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May 2, 2005

Dear Wine Club Member,

A new movie entitled *Mondovino* came out recently in very limited distribution and has stirred up quite a hornet's nest in the wine industry. It was filmed by filmmaker and occasional sommelier Jonathan Nossiter, in five languages over a three-year period. Here's how Nossiter describes it: Juxtaposing mom-and-pop growers with huge conglomerates, the film intertwines multiple family dramas—some of which play out like soap operas—and uncovers a complex tapestry of conflicts, conspiracies and alliances, all of which stem from the production, distribution and consumption of wine.

The film's main point seems to be that the forces of globalization have had a negative effect on winemaking—that globalization is leading to one global wine style and destroying the idea of *terroir*, or sense of place.

The reaction to this movie, among people in the wine business and passionate wine lovers, has been strikingly vicious. Many view the movie as a “left-wing” screed against the evils of globalization. Filmmaker Nossiter views people such as Robert Mondavi, Robert Parker, and wine consultant Michel Rolland as “bad”; he compares them to small-farmer winemakers, whom he views as “good.” As with many documentaries, the director has a clear and subjective point of view. Though it is a work of non-fiction, the film is not at all an objective look at the world of wine. This has led to the passionate response against it.

One way to learn how much reaction this film has stirred up in the wine community is to log on to the Mark Squires Bulletin board on Robert Parker's website. The web address is: <http://www.erobertparker.com>. Nossiter wrote a 4000-plus-word “open letter to Robert Parker” as a response to a review by Pierre Rovani, Parker's colleague and Burgundy critic. That letter and the subsequent posts (at my last count, 500-plus) provide a fascinating insight into how various people view wine and its importance in their lives. The posts take a few detours; one interesting side trip is into the meaning and definition of *terroir*. I highly recommend checking this out. You will learn much about the movie, but also about wine in general. Happy reading!

A reminder: Each of you already has an online account. If you don't know your online ID and password, please contact us and we will send you your information via email. Please make sure we have your email address so that you can to 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.

Cheers,

Dave Rosenzweig
Wine Club Director

Signature Red Wine Club

The Signature Red Wine Club offerings for May 2005 include an outstanding Napa Cabernet from the great 2001 Vintage and a wonderful Spanish red from Priorat.

2001 Amici Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa

We are proud to feature the return of Amici to our wine club. Last year, we offered their 2000 Rutherford Cabernet and it was a huge hit. Our friendship with the great people at Amici allowed us the opportunity to offer this Cabernet to our club members. As many of you know, the 2001 vintage in California is considered a classic vintage, and neither Amici nor most other wineries have had any problem selling through their stock from this vintage.

Amici was born out of a belief that good wine and good friends make natural partners. The winery is jointly owned by winemaker Jeff Hansen, Bob Shepard and John Harris. In 1991, when Jeff Hansen had spent ten years working at Spring Mountain and Flora Springs wineries, he and a group of friends crushed a few tons of Cabernet grapes in the Napa Valley for their personal cellars. The resulting wines received such outstanding accolades that the very next year, Jeff and friends started producing wine to share with the public. Thus was born the first vintage of Amici. According to Jeff, "The success of Amici can be summed up in one word: passion. Passion is the primary ingredient of any artistic endeavor, and the art of great winemaking is no different. We at Amici share a taste for quality, and are truly passionate about creating great red wines."



A vineyard in the Napa Valley's Rutherford area.

With a clear understanding that winemaking starts in the vineyard, Jeff found several two- to four-acre vineyard sites that he felt were ideal for producing world-class wine grapes. Jeff works very closely with vineyard manager Fernando Delgado to ensure the health of the vines throughout the growing cycle.

Here is a review of this wine by my colleague Jim Barr, with whom I completely agree about it.

"The Amici Cellars 2001 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon marks the tenth vintage for owner/winemaker Jeff Hansen and most of us feel that it is definitely the best Cab that he has created and crafted to date. 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, an ever expansive, opulent set of aromas of currants, blackberries and plums that is underscored and supported by a touch of lightly toasted cedary oak and a hint of coffee bean and bittersweet chocolate. In the mouth, it will treat you thoroughly to a wonderfully complex, full-bodied, layered Cabernet that is firmly structured with ripe, rich, viscous fruit varietal characteristics, notes of that classic Rutherford dust, and a finish that is long, warm, concentrated, and propped up by silky smooth tannins. Because this youthful, well-extracted Cabernet will easily age for another ten-plus years, it should be decanted and given a good hour of airing before serving for the near term."

