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November 1, 2004

Dear Wine Club Member,

PLEASE READ THIS important Club news. Currently, this is my only way to communicate with all Club members at once, so I use this space to let you know about changes or information relevant to your membership. Once the Wine Club database becomes integrated into the rest of the K&L database, I will be able to communicate with all of you through email. It is very important to let us know of your email address if you wish to make full use of our new web features.

We are getting very close to integrating our Wine Club database with our retail/website database. Until the integration is complete, however, please continue to contact the Wine Clubs directly for any changes to your wine club account. You may call me at 800-247-5987 ext. 2740 or send an email to theclubs@klwines.com or my direct email, daver@klwines.com.

(Note: the above is a repeat of what I wrote last month. We are even closer, but the same information still applies.)

Please note the change in the re-ordering system. **You may now purchase any wine by the single bottle.** One of the new benefits of our online system is that you can order single bottles, rather than quantities of 6 or 12. There are no half-case or case prices.

We will continue to reserve each club's current month's wines for members of that club. All wines on the previous offering lists, and all special offers, are open to all members. Feel free to call me if you have any questions about a wine from another club.

This month, we add to our Special Offer list. In addition to the Dominus Estate and the Scharffenberger Brut, we have two extraordinary desert wines with huge Parker scores and a magnificent six-pack of Champagne selected by our Champagne buyer, Gary Westby. We also have our list of 2003 Bordeaux pre-arrival wines offered at very low prices to wine club members only.

Information about these special offers can be found at the end of this newsletter.

This month's selections include wines from France, Germany, Australia, Austria and California. The Signature Red Collection consists of two wines from Beaulieu Vineyards from 1994 and 1996! This is a great chance to taste well-stored wine with bottle age.

We are presenting a winemaker dinner with Beaulieu on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Cetrella Bistro in Half Moon Bay, California. Information is on our website or you may call us at 1-800 247-5987.

Cheers,

Dave Rosenzweig

Wine Club Director

## Signature Red Wine Club

The Signature Red Wine Club offerings for the month of November 2004 include two wonderful California Cab's with bottle age from two classic vintages.

### **1994 Beaulieu Vineyards Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon**

### **1996 Beaulieu Vineyards Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon**

Beaulieu Vineyards (often called BV) had its start in the year 1900 when Georges de Latour bought a four-acre parcel of land in the Rutherford area of Napa. He called the land Beaulieu, which means "beautiful place." Georges de Latour had moved to California from France in the early 1890s. There he began a business scraping the tartrate crystals from wooden wine vats. The

crystals were processed to create cream of tartar. This business gave him the opportunity to travel around Napa and Sonoma counties visiting wineries, learning who made good wine, which vineyards were the best, and what land was up for sale. Georges recognized the ideal nature of the Napa Valley for growing excellent grapes, and saw that the terrain and soils resembled, at least to some degree, those of his childhood around the great vineyards of the Médoc. After prohibition ended, Georges began his search for a winemaker who could make world-class wine from his vineyards. He found that man working in Paris at the Institut National Agronomique: a Russian-born émigré named André Tchelistcheff. There's not enough space here to list all of André's accomplishments, but he was, without question, the single most influential person in improving the entire California wine industry. André brought French oak with him and instituted a slew of winemaking techniques that were foreign to California. His first Cabernet, from the 1936 vintage, won a gold medal at the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939. This wine, which put Beaulieu Vineyard on the map with key wine critics and influential buyers of the time, would become the first Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon. The rest, as they say, is history. Beaulieu's current winemaker, Joel Aiken, arrived at the winery in 1982 after graduating from UC Davis. Starting as an assistant winemaker, he quickly showed his talent; he became head winemaker in 1985 and over the next three years made some of the best Cabernets produced in California. By the early 1990's, Aiken became the new Director of Winemaking for Beaulieu Vineyard. He reinvigorated the company, bringing a sense of continuity and consistency to Beaulieu Vineyard and its bold vision for making benchmark wines.

Rutherford is an appellation within Napa, where some of the most famous vineyards in California are located. These include Martha's Vineyard, Bella Oaks, Bosche, To Kalon and BV's Numbers one and two, where much of the Georges de La Tour Private Reserve comes from. "Rutherford Dust," is a characteristic that defines the style, quality, and character of wines from this AVA (American Viticultural Area), which formed in 1994. Well-drained soils from three alluvial fans, primarily gravelly, sandy and loamy earth, dominate the region. Wine produced in these areas has an distinctive, earthy quality complimented with fleshy tannins.

