merlot, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle

If you like Paloma Vineyards Merlot you'll like this wine, primarily because Fred Schweiger planted the Paloma Vineyard next door to his own, using his own vines as cuttings. A Bing-cherry nose is forward, followed by mixed berry flavors and mocha in the mouth. Think of milk-chocolate-covered strawberries. The acid is balanced in perfect proportions with the slightly elevated tannins, making for a nice, lush finish. Drink now or hold for five to seven years. Try this with Rack of Lamb.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Stella Maris Red, Washington @ \$23.95 per bottle

This is a lovely blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, and 5% Malbec. This wine in the style of right-bank Bordeaux is very well balanced, with notes of ripe plum, cherry and cassis, along with hints of vanilla, cloves and chocolate. The addition of Malbec gives this wine a lush mouthfeel and contributes to the generous finish. Drink now with an hour's aeration, or hold for eight to ten years.

Premium Wine Club: Previous Offerings

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

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_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Peregrino Reserve Grenache @ \$13.99 per bottle

The wine has a deep and brilliant reddish-purple color and an intense aroma that combines ripe fruit, a slight hint of mineral and the toasted, smoked notes from the wood. On the palate, the wine initially has a slightly sweet taste in the mouth with a concentrated flavor and potent structure. It is ample and fleshy. The finish is long and persistent. The tannin is present but ripe and fruity. This will be rounded off as the wine ages in the bottle. Enjoy this wine with all manner of roast meat and hard cheeses.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Talbott Chardonnay @ \$13.99 per bottle

When the good people at Talbott offered us this wine, we jumped at the opportunity. On the nose the wine is vinuous and rich with complex notes from extended lees contact. On the palate, it has richness and depth with lees-y butterscotch notes, some spice from the oak and a pronounced honeyed citrus note. A lively acidity keeps the richness in balance. We hope you enjoy this rare treat!

_____ Bottle(s) of 2005 Chablis, Roger Roblot Vieilles Vignes @ \$13.99 per bottle

2005 was a great year in Chablis, as in nearly all of France, and this wine reflects the natural bounty of the vintage. The wine is pale yellow with some light green glints. It has a fine nose with rich floral (white flowers) and fruity (fresh fruits) aromas. The wine is clean and pure with a slightly honeyed richness balanced against nice citrus notes and lovely Chardonnay fruit. This wine is great to drink now as an apéritif or with seafood or any kind of white meat.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Casisano Colombaio Rosso di Montalcino @ \$13.99 per bottle

The 2004 Casisano Colombaio Rosso di Montalcino is a marvelously balanced wine from a superb vintage. It shows Sangiovese's natural elegance and length with its classic violet, cherry and spice in its nose. On the palate the wine is long and elegant with a decidedly long finish. In Italy you could drink this wine with a plate of pasta with a meat sauce, a rosemary flavored roasted chicken, or a classic Florentine Bistecca (T-bone). This wine will age gracefully for another five years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Treana White Blend, "Mer Soleil" Vineyard, Central Coast @ \$13.99 per bottle

This wine consists of 61% Viognier and 39% Marsanne. It was aged 10% in stainless steel, 75% in neutral French oak, and 15% in new oak barrels. The Viognier provides the wine's beautiful floral nose, with scents of jasmine and honeysuckle. The Marsanne adds rich honey and mineral flavors. A variety of flavors comes across on the palate, including apricot, pear and citrus.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Château Le Doyenne, Premières Côtes de Bordeaux @ \$13.99 per bottle

This wine's blend usually consists of approximately 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Soft tannins and a touch of earth frame bright cherry and berry fruit flavors. Enjoy this wine with roast pork loin or simply grilled steak. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Grant Burge Barossa Miamba Shiraz @ \$13.99 per bottle

This Shiraz is deep crimson and red, with rich, dark berries, cherry liquor and smoky oak on the nose. The dense fruit flavors carry through to the palate, combining with vanilla oak. Soft, balanced tannins and good acidity provide great length, with a lingering flavor of subtle licorice. Drink now with some aeration, or hold for up to ten years. Great choice with game meats.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2005 Grant Burge Eden Valley Pinot Gris Reserve @ **\$11.99 per bottle—Special price!**

The grapes for this 100% Pinot Gris were hand-harvested and then fermented on the lees in stainless steel tanks. A small percentage was aged in three-year-old barrels and then added to the final blend to add a bit of complexity. Although this wine sees barely any oak, it is surprisingly rich and creamy with flavors of pear and citrus that are framed by good acidity. This is lovely to drink by itself, but pairs beautifully with pasta with a cream sauce, mushroom risotto, or grilled pork tenderloin. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

