

FEBRUARY 2022 CLUB SELECTION



2016 IL BOTOLO BARBERA NIZZA DOCG, PIEDMONT, ITALY

Il Botolo is located on the hills of Nizza Monferrato, in the heart of Piedmont. Named after the little dog who lives on the estate, the winery was founded in 2007 by Roberto de Silva, an entrepreneur from Monferrato who combined his dream to create quality wines with his love for the region and its culture. Together with his wife/winemaker Diana de Silva Bracco, the couple continues to manifest their commitment to excellence, producing wines from their fifteen hectares of vineyards in Colombaro and Le Coccole.



Barbera has been cultivated for over five hundred years, and is the leading grape variety grown in Piedmont which is considered the “capital” of Barbera. In 2014 the vineyards of Monferrato became part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with a core zone of 29 municipalities extending over 10,789 hectares. Only a small subregion can produce Nizza DOCG wines, and at the moment there are just 62 wineries who do.



This bottling is 100% Barbera from 40+ year-old vines that were hand-harvested and hand-sorted. Fermentation was entirely in stainless-steel tanks. The wine was immediately racked to medium-toast big barrels and French barriques, and aged for 12 months.



Rich and complex, the palate is multi-layered showing a ripe bramble fruit, stewed plum, umami and sweet tobacco. Full and balanced this classic Barbera has a sumptuous mouthfeel, with a persistent finish and soft, silky tannins.



RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

■ RETAIL: \$38.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$32.30



■ SUGGESTED RECIPE: Pasta with Veal, Sausage and Porcini Ragù

FEBRUARY 2022 CLUB SELECTION



2019 DOMAINE DE GOUYE CUVÉE VIEILLES VIGNES ST. JOSEPH AOC RHÔNE VALLEY, FRANCE



Established in 1933, Domaine de Gouye is located high above the village of Saint-Jean de Muzols in the northern Rhone Valley. The domaine consists of just over seven acres of old vines planted 1,050 feet above sea level, surrounding the family house and cellars. The vines stand proudly on the steep hillside, individually staked, and bound by handtied ribbons of straw, in rows that are still, to this day, plowed by horse. In the cellar, a vertical press from the year 1886 sits ready for the next harvest. At Domaine de Gouye, winemaking follows tradition not because it is romantic but because it is the “most efficient” way says winemaker Philippe Desbos, the third generation of his family to craft Syrah wines from this windswept perch.



The Desbos family practices sustainable farming, and while not certified adheres to organic practices as much as possible. 100% Syrah from their oldest vines (some as old as one hundred years), the grapes were harvested by hand. The full-cluster fruit was foot-stomped in upright ancient wooden vats, and then fermented on indigenous yeasts (with very little added sulfur) in the naturally cold cellar dug into the granite hillside. The resulting wine was aged in older French oak barrels for 16 months and bottled unfined and unfiltered.



Just delicious! Classic northern Rhône Syrah flavor profile, with black olive, white pepper and smoked meats. Firm and structured. Break out now with a winter stew, grilled steak or braised short ribs.



RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION



- RETAIL: \$45.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$38.25
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Red Wine-Braised Short Ribs

FEBRUARY 2022 CLUB SELECTION



2017 MALDONADO PROPRIETARY RED, NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Nestled in the northernmost tip of the Napa Valley, you'll find Maldonado Family Vineyards; a small Mexican American family-owned winery. Owner and winemaker Hugo Maldonado comes from a vineyard management background, working alongside his father Lupe and learning the importance of vineyard care at Newton Vineyards. In 2007 the Maldonado family secured a small hillside parcel, just outside of Calistoga, with amazing views of the Palisades in the Vaca range. They broke ground and started the slow, tedious job of drilling wine caves. They did much of the work themselves, from the removal of ton after ton of red dirt and rock, to the pouring of cement for the floors and the rock work on the walls. The winery, though small, accounts for roughly 6000 cases that the family currently produces under the Maldonado label and their second brand called Farm Worker.

A blend of 70% Cabernet, 20% Merlot and 10% Syrah. The fruit was picked in the cool early morning hours, ensuring consistent sugars and vibrant acidity. The grapes were then transferred to the winery where they were sorted, de-stemmed, and re-sorted. Whole berries were cold soaked for ten days, with native wild yeast taking over the primary fermentation, followed by three weeks of extended maceration with gentle punchdowns to preserve flavors and aromatics. The free run juice is drained away from the cap, racked to barrel, and aged for 24 months in French oak.

Solid Napa red blend so seamlessly crafted that no particular varietal stands out. Aromas of red berry, plum and cedar. Darker fruit on palate, with more cedar and a touch of sandalwood. Ample tannin but very well integrated and fine-grained in texture. 540 cases produced.

RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION

- RETAIL: \$32.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$27.20
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Spice-Rubbed T-Bone Steaks