The 1996 vintage was outstanding in California. This wine, consisting of 100% cabernet Sauvignon, is at its peak, showing Rutherford dust aromas combined with hints of coffee and vanilla. The wine is medium bodied at this stage, with a plush texture and notes of black currant and a hint of mint. Drink now and over the next 2 years.

Great choice served with a Grilled New York steak.

The 1994 vintage is considered to be one of the best in the history of California.

This wine is magnificent. Showing similar aromas to the 1996, but even more pronounced. The palate is slightly deeper, with black currant and plum flavors mingled with notes of chocolate and coffee. Drink now and over the next 3 – 5 years. Try with a rack of lamb.

The 1994 vintage is considered one of the best vintages in the history of California Cabernet.

### **Signature Red Club, November 2004 wine re-orders**

For the month of November 2004, these selections are available to Signature Red Club members only.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 1994 Beaulieu Vineyards Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$23.95

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 1996 Beaulieu Vineyards Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$23.95

## **Premium Wine Club**

The September 2004 selections for the Premium Wine Club include a juicy Austrian Red and a dry white blend from Australia.

### **2002 Iby Blaufränkisch Hochäcker**

Although Austria is now more famous for its brilliant white wines; there are increasingly more world class, unique and enticing reds being made. This red will surprise you with its lovely fruit character, concentration and suppleness.

The Iby wine estate has been growing wine in the town of Horitschon, located in the Austrian wine region of Mittelburgenland, since the beginning of the 20th century. They cultivate exclusively red wine varieties on their 20 hectares of vineyards. By severely pruning their vineyards during the growing season, they produce wines that are rich, harmonious, with exceptional fullness and concentration. Mittelburgenland, in the center of the Austrian wine region, extends to the Hungarian border and is sheltered by hills. This area is well known for red wine grapes, which comprise 70% of the total grapes planted. Iby is a member of the Verband Blaufrankischland, a group of winemakers dedicated to extracting maximum quality from the Eastern European grape, Blaufränkisch. This is a clone of a Gamay type grape that is known as Limbergeris in Germany and Kékfrankos in Hungary. It is also cultivated in Washington State under the name Lemberger.

The wine shows wonderful aromas of Bing cherries, red berry fruit, smoke and spice. The palate shows more cherries with black berries and a hint of vanilla and the finish is long and rich.

Although dry, the lovely fruitiness and soft, ripe tannins, make this just a pleasure to drink. This would be a great choice with Holiday Turkey. Drink now and over the next 3 – 7 years.

### **2002 Eagle Vale Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc, Margaret River**

I am so pleased to offer this wine. I had many Chardonnays to choose from for this month, but I was really hoping to find something we haven't done in a while and this lovely, dry Australian wine came to my attention.

Australian Wine Guru Steve Halliday gave 5 stars to Eagle Vale and chose it as one of the ten best new wineries in Australia in his book "Wine Companion 2005 edition".

Eagle Vale Estate is a boutique winery just south of the Margaret River town-ship in the South West corner of Western Australia. Only three kilometers from the coast of the Indian Ocean, Eagle Vale experiences a temperate maritime climate.

Current owners Steve and Wendy Jacobs purchased the Eagle Vale property in 1995. They set out to find a winemaker who shared their vision and desire to produce high quality wine and were fortunate to meet the Gallienne family – Guy, Chantal and their son, Karl. After much discussion, the two families agreed on the direction they wanted to take the winery and the company was founded in 1997. The two opposing slopes of the vale where the property was, had been already cleared for livestock, with the surrounding trees of the National Park providing wind protection. Around 15,000 native trees were then planted for further protection. By the end of 1998 the property witnessed a major transformation, ready just in time to plant the rootlings, coming from carefully selected local cuttings. The next 3 years were spent shaping each individual vine to textbook perfection. They only use 100% estate grown fruit with picking and pruning all done by hand. Rather than use pesticides, they use guinea fowls to roam the vineyards for unwanted bugs. The wine is a blend of 73% Semillon and 27% Sauvignon blanc. Lovely aromas of lemon citrus are balanced by a rich mid-palate with some stone and herbal notes. This is a great match with fish and would make a great choice for a dry white on your holiday table. Drink now and over the next 1 –2 years.

