

## The (Wine) Year in Review...

EVERY YEAR GRAPES ARE GROWN, HARVESTED, FERMENTED, AND BOTTLED. HOPEFULLY, SOME OF THIS LIQUID, CALLED WINE, MAKES IT'S WAY TO THE CONSUMERS' TABLE WHERE IT IS SWIRLED, SIPPED, PAIRED, GUZZLED, AND/OR DRUNK. IF IT TASTES GOOD, THE CONSUMER MAY CHOOSE IT AGAIN. AND AGAIN. IF NOT, WELL, THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER CHOICES OUT THERE. AFTER ALL, ITS ONLY WINE.

OUR FINAL NEWSLETTER OF 2006 ECHOES THAT POINT. AS WE LOOK AT OUR BEST SELLING WINES OF THE PAST YEAR AND HIGHLIGHT SOME SEISMIC EVENTS (SOME OF WHICH ARE EVEN TRUE) FROM THE WORLD OF WINE OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE'D ALSO LIKE TO RAISE A GLASS AND WISH A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF OUR READERS — EVEN IF YOU SHOP ELSEWHERE. *SALUTÉ!*

### JANUARY

THE YEAR STARTED OFF WITH A BANG AS PRESIDENT BUSH, STILL HUNGOVER FROM THE 2003 'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED' VICTORY PARTY, ASSERTS THAT AS THE NATIONAL DECIDERER, HE'S DECIDED TO TAKE A NAP. MEANWHILE, VINTNERS AND GROWERS FROM BORDEAUX REJOICE AT THE FABULOUS 2005 VINTAGE AND ANNOUNCE THAT VINTAGES '06, '07, '08 AND '09 WILL ALSO BE 'VINTAGES OF THE CENTURY' AND ARE OFFERING EASY CREDIT TERMS ON FUTURES OF THOSE VINTAGES.

## The Year in Review

### FEBRUARY

*THE WINE ADVOCATE'S* ROBERT PARKER ANNOUNCES THE FIRST EVER 150-POINT WINE. THIS WINE, FROM AUSTRALIA, IS MADE FROM 3,000 YEAR OLD SHIRAZ VINES AGED FOR 72 MONTHS IN MINISCULE, NEW, EXTRA TOASTY AMERICAN OAK BARRELS. THE RESULT IS A PROFOUND WINE OF UNBELIEVABLE RICHNESS, CONCENTRATION, DEPTH OF FLAVOR, AND PURITY. AN INKY/BLACK/PURPLE COLOR IS ACCOMPANIED BY EXPLOSIVE SCENTS OF VIOLETS, RAISINS, BLUEBERRIES, AND CASSIS AS WELL AS STREAKS OF ESPRESSO, TRUFFLES, ROASTED MEATS, AND ROCKY ROAD ICE CREAM FOLLOWED BY HINTS OF HALSTON FOR MEN, JUNIPER BERRY AND GRILLED HUDSON VALLEY FOIE GRAS. THIS SEXY, COMPELLING, UNCTUOUS, OVER THE TOP, LARGE-BREADED, YET REMARKABLY SMALL WAISTED SHIRAZ SHOULD KEEP FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS OR MORE. *THE WINE SPECTATOR* RESPONDS BY GIVING THE SAME WINE 152 POINTS AND OFFERING SUBSCRIBERS A CHANCE TO ACTUALLY SEE A BOTTLE (BEHIND GLASS) AT THE ANNUAL WINE SPECTATOR NEW YORK WINE EXPERIENCE.

### MARCH

A WINE WRITER FOR THE *BALTIMORE SUN* ANNOUNCES THAT WINE IS NOW BEING MADE IN SPAIN. SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE GRAPE GROWERS ANNOUNCE THAT THE NEWLY HARVESTED 2006 VINTAGE IS THE FINEST IN THE HISTORY OF THE PLANET AND THAT ANYBODY WHO STILL DRINKS FRENCH WINE IS A FOOL. THE WINE BUYING PUBLIC CONCURS.

### APRIL

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT UNVEILS THEIR NEW WINE MARKETING CAMPAIGN, "WE'RE FRENCH AND YOU'RE STUPID IF YOU BUY ANY WINE FROM ANYWHERE ELSE - ESPECIALLY AUSTRALIA." THE AUSTRALIAN WINE BUREAU RESPONDS BY SHIPPING ANOTHER MILLION CASES OF YELLOWTAIL TO THE US.

