

THE
WINE
SOURCE

UNFILTERED

VOL.4 NO. 24

12.5.08

WWW.THE-WINE-SOURCE.COM

Sparkling Wines 2008...

There is no sound more festive and exciting than the pop of a sparkling wine cork. Sparkling wine comes in a myriad of styles from dry to sweet, simple to incredibly complex, yet all these styles share the common ability to add a smile to everyone's face. Whether being shared between two or doled out to an entire party of revelers, when well chosen sparkling wine never fails to serve as the perfect celebratory accent. This season The Wine Source has selected not only the six wines we will be offering for tasting this weekend but also a wide array of other choices both familiar and brand new. So before the holiday season hits full stride we invite you to join us for a tasting of a few of our favorites this year.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers for another excellent year of wine (and spirits, and beer). From our staff to you and your families we wish you a very happy holiday season!

Join Us:

Friday, December 12, 4:30 to 7:30pm

Saturday, December 13, 1:30 to 5:30pm

Special Holiday Sunday Hours:

Sunday December 14, 11am-7pm

Sunday December 21, 11am-7pm

BUBBLY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

TERRA GAIE

Prosecco

Regular \$14.99 TWS Price \$11.99

Prosecco has successfully segued from relatively obscure sparkling wine to full-blown, mainstream hit. Just five years ago, one was lucky to find three Prosecco options in our bubbly section. Today we carry more than 15 at any one time and most are above average examples of the genre. Our most recent discovery, Terre Gaie, manages to over-deliver in terms of both quality and value. It greets the palate with a soft mousse carrying along flavors of almonds and subtle white fruit. Featuring a perfect proportion of acidity, this sparkler finishes crisp and effortless, prompting one to go back for glass after glass. (IAS)

2005 MONT MARCAL

Cava Brut Reserva

Regular \$13.99 TWS Price \$10.99

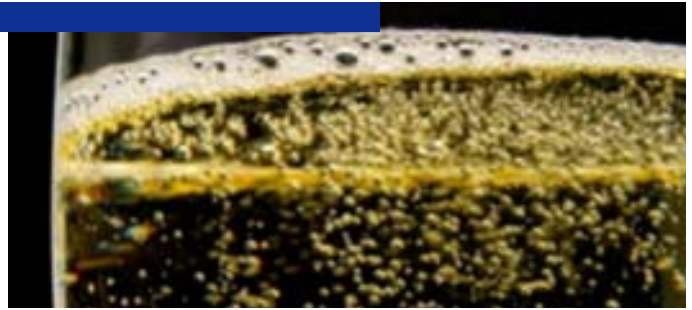
While many of the very large Cava houses in the Penedes region of northeast Spain source fruit from all over the region, Mont Marcal maintains a commitment to 100% estate grown fruit from their 100-acre property. Founded in 1975, Mont Marcal has been long known as one of the most value and quality conscious producers of Cava. Their 2005 Brut Reserva is created from a traditional blend of Macabeo, Xarello and Parellada. After resting on its yeast for up to two years, this delightful Cava is disgorged at the request of the importer. Fruity, without seeming sweet, it exudes elegance and is a perfect match to holiday lunch and brunch menus. (IAS)

LAETITIA BRUT

Arroyo Secco, California

Regular \$24.99 TWS Price \$19.99

The property now known as Laetitia was originally planted and developed in Arroyo Grande Valley as the site for Champagne Deutz's California sparkling wine project. While the current owners are more focused on the production of conventional bottlings of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, a small amount of Methode Champenois sparkling wine continues to be produced. Based on a blend of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Blanc, the non-vintage Laetitia Brut features a fine bead and rich, toasty aromas and flavors. Discovered by Wine Source owner David Wells on a recent trip to California, the Laetitia Brut is an excellent (and more affordable) alternative to Champagne proper. (IAS)



PANNIER

Champagne Brut Selection

Regular \$37.99 TWS Price \$26.99

Our under-\$30 pick for 2008. While in past years we've featured more well-known labels such as Piper Heidsieck and Laurent Perrier, this season we have selected the smaller producer, Champagne Pannier. Based in the village of Dizy, located next to the more famous village of Epernay, the Pannier Brut Selection is a blend of the three allowable Champagne varieties: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Very fresh and bright, the mid-palate reveals additional weight and richness culminating in a long, pure finish. (IAS)

LOUIS ROEDERER

Brut Premier

Regular \$54.99 TWS Price \$36.99

Best known for their very expensive, very fine Cristal bottlings, the Roederer Champagne house offers an entire range of amazing Champagnes. The Brut Premier cuvee is two-thirds Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier and one-third Chardonnay, creating a muscular, serious style of Champagne. This round, savory wine possesses notes of toast and nuts and features a healthy dose of mature, reserve wine from the Roederer cellars. Aged for three years on the lees, this is a complex Champagne capable of complimenting the most elegant of meals. (IAS)

MOUTARD

Brut Rose

Regular \$37.99 TWS Price \$29.99

Located in the southern Champagne region of Cote des Bars, Champagne Moutard is a new addition to our Champagne roster. Particularly impressive is this house's Brut Rose, which features a bright medium pink color. Made from a blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, it has a still wine-like quality of fresh red berries and a hint of cinnamon spice. Irresistible as an aperitif or matched with salmon and white meat dishes. (IAS)

JUST ARRIVED...