The October 2004 issue of *The Wine Enthusiast* gave this exceptional Cabernet gem 90 points and described it as follows: "Smooth and elegant, with ripe cherry and plum flavors and soft, gentle tannins. Generously oaked, this pretty wine is drinking beautifully now."

2001 Morlanda "Crianca," Priorat

Morlanda is located in the Priorat DOC (Denominacion de Origen Calificada). Priorat is one of only two Spanish wine regions that have been granted official DOC status – all other Spanish wine regions have simply DO status. Wines that come from DOC regions are subject to more rigorous standards than are their DO counterparts.

An ancient wine-growing region where vines were first planted in the 12th century, Priorat has a desolate beauty with ancient terraces climbing the stony hillsides. Legend has it that a local shepherd had a vision of angels climbing to heaven as if on a staircase. The Carthusian monks established a monastery or "priory" on the spot, which was called Priorat de Scala Dei, the Priory of the Staircase to God. The monks naturally made wine and although the original monastery is in ruins today, the winemaking continues.



Terraced hillside vineyards in the Priorat region of Spain.

The hillside vineyards are planted on terraces from about 300 feet to just over 1500 feet in elevation, with an average height of about 500 feet. Summers are dry and hot with rain coming in the fall and again in the late spring. Summertime temperatures can reach 100 degrees with an average of about 82 degrees. In winter, the temperature can plunge to below freezing. The temperature swings help keep acids and sugars in balance in the grapes, leading to a more intense and concentrated wine.

Morlanda was founded in 1997, but the vineyards that surround the modern winery are much older. With 170 acres of land, only 47 are planted vineyards. The elevation is between 550 and 700 feet. The name of the winery is taken from the name of the highest hill in the area. The estate produces about 3300 cases of wine annually.

The Crianca contains the traditional grapes of Priorat: Garnacha and Carinena (Grenache and Carignane). The grapes are entirely hand-harvested and then fermented in stainless-steel tanks. The wine is then transferred to new American oak and aged for 12 months before spending an additional six months in bottle before release.

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.

Signature Red Club, May 2005 wine re-orders

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

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Amici Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Morlanda "Crianca," Priorat @ \$23.95 per bottle

Premium Wine Club

For the Premium Wine Club we offer another lovely Chardonnay, this time from Sonoma, and a superb red blend from Australia.

2001 Blackford Chardonnay, Sonoma

This Chardonnay was just too good to pass up. I did not intend to offer another Chardonnay so soon after the last two, but as always, it is the quality of the wine that ultimately determines what we decide to offer, and this was a clear favorite. I'm going to hand my introduction of Blackford over to David Cronin, the winemaker at Buehler Vineyards. He wrote the following paragraphs and I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

“Winemaking is one of those professions that most people think of as glamorous: living in the idyllic small communities of the wine country, strolling through beautiful vineyards monitoring the vines, rubbing elbows with celebrities at the many wine auctions. I suppose that's why many get into wine as a second career.

“To me, glamour is not part of the winemaking equation; hands stained black by indelible grape pigments, work weeks that last for 40 days at harvest, and the deafening roar of a bottling line turning out finished product just don't qualify as glamorous to me but I wouldn't trade them for any other line of work. I think of winemaking as a craft: a trade requiring special skills. While one may study winemaking in university settings, the skills only come from years of hands-on experience and are best taught under an apprentice-type structure at an established winery.

“Winemaking has been my one and only career. I apprenticed ten years at Napa Valley's Far Niente as assistant winemaker; in addition to overseeing production there, I also founded the late-harvest program, Dolce, and served as winemaker from 1985 through 1992.

Subsequently, I served as full-time winemaker for Buehler Vineyards from 1993 through 1998, when I left to launch my own brand as well as my career as a winemaking consultant.

“As a tribute to my Hoosier roots, I took the name, Blackford Wines, from my birthplace: Blackford County, Indiana. I produce two Chardonnays from the Sonoma Coast appellation; one is a vineyard-designated wine from the Armagh vineyard west of Petaluma. The other is a blend of two vineyards within the Sonoma Coast appellation. Additionally, I produce a Cabernet Sauvignon, which is a blend of several Napa Valley vineyards.

