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Dear K&L Wine Club Members,

As I sit down to write my newsletter this month I am in a pretty good mood, I had a nice two-week vacation, I'm caught up on my work currently (this is a rarity!) and lastly but most importantly, my SF Giants are well on their way to winning the NL West while the LA Dodgers are going down in flames. I don't think I could write a better recipe for a great month. Of course what makes this month even better is knowing we have ten drop-dead gorgeous wines for you this month. These wines will arrive just in time to help knock off the rust from summer and get you back into the swing of things. And don't forget to take advantage of our great specials and six-pack deals. See page 12.

Our Signature Red Club's two fantastic selections are both from California and both from the very strong 2009 vintage. The first wine is a Cabernet Sauvignon that I have been drinking for about 20 years and have always found to be consistently good. The 2009 Sequoia Grove Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, always favorably priced for a Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, is another great wine from this super-solid producer. The second wine is the 2009 Sequana Russian River Valley Pinot Noir, a gorgeous, red-fruited wine that showcases the Russian River as an ideal location for great Pinot Noir. The 2009 vintage will be known for its gorgeous fruit and seamless tannins.

This month's California theme keeps on going in the Premium Club with two selections that are near and dear to my heart. Our first selection is the 2011 Conundrum California White. This is one of the first wines I can remember selling that had a cult-like following; for a California white wine in the early 1990s that was pretty rare. To this day the Conundrum remains a unique blend that offers up sweet fruit, interesting floral aromatics and layered complexity. Next we have the 2009 Kalinda Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon which in my humble opinion is our best Kalinda Cabernet Sauvignon to date for under \$20. We have it at a club re-buy of \$14.99 so you'd better act fast before it sells out!

The Best Buy Club this month has a selection each from France and Argentina. We start off with the 2011 Monteviejo Festivo Torrentes Argentina. Like its red counterpoint Malbec, Torrentes is a grape that seemingly grows better in Argentina than anywhere else. This floral, citrusy and succulent wine is sure to please the anything-but-Chardonnay crowd. Our other Best Buy choice is the 2008 Domaine La Colliere "Rasteau" Côtes-du-Rhône, an impeccably balanced and nuanced wine for such a meager price.

The Champagne Club bursts forth from its every-other-month absence with two selections guaranteed to get the party started! This month's selections are vintage wines that show the incredible quality of two recent Champagne vintages. The 2007 Ariston Brut provides one of the first glimpses into the 2007 vintage, from one of our stalwart producers. The 2005 Amaury Coutelas Brut is from a new producer that we think will become one of your new favorite Champagne houses.

Last but not least is our Italiano Club, featuring two absolutely delicious red wines perfect for an evening of grilling on the back deck, or to enjoy with pizza while watching football. or enjoying with a nice bowl of pasta. We start off with the 2011 Verbena IGT Rosso Toscano, a gorgeous, fruit-filled red offering pretty, berry fruit with nice acidity. The 2008 Lucchetti "Guardengo" Lacrima di Morro d'Alba Superiore offers up vibrant fruit and spice notes. Both of these reds display for you the very best of what Italy has to offer in red wines at attractive prices.

Cheers & Go Giants!

Alex Pross, Wine Club Director, K&L Wine Merchants

# Signature Red Collection Wine Club

## 2009 Sequana Russian River Valley Pinot Noir

I have always been a fan of Pinot Noir whether it is from Burgundy or California. Where I differ from Myles, the main character in *Sideways*, is that I think the best Pinot Noir in California comes from Sonoma/Russian River Valley. The unique soils and cool morning and night time climate are just right for coaxing out the exact amount of fruit, power and freshness from the notoriously fickle Pinot Noir grape without letting it get overripe or too vegetal. Having the right soil and micro-climate is a great start, but what is also needed is a great winemaker who understands the temperamental Pinot Noir grape. Sequana is lucky enough to have just that in winemaker James MacPhail. James MacPhail began his winemaking career apprenticing under such famed Pinot Noir leaders as Merry Edwards and Gary Farrell (maker of Alysian Pinot Noir, a prior club wine). Using the knowledge and experience he gained from working under these masters, he focuses on producing small lots of distinctive Pinot Noir.



*Sequana winemaker James MacPhail.*

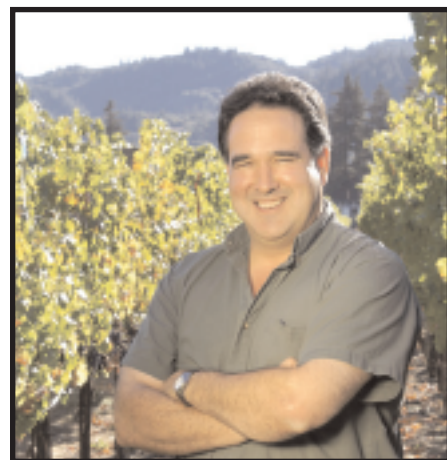
The 2009 Sequana Russian River Valley Pinot Noir is everything you have ever wanted from a California Pinot Noir. The wine starts off with a seductive nose of red berry fruit, floral aromas and subtle hints of spice and oak. The palate gently caresses with wild strawberry, cola and red cherry fruit notes mixed with cinnamon and spice. The finish is vibrant with good energy and balance without being overripe or acidic. This wine is balanced and fruit-driven and is ready to be enjoyed now and paired with wild salmon, pork or a duck breast.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is: Please Inquire.**

## 2009 Sequoia Grove Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

It is hard for me to believe that I'm on my 20th year in the wine industry. It seems like only yesterday that I was getting my start, stocking wine for a small grocery store a few blocks from my home. It's amazing to see how many new wineries have popped up in California since then, not to mention the many new imports and the several wine-producing regions that have come into being or into prominence. Because of all this, I sometimes get nostalgic when I come across a label from my past. When I taste a wine and discover that it is just as good as I remember it, I smile. One of those wines is Sequoia Grove. I have been drinking their Cabernet Sauvignon for 20 years and enjoying it consistently over that time.