Best Buy Wine Club: Previous Offerings

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_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Denois Merlot @ \$8.49 per bottle

The 2004 Denois Merlot is a wonderful expression of a fresh Merlot style with plenty of fruit but just enough acidity to give it balance. The nose is dominated by plummy Merlot fragrance. On the palate the wine is medium bodied with lots of dark fruit, just a bit of earth and soft yet present tannins. This wine is an easy drinker, intended for consumption at an early age—so open it up and enjoy. It will go well with beef, pork or even roast chicken, and with hard cheeses.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2005 Richmond Grove French Cask Chardonnay @ \$8.49 per bottle

In the glass the wine is medium straw-yellow with green hues. On the nose, there are notes of white peach and citrus fruit with a very subtle hint of nutty oak and buttery complexity. On the palate, the wine reveals peachy fruit flavors with fresh citrus notes. The French oak flavors contribute subtle vanilla, spice and cedar notes which harmonize with the fruit. The texture is soft and creamy yet balanced by a fresh acid finish. Enjoy this wine as an apéritif or with a wide range of fare including seafood and poultry.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Ercavio Roble @ \$8.49 per bottle

The Ercavio Roble is 100% Cencibel (the local name for Tempranillo), with an elevage of five months in French and American oak (hence the name Roble). Our Spanish wine buyer, Anne Pickett, is a big fan of this winery. Anne writes, “Full and fleshy, this red from La Mancha has plenty of ripe black cherry fruit and a long finish. Some of you may remember the 2003 Ercavio (Parker gave it 91 points) which sold out so fast that if you blinked, you missed out! Well, the 2004 is even better—more length, depth and concentration. Enjoy the Ercavio Roble with your favorite grilled steak! This wine should keep for up to three years. ”

_____ Bottle(s) of 2005 Chassagne Côtes du Rhône @ \$8.49 per bottle

In the glass, the wine is deep ruby red with violet hues. On the nose, there’s an explosion of rich berry aromas with notes of violets and spice. On the palate, the wine is well rounded with mouth-filling fruit, a bit of spice and a good balance of acidity and fruit. It finishes with delicate sweet tannins. This is a very pleasant, refreshing table wine that is the perfect complement to red meats, lamb, *coq au vin* and your favorite cheeses. This wine should keep for up to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2005 Kirkham Peak, Sauvignon Blanc @ \$8.49 per bottle

The nose entices with aromas of grapefruit, melon, and citrus. On the palate, the wine has a richness of tropical fruit with a touch of pineapple yet is still bright and vibrant. The subtle lime minerality mirrors the cool riverbed stones along Wine Creek and adds a sparkling crispness to the abundant fruit flavors. This is wonderfully complex yet totally quaffable wine made in a softer, richer style but without any overbearing oak; it will greatly appeal to

2004 Richmond Grove "Black Cat" Shiraz Regular K&L price \$9.99 **Special Club Price \$8.49**

The Shiraz grapes for this wine were sourced from selected vineyards in the Padthaway and Coonawarra regions. Fresh, spicy berry fruit with underlying toasty vanilla oak, and taut, savory tannins. The palate shows balance and a tight structure, with the elegance and finesse typical of cool-climate Shiraz. The wine is generous and rich in style, and will complement a wide range of foods.

California Chardonnay lovers. It is like a drop of Sonoma sunshine in a glass. This wine makes a great apéritif or can be served with seafood or Asian cuisine.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Jean-Luc Colombo, Côtes du Rhône "Les Abeilles" @ \$8.49 per bottle
Jean-Luc Colombo is a perennial favorite at K&L. This is another great value from the fabulous 2003 vintage. According to the Wine Spectator, the wine has: "Light berry, herb and mineral notes, with a fresh finish." (06/05)

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Domaine Comte Louis de Clermont-Tonnerre, Côtes du Rhône la Berardiere @ \$8.49
Robert Parker noted, "The 2004 La Berardiere Tres Vieilles Vignes shows a slightly denser, sweeter, more floral nose than the Valreas with kirsch liqueur, excellent density, medium body, good acidity, and a fresh, lively, heady finish. Drink it over the next 2 to 3 years. 88 points." (02/06)