“What is my winemaking philosophy? There are no secrets to making fine wine. Begin with a style in mind, find the best vineyard sites to attain that style, and pay very close attention to the winemaking details that will shape the style.

“What is my winemaking style? To begin, I only make wines that I personally like. If I had to succinctly describe my style, I'd say deeply textured wines with pure varietal aromatics that are neither simple nor ponderous.

“Blackford Wines is a very personal, hands-on approach to making truly handcrafted wines. This is by design. This is all I do.” —David Cronin, Owner and Winemaker, Blackford Wines

(Thanks, David! Now back to my notes.) This 100% Chardonnay is aged in a combination of new and used French oak. It shows beautiful pear and apple notes with a hint of spice and vanilla. The oak is very much in balance and the finish is long and creamy. A great choice served with rotisserie-grilled chicken.



1998 Passing Clouds, Graeme's Blend, Australia

Graeme Leith and Sue Mackinnon established Passing Clouds more than 25 years ago, planting predominantly Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon on the deep, sandy, loam creek flats at Kingower in Central Victoria. The personality behind Passing Clouds is clearly its affable winemaker, Graeme Leith. Graeme is one of the great personalities of the Australian wine scene. His smiling and bearded face has adorned the front cover of many Victoria Tourist Bureau publications over the last few years.

Traditional winemaking techniques are used in the winery: open fermenters, foot stomping, hand plunging and basket pressing. The wine is matured in American and French oak puncheon and hogshead barrels. After a series of rackings, the wine is egg-white fined and estate bottled, unfiltered to retain full complexity and to extend cellaring life.

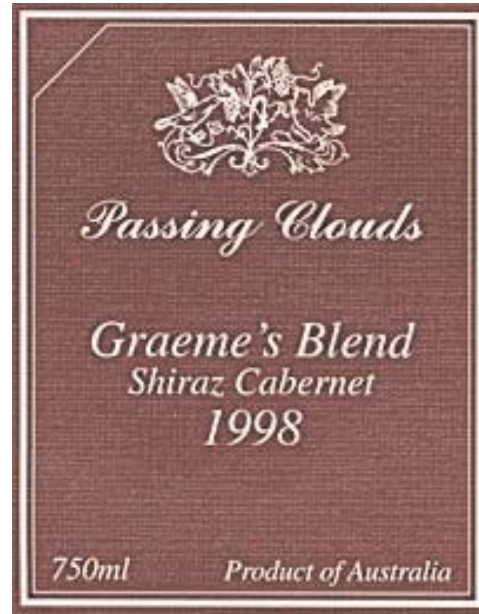
A bonus with Passing Clouds is that some of the aging has been done for you. Most of the wine is held for up to three years prior to release to ensure that it is ready for your enjoyment. That's a rare service today.

Kingower, situated 60 Kilometers northwest of Bendigo, offers a warm growing climate with an average annual rainfall of 500mm. The 15-acre, un-irrigated vineyard survives on what water is received in the winter season and the ability of the roots to search deep to find any sustaining water during the summer months. Hence the name Passing Clouds: the clouds just pass by without leaving much moisture behind.

In the 2001 *Wine Companion on Australia and New Zealand*, James Halliday selected this as one of the top Red Blends of the year, and gave it a score of 93 points.

This blend of 60% Shiraz and 40% Cabernet, first made in 1980, is regarded as Passing Clouds' top cuvée; it is made only in exceptional years.

The wine is brimming with cherry and blackberry flavors, with a lush mouth-feel softened by time. A touch of caramel and earth rounds out the flavors. This is just yummy! Drink now and over the next three to five years.



Premium Wine Club, May 2005 wine re-orders

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

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Blackford Chardonnay, Sonoma @ \$13.99 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 1998 Passing Clouds, Graemes Blend, Australia @ \$13.99 per bottle

Best Buy Wine Club

This month's Best Buy Wine Club selections include a brilliant white wine from the Rhône and a superb Merlot and unbelievable value from Alexander Valley.

