

MAY 2024 CLUB SELECTION



2019 ONCE & FUTURE ' TELDESCHI VINEYARD' ZINFANDEL DRY CREEK VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Once & Future is the return of one of California's great winemaking mavericks—Joel Peterson. Joel started Ravenswood in 1976 with the focus of making Zinfandel from old vine parcels throughout Sonoma and Contra Costa Counties, and was the first winemaker to vineyard designate Zinfandel in California. Once & Future is a continuation of Joel's early work at Ravenswood as he's returned to many of the original vineyards he used: Oakley, Sangiacomo, and Teldeschi, while also incorporating the famed Bedrock vineyard owned with his son Morgan Twain-Peterson, and Palisades vineyard in Calistoga. Both in the vineyard and in life, Joel has definitely learned a thing, or two about vintage variation and he is enormously proud of the wines he made at Ravenswood. After nearly 45 years in the wine business, however, it was time to return to his roots!



The Teldeschi family has been farming in Dry Creek Valley since the early 1900s. Over an unexpected and unforgettable lunch with Frank and Caterina Teldeschi in the 1980s, Joel and Frank made a handshake deal for 4 tons of grapes and, as it turns out, a 40+ year friendship. From that small beginning, the wine made from the Teldeschi Vineyard grapes grew into one of Joel's most sought-after single-vineyard wines. When he started Once & Future, it seemed right to honor Frank and their friendship by making this favored old vineyard block into a stand-alone wine.



Primarily Zinfandel (with equal parts Carignane and Alicante Bouchet) from 115-year-old, head-trained, dry-farmed vines. Heavily perfumed with black, brambly fruit and baking spice. The palate is rich and fruited, with flavors of blackberry, boysenberry, blueberry preserves, stewed plum and a hint cured olive. The fruity, vanilla-laced finish is long, balanced, persistent with super-fine, polished tannins. Delicious now.



Cellaring recommendation: 1-3 YEARS

RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION



- RETAIL: \$50.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$42.50
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Smoked Baby Back Ribs

MAY 2024 CLUB SELECTION



2020 RONCHI BARBARESCO DOCG PIEDMONT, ITALY

Established in the 1900s, the Rocca family's wines are still somewhat of an insider's secret, representing some of the better values in Barbaresco. Winemaker Giancarlo Rocca is the fourth generation of the Rocca clan to live in the house built by the family, surrounded by 'Ronchi' cru vines, which runs along the eastern edge of the appellation, near the historic town of Neive. Bordered by Montestefano to the north and Moccagatta to the south, the vineyard is shaped like a perfect amphitheater, capturing the sun and giving Nebbiolo both the ripe concentration and elegance that is the hallmark of fine Barbaresco. In recent years, the family has planted Arneis vines, Piedmont's noble white grape, and is exploring aging wines in terracotta amphorae, as shown here. This is an ancient technique that is seeing a bit of a revival. When done well—sadly, this is not always the case—it can produce compelling wines.



Giancarlo can walk from his cellar door to his vines in less than a minute. All work is performed by hand, and as sustainably as possible. No herbicides or pesticides are used. 100% Nebbiolo, from 'Ronchi' and a palate that is plush and surprisingly soft, with classic flavors of black cherry and rose petals; its fresh acidity is beautifully balanced with moderate tannins and good length.



Cellaring recommendation: 5-7 YEARS



RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION



- RETAIL: \$35.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$29.75
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Haitian Pork Griot

MAY 2024 CLUB SELECTION



2021 DOMAINE CHRISTELLE BETTON 'CAPRICE' ROUGE CROZES-HERMITAGE, RHÔNE VALLEY, FRANCE

The domaine was established in 1976 in the village of La Roche de Glun. Winemaker Christelle Betton, is the third generation of her family to work with Syrah in the northern Rhône region of France. Her vineyard holdings, farmed by her father and grandfather before her, total 15 acres in Crozes-Hermitage and one-third acre in Hermitage. The vines are cared for organically, although not certified. The soils are alluvial and rocky, with "galets roulés" commonly found along the Rhône River valley—most notably in Châteauneuf-du-Pape.



In naming her wines ("Mischievous," "Whimsy," "Elixir"), Christelle describes the range of emotions that her craft inspires—and that her wines deliver. This 2021 "Caprice" bottling is 100% Syrah from a selection of fruit from the domaine's oldest vines, 30-40 years of age. The grapes were hand-harvested and placed in cold storage for 24 hours. Fermentation was in tanks with indigenous yeasts, and gently crushed by foot. The resulting wine was aged in older French oak barrels (sourced from white Burgundy producers) for one year; and was bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.



Lovely aromas of red and black fruits laced with violets. Beautifully structured, with a fresh, juicy palate, bursting with blackberry, blueberry, red plum and nectarine. Graceful and fleshy with fine-grained tannins and a long, lip-licking finish. Syrah in this style occupies a delicious mid-point between the relative delicacy of Pinot Noir and the power of Cabernet Sauvignon. We candidly don't understand why the variety isn't more widely embraced in the US.



Cellaring recommendation: 7-10 YEARS

RED CELLAR TRIO SELECTION



- RETAIL: \$40.00
WINE CLUB MEMBER: \$43.00
- SUGGESTED RECIPE: Grilled Quail with Tapenade Toasts