_____ Bottle(s) of 2005 Craneford Private Selection Chardonnay @ \$8.49 per bottle
This 100% Chardonnay comes from the Adelaide Hills. The wine sees no wood treatment and no malolactic fermentation. The creaminess of the wine comes from stirring of the lees for one week. This gives it added complexity as well as a natural creaminess. The pure winemaking technique results in brilliant expression of the Chardonnay grape. The wine has notes of melon, citrus and tropical fruits. Excellent acidity is beautifully balanced with the fruit flavors. Try it with trout amandine or roast chicken. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2004 Purisima Canyon Roussane/Viognier @ \$8.49 per bottle
This wine is a blend of 58.4% Roussane and 41.6% Viognier. The Roussane came from ten-year-old vines from a vineyard in Lodi. The wine was 100% tank fermented and was left sur lie for 6 months, adding richness and flavor. The Viognier came from 20-year-old vines from a dry-farmed vineyard in Clarksburg and also was tank fermented. Neither grape was aged in oak barrels. Crisp, refreshing with flavors of apples and tropical fruits, this is a very easy wine to sip by itself or enjoy with a wide variety of food.

As a K&L Wine Club member, you have an existing *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. 2766 or theclubs@klwines.com.

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

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- 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 provide or update your e-mail address. This benefits us all. It often allows us to resolve your issues in a more timely fashion. Also, with e-mail we can alert you to member-only specials more quickly than we can with this newsletter.

A Special Offer on Rhône Reds

The demand for the Soumade Confiance was so great we have already sold out, so we are offering these great Soumade wines to club members at a special discount.

2003 Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau Domaine La Soumade "Prestige" @ \$16.99

— The lowest price in the US!

89 points Robert Parker. "The 2003 Côtes du Rhône-Villages Rasteau Cuvée Prestige exhibits earthy, peppery, chocolatey, cassis notes, plenty of spice, moderately hard tannin, and medium to full body. Consume it over the next 6 to 7 years." (02/06).

2004 Côtes du Rhône Domaine La Soumade "Les Violettes" @ \$24.99

90 points Robert Parker. "One of the best buys of this portfolio is the Côtes du Rhône Les Violettes, a blend of 80% Syrah and 20% white grapes. The 2004 Côtes du Rhône Les Violettes could be called the Southern Rhône's La Mouline of Rasteau. A sexy perfume of acacia flowers, sweet creme de cassis, and blackberries soars from the glass of this round, medium to full-bodied, opulent, extroverted, explosively fruity, rich effort. This wine should be enjoyed over the next 3 to 4 years." (02/06)

Additional Club Specials

Back by popular demand!

2002 Lancaster Estate Red, Alexander Valley only \$29.95 (Regular K&L Price \$41.99)

The 2002 Lancaster is the expression of a near perfect growing season in the Alexander Valley. Ideal weather conditions during bud break and bloom, very little rain after sunset, and cool summer mornings yielded clusters of small, concentrated berries which provided the building blocks of this great vintage. This wine is a blend of 88% cabernet sauvignon, 5% cabernet franc, 4% malbec, 2% merlot and 1% petit verdot. The fruit was sorted by hand, pressed, fermented, and aged in the estate's caves for 22 months in tight-grained French oak barrels and an additional 14 months in bottle. Aromas of black cherries, lavender, and vanilla bean lead the way to layers of black fruit, lush textures, and a long polished finish.

2004 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine de Marcoux Club Price only \$44.99

(Regular K&L Price \$49.99)

90-93 points Robert Parker: "The 2004 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition, or "Cuvée Classique" as they often say in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, tips the scales at 14.7% natural alcohol. It reveals a dense ruby/purple color, a big, sweet nose of creme de cassis, blackberry, and white flowers, beautiful texture, refreshing acidity, and plenty of definition as well as intensity. It should drink well for a good 10 years or more."

Schott Zwiesel Titanium Stemware

As a member of one of K&L's Wine of the Month clubs, you have already demonstrated a love of fine wine. Now, we'd like to make sure you have another element in wine appreciation: fine crystal stemware. Proper glassware, correctly shaped and sized, is essential to the full enjoyment of your fine wines. These ultra-durable wine glasses, available for Cabernet, Pinot Noir, Champagne, Chardonnay and Zinfandel/Chianti, are a must for every wine lover.

We can offer you the wonderful Schott Zwiesel Titanium stemware at the best price in the US. These beautiful glasses generally retail for \$12.99, but K&L's club price is only \$47.94 per case of 6 (that's only \$7.99 per stem), a truly outstanding bargain! We can ship in full cases only, but you can purchase the glasses individually at this price in our stores.