2000 Nob Hill Merlot, Alexander Valley

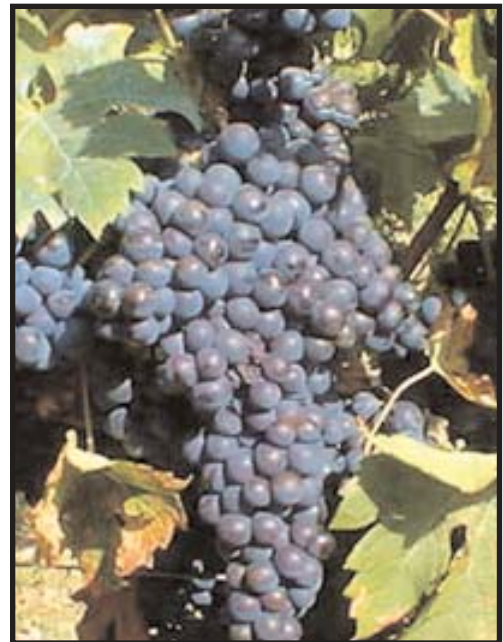
On seeing the movie *Sideways*, one might be put off Merlot. Miles humorously proclaimed that he wouldn't drink the stuff—and lo and behold, Merlot sales dipped throughout the country. What many people did not realize is that Miles' favorite wine, the 1961 Chateau Cheval Blanc, usually contains at least half Merlot, with the balance being Cabernet Franc. I believe the writer intended to show a side of Miles' character by using the Cheval Blanc as a counterpoint to Miles' feelings about Merlot. We all have some personal hypocrisy, even if we may not be aware of it.

Merlot is actually one of the great wine grapes of the world. While the great estates on the right bank of Bordeaux may be dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon, the left bank, Pomerol and Saint-Emilion, produces Merlot-dominated wines. Château Petrus, Château Ausone and Château Cheval Blanc are among the greatest wines in the world, and all are primarily Merlot-based.

In anything cooler than very warm or hot climates, Merlot is much easier to ripen than is Cabernet Sauvignon and offers higher yields. For this reason, Merlot is planted to a much greater extent around the world than is Cabernet Sauvignon. Top-level Merlots can be found in a wide range of places, including Italy, California, Washington, Switzerland, South Africa, Argentina and others.

In California, Merlot was at one time the hottest selling red wine in America. In 1985, California had a total of about 2000 acres planted to Merlot. By the end of 1996, that figure had grown to 33,000 acres! Half of the red grapes planted to replace Phylloxera-infected vines in Napa during 1996 were Merlot. Merlot also made up a significant part of the vines planted in California's Central Valley counties of Merced, King, Madera and San Joaquin. These grapes were mostly used for blending in inexpensive "jug" wines.

This particular Merlot comes from Alexander Valley and shows some of the green herbaceousness that is off-putting to some, but wonderfully complex to others. This is not a typical, high production Merlot, made to be drunk as an apéritif. It's a more serious wine, much more Bordeaux-like than most California Merlots. It has a nice balance between the typical plum and cherry fruit and the green, earthy flavors of the grape that can reflect the *terroir* so well. I recommend letting this wine sit for about 30 minutes after opening. This is a wonderful Merlot served with food, particularly with lamb chops or pasta. Drink now and over the next two to four years.



A cluster of Merlot grapes.

2002 Jean Louis Denois "Les Oliviers", Vin de Pays d'Oc

This white wine is made by the brilliant Jean-Louis Denois. Last year we featured his Grand Cuvée red, a brilliant wine that sold out quite fast.

Jean-Louis Denois is a fifth-generation winemaker from the village of Cumieres, France, a Premier cru village in the Marne Valley northwest of Epernay, on the southern slopes of the Montagne de Reims in Champagne. Born in Champagne in 1957, Denois received his degree in 1975 from Ecole de Viticulture et Oenologie de Beaune. After graduation, he obtained a second degree, this one in marketing, from Reims University. He then returned to work in the family Champagne business where he played a major role in both vineyard management and wine production. Denois spent six months in vineyards of the Cape region of South Africa, working as a sparkling wine consultant for Boschendal, one of the best known wine estates in the Paarl region. From Boschendal he moved to the Villiera Wine Estate, another respected producer in Paarl; there he served as a consultant in viticulture and winemaking for more than ten years. In the early 1980s he started his own winery in Fere, a small town near Reims where he produced Charles de Fere Methode Champenoise sparkling wines. He believes in environmentally friendly vineyard practices and also in minimizing yields to maximize the quality of the grapes.



Winemaker Jean-Louis Denois.