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## MAY

"THE JUDGMENT OF PARIS" 30TH ANNIVERSARY BROUGHT TOGETHER TWO PANELS OF WINE AFICIONADOS - ONE AT COPIA IN NAPA VALLEY AND THE OTHER AT BERRY BROS. & RUDD IN LONDON. THE RESULTS FROM THIS RECREATION OF THE ORIGINAL 1976 JUDGMENT OF PARIS TASTING PROVED THAT CALIFORNIA WINES HAVE THE ABILITY TO AGE AS WELL AS THEIR FRENCH COUNTERPARTS, SCORING RIDGE CALIFORNIA CABERNET SAUVIGNON 1971 AS THE UNANIMOUS CHOICE FOR BOTH THE US AND UK PANELISTS. IN ADDITION, THE TOP FIVE SCORING WINES IN THE RECREATION WERE ALL FROM CALIFORNIA, WITH STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS 1973 RANKING SECOND (WINNER OF THE 1976 JUDGMENT OF PARIS), HEITZ MARTHA'S VINEYARD 1970 AND MAYACAMAS 1971 TIED FOR THIRD, AND CLOS DU VAL 1972 ROUNDING OUT THE TOP FIVE. (TRUE STORY)

## JUNE

A LOCAL RADIO PROGRAM DEVOTED TO WINE REVEALS THAT GOOD WINES TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU EVER NEEDED TO KNOW ON THEIR BACK LABEL. ALSO THAT WINE GOES 'WELL' WITH FOOD.

## JULY

NEW YORK WINE, BEER AND SPIRITS GIANT, CONSTELLATION BRANDS, WHO NOW OWNS RAVENSWOOD, ROBERT MONDAVI, SIMI, FRANCISCAN, RH PHILLIPS, VERAMONTE, HARDY'S, NOBILO, ARBOR MIST, CORONA EXTRA AND CORONA LIGHT, MODELO ESPECIAL, TSINGTAO, ST. PAULI GIRL, BLACK VELVET, FLEISCHMANN'S, AND PAUL MASSON GRANDE AMBER BRANDY, ANNOUNCED AN UNSOLICITED TAKEOVER BID FOR PORTUGAL.

## AUGUST

THE WINE ADVOCATE'S ROBERT PARKER, WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE WORLD'S ONLY 'UNBIASED' WINE CRITIC, HIRES AS A STAFF WRITER A PARTNER IN A LOCAL WINE SHOP. UNBIASED INDEED. (TRUE STORY)

## SEPTEMBER

PORTUGAL REJECTS CONSTELLATION'S BID, ANNOUNCING THAT THEIR TRUE SHARE PRICE IS NOT REFLECTED BY CONSTELLATION'S BID. CONSTELLATION VOWS A PROXY FIGHT 'TO THE DEATH'.

## OCTOBER

PARIS HILTON ANNOUNCES THE FIRST RELEASE OF HER NEW WINE, PARTY GIRL. THIS SLIGHTLY SPARKLING OFF-WHITE WINE, MADE FROM A BLEND OF PINOT GRIGIO AND CHARDONNAY IS OFFERED IN 6-OUNCE PLASTIC TEST TUBES, CLOSED WITH THE NEW ZORK CLOSURE, AND HAS RECEIVED 87 POINTS FROM EVERY WINE PUBLICATION ON THE PLANET. GO FIGURE.

## NOVEMBER

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER SIGNS BILL ALLOWING 'CELEBRITY' WINES TO BE SOLD IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA ONLY IF THE CELEBRITY IS IN THE MOVIE BUSINESS OR HAD APPEARED IN AT LEAST ONE SUPER BOWL ACTUALLY PLAYED IN CALIFORNIA. BASKETBALL LEGEND LARRY BIRD, WHOSE "LEGENDS" WINE (SELLING FOR \$80) WOULD BE AFFECTED, THREATENS A LAWSUIT.

## DECEMBER

THE WINE SPECTATOR'S TOP 100 LIST OF 2006 IS UNVEILED, FEATURING 7 WINES THAT WERE RELEASED IN 2005, A HIGHER SCORING (AND SIMILARLY PRICED) WINE AT #3 THAN #1, A HIGHER SCORING (AND SIMILARLY PRICED) WINE AT #8 THAN #2, AND A HIGHER SCORING (AND SIMILARLY PRICED) WINE AT #6 THAN #4, CAUSING READERS TO WONDER JUST WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON. (TRUE STORY)

## TOP 10 SELLING WINES OF 2006



### 1. 2005 LAS ROCAS GARNACHA CALATAYUD, SPAIN

REGULAR \$8.99 CASE PRICE \$86.40 (20% OFF!)