The 2009 Sequoia Grove Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon seduces you with the very first sniff from the glass. Intoxicating aromas of blackberry kirsch, black plum, bakers chocolate, mocha and spice make this wine irresistible! The palate is a tapestry of dark berry fruit, mocha and milk chocolate flavors with fine tannins and a smooth, very long finish. This wine is flat-out delicious and should be paired with a nice grilled filet mignon or just enjoyed on its own, shared with a group of friends.



*Sequoia Grove winemaker Michael Trujillo.*

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is: Please Inquire.**

# Premium Wine Club

## 2011 Conundrum California White

When it debuted some 20 years ago, Conundrum was called Caymus "Conundrum" White blend. At that time, a white blended wine was odd, unheard of; the only way such a wine could sell was to play off the already established name of Caymus vineyards. The name helped get a foot in the door. People started to notice how great this stuff in the bottle was, and Caymus Conundrum became one of the first sought-after white wines in all of California and helped to usher in the idea of blending white grapes. Once Conundrum had developed its following, the Wagner family (Caymus) decided to uncouple the names, so now Conundrum stands on its own.

This 2011 Conundrum comes after more than 20 vintages of blending multiple white varietals into a complex, harmonious and distinctive style of wine. The fruit is sourced from multiple regions (Napa, Monterey, Santa Barbara and Tulare counties) to ensure both quality and diversity. Conundrum is a blend of Chardonnay for its weight and complexity, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon for crisp acidity, Muscat Canelli for floral qualities and Viognier for unctuousness. The wine is aged for up to ten months in both new and aged French oak, to arrive at the amazing finished product.

From the second you pour the first glass, this wine invites you in with intriguing aromas of green apple, tangerine and honeysuckle blossoms. The taste is best described as exotic; layers of peach, apricot nectar, green melon and pear are overlaid with subtle notes of citrus zest and spicy vanilla. A round, rich mouth feel supported by fresh acidity brings the complexities of this wine into balance. It is wonderful as an apéritif served on a warm day to family and friends, and you can also pair it with a wide array of flavorful dishes and cuisines.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is: Please Inquire.**

## 2009 Kalinda Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon

I've often mentioned the trials that Clyde and I go through to find the right juice to bottle under our Kalinda label. It used to be so easy when there was a grape glut and we had our choice of numerous producers who had more wine than they could label and sell. Now we have entered a phase where there's a grape shortage, making it more of a challenge to find that perfect wine to label. So when we came upon the juice that became the 2009 Kalinda Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon we were quite happy.

The 2009 Kalinda Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon starts off with a reddish-purple hue in the glass and quickly gives off aromas of blackberries, blackcurrant, black plum and spice notes. The palate is an impressive layering of dark red and black fruits, subtle hints of spice and chocolate with the seamless integration of fine tannins and nice acidity. This wine has nice, power, good fruit and a long, sexy finish without ever feeling heavy or out of balance. A delicious wine that could easily pass as a \$50 wine in a blind tasting, this will wow your friends when you pour it for them and ask them to guess what it costs.

**Your re-order price for this as a club member is \$14.99 per bottle.**



*Chuck Wagner and his son Joe Wagner of Caymus.*

# Best Buy Wine Club

## 2011 Monteviejo Festivo Torrentes Mendoza

Torrentes is a member of the Malvasian family of grapes, which originated in the eastern Mediterranean and then slowly made their way through Italy and various islands, including the Greek islands, Sicily and Madeira. Torrentes eventually made it to Argentina (and also to Chile, where it is traditionally used in pisco production), presumably via Spanish missionaries. Torrentes has become successful in Argentina and the US, where it has developed quite the following for its intense floral aromatics and fresh, balanced fruit flavors. Certain wines drink as though you are chomping on a freshly picked grape; Torrentes is one of these.

Monteviejo Festivo Torrentes Mendoza is quite spicy, exotic and floral on the nose, with aromas that suggest rose water, perhaps even Turkish delight. On the palate, white peaches blend with sweet fennel, maintaining their focus and balance with decent acidity to tie the wine together. Drink this wine on its own, or to accompany ceviche. —*Joe Manekin, K&L buyer of wines from Spain, Argentina & Chile*

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$9.99.**

## 2008 Domaine La Colliere “Rasteau” Côtes-du-Rhône

Which should you depend on: producer or vintage? Ideally you have a great producer and a great vintage, but what if one of those qualifications is absent? If a vintage is not considered stellar does that mean that no wine from that year could possibly be great? Obviously it is nowhere that clear cut. Often, especially in France in a challenging (code word for less than great) vintage, vigneron will not produce a Reserve wine, and will instead declassify their top vineyards into their everyday bottling. This brings up the quality of their bigger bottling. The Rhône has been blessed with many good-to-great vintages of late, mostly in odd numbered years (2005, 2007, 2009). Years 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008 have been somewhat less desirable. So in that time span, the great value for the consumer is in these even-numbered vintages. The wines are generally more approachable and less tannic—and cheaper.