The Domaine's wines make the most of the contrasting climates and *terroirs* available across the Languedoc region and are allowed to evolve naturally and gradually with as little interference as possible. Its vineyards are situated in the extreme southwest of Languedoc, close to Ariège at the foot of the Pyrenees.

With the exception of the wines from Condrieu and Château-Grillet, virtually all Rhône Valley whites are made from blends. Generally Marsanne is the dominant partner and it lends color, body and weight to the blend, as well as richly scented fruit. Roussanne, a notoriously low yielder and difficult to grow, produces intensely aromatic wines which contribute bouquet, delicacy and finesse to the blend.

This wonderful blend of 60% Roussane and 40% Marsanne is aromatic with notes of honey, citrus and a touch of almond. Rich in flavor and creamy on the palate, this tastes like a much more expensive wine. This is a great match for grilled fish with a buerre blanc. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

Best Buy Wine Club, May 2005 wine re-orders

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

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Jean Louis Denois "Les Oliviers", Vin de Pays d'Oc @ \$8.49 per bottle

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Nob Hill Merlot, Alexander Valley @ \$8.49 per bottle

Re-order Form

As a member of a K&L Wine Club, you have the opportunity to order previous offerings of any of our clubs. The following pages contain the full “backlist” of each club. Please note the prices for each wine. Our phone numbers for the Wine Club are (650) 364-8544 ext. 5, then 1; or outside the 650, 415, 510, and 408 area codes (800) 247-5987 ext. 5, then 1. 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 1999 Seghesio Barolo “La Villa,” Piedmont @ \$23.95 per bottle

This Seghesio Barolo consists of 100% Nebbiolo, aged for 24 months in French oak. Daniel Thomases, the Italian wine reviewer for Robert Parker, gave this wine 90 points along with these comments: “Brothers Aldo and Riccardo Seghesio’s wines privilege suppleness and balance, as the 1999 Barolo La Villa demonstrates. A fresh garnet, with a spicy caramel, floral, smoky and tarry nose, its round flavors, satiny texture, mineral and licorice notes, and overall finesse could easily lead one to mistake this for a fine Cerequio or Brunate. Anticipated maturity: 2005 to 2018.” This is a great match for rich beef stews.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Torbreck “The Steading,” Barossa Valley @ \$23.95 per bottle

This blend consists of 60% Grenache, 20% Shiraz and 20% Mataro. Robert Parker has this to say: “David Powell consistently excels with The Steading. Aged 22 months in 300-liter barrels, it represents Australia’s version of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The 2002 The Steading’s big, spicy, earthy nose reveals notions of cherry liqueur, licorice, pepper, dried provençal herbs, raspberries and leather. Ripe, medium to full bodied, chewy and heady, it is best drunk during its first seven to eight years of life, although it will last a lot longer. 93 pts.”

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

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

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

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

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Dominus “Napanook”, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle **Back in stock!**

The blend for this vintage is 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc, 11% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot. The wine was aged for sixteen months in French oak barrels. This medium-full-bodied wine has very pretty cherry and plum flavors with a hint of cedar and chocolate. Very supple tannins and a smooth finish make this ideal to drink now and over the next four to six years. Great choice with Filet Mignon.