### **Premium Wine Club, November 2004 wine re-orders**

For the month of November 2004, 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 2002 Iby Blaufränkisch Hochäcker @ \$13.99

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

# Best Buy Wine Club

This month's Best Buy Wine Club selections are a brilliant Riesling from Germany and another lovely French red.

## **2002 Langwerth Von Simmern Riesling, Qba**

The history of the Barons Langwerth von Simmern in the Rheingau region of Germany, dates back to the year 1464, when Johann Langwerth von Simmern received approx. 25 acres of "Hattenheimer Mannberg" as fief for his services as chancellor to Duke Ludwig von Pfalz-Zweibrücken. In 1472, after the acquisition of Castle Hattenheim, the family finally made the Rheingau their home. After buying Stockheimer Hof in 1711, the family moved to Eltville, the cultural centre of the Rheingau. At Stockheimer Hof, the mother of Baron vom Stein was born in 1721. The acquisition of Lichtenstern Hof in 1753 laid the foundations for the current estate. Andrea Langwerth von Simmern currently runs the estate.

This 500-year-old estate has been making some of the best Rheingau Rieslings of late. Von Simmern's vineyard holdings read like the who's who of Grand Cru middle Rhine Riesling, so this news is hardly surprising. But when the estate Riesling tastes like most Grand Crus, it is news. Most estate Rieslings are made from grapes of second tier vineyards, and are nice enough. But when Andrea Von Simmern is asked what vineyards supplied this power packed beauty, she just smiles. Von Simmern doesn't have any second rate vineyards. The unmistakable earthy flavors of riverfront Rheingau predominate, {from Mannberg vineyard?} with a spicy overtone and long finish {Nussbrunnen, Sonnenberg?} The combination of top sites in a ripe, rich vintage and the skilled craftsmanship of the Rheingau leading family owned estate add up to a big winner for fans of Riesling. This wine is bright and elegant full of warm soil character and that lovely silkiness typical of the area. The palate bursts with spiced apricot and hints of citrus and the long mineral finish carries this on endlessly. Drink now and over the next 8-10 years.

## **2003 Cecile Chassagne"Seguret" Cotes du Rhone Villages**

Cecile Chassagne is a lovely woman who makes wine in the Cotes du Rhone region of France. Last October, we were fortunate to offer a marvelous Tempranillo and lush Cabernet she made using grapes from the Navarra region of Spain.. These were both very popular wines that sold out in a short period of time.

Côtes du Rhône is probably the most diverse wine region in France. The wines range from the full-bodied Syrah's of Côte Rôtie in the north and the Grenache-based wines of Châteauneuf du Pape in the south to the exquisite white wine of Condrieu and Château Grillet and the fruity red wines of Crozes Hermitage and of the southern Rhône region. Cotes du Rhone Village wines are a step up in quality from the generic Cotes du Rhone wines. The maximum permitted yield is lower and they have a minimum alcoholic strength of 12.5%, matching the minimum of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. There are sixteen villages that are allowed to append their name to the appellation Cotes du Rhone. Among others, they include Rasteau, Sablet, Valreas, and Seguret. This wine comes from the town of Seguret. Built into the hillside, Séguret is one of the most beautiful villages in France, and quite loyal to its traditions. Séguret is often called the "Bethlehem of Provence" because on the 24 December each year, Christmas Mass is read in the Provençal dialect and features a live crib. Séguret is well-known for these Nativity scenes. The vineyard spreads over the "commune" of Séguret, situated at the foot of the Dentelles de Montmirail in the département of Vaucluse.

The wine consists of 60% Grenache, 20% Mourvedre and 20% Syrah. Lovely aromas of dark berries lead to a lush, fruity palate of raspberries and a hint of almond and earth. This is a great

wine to serve with winter stews and would be a good choice with Turkey. Drink now and over the next 2 –3 years.

### **Best Buy Wine Club, November 2004 wine re-orders**

For the month of November, 2004, 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 Langwerth Von Simmern Riesling, Qba @ \$8.49

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2003 Cecile Chassagne”Seguret” Cotes du Rhone Villages @ \$8.49

## **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; or outside the 650, 415, 510, and 408 area codes (800) 247-5987 ext. 5. 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](mailto:theclubs@klwines.com).