This all brings us to the 2008 Domaine La Colliere “Rasteau” Côtes-du-Rhône, a wine that is usually double the price in a great vintage. Here we have it for a steal. While many will tell you that 2008 was a less than stellar vintage, I will tell you there are numerous charming 2008s and this is one of them, from a great producer. Domaine la Colliere is a small family estate founded by Georges Perrot. He began bottling his own wine in 2003, renting some cellar space from the mad king of Rasteau, Andre Romero of Domaine Soumade fame. Prior to 2003 all the juice went to one of the big négociants. Renowned Rhône enologist Philippe Cambie consults on the project, which is already receiving rave reviews from the press.

Robert Parker says, “This unheralded estate is making fabulous wines from their 62 acres of vines spread throughout Rasteau and the surrounding Côtes-du-Rhône appellation. Proprietor Georges Perrot utilizes the services of the enormously talented Philippe Cambie, and, as one might expect, these are full-flavored, wonderfully pure, complex wines that respect their appellation.”

The 2008 Domaine La Colliere “Rasteau” Côtes-du-Rhône is a delicious, everyday drinking wine that screams to be your next case purchase. Aromas of black raspberries, black cherries, white chocolate and spice notes seduce you while the palate displays pretty fruit flavors of berries and earth with subtle hints of spice and oak. This wine will pair well with grilled lamb chops and rosemary or any other subtle meat dish. Robert Parker gave it 88-91 points.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$9.99.**



*Phillipe Cambie made this wine.*

# Club Italiano

Notes by Greg St. Clair, K&L's Italian wine buyer.

## 2008 Lucchetti "Guardengo" Lacrima di Morro d'Alba Superiore

I can remember being approached many years ago by a salesperson who was hawking a new wine with a grape variety that I'd never heard of before. Happens frequently in my job. Despite this salesperson's passionate discourse on why this new wine should grace our shelves and how I could be the pioneer representing it on the West Coast, I wasn't hearing him, as I was being bowled over by an aroma I hadn't ever smelled in a wine. This wine was full of a dark fruit that I decided smelled something like blueberries. Years later, having returned from the far Canadian North where I attended a Wild Blueberry Festival, I realized this aroma was definitely wild blueberry—it's like the difference between *fraises des bois* and strawberries. That grape variety was Lacrima di Morro d'Alba—translated as the tear of the white Moor. It hails from a tiny town in the Marche called Morro d'Alba, about 10 miles inland from the Adriatic and half an hour from Ancona. Mario Lucchetti began making wines from his 15-hectare estate in 1981, with the help of his friend and enologist Alberto Mazzoni. The DOC for Lacrima di Morro d'Alba is a fairly recent creation, established in 1985.



From left to right: Consulting winemaker Alberto Mazzoni, Paolo Lucchetti, Mario Lucchetti.

The 2008 Lucchetti "Guardengo" Lacrima di Morro d'Alba Superiore is a bold, powerful wine, dark in color and filled with those wild blueberry aromatics. The Guardengo is a selection of the vineyard's oldest and best positioned vines. Perhaps a little unusual for a big, powerful red wine, it is fermented (21 to 30 days on the skins) and aged only in stainless steel tanks. The stainless preserves the bold aromatics yet leaves a significant tannic signature on the palate. Powerful with a long finish, this wine does best with food, including rich cheeses. What I think would really be great would be some smoked Baby Back Ribs! Hope you enjoy the experience. Robert Parker gave this wine 91 points.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$18.99 per bottle.**

## 2011 Verbena IGT Rosso Toscano

Montalcino is one of my favorite places in Italy and it happens to be where one of my favorite wines comes from as well. Unfortunately it is a place that makes expensive wines. Brunello almost always ends up too expensive for the parameters of the Italian Club. However one can still find wines that are reasonably priced and some that are just downright steals. The 2011 Verbena IGT Rosso Toscano is what could be termed a Super Tuscan. I dislike the term; since it has no regulations such as requirements for varietal content, aging, yield etc. it has become a big net cast over a whole bunch of wines that didn't fit into a DOC. The Italian government changed all of the rules not so long ago, and many wines once called Super Tuscans now have their own DOC. It is terribly confusing but after all this is Italy we are talking about.

Montalcino has its own set of rules. Any of us could if we had the resources go to Napa, buy property, plant a Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard, make wine and call it Napa Valley Cabernet. In Montalcino it's not like that. All of the land is controlled and there is no available acreage where you can plant and make Brunello or Rosso di Montalcino. The local Consorzio has limited growth so as not to flood the market with wine. The EU won't let you plant grapes at all unless you pay someone else in the EU to rip out their vineyards so you can plant yours where you wish. In Montalcino if you are OK'd by the EU to plant a vineyard, you still can't make Brunello or Rosso unless you go through the same process within Montalcino, buying and ripping out a Montalcino vineyard. You can plant grapes and make wine; you

just can't call it Brunello or Rosso.