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 2000 Waterford Cabernet Sauvignon, South Africa @ \$13.99 per bottle
This Cabernet has won numerous medals in national and international competitions. It's made in an old-world style, with dusty cocoa notes that play off currant and black cherry flavors. This Cabernet is closer in style to Bordeaux than to California Cabs. It is excellent served with game meats or flavorful cuts of steak, such as ribeye or Prime Rib. Drink now or hold for three to five years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Smith-Madrone Chardonnay, Napa @ \$13.99 per bottle
This Chardonnay is 100% barrel fermented, and aged in oak for eleven months. The wine shows aromas of apples and a hint of vanilla, leading to a palate that adds pears and a slight citrus note. The wine is creamy and lush while still maintaining a crisp edge. Drink now and over the next two to three years. Excellent with roast chicken.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2000 Steele "Dupratt Vineyard" Chardonnay, Mendocino @ \$13.99 per bottle
100% Chardonnay, aged in French oak for eight to ten months and given full malo-lactic treatment. It's creamy and smooth, with aromas of apples and pears leading to a palate that echoes the same flavors and adds a touch of hazelnut and spice. A long finish leaves you wanting more. Great with roast chicken. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Clos De Andes, Argentina @ \$13.99 per bottle
100% Malbec. A lovely nose of black cherries and spice lead to a fruit-driven palate with notes of raspberry and blackberry framed by toasty oak. Well balanced, with a combination of power and elegance, this would make a great match with grilled steak with Chimichurri sauce. Drink it now and over the next five to eight years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Chateau Bois Martin, Pessac-Léognan @ \$13.99 per bottle
This Bois Martin is typical of many wines from the vintage. Still very young, it shows excellent structure, with good acidity and tannins balanced with lovely fruit. Black cherries and dark berries are the predominant flavors and it also has a touch of spice and almonds. This wine will benefit from one to two hours of aeration and will continue to improve for five to eight years. Good choice with Filet Mignon.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Iby Blaufränkisch Hochäcker @ \$13.99 per bottle
The wine shows wonderful aromas of Bing cherries, red berry fruit, smoke and spice. The palate shows more cherries with blackberries and a hint of vanilla. The finish is long and rich. Although dry, this wine has a lovely fruitiness and soft, ripe tannins that make it a real pleasure to drink. Drink now and over the next three to seven years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Eagle Vale Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc @ \$13.99 per bottle
A blend of 73% Semillon and 27% Sauvignon Blanc. Lovely aromas of lemon-citrus are balanced by a rich mid-palate with stone and herbal notes. This is a great match with fish. Drink now and over the next one or two years.

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

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

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

Best Buy Wine Club: Previous Offerings

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

_____ Bottle(s) of 2003 Tormaresca Chardonnay, Puglia @ \$8.49 per bottle

This 100% Chardonnay is crisp and clean, with aromas and flavors of golden apples and pears with a hint of citrus. The finish is clean and refreshing, making this a great match with grilled fish. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2001 Riddoch Cabernet/Shiraz, Coonawarra @ \$8.49 per bottle

This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz shows the typical fruit and spice of Australian red wines, and also the earthy, leathery characteristics of the terra rossa of Coonawarra. Plums, black cherries, currants and spice all factor in the flavor profile, comfortably carried on a lush, smooth palate. This is a very good wine to pair with simple food such as hamburgers and ribs. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

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

This 100% Sauvignon Blanc is tank fermented with lees contact, and offers a focused red-pepper and classic grassy nose that carries through on the palate in a clean, crisp, focused style with undertones of white peach and citrus. The wine has an excellent acid structure, lending an affinity for food. A great choice with lobster or crab. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

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

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

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Domaine Rimbert, Saint Chinian @ \$8.49 per bottle

This wine is 40% Carignan, 30% Syrah and 30% Cinsault, aged in fermentation tanks to highlight its fruitiness. Aromas of berries and currants lead to a palate of plums, cherries and a hint of pepper. Fruity and very easy to drink, this would be a good match with ham or pork roast. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Special Offers—Available to all club members!

Our friends at Amici Cellars of Napa Valley are excited to share their releases of very limited production wines with selected members of K&L's Wine Clubs.

2002 Amici “Panek Vineyard, Old Vine Zinfandel

The Panek Vineyard is located in an area legendary for Zinfandel. Bordered by the legendary Turley Wine Cellars to the south and the famous Aida Vineyard to the north, these gnarled, 35-plus-year-old dry-farmed vines yield just 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 drench the palate. This is an exuberant, full-bodied wine, intense and pure with a long concentrated finish.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Amici “Panek Vineyard, Old Vine Zinfandel @ \$24.99 per bottle

2002 Amici Pinot Noir, Mendocino

The single vineyard fruit source for this wine is a hidden jewel located in the coastal mountain range high above the town of Mendocino, California. This Pinot Noir is a blend of 65% Pommard clone, and 35% Dijon #115 clone. The dark ruby color reveals a classic bouquet of ripe cherries, violets and forest floor. The opulent, rich, layered flavors of raspberry and cherry fruit, intertwined with a slight hint of pepper provide a complex and concentrated finish. The wine drinks beautifully now or may be cellared three to five years.

_____ Bottle(s) of 2002 Amici Pinot Noir, Mendocino @ \$26..99 per bottle

Special Offers—Available to all club members!

2002 Water Wheel “Memsie” Red, Bendigo

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

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

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

Chateau Routon Vintage Character Port

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

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

2000 Dominus Estate, Napa

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

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

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 give us 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.