### **Signature Red Club: Previous Offerings**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2001 Moulin de Gardette ‘Ventabren’ Gigondas @ \$23.95

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 10 years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Snowden Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$23.95

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Cornerstone, “Cornerstone” Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Pine Ridge “Stags Leap” Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle

A blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petite Verdot, 5% Merlot, and 6% Malbec. Starts with beautiful aromas of blackcurrant and toffee. On the palate are black cherry, cassis, chocolate and vanilla oak flavors. The texture is velvety and the finish is silky and long. Decant for an hour or hold for another five to ten years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Robert Craig “Affinity,” Napa @ \$23.95 per bottle

This wine is a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Lovely aromas of black cherry and mocha lead to a complex palate of cherries, boysenberries and a hint of spice. An elegant

and lingering finish makes this suitable for drinking now with some aeration, or cellaring for another three to five years. An excellent choice with Prime Rib.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Flora Springs “Trilogy,” Napa@ \$23.95 per bottle

The 2000 Trilogy is a blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 7% Malbec. It’s very lush and inviting, with aromas of black fruits and a palate with black cherry, cassis and hints of toffee. The finish lingers gently and the overall impression is one of great elegance. Drink now and over the next three to five years. Excellent with lamb tenderloin.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa@ \$23.95 per bottle

Consisting of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, this wine was aged for 20 months in French oak, 57% of which was new. Lovely aromatics lead to a palate with loads of plum and blackcurrant fruit and a hint of coffee. The finish is lush and satisfying. Drink now and over the next five to seven years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Best’s Great Western Bin 0 Shiraz, Victoria@ \$23.95 per bottle

An elegant and structured wine, rich in blackcurrant and berry flavors, with forward aromas and a complex palate. Silky tannins and gobs of fruit give it great character and boldness. Drink now with an hour or two of aeration or hold for eight to twelve years. Try with barbecued ribs.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Dominus “Napanook”, Napa@ \$23.95 per bottle

68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc, 11% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot, 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.

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

75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, aged for 20 months in French oak barrels. The aromas take a while to develop but show lovely notes of black cherry, vanilla and cedar. The palate echoes those flavors and adds a hint of mocha and chocolate. The finish is lush and long. Drink this now after giving it one to two hours of aeration, or hold it for six to eight years. A good choice with rack of lamb.

## **Premium Wine Club: Previous Offerings**

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\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2002 Denois Grand Cuvee Red @\$13.95

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2003 Rauenthaler Baiken Kabinett @\$13.95

100 % Riesling. The wine is cool, minty, and elegant with hints of wintergreen and spiced apricots. It is very well balanced for such a hot year and shows no excessive weight or alcohol, just a clean lively character that finishes strong with minerals and sweet herbs. This is a wine that will improve for many, many years, revealing more of its underlying character, a window into its primordial beginnings. Drink now to 2025 and beyond.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Pine Ridge “Crimson Creek” Merlot, Napa@ \$13.95 per bottle

The wine is a blend of 86% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec. The blend is made in a typical “Right Bank” Bordeaux style, emphasizing structure, complexity and aging potential. Aged for 16 months in heavily toasted French oak, the wine is layered with berry, cherry and tobacco flavors and possesses an intense nose of briary, cherry fruit. There are notes of chocolate and black cherries on the palate and the finish is lush and satisfying. Drink now or hold for up to five years. Try with sliced lamb sirloin.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2002 Torbreck “Juveniles,” Barossa Valley@ \$13.95 per bottle

From Robert Parker: “The unwooded blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, and 20% Shiraz, the 2002

Juveniles is a crunchy, deliriously fruity red offering aromas of kirsch liqueur, pepper, and spice box in a fruit-driven, full-bodied style that is immensely captivating as well as satisfying. It is meant to be enjoyed over the next 5-6 years. 90 points.”