Luca Nannetti at Verbena had this problem with his estate; he can't increase production of Brunello or Rosso so he has to make something else. Enter the IGT. These grapes are from the same vineyard as his Brunello and Rosso and aren't a lesser selection. Being limited by what he can produce under those names, and just to change things up a bit, he planted a bit of Cabernet and Merlot to make his IGT a little different from his other wines. The 2011 Verbena IGT Rosso Toscano is 80% Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, and is aged only in stainless steel. It is boldly rich and smooth and shows lots of ripe cassis and cherry-like fruit. Drinkable now; great with spicy grilled sausage.



*The cellars at Verbena.*

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$20.99 per bottle.**

## **Champagne Club** *Notes by Gary Westby, K&L's Champagne buyer.*

**Two Vintage Champagnes for October** If the euro were stronger, we would no doubt be drinking non-vintage this month! Instead we have one of the best vintages ever made by old favorite Champagne Aspasié, and a new producer to introduce: Amaury Coutelas, from the western valley of the Marne.

Vintage Champagne is a special thing, and legally it is a limited percentage of each producer's wines. In fact, it is even more limited than the law allows, since the Champenois prize their ability to blend harvests together to make not just a more consistent product, but one that has elements of both complexity from age and freshness from youth. Vintage wines must legally be aged for longer; three years is the minimum, but I have never seen one under five years arrive in the US market. I strongly encourage you to drink these two bottles soon. Re-buy prices like this on vintage Champagne are a rare, rare occurrence!

### **2007 Ariston Brut Champagne**

Paul Vincent Ariston has a completely different take on what vintage means on a bottle of Champagne than most Californians are prepared for. His 2007 Ariston Aspasié Vintage Brut Champagne is made from 25-year-old vines on his property. He uses his oldest plots for non-vintage wines; he says they are too old to show the character of the year, as too much of the plant is underground and unaffected by the weather. This wine is a blend of one-third each Chardonnay, Meunier and Pinot Noir from estate vineyards in the sleepy northwest village of Broulliet. It is dosed low at just 9 grams per liter, and is very lively and precise. The first thing in my notebook when tasting at the property was that it reminded me of the 2004 Veuve Clicquot "La Grande Dame" that I'd tasted earlier that afternoon.



*Paul Vincent and Caroline Ariston pour at a K&L tasting.*

This spectacular wine has a pale gold color and is very subtle compared to past vintages, with very nice texture and clean, nutty flavors. Put this on the front burner—it will fly out of here.

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$34.99 per bottle.**

## **2005 Amaury Coutelas Vintage Brut Champagne**

We have a brand new producer for you with the 2005 Amaury Coutelas Vintage Brut Champagne. Angelique and Damien have 17 and a half acres, mostly in Villers sous Chantillon, but also in Ambonny, Bouzy, Vitry la Francois, and Troissy. Their family has been growing grapes since 1809 and started making their own Champagnes in the 1920s. This half-and-half blend of Meunier and Pinot Noir comes from estate vines that average over 70 years old—among the oldest I have heard of in Champagne. The wine is vinified in stainless steel and finished with only six grams per liter of dosage. It is a very full-bodied wine with super power in the middle, yet it's refreshing on the finish. If you take a liking to either or both of these wines, try stashing some in your cellar. They should both make very good 20-year-olds!



*Damien and Angelique Coutelas.*

**Your re-order price for this wine as a club member is \$34.99 per bottle.**

## **Re-order Form**

As a member of a K&L Wine Club, you have the opportunity to order previous offerings from 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, call us at x2766 and we will help you resolve them. 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 email us at [theclubs@klwines.com](mailto:theclubs@klwines.com).

**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.**

***For a complete, up-to-date inventory listing visit us online at: [www.klwines.com](http://www.klwines.com)***

## **Signature Red Club Previous Offerings**

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2005 Clarendon Hills “Blewitt Springs” Grenache @ Please Inquire

The 2005 Clarendon Hills “Blewitt Springs” Grenache absolutely explodes from the glass with aromas of black fig jam, cocoa bean, Asian spice and racy raspberry notes. The palate is a dense and lively array of raspberry, lavender, fig and plum with seamless tannins, sweet oak and a lush, long finish. This wine is drinking perfectly right now and would be the ideal match with lamb or roast duck. This wine received 93 points from Stephen Tanzer, 92 from *Wine & Spirits Magazine* and 91 from both Robert Parker and *Wine Spectator*.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2005 Clarendon Hills Hickinbotham Grenache @ Please Inquire

This wine displays a much higher-tone fruit that is distinctly red while the Blewitt Springs is much more of a black fruit expression. On the palate the Hickinbotham Grenache is livelier with much more racy red fruit and spice and a softer, more pliant finish. This wine will pair well with wild salmon, pork and veal dishes. This wine received 93 points from Robert Parker, 92 from both *Wine Spectator* and Stephen Tanzer, and 90 from *Wine Enthusiast*.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2009 Bodega Mas Alta Artigas Priorat @ \$23.99 per bottle