OUR BEST SELLING WINE OF 2006; ITS RIPE AND EASY BERRY FLAVORS MAKES IT THE PERFECT WINE FOR ANY EVENT, MEAL, SETTING, ETC. STILL AVAILABLE! (PW)

## **2. 2004 POMELO SAUVIGNON BLANC**

CALIFORNIA, USA

**100% SOLD-OUT – TO RETURN SPRING 2007**

THIS WINE MADE ITS DEBUT LAST MARCH AND NEVER STOPPED SELLING UNTIL THE VINTAGE WAS EXHAUSTED. THE 2005 IS DUE IN MARCH AND PROMISES THE SAME BRIGHT, AND FRESH CITRIC PROFILE. (PW)

## **3. 2005 PILLAR BOX RED**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**100% SOLD-OUT – TO RETURN JANUARY 2007**

THE SECOND RELEASE OF THIS OUTSTANDING CROWD PLEASER FROM DOWN-UNDER. A BLEND OF SHIRAZ, CAB AND MERLOT, ITS BIGGER AND BOLDER THAN IT HAS ANY RIGHT AT ITS PRICE. CURRENTLY OUT OF STOCK, WE EXPECT MORE IN THE EARLY PART OF THE NEW YEAR. (PW)

## **4. 2005 VINA ALARBA TINTO**

CALATAYUD, SPAIN

**REGULAR \$7.99 CASE PRICE \$76.80 (20% OFF!)**

THIS WINE IS OUR DEFINITIVE DEFINITION OF A GREAT, CHEAP WINE. A BLEND OF GARNACHA (GRENACHE) AND SYRAH, IT'S BRIGHT AND FRESH AND FRIENDLY AND CHEAP. OH, DID I MENTION CHEAP? IT'S STILL AVAILABLE. (PW)

## **5. 2004 AVALON CABERNET SAUVIGNON**

NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

**REGULAR \$14.99 CASE PRICE \$144.00 (20% OFF!)**

WITH THREE OUT OF OUR TOP TEN, CALIFORNIA CAB STILL RULES, AND AVALON HAS BEEN IN OUR TOP TEN FOR TWO YEARS RUNNING. THIS IS A CAB TO DRINK, NOT CELLAR; RIPE AND BURSTING WITH CLASSIC CASSIS AND OAK FLAVORS. THIS ONE WON'T BE OUT OF STOCK ANYTIME SOON. (PW)

## **6. 2005 KRIS PINOT GRIGIO**

IGT DELLE VENEZIE, ITALY

**REGULAR \$10.99 CASE PRICE \$105.60 (20% OFF!)**

WHEN THINKING OF KRIS PINOT GRIGIO ONE TERM COMES TO MIND: RELIABLE. VINTAGE IN AND VINTAGE OUT THIS WINE OVERDELIVERS FOR ITS \$10.99 PRICE TAG SATISFYING THE PINOT GRIGIO-LOVER AND WHITE WINE GUZZLER ALIKE. (IAS)

## **7. 2004 JOEL GOTT CABERNET SAUVIGNON**

CALIFORNIA, USA

**100% SOLD-OUT – TO RETURN LATE SPRING 2007**

THE AMAZING CALIFORNIA CAB SUCCESS STORY FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2006, THIS WINE COMBINED CHARMING, RICH RED FRUIT WITH A HINT OF WOOD. UNFORTUNATELY SOLD OUT FOR THE VINTAGE, THIS WINE WILL BE BACK IN ITS 2005 INCARNATION SOMETIME THIS SPRING. (IAS)

## **8. 2005 BEAULIEU COMTES DE TASTES**

BORDEAUX, FRANCE

**REGULAR \$17.99 TWS PRICE \$14.39**

#8 ISN'T TOO SHABBY FOR A WINE THAT NEVER TOUCHED OUR SHELVES. THIS PRE-SELL JUGGERNAUT JUST GOES TO SHOW THE EXCITEMENT SURROUNDING THE 2005 BORDEAUX VINTAGE. WE STILL HAVE A FEW CASES OF THIS HIGHLY RATED WINE IN STOCK. (IAS)

## **9. 2005 KENDALL JACKSON VINTNERS RESERVE CHARDONNAY**

CALIFORNIA, USA

**REGULAR \$14.99 TWS PRICE \$11.99**

DOES THIS INCLUSION REALLY SURPRISE ANYONE? THIS IS SOLID, TEXTBOOK CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY AT A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE PRICE. THANK YOU KJ FOR HELPING US KEEP THE LIGHTS ON! (IAS)

## **10. 2003 SUMMERS ANDRIANNA CABERNET SAUVIGNON**

NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

**REGULAR \$18.99 TWS PRICE \$14.99**

WITH JOEL GOTT SOLD OUT FOR THE VINTAGE WE HAD THE UNENVIABLE TASK OF FINDING A CALIFORNIA CABERNET SAUVIGNON TO TAKE ITS PLACE. ENTER SUMMERS ANDRIANNA CABERNET, AN UNDER \$20 CAB WITH TRUE NAPA CHARACTER. WHILE WE STILL HAVE A FEW CASES LEFT YOU CAN REST ASSURED THIS WINE IS NOT LONG FOR OUR SHELVES. (IAS)