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2002 Smith-Madrone Chardonnay, Napa@ \$13.95 per bottle

The wine is barrel fermented in French oak and aged *sur lie* for 11 months. Aromas of apples and pears lead to a creamy palate of more apples with a hint of spice and vanilla oak. Drink now and over the next two to three years. Try with roast chicken.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2001 Katnook Estate Shiraz, Coonawarra@ \$13.95 per bottle

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2001 Wattle Creek Sauvignon Blanc, Mendocino@ \$13.95 per bottle

100% Sauvignon Blanc from the Mendocino Ranch vineyard, this shows lovely aromas of lime, lemon and citrus which follow through to the palate with a crisp, vibrant feel. This is a great summertime wine, excellent with grilled fish. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Frazier “Lupine Hill” Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa@ \$13.95 per bottle

85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, aged for 18 months in a combination of new and used French and American oak. Aromas of strawberries and earth lead to a deep palate with notes of blackcurrant and red meat. The wine will benefit from at least one hour’s aeration and will hold for four to six years. Try with lamb tenderloin. Incidentally, *The Wine Spectator* lists this at \$45!

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2002 Griffin Pinot Noir, Marlborough @ \$13.95 per bottle

Lovely plum and cherry aromas lead to a palate in which a touch of oak and earth are added to the mix. This wine would pair beautifully with turkey or salmon. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2003 Pascal Jolivet “Attitude”, Loire Valley@ \$13.95 per bottle

This wine shows juicy fruit flavors of apple and grapefruit balanced by a refreshing minerality and grassiness. It’s very clean and crisp, excellent for warm spring and summer days. A great choice with grilled fish. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2001 Edgewood Estate Syrah, Napa@ \$13.95 per bottle

100% Syrah aged in French oak for nineteen months. The complex nose shows hints of black cherries, spice and violets. The palate echoes those flavors and adds black pepper and plums to the mix. This deep, full-bodied wine will benefit from one to two hours of aeration and can be held for eight to ten years. Great with game.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2001 Kalinda Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley@ \$13.95 per bottle

100% Cabernet Sauvignon. This wine is elegant, yet has great structure. The flavors are of cassis and black cherry integrated with toasty oak. An excellent choice served with rack of lamb. Drink now or hold for five to eight years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Château Bois Martin, Pessac-Leognan@ \$13.95 per bottle

A typical Graves nose of mineral and earth leads to a marvelously smooth palate with sweet oak, cassis and plum. A very easy wine to enjoy due to its round tannins, this should be consumed now and over the next three to five years. Enjoy it with pork chops.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2000 Fournas Bernadotte, Haut-Médoc@ \$13.95 per bottle

This is lovely and elegant, with notes of cassis, coffee, toasty oak and a hint of cedar. Soft tannins and a long finish will have you finishing every last drop. Try with grilled filet mignon. Drink now and over the next three to five years.

a lovely buttery mouthfeel. Try with roast chicken, or fish with a beurre blanc. Drink now and over the next two to four years.

## **Best Buy Wine Club: Previous Offerings**

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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 at parties or Tuesday night suppers, whenever a white-wine dish is served. Notes of gooseberry and grass on the finish elevate this from the sea of so-so Sauvignon Blanc!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2003 Kalinda Chardonnay, Anderson Valley@ \$8.49 per bottle

This is a typically lovely Anderson Valley Chardonnay, with citrus and pear aromas followed by a juicy palate with hints of lemon, fig and cedar. The finish is crisp and lively with notes of spice. Good choice with roast chicken. Drink now and over the next two to three years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2003 Renwood Viognier, “Select Series,” Lodi@ \$8.49 per bottle

94% Viognier, 4% Orange Muscat and 2% Pinot Gris. Aromas of citrus blossoms, pears and apricot lead to a rich creamy palate of ripe pears, lemon, peaches and apricots. Drink now and over the next two to three years. Great with Asian cuisine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Special Offers—Available to all club members!***

## Scharffenberger Brut N/V, Anderson Valley

The history of Scharffenberger Cellars begins in 1981 in the heart of California's Anderson Valley. Situated only miles from the coastal influences of the Pacific Ocean, Scharffenberger Cellars also enjoys the deep soils and sunshine of the protected valley. Originally founded by John Scharffenberger, the company has gone through many transitions, including a name change—it was known as Pacific Echo from 1998 until July 2004. Today, the name has been restored to Scharffenberger Cellars under the new management of Maisons Marques & Domaines. The first release of the new Scharffenberger Cellars is this Scharffenberger Brut, a blended of two-thirds Pinot Noir and one-third Chardonnay. The predominance of the Pinot Noir creates a sparkling wine that is fruit forward with noticeable aromas of strawberry/raspberry and some plum notes. The Chardonnay expresses itself with subtle tropical flavors of pineapple with pear. All of the fruit for Scharffenberger Brut undergoes 100% malolactic fermentation, making the wine rich with complex flavors and a round, lengthy finish.