In this 2009 Bodega Mas Alta Artigas Priorat, rich, chewy berry fruits betray a hint of Cabernet Sauvignon's red fruit and subtle herbal tones, which add interest to the wine and would make it a natural with grilled steak or lamb garnished with thyme and rosemary—herbs that grow wild in the region. This wine received 92 points from Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate*. —*Joe Manekin, K&L buyer of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Wines*

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Merryvale Pinot Noir Carneros @ Please Inquire

The 2010 Merryvale Pinot Noir Carneros is dark ruby red in color and starts out with subtle hints of violet while aromas of dark red cherry, wild strawberry, black tea, cardamom, fresh earth, floral notes and toasted marshmallow rise seductively from the glass. The palate displays plenty of energy, bright and focused, with flavors of cherry, cranberry and lingering hints of toasty oak. Pair this wine with wild salmon and beet salad.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2006 Robert Young "Red Winery Road" Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, Alexander Valley @ Please Inquire

The wine starts out with an intoxicating nose of black raspberry, mocha, baker's chocolate and hints of herbs. On the palate the wine displays red cherry fruit, milk chocolate and subtle spice with nice oak accents and fine-grained tannins. It is full and rich but still very smooth and harmonious thanks to its soft, supple tannins and good acidity. It can age gracefully for the next five to fifteen years, or you can decant and enjoy it now with a nice steak.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2009 Buehler "Estate" Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley @ Please Inquire

The 2009 Buehler starts off with aromas of black plums, scorched earth and hints of tobacco. On the palate the wine is densely packed with black fruits, chocolate notes, spice and super-smooth tannins. This wine is so silky that it feels light even though it is very full-bodied, rich and powerful. If you're looking for the quintessential California Cabernet Sauvignon then your search has ended. Enjoy! This wine can age for ten-plus years but why wait? It is delicious now and should be enjoyed with any roasted red meats or a hearty pork dish.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2006 Long Shadows Chester Kidder Red, Columbia Valley, Washington @ Please Inquire

Balanced, with refined texture and robust structure, this wine has a seductive mouthfeel that sets it up for its remarkably long, satisfying finish. It should pair well with steak or any kind of grilled meats and can be enjoyed now or aged flawlessly in your cellar for the next five to ten years. This wine received 93 points from *Wine Advocate*, 93 points from Stephen Tanzer and 92 points from *Wine Enthusiast*.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2004 Bodegas Poesia "Poesia" Lujan de Cuyo, Argentina @ \$24.99 per bottle

This wine's rich, sweet, ripe fruit and extravagant notes of spice may be tempting now, but we have it on record that these wines age well for a handful of years. Last year, for example, we enjoyed the 2003 vintage in its eighth year. This 2004 garnered 91 points from Robert Parker, and 92 points from *Wine Enthusiast*. — *Joe Manekin, K&L Spanish, Portuguese & Latin American Wine Buyer*

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2007 Lancaster Estate Sophia's Hillside Cuvee, Alexander Valley @ Please Inquire

This is a blend of 97% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Merlot. The wine has a dark purple hue with aromas of blueberries, cinnamon and violets on the nose while the palate displays layers of complex fruit, berries, plums and dark chocolate seamlessly tied together with lush, fine tannins. The finish is smooth and long with a silkiness that makes you wish you had a bigger glass. Pair this wine with a steak or other hearty fare and you will not be disappointed. This wine can be enjoyed now if decanted 90 minutes ahead. It can go into your cellar for a good eight to twelve years where it will gain further complexity and soften up a bit. 92 points, *Wine Enthusiast*.

## **Premium Wine Club Previous Offerings**

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2009 Petit Manou, Medoc @ \$14.99 per bottle

This has plenty of latent tannin to age well for many years, but with some airing the fruit covers the tannin, making it so enjoyable now with a steak dinner. Some blackberry and cassis aromas that follow to the palate make for a fine, fruity, forward palate entry. Some spices are evident on the palate and the finish is lingering. A Clyde pick for value Bordeaux. — *Clyde Beffa Jr.*

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Kalinda Chardonnay Sonoma @ \$14.99 per bottle

Our 2010 Kalinda Chardonnay Sonoma County begins with a nose of buttered almond, apricot, lemon oil and

hints of tropical fruits along with notes of rich oak. The palate is bright and intoxicating with vibrant flavors of apricot, white peach and poached pears. The wine has layer upon layer of rich fruit flavors nicely accented against rich oak and subtle creamy texture. If you're a fan of California Chardonnay then this is the wine for you.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Mas des Volques Volcae @ \$14.99 per bottle

This wine has the deep cherry, currant and raspberry fruit you would expect from the varietals, with notes of tapenade, garrigue, game and toasty oak. Full and round, the Volcae will go well with—and stand up to—lamb roasted with garlic, grilled sausages and heartier cheeses. —*Mulan Chan-Randel, K&L Rhône Valley & French Regional Wine Buyer*

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2009 Clos de Los Siete Proprietary Red, Mendoza, Argentina @ Please Inquire

