

AUGUST 2023 CLUB SELECTION



2020 ASLINA CABERNET SAUVIGNON STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA

As South Africa's first Black female winemaker and South African Woman Winemaker of the Year Ntsiki Biyela continues to forge her path as an icon in the world of wine. Hailing from the rolling hills of Zululand, Ntsiki grew up in Mahlabathini, a rural village in KwaZulu-Natal. In the late 1990s she embarked on a life-changing journey to the Cape Winelands, where she discovered her passion for wine. After working for a year as a domestic worker, she was awarded a scholarship to study winemaking at Stellenbosch University in 1999. She graduated in 2003 with a degree in Viticulture and Oenology and joined boutique winery Stellekaya as their winemaker the following year. Ntsiki's ambition to create her own wines grew following a collaboration with Californian winemaker, Helen Kiplinger, as part of Mika Bulmash's Wine for the World initiative. It was over dinner (and a glass of wine or two) with her new colleagues in the USA that she shared the inspiration behind her ambition. In 2016, she established Aslina Wines, a tribute to the strength and determination of the biggest influence in her life, her beloved grandmother, Aslina.



This bottling is a blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Petit Verdot, sourced from sustainably farmed, IPW (Integrated Production of Wine) and WIETA (Wine Industry Ethical Trade Association) certified growers. Grapes were handpicked in March 2020. After vinification, the young wine was aged in oak for 16 months. 45% in first fill (new) barrels and the rest in second and third fills. Bottled in July 2021, filtered but not fined. 250 cases produced.



Dark garnet. Bramble and dark plum on the nose. Full of desiccated, brambly berries, dried blueberry and black plum skin, accented with graphite and a touch of dry earthiness and spice on the finish, which shows a pleasantly balanced acid and medium tannins. Each sip of her wine seeks to convey the "passion, elegance, and vision with which it was crafted—one of love, beauty and serenity." And we can, most certainly, drink to that!



Cellaring Recommendation: 3-5 years

RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION



■ RETAIL: \$32.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$27.20

■ SUGGESTED RECIPE: Beef Tartare

AUGUST 2023 CLUB SELECTION



2019 QUINTA DA ROMANEIRA TRÊS PARCELAS TOURIGA NACIONAL DOURO DOC, PORTUGAL



An old estate with a long history, Quinta da Romaneira began producing port in 1872, but was not legally allowed to bottle under its own name until 1986 when DO changes gave single quintas the ability to do so. Romaneira really became of note in 2004, when the new owner, Christian Seely brought on winemaker Antonio Agrellos. The duo (behind the much-celebrated rebirth of Quinta do Noval) took over with plans to bring Romaneira “shoulder to shoulder with the Douro’s top wineries in terms of reputation and quality.” Since then, the vineyards have been overhauled, retaining the best old vines and implementing a replanting program for the rest. In 2005 a new winery was constructed—two-thirds of it underground—allowing for a state-of-the-art production facility and a naturally cool wine cellar.



Quinta da Romaneira is widely considered one of the Douro Valley’s most breathtaking estates, boasting 1,100 acres stretching along 3 kilometers on the Douro riverfront. 86 hectares are under vine, planted primarily to Touriga Nacional, Touriga Francesa, Tinta Roriz and Tinto Cão, along with a considerable proportion of white grapes (Gouveio, Viosinho, Boal and Rabigato). They also have several hectares planted to Syrah and Petit Verdot which produce noteworthy wines with exceptional character and finesse. The vineyards are terraced on the steeply sloping hills of the property. With its many valleys and promontories, Romaneira has several microclimates and various southeast, southwest and southern facing slopes. Their wines are made exclusively from estate-grown fruit. Several bottlings are site-specific, and are sourced from individual parcels; while others are comprised from various sites throughout the Quinta to reflect the complexity and diversity of the vineyard as a whole. The entire estate is classified ‘A’ (the highest mark that can be obtained in the Douro), and produces a number of unfortified dry wines and vintage-style ports.



We don’t often come across a wine that is 100% Touriga Nacional as it is usually found in Portuguese red blends. The grapes for this wine were sourced from three different individual vineyard sites at Romaneira; Tomba Chapeus, Apontador and Mina—hence the name: Três Parcelas, which translates to the “three parcels”. An exceptional Touriga Nacional, that is surely greater than the sum of its individual parts. Fermented in stainless steel tanks for a period of 8 days followed by malolactic fermentation, primarily in tank, except for a small part in oak. Aged in 225L French oak barrels (38% new) for 11 months.



Dark purple/burgundy. Rich aromas of blackberry, blueberry, dark chocolate and coconut. The scent profile carries over to the palate, with layers of bramble fruit, black plum and chocolate covered cherries, with toasted marshmallow and baked coconut. The finish is long and expansive with a kiss of cinnamon, spice and finely ground tannins.

Cellaring Recommendation: 5-7 years

RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

- RETAIL: \$31.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$26.35
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: [Bucatini with Pork & Wild Fennel Ragù](#)

AUGUST 2023 CLUB SELECTION



2018 SWITCHBACK RIDGE *PETERSON FAMILY VINEYARD* MERLOT NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA



We are proud to have featured Kelly Peterson, owner of the superb, tiny production Napa Valley winery Switchback Ridge, during our Flight Night series in our wine bar. Kelly is a one-of-a-kind proprietor; she's kind, generous, and unassuming—in other words, she's just the sort of producer we love to support at the Ferry Plaza Wine Merchant and our sister stores. Even though there is a three year wait to get on Switchback's mailing list, Kelly produces limited runs of large format bottles that she doesn't sell—she donates them to charities. Needless to say, we are thrilled to offer one her sought after wines as part of our Red Cellar Trio club. Made by acclaimed winemaker Robert Foley (Pride, Hourglass, Robert Foley Vineyards), Switchback Ridge, named for the winding trails in the hills above the vineyard, has become one of the darlings of the Napa Valley wine scene.



Switchback Ridge currently farms 21 acres just off Silverado Trail between St. Helena and Calistoga in Napa Valley. The property was originally purchased in 1914 by Eliza and Mads Peterson, and the first vines on the site were Zinfandel. With Prohibition plums became the primary crop, and by the 1990s the property, still in the hands of the original family's descendants, was replanted to vines, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petite Sirah. This Merlot is more substantial in structure and depth of flavor than many, and while very satisfying now, will reward cellaring another 7-10 years.



2018 marked Switchback Ridge's 20th anniversary vintage, and has been referred to as "epic" by Napa Valley vintners, making for wines that are rich and dense with incredible color and texture. Beautifully balanced and complex, this bottling is made up of 91% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Sauvignon from the Peterson Family Vineyard that was aged 16 months in 100% French Oak.



Deep, black red. Pungent aromas of stewed blueberries, blackberries and vanilla. Classic Napa red, dominates the palate with flavors of fleshly baked blueberry pie, cassis, blackberries galore and a hint of bitter chocolate. The tannins are refined and nicely balanced with ample acidity, and a long, flavorful finish.

Cellaring Recommendation: 7-10 years



RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

- RETAIL: \$62.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$52.70
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Eggplant Parmesan with Crisp Bread Crumb Topping