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

## 2000 Dominus Estate, Napa

This is the flagship wine of Dominus Estate. Robert Parker says, "Christian Moueix and his talented winemaking team continue to rewrite the definition of a Napa Valley reference point wine." The wine lists for \$99 on the *Wine Spectator* website. Although it can be found for less than that, we believe nobody else in the country is offering it as low as our member-only price of \$59.99. The 2000 vintage consists of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 5% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. It is aged for 18 months in French oak barrels. This is a big, complex wine with flavors of black currants 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

## R.L Buller Premium Fine Muscat, Australia 375ml

### R.L Buller Premium Fine Tokay, Australia 375 ml

If you enjoy desert wines, these two are unbelievable!

I am going to use Robert Parker's words, because he is even better at this than I at this sort of thing. From the October, 2002 issue of his magazine, *Wine Advocate*, he gave **97 points** to the Muscat and wrote the following:

"This wine is nearly flawless. Fabulously perfumed as well as unctuously textured, it offers incredible notes of prunes, raisins, honey, molasses, roasted nuts, etc., etc. Australia continues to be a treasure trove for fortified, after-dinner wines. Once bottled, they do not change, and often age up to a decade where well stored. After opening, most will last for a week. This is one of the top wine discoveries of this year's tastings. Many consumers are going to be overjoyed with this offering."

From the same issue he gave **95 points** to the Tokay and gave this review:

"The medium garnet-colored non-vintage Premium Fine Tawny is a knock-out, revealing smoky, spicy, nutty notes intermixed with caramel and marmalade characteristics. These Australian treasures are fabulous to drink at the end of a meal. Moreover, once opened, they will hold for several weeks, sometimes longer."

We were only able to purchase a limited amount, so don't hesitate to order this wine.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of R.L Buller Premium Fine Muscat, Australia 375ml @ \$9.99 per bottle

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of R.L Buller Premium Fine Tokay, Australia 375ml @ \$9.99 per bottle

## Special Champagne offer

This holiday season we are offering a very special half case of Champagne that allows you to go on a mini tasting 'tour' of the major regions of Champagne. It includes two bottles each of three different wines, all of which are direct buys from the producers. By buying direct we cut out most of what makes Champagne expensive: middle men. The usual path that a bottle of Champagne takes to a retail customer in the USA is a long one! A big Champagne house buys grapes, juice and even finished wines from thousands of different sources than sets up a deal with an export broker (sometimes through a courtier) who then sells the wine to an import company, which then sells to a distributor, the distributor sells to the retailer and only then does it arrive in the refrigerator of the drinker! This is a much to backward system for the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

What few people in the USA realize is that there are more producers making Champagne in Champagne than there are in California making any kind of wine. As an importer, this puts us in a very good position. The prices for estate-bottled Champagne are very low, regardless of quality. Since these small producers rely almost entirely on the domestic market they must price their Champagnes very competitively. If they charge half a euro too much the French consumer will just walk- even if the wine is great! All the consumer needs to do is drive another half mile and go to the next great producer!

Inside our half case you will find two each of the following wines- you could expect to pay \$325 if these wines went through the traditional channels, and the wines are offered in the K&L stores at a price of \$224. You will save \$159 off normal retail and \$58 off of K&L's already discounted price. Here are some short descriptions:

**De Meric Grande Reserve Sous Bois Brut Champagne:** Made mostly from grapes on the Mountain of Reims- famous for Pinot Noir, this wine comes to us directly from a very small quality conscious negociant in Ay, in the very center of Champagne. The wine is made out of 80% pinot noir from Ay, Mareuil-Sur-Ay and Mutigny, 15% chardonnay from Cramant, Avize and Oger and 5% Meunier from Cumieres. It is vinified half in old oak barrels and half in stainless steel tanks for the perfect balance of rounded richness and zesty refreshment. It is in a big style and has plenty of toasty complexity but also an elegant, small beaded texture. If you like Champagne, you should try this one!