A delicious blend of dark black fruit, spicy herbaceous notes and supple hints of oak and tannin. It starts out with hints of blackberry, game, herbs, tobacco and hints of smoke oak. On the palate the wine is supple with layers of dark black fruit nicely accentuated by hints of earth and herbs. The finish is long and smooth with impeccable balance and finesse. Pair this wine with lamb, pork or any grilled meat you decide to enjoy this summer. Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate* and Stephen Tanzer both gave this wine 90 points.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Michel Gassier Nostre Pais Blanc Costières de Nîmes Blanc @ \$14.99 per bottle

Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate* gave this 92 points and wrote: "The 2010 Nostre Pais Blanc is a blend of 80% Grenache Blanc and the rest equal parts Roussanne and Viognier, aged on its lees for six months, with some barrel fermentation but limited exposure to oak. It comes across as a top-flight white Châteauneuf du Pape rather than a less expensive Costières de Nîmes. Light gold in color, with an extraordinary nose of vivid honeysuckle, candle wax, marmalade and tropical fruit, the wine is elegant, has good acidity, and wonderful freshness, but a surprisingly intense, full-bodied mouthfeel."

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2006 Cellers Ripoll Sans "Closa Batlet" Gratallops Priorat @ \$14.99 per bottle

Based in the town of Gratallops, Cellers Ripoll Sans has beautiful Cariñena, Garnacha, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot vines in this most important Priorat town. Black slate is predominant in the vineyards, with some schist present as well. Some of the vines here are as much as 90 years old, and you can tell by the wine's character that vines were planted in just the right spot to project a clear sense of wild, dark fruited, mineral Priorat typicity.

## Best Buy Wine Club Previous Offerings

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Kalinda Lake County Sauvignon Blanc @ \$9.99 per bottle

The first thing you'll notice when pouring yourself a glass of the 2010 Kalinda Lake County Sauvignon Blanc is the exotic nose of stone fruits, white flowers and hints of smoke and stone. On the palate the wine displays layers of unctuous fruit including tangerine, kumquat, green fig and hints of lime. In fact this wine contains 7% Johannisberg Reisling, which is why it is so floral. There's a fantastic weight in the mid-palate that gives the wine a substantial feel as it seamlessly glides towards a long, satisfying finish.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2009 Barber Cellars "Mr Beast" Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel @ \$9.99 per bottle

The 14% addition of Sangiovese lifts this wine's acidity and red fruit flavors. The blend was aged in 20% new French and American oak casks for 20 months before being bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. The result is a soft and unique wine with flavors of dark fruits, tomato, and big pepper spice. At just under 14% alcohol, it is certainly different from the 15% to 16%-plus Zins you'll find on the market, and it is a fantastic deal for you club members.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Bonterra Cabernet Sauvignon, Mendocino County @ \$9.99 per bottle

The 2010 Bonterra Cab has cherry, currant and raspberry aromas with notes of toasted oak and vanilla. On the palate the wine displays a medium body of red fruits dominated by cherry and currant flavors that are nicely accented by fine tannins, hints of rich oak and the perfect amount of acidity. This wine is the perfect foil for all grilled red meats and is balanced enough to not overwhelm a nice roast chicken.

\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2011 Rainstorm Pinot Gris, Willamette Valley Oregon @ \$9.99 per bottle

The 2011 Rainstorm Pinot Gris is bright, zesty and fun. It has subtle white flower and melon aromas. On the palate flavors of honeydew melon, cucumber and lime dominate with notes of wet stone and spice. This wine has great lift and is easy on the palate so you can pair it with seafood, salad or cheeses or enjoy it as an apéritif. If you haven't had a chance yet to enjoy a Pinot Gris then you are definitely in for a treat here. *Wine Enthusiast* gave this 90 points.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2009 Domaine Vindemio “Regain” Côtes du Ventoux @ \$9.99 per bottle

The wine’s name, “Regain,” translates to “rebirth” in French and is meant to capture the spirit of re-invention and evolution. It is a fruit-driven blend of 70% Grenache and 30% Syrah that elicits exotic peppery spice notes, along with hints of violets, earth and vanilla. — *Mulan Chan-Randel, K&L Rhône Valley & French Regional Wine Buyer*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Clos Chanteduc Côtes du Rhône @ \$9.99 per bottle

The 2010 release is composed of 65% Grenache and 35% Syrah. Famed winemaker Yves Gras of Domaine Santa Duc in Gigondas is responsible for the vinification of this delicious red. It’s redolent of forest floor and Provençal herbs, with a kiss of anise and a core of cherry fruit. Take a trip to the South of France with this wine by enjoying it with your next Provençal inspired meal! — *Mulan Chan-Randel, K&L Buyer of Rhône Valley & French Regional Wine*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Château Haut Riot “Cuvée Juliette” Bordeaux Rouge @ \$9.99 per bottle

The wine combines richness and concentration with a sense of elegance and finesse. Superb layers of currant and berry fruit combine with sage and cedar. This wine is a deliciously juicy style of Cabernet that is made to be enjoyed over the next five years. It has an inviting nose of dark tarry fruit. It is medium to full on the palate, with the lovely precision that’s a hallmark of this great vintage. The palate is filled with juicy black fruits, especially blackcurrant. It has lovely intensity and impeccable balance. The finish is easy and supple. — *Clyde Beffa*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 La Loup dans la Bergerie Hortus, France @ \$9.99 per bottle