2005 CLOS DES MOISELLES

Cotes de Bourg Rouge

Regular \$16.99 TWS Price \$12.50

(\$150 per case - 27% off the list price)

Roughly five months ago, Paul and I had the opportunity to sit down with importer Jeffrey Davies and taste through a variety of offerings from his impressive portfolio. While many of these wines will be gracing our shelves in the New Year, we are excited to be able to offer you an outstanding Bordeaux value just in time for the holiday gift-giving and entertaining season.

The 2005 Clos des Moiselles is sourced from the Cotes de Bourg appellation on the right bank of the Gironde River. The wine is composed of 70% Merlot, 20% Malbec, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, and possesses a bright, ruby color and aromas of fresh raspberry with a touch of wood spice. The palate is generous and remarkably open right out of the gate, finishing with echoes of red berry and balanced toasty accents.

Simply put, this is a fantastic value and comes with our highest recommendation for not only red Bordeaux enthusiasts, but also anyone in search of a highly drinkable and classy wine for the holiday season and beyond. (IAS)

WHISKEY- LIMITED AVAILABILITY...

Pappy Van Winkle's Family Reserve 23yr - This is the only 23 year old Kentucky Bourbon sold in the country today. There are only 3,000 bottles of this very rare 23 year old bourbon. It takes generations of distilling know-how to produce a rare, well-aged bourbon like this. Only the most careful and expensive distilling method can be used to create a whiskey as special as this one. These barrels were carefully placed in the heart of the warehouse to receive the most benefit from the variable Kentucky seasons. Each season, the whiskey passes through the thin, caramel layer of the charred white oak barrels, picking up an enormous amount of color and flavor.

Reg- \$199.99 Sale- \$179.99

Eagle Rare 17yr - This deep, burnished-gold whiskey has a somewhat fragrant nose, and the aromas develop an almost wine-like character, with hint of almonds lurking in the backdrop. The body is big and silky, and the palate is far spicier than the nose leads you to believe, but there are also violet notes here, along with a touch of caramel and a hint of old leather. The finish is very leathery, and very long.

"This whiskey earned a great rating, but lovers of previous bottlings of Eagle Rare should know that this seems to bear a completely different style - it's far greater than either the 10 or 15 year old."

Wine Enthusiast Magazine - Rating: 96 \$59.99

George T. Stagg 15yr - An extremely hearty whiskey. Stagg comes straight out of the barrel, uncut and unfiltered. Powerful and intense; add a few drops of mineral water, sit back and ponder the wonders of the universe.

Gold Medal Winner

-Spirit Challenge, San Francisco
Four Stars

Thomas H. Handy Sazerac Rye - This whiskey is named after the New Orleans bartender who first used rye whiskey to make the Sazerac Cocktail. It's bottled directly from the barrel, just as it was over a century ago. It's full of rich flavors like candied fruit and allspice.

"Just what the category was missing-a stellar, young, barrel-proof rye whiskey. Hugely spicy, with piercing mint, fiery cinnamon, vanilla, coconut, and fennel. Underlying notes of caramel, honey, and Seville orange provide some civility. It has more zing and richness than other young rye whiskeys, and it lacks the tired woodiness of the majority of the older rye expressions on the market. A clean, powerful, vibrant whisky that is a must for any rye enthusiast."

Malt Advocate - Rating: 96 \$59.99

Parker's Heritage Collection 27 yr - The second in an annual special cask limited release from Heaven Hill Distilleries. Named after Master Distiller Parker Beam with his personal stamp of approval, this was the favorite at 2008 Whisky Fest, far better than last year's offering. Get it before it's gone!