**Michel Dervin Brut Champagne:** This is exciting and unique Champagne from a little known village called Cuchery. The man that gives the wine his name, Michel Dervin, who is also the wine maker for Domaine J. Laurens in Limoux, makes it. The wine has a wonderful brioche and subtle fruit nose. The flavors are quite concentrated and complex and it has a great toastiness as well as lightness on its refreshing and long finish. The cuvee is a blend of 1999 and 1995 vintages. It is made out of 95% estate fruit from small plots in the villages of Cuchery, Damery, Reuil, and Chapelle Monthadon in the picturesque valley of the Marne. He buys in a little Chardonnay from Pierry. The grape break down is 60% Meunier, 35% Pinot Noir and 5% Chardonnay. If you have never had a valley of the Marne Meunier based Champagne, this is a great place to start!

**Franck Bonville Cuvee Les Belles Voyes Champagne:** This is the expensive bottle in the lot- it sells for **\$59.99** in the store, but in my opinion it should be compared to Champagne at **\$300**. This is one of the best Champagnes we carry regardless of price. Made from the one and three quarters acre Belles Voyes vineyard in Oger, this is Bonville's top of the line Champagne. The vines were

planted in 1938 and the vineyard is ideally located in the mid slope of this Grand Cru village. The wine is made entirely from the 1997 harvest and is all Chardonnay. Olivier Bonville ferments and ages the juice in old oak casks before bottling. The only wine I can compare it to is the Clos de Mesnil from Krug. It is the perfect Blanc de Blanc, rich and taught at once and any words that I use to describe it will not do it proper justice. Although only 3000 bottles of this gem were made, we had circumstance on our side when purchasing it. This Champagne is Olivier Bonville's baby, but his father, who is still in charge of the firm, thinks it was a bad idea. This put Olivier under pressure to sell what would otherwise be a tightly allocated item quickly to show his father that it could be a success... I was only too happy to oblige by buying 500 of those bottles!

\_\_\_\_\_ Six-Pack(s) of Wine Club Special Champagne Offer @ \$166 per six-pack

## 2003 Bordeaux Pre-Arrival Offering

One of the great Bordeaux vintages of the last fifty years. These wines are available for purchase at very low, wine club member only prices. The 2003 Bordeaux futures will be bottled from approximately April 2005 to August 2005 and sent here sometime between January 2006 and July 2007 (with a few possible exceptions delayed further). When the wines arrive we will contact you (via US Postal Service) to request shipping instructions. The quoted comments here are from *The Wine Spectator*.

Lagrange, Saint-Julien \$27.99 per bottle

92-94 points, *Wine Spectator*: "Beautiful aromas of plums, violets, berries and licorice. Fullbodied, with super well-integrated tannins and a long finish. Very pretty indeed. Well-crafted, showing lots of character."

Malescot St-Exupéry, Margaux \$33.99 per bottle

92-94 points, *Wine Spectator*: "Wonderful aromas of blackberries, dark chocolate, meat and other yummy decadent things, changing to dry flowers. Full-bodied, with very well-integrated tannins and a long, fresh finish. Silky backbone of tannins."

Pichon-Lalande, Pauillac \$89.99 per bottle

95-100 points, *Wine Spectator*: "This tastes like crushed grapes and red fruits. It's big and rich, full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long, long finish. Juicy wine. A cross between the 1995 and 1996. In fact, it could be better than 2000. Wonderful."

Cos d'Estournel, Saint-Estèphe \$129.99 per bottle

95-98 points, Parker: "...a substantial yet extraordinarily elegant claret...It is the most impressive young Cos I have ever tasted. However, the tannin is high, so it will require patience."

Léoville-Las-Cases, Saint-Julien \$159.99 per bottle

95-100 points, *Wine Spectator*: "Warm and rich aromas of plums, blackberries and currants, turning to flowers and hints of mineral. Very complex. Layers of cashmere-like tannins, turning to leather. Warm and inviting, yet rich and powerful; fantastic purity, yet voluptuous. This is what exciting wine is about."

Mouton-Rothschild, Pauillac \$249.99 per bottle

95-100 points, *Wine Spectator*: "Complex aromas of blackberries, citrus and tobacco. Currants. Subtle nose yet complex. You have to look under the surface. Full-bodied, with a big core of ripe fruit and super-ripe tannins. Thick and powerful. Chewy. Tannins come out of hiding and lash out on the finish."