Ripe, crunchy grapes are vinified simply, without any oak influence. What does that translate to? Pure, unadulterated fruit. Think of a fresh basket of grapes and red berries complemented by just a touch of blackcurrant tea leaves. The venerable southern French estate of Domaine de l’Hortus is responsible for this fun-loving and slightly less serious rouge that will get along with just about anything culinary that comes its way. How about grilled lamb sausages with lentils and roasted potatoes? Or perhaps a chicken tagine slow cooked with organic tomatoes and sweet potato? You get the idea. The 2009 Le Loup dans la Bergerie is party, pool and picnic ready. — *Mulan Chan-Randel, K&L Rhône Valley & French Regional Wine Buyer*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2011 Herencia Altés Garnatxa Blanca, Spain @ \$9.99 per bottle

This delicious white from Herencia Altés is full of intense pear and apple flavor, with spectacular minerality showing towards the mid-palate and finish. It was made by Núria Altes, whose family has been growing grapes in Terra Alta for generations. Enjoy this lovely white on its own or with a wide variety of foods. It’s a mouthwateringly fresh white wine that will make you reach for a second glass—and marvel that it’s so good for under \$10. — *Joe Manekin, K&L buyer of wines from Spain, Argentina & Chile*

## **Club Italiano Previous Offerings** *Notes by Greg St. Clair, K&L’s Italian wine buyer.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Amantis “Goghi” IGT @ \$15.99 per bottle

This is a powerful expression of a young wine: bold, dramatic and expressive, with an array of passionate urges. The Sangiovese gives this wine a backbone, strongly focused and long; the Merlot offers a soft palate presence, couching the structure of the other varietals into a complete wine; the Alicante is spicy, structured and deeply colored; the Petit Verdot offers mid-palate depth and a dark, saturated color; and a drop of Colorino gives local color.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2004 Colognole Collezione @ \$23.99 per bottle

The 2004 Colognole Collezione comes from a superb vintage and exhibits what’s classic about this intriguing area. It has a superb backbone of acidic structure. Layers of ripe, wild-cherry fruit burst along your palate while highlights of leather and mineral add grip along the way. The wine is still evolving, opening and beginning to show the length and layers of old-vine Sangiovese. I hope you’ll pair this wine with a Bistecca Fiorentina, the classic Florentine T-bone steak, with a bit of extra virgin olive oil drizzled on.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2009 Col d’Orcia Rosso di Montalcino Banditella @ \$28.99 per bottle

The Banditella is aged for one year in French oak barriques, which give it a modern and juicy feel. But for me the thing that sticks out about this wine is the depth of flavor in these new Sangiovese clones. They are saturated, spicier and seem to yield a more expansive array of flavors. Those flavors wind intricately together and make a really dynamic wine with a long focused finish. I would suggest you try it with a roast pork tenderloin or a big juicy T-Bone. Oh, and decant it an hour ahead of time.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Tenuta Polvaro Cabernet @ \$10.99 per bottle

This Cabernet Sauvignon doesn't have the plummy/chocolate-y nature of California Cabernet; it is lighter, fresher and livelier and has a wide variety of spice, herb and fruit flavors that frolic on your palate while its aromatics will brighten your day. This is the perfect wine to drink when it is warm outside, with barbecued chicken or just cold cuts and cheese. I really think you'll love this wine. Relax and let it take you on a ride you never see in California!

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2006 Tenuta Giuliana Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Vecchie Vigne @ \$27.99 per bottle

This is the pure fruit character of the Montepulciano grape: dense, powerful, layers of dark cherries and berries but still a little *sauvage* character to remind you this is a rugged wine. On the palate the wine is an explosion of fruit but as it is subsiding the wine's structure takes over. Supple tannins and tremendous balance give this wine a freshness and length that offer a long life. Most of you however will just enjoy the ebullient fruit and superb drinkability of the wine now and run right out to your barbecue and fire up some baby back ribs, Italian sausage or a big old steak.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2007 Colognole Chianti Rufina Riserva del Don @ \$24.99 per bottle

The 2007 Colognole Chianti Rufina Riserva del Don is a powerful wine just as was the 2006 "Don," but the richness of the warmer 2007 vintage is readily apparent and gives depth and flesh to this big frame. I was in Napa and Sonoma recently and really enjoyed some of the wines that I tasted but boy are they different from this. Good and bad are subjective terms and that's for you to decide, but the main difference is the fruit ripeness and acidity. Rufina's fruit is not so thoroughly ripe so it is still a little edgy and there are lots of different flavors, whereas the California wines were all completely ripe and had a more uniform singularity to the flavor. In the mouth the California wines were lush, smooth, soft and round and had a fleshy structure. Enjoy this wine with a big T-bone steak with a little extra-virgin Tuscan olive oil drizzled over the top. Or if you aren't a meat eater try some Parmigiano Reggiano or Peccorino Toscano (not Romano).