"Very well balanced and mellow on the nose and palate. Sweet notes of mature dark rum, toffee, nougat and candy corn dovetail with dried apricot, golden raisin, hot cinnamon, soft mint tea, and vanilla. Polished leather and tobacco leaves on a long, contemplative finish. This is what an ultra-mature bourbon should taste like: all the depth and complexity that comes with this much aging without all the excessive oak. The wood is there, but it never crosses the line. The next closest Heaven Hill bourbon in age is the Evan Williams 23 year old for the export market. There's no comparison. This PHC has it easily beat." **Malt Advocate - Rating: 96 \$179.99**

Hirsch Rye 22 yr - Hidden for 22 years behind some barrels somewhere around Bardstown, Kentucky, we were fortunate enough to secure a small quantity of this limited Rye for the holidays. Deep, dark rich tones with a forward, in-your-face style that's brash and wonderful - this is how 'old school' rye was meant to be! Toasted grains with caramel, toffee, and smoky oak with a lush and angular texture accented by a black pepper, nutmeg and clove. In today's world, rye whiskey may seem like a relic of the past, but it has always been a favorite here in Bmore. Get it while you can. **\$129.99**

Black Maple Hill 23yr Rye - This is the new arrival in the line up for Black Maple Hill and is at 95 proof. This is a lovely rye that starts off very elegant and even bright. As it remains on your palate, you get nice toasty oak, sweet dried fruit flavors and wonderful smoothness. **\$124.99**

Rittenhouse 21yr Rye - Gold Medal - 2007 San Francisco World Spirits Competition. \$129.99



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FREE WINE TASTING:

BUBBLY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Fri. December 12, 4:30 - 7:30pm

Sat. December 13, 1:30 - 5:30pm

JANUARY'S FEATURED

FREE TASTINGS:

WINES \$10 AND UNDER:

FRIDAY JANUARY 2

4:30 - 7:30

SATURDAY JANUARY 3

1:30 - 5:30

NEW ARRIVALS FROM

ITALY'S PIEDMONT:

FRIDAY JANUARY 16

4:30 - 7:30

SATURDAY JANUARY 17

1:30 - 5:30

THE WINES OF IMPORTER

JEFFREY DAVIES:

FRIDAY JANUARY 30

4:30 - 7:30

SATURDAY JANUARY 31

1:30 - 5:30

JUST ADDED...

FREE WINEMAKER'S TASTING:

MARYLAND'S OWN

BLACK ANKLE VINEYARDS

Thur. January 15, 4:30 - 7:30pm

At Black Ankle Vineyards, we believe that the beautiful rolling hills of Maryland are perfectly suited to yield wines of great complexity, subtlety and nuance—wines that can compare favorably with the finest Europe has to offer. A truly great wine comes only from a truly great vineyard, and we believe that our mix of soils, climate, grape varieties, viticulture, personal commitment, and a bit of magic have been the secret to creating some wonderful wines, but don't take our word for it—come out and try them for yourself.

More Limited Availability Whiskeys In Stock...

Lagavulin - Sale \$53.99

Glenmorangie 18yr - Sale \$99.99

Glenmorangie Quinta Ruban - Sale \$49.99

Bunnahabhain 25yr - Sale \$209.99

Oban - Sale \$47.99

Van Winkle Special Reserve 12yr - \$39.99

Jameson Rarest Vintage - \$239.99

Yamazaki Single Malt 12yr - \$44.99

Yamazaki Single Malt 18yr - \$109.99

Lagavulin Distillers Edition - \$78.99

Glenmorangie Signet - \$189.99

Glenmorangie Sampler (4 100ml) - \$49.99

Caol Ila 25yr - \$199.99



FROM THE CHEESE CAVE...

Tastings:

Fri 12/12: The first part of our Sparkling set, paired with domestic white rinds!

Sat 12/13: Another go at the Sparklings, paired with European favorites!

*For all the Holiday bakers out there we have **Callebaut Bulk Chocolate!** Back for Christmas, top quality Belgian chocolate cut into large blocks for baking and eating.

Bittersweet \$8/lb

Milk \$8/lb

Semi Sweet \$6/lb

White \$10/lb

JED'S WINTER BEER PICK...

Whether you're shopping for that perfect gift or just a little holiday treat for yourself, look no further than our winter display of Belgian and Specialty Beers. Perhaps my favorite season for beer, this is the opportunity for brewers to show their creativity and ingenuity. Restrained less by style guidelines, yet lots of flexibility when it comes to incorporating spice and big, interesting yeast strains, here are two really nice surprises of 2008.

Thiriez Bière de Noel - This tiny French farmhouse brewer has created a real gem this year. Moving past the cheesy label, the beer pours a gorgeous burnt sienna in the glass. Merging the orange peel, coriander and haze of a Belgian wit with the funk and subtle sour character of a refreshing saison, this Christmas brew is surprisingly light, lively and highly drinkable. The citrusy tang is well complimented by hops and a crisp, dry finish. Great with a wide variety of holiday fare.

Delirium Noël - Coming from the producer of Delirium Tremens, known best for their deceptively strong Belgian ales, Noël certainly follows suite. This year, they have really tweaked and perfected their recipe from what we have seen in the past. Crimson brown in color with a big, tan creamy head, the nose shows some citrus, a touch of cinnamon and nutmeg, and some notes of fig and dark cherry fruit. The body, while rich and earthy is leaner and way smoother than expected, highlighted by its yeasty complexity and chocolate nuances. Don't let this delicious seasonal slip past your radar!