## Mark Your Calendar!



### **SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS**

**New Year's Eve  
Sunday, December 31st 9am - 7pm**

**Closed Christmas and New Year's Day**

For a complete up-to-date  
listing of our events, check our website  
at [www.the-wine-source.com](http://www.the-wine-source.com)

**THE WINE SOURCE**  
3601 Elm Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21211  
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[www.the-wine-source.com](http://www.the-wine-source.com)

## Comments from the Cheese Cave

### **VACHERIN DU JURA**

THIS SEASONAL COW'S MILK CHEESE IS MADE HIGH IN THE ALPS ALONG THE FRENCH-SWISS BORDER AND IS BETTER KNOWN BY ITS SWISS NAME, VACHERIN MONT D'OR. WELL KNOWN FOR ITS LUXURIOUSLY SOUPY TEXTURE AND FULL FLAVOR; MAKES A PERFECT PAIRING WITH SPARKLING WINES. **ON SALE! \$10 EACH**

### **FROMAGE DE MEAUX AND BRIE DE NANGIS**

TWO FABULOUS BRIE-STYLE CHEESES FROM OUR FAVORITE PRODUCER, ROBERT ROUZAIRE. HIS MOLD-RIPENED CREATIONS ARE THE BEST EXAMPLES OF THESE CLASSIC FRENCH CHEESES AVAILABLE IN THE US. THIS WEEK YOU CAN TRY EITHER OF THESE CHEESES FOR A GREAT PRICE. **FROMAGE DE MEAUX IS JUST \$10 LB (REGULARLY \$13 LB.) AND WHOLE WHEELS (2.2 LBS AVERAGE) OF BRIE DE NANGIS ARE JUST \$18 EACH. (REGULARLY \$28 PER WHEEL).**

### **ST. ANDRE**

EVERYONE'S FAVORITE TRIPLE CREAM CHEESE! **ON SALE THIS WEEK FOR JUST \$9 PER POUND!**

### **PROSCIUTTO DI PARMA**

THE MOST FAMOUS HAM IN THE WORLD! OURS IS MADE IN LANGHIRANO, ITALY BY FRATELLI GALLONI AND IS AGED FOR 24 MONTHS. GREAT FLAVOR! **ON SALE FOR \$15 PER POUND.**

### **JUST ARRIVED! FRESH CHEESES FROM CALIFORNIA'S FAMOUS COWGIRL CREAMERY**

#### **MT. TAM**

COWGIRL'S SIGNATURE TRIPLE CREAM! **ON SALE FOR \$14 EACH. REGULARLY \$16.99**

#### **PIERCE POINT**

HERB-COATED, WINTER SEASONAL CHEESE. **ON SALE FOR \$14 EACH REGULARLY \$16.99**

#### **BLANCA BIANCA- A UNIQUE RAW MILK CHEESE FROM DALLAS, TEXAS**

THE RIND IS BATHED IN WHITE WINE AS IT AGES GIVING IT A SOFT, CREAMY TEXTURE AND MILDLY FRUITY FLAVOR. **\$18 LB.**

#### **TRIPLE CREAM BRIE; MARIN FRENCH CHEESE COMPANY, PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA**

AT THE 2005 WORLD CHEESE AWARDS AN AMERICAN CHEESE COMPANY BEAT THE FRENCH AT THEIR OWN GAME! THE MARIN FRENCH CHEESE COMPANY TOOK TOP HONORS WITH THEIR TRIPLE CREAM BRIE. LUXURIOUS AND SLIGHTLY SWEET CHEESE WITH AN IRRESISTIBLY CREAMY TEXTURE AND OUR TOP CHOICE TO USE FOR BAKED BRIE. EACH 8-OUNCE WHEEL SERVES UP TO 4 OF YOUR CHEESE-LOVING FRIENDS. **\$6 EACH.**

#### **PETIT CRÈME; MARIN FRENCH CHEESE COMPANY, PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA**

AMERICAN CHEESE SOCIETY WINNER OF "BEST SOFT RIPENED CHEESE" FOR 2001 AND 2002! A DELICATE "DESSERT" CHEESE THAT IS RICH YET MILD, WITH A SOFT AND CREAMY TEXTURE THAT MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH. THIS ROMANTIC CHEESE WHEN YOUNG WITH A FIRM PATE, IS PERFECT FOR BRUNCH WITH A FRUITY BRUT CHAMPAGNE AND WHEN FULLY RIPENED IS A DELECTABLE AFTER DINNER TREAT WITH A PETITE SYRAH. **\$6 EACH.**