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2010 Sassotondo Ciliegiole @ \$12.99 per bottle

Ciliegiole is an indigenous Tuscan grape, always popular in the Maremma but rarely made as a varietal. Its name comes from ciliegio, "cherry." Carla and Edoardo blend the Ciliegiole with 10% Alicante (also a rather popular grape along the coast) and the result is marvelous. The cherry-like aromatics in this wine just burst out of the glass aided by the depth and power of the deeply colored Alicante. Aided by the stunning quality of the 2010 vintage, the wine is forceful yet supple on the palate and exuberantly full and fresh. This wine calls for something off the grill.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of 2006 Planeta Merlot @ \$26.99 per bottle

I really like this wine's complexity. So much of the "bad" Merlot was mono-flavored juice that tasted like melted jello, but this wine offers layers of herb and fruit mixed in with a bit of wild game. It's like a Sicilian evening breeze full of wild herbs, smoke and a hint of salt. On the palate the wine is lush yet restrained; it has balance and a freshening acidity that makes it an ideal food wine. Think Mediterranean grilled lamb kebabs with a little caponata and a glass of Merlot, sitting outside... sounds good, doesn't it!

## **Champagne Club Previous Offerings** —Notes by Gary Westby, K&L Champagne Buyer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of Charles Ellner "Cuvée Reserve" Brut Champagne @ \$35.99 per bottle

Ellner has been a family business for four generations and owns 140 acres, which supply 70% of their production needs. These vineyards are in every part of Champagne, from the Aisne to the Aube and from the Mountain of Reims to the Côtes des Blancs. Although not a giant in the US, they do sell about a million bottles a year worldwide, so they could not be considered small. They are based in Epernay, where they have two kilometers of cellars. This Champagne will make an ideal partner for a salmon wellington or other rich fish dish.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of Fluteau Blanc de Noirs Brut Champagne @ \$33.99 per bottle

Nothing expresses the terroir of the Aube more clearly than Pinot Noir, and this lighter style Blanc de Noir is a perfect ambassador of the style. This wine is made from their 22-and-a-half acre property in the village of Gye-sur-Seine in the southernmost part of the Aube. It is composed of all Pinot Noir from the 2009, 2008 and 2007 harvests and vinified in stainless steel. This clean, bright, fun bottle of Champagne is the perfect apéritif, and I would recommend drinking it on its own or with some light appetizers.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bottle(s) of CD De Norston Brut Champagne @ \$34.99 per bottle

Many of our Champagne Club members have asked for some toasty Champagne, and this wine delivers. It is a blanc de noir composed of 80% Meunier and 20% Pinot Noir and it's made in a very open, biscuit-y and friendly style. The expressive nose has lots of fresh fruit and even a touch of candied cherry. On the palate it has a very supple texture and clean flavors, and a zippy finish. It is made in the village of Champlat-Boujacourt in the northwest part of the Marne. That's only a few villages away from Brouillet, where the Aristons make the Aspasia that many of you have enjoyed. This is a perfect apéritif, and a great way to welcome friends.

## ***Wine Club Special of the Month***

### **2009 Domaine de la Janasse "Terre d'Argile" Cotes-du-Rhone Villages**

Regular K&L Price \$17.99 **Special for Club members \$14.99**

We have for you this month an incredible buy on this great 2009 Rhône Red. 91 points, Robert Parker: "The 2009 Côtes du Rhône-Villages Terre d'Argile is sensational. Notes of black currants and cherries as well as hints of charcoal, truffle, new saddle leather and earth all jump from the glass of this blend of 70% Grenache and the rest mostly Mourvèdre with a touch of Carignan. Aged completely in foudres and older small barrels, it is dense ruby/purple, full-bodied, opulent, and ideal for drinking over the next 5-6 years." —Robert Parker, *Wine Advocate*

### **Signature Red Club Six-Pack #3**

Our Club six-packs give you some absolutely ridiculous deals. This one is our best ever.

**2 bottles of 2006 Paradigm Merlot** crafted by famed enologist Heidi Barrett Peterson;

**2 bottles of 2009 Pipeau St. Emilion**, a fantastic 2009 Bordeaux; and lastly,

**2 bottles 2006 Robert Young "Red Winery Road" Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley** from one of the forefathers of Alexander Valley Robert Young.

Bought individually these wines would run you \$202.94, bought via your wine club discount it would cost you \$155.94. **With our special you pay only \$125.94 or an additional savings of \$30!** Don't delay as this great deal is sure to sell out fast.

### **Premium Club Six-Pack #1**

The first ever Signature Red Club Six-pack consists of:

**2 bottles of 2006 Closa Batllet Priorat Spain**, a stunning red;

**2 bottles of 2009 Clos de los Siete Red Argentina**, a masterful red blend from renowned globe-trotting enologist Michel Rolland; and lastly,

**2 bottles of 2008 Tagent "Paragon Vineyard" Pinot Gris Edna Valley**, a gorgeous and refreshing white from the Central Coast.

If you were to buy these individually they would cost \$109.94, with your club discount you'd pay \$87.94. **With our six-pack deal you'll pay only \$67.94 for an additional savings of \$20!**

We also have a few of the **Signature Red Six-Pack #2**

**2 bottles of 2004 Bodegas Poesia Mendoza, Argentina**

**2 bottles of 2009 Buehler "Estate" Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon**

**2 bottles of 2010 Merryvale Carneros Pinot Noir**

At their regular K&L prices these wines would cost \$179.94. Purchased individually with your wine club discount and they would be \$149.94. But this **special deal for all of our club members** saves you an additional \$40. You get all six bottles for **only \$109.94!**