

The Vintage Missive

April-May 2011, Bonjour Spring!

**Thanks to everyone for a RECORD BREAKING PINOT CAMP!
We had a record turn out of customers and wineries! Thanks so much!**

April-May Pick of the Month:

In case you have not noticed, we have had some utterly *bee-yoo-tee-ful* weather these last few weeks. Makes us want to pack up our sweaters, our coats, and heavy red wines and put on our flip flops, do some gardening and crack open some super yummy Spring Wines! And one that we have just fallen deeply in love with is the **2009 Vincent Delaporte Sancerre!** Why this wine, you ask? Well, for several reasons: First, the wine has NEVER tasted this good. It could be our taste buds yearning for something zippy and fresh. Secondly, in case you have not heard, the 2009 Vintage in France is just FANTASTIC everywhere (be sure to check out our section dedicated to '09 French wines in the following pages). Third, Have you seen this AWESOME price?

2009 Vincent Delaporte Sancerre \$21.99 (25.99) 91 WS

“Really racy and fresh, showing great cut to the lemon verbena and lemon curd notes, supported by flint gooseberry and straw notes, which all extend through the finish.

Very pure.”

April-May Cellar Selections: Bethel Heights

One of our favorite wineries, from Oregon, these single vineyards were some of our superstars from Pinot Camp. There is very little left, so come and get them while you can!

2008 Bethel Heights Pinot Noir, Southeast Block \$47.99 (55.99) 91 WS, 91 WA

The amount of fruit crammed into this medium bodied wine is striking, especially for a wine only 13% alcohol. Savory, ripe and balanced but only a shadow of what it will be in 4 -5 years.

2008 Bethel Heights Pinot Noir, Justice Vineyard \$47.99 (\$55.99), 90 WS, 91 WA

Bright and lovely, displaying an earthy note that runs through the fresh currant and plum fruit., remaining jazzy on the finish.

2008 Bethel Heights Pinot Noir, West Block \$47.99 (\$55.99), 92 WA

Dense, rich and very succulent, it is beautifully rendered wine that combines elegance with power.

A few more of our favorites from Pinot Camp :

2010 Maysara "Roseena" Rosé, McMinnville *\$14.99 (17.99)*

100% Certified Biodynamic (the first one made in the USA) from 100% Pinot Noir, the Roseena is a perfect wine for Spring. It has beautiful aromatics of apricots, peaches and little hints of nutmeg. A great pairing for any grilled chicken dishes, seafood dishes or salads.

2010 Montinore Estate Organic Borealis Northern White *\$11.99 (14.99)*

Pale gold in color with grapefruit, pineapple and fresh flower aromas leaping from the glass. On the palate a crisp, fresh entry is balanced by succulent ripe flavors of peach, grapefruit and quince, culminating in a fresh, lingering finish..

2009 Acrobat Pinot Noir, Oregon *\$18.99 (21.99)*

Bright garnet with a ruby tint. The nose is full of sweet cherry, tobacco and earthy notes. Fresh raspberries, dried cherry and spicy notes erupt on the palate. The wine has a lovely silky mouth feel, with a round finish.

2009 Elk Cove Pinot Gris, Oregon *\$16.99 (18.99) 90 WS, #79, Wine Spectator Top 100*

"Light and fragrant, this is juicy with pear, apple, and lime flavors, hinting at almond flowers on the finish."

2008 Amity "Bass Hill" Pinot Noir *\$33.99 (39.99)*

The aroma of the 2008 Bass Hill Pinot Noir exhibits beautiful red raspberry and cassis notes with hints of dark chocolate, dried sage and rose water. The mouth feel is juicy and supple on the front of the palate with wonderful red fruit flavors. This wine is approachable now and will age well over the next five years.

2009 Raptor Ridge Willamette Valley Pinot Noir *\$21.99 (23.99)*

The wine is a rich yet brilliant garnet color with a lively display of Bing cherries, Damson plums, sage and crushed leaves on the nose. A lush palate with focused acidity offers soft and supple tannins combined with hints of vanilla, cured meat, cassis and red licorice.

2009 La Tour de France (well, we switched out the bicycles for wines..)

2009 Domaine Luquet St. Veran \$15.99 (19.99)

A wonderful wine, from Chardonnay planted in 1983 on the chalky clay soils in Chasselas. This wine marries well with any shellfish, or roasted chicken.

2009 Louis Jadot Beaujolais Villages \$12.99 (14.99)

This Beaujolais comes from generations-old contracts from local growers, a tradition long held by Louis Jadot. It is full of fresh red fruits, white pepper, and licorice. It has great acidity and is begging for an antipasti plate of cheeses, meat and fresh fruit..

2009 Chateau Graille Lacoste Blanc, Graves \$16.99 (\$18.99)

Lemon, fresh cut hay, thyme and traces of grapefruit intermingle in a context of well-balanced acidity and vibrant, racy fruit appeal. This is the sixth generation of the family to grow grapes in this region of Graves, an area of Bordeaux known for its gravelly soil, perfect for white wines.

2009 Chateau la Croix de Jauge, St. Emilion \$21.99 (\$25.99)

Deep ruby red in color with aromas of blackberry, strawberry, plum, vanilla and tobacco. Medium-full in body with moderate acidity and silky tannins, this Bordeaux offers rich flavors of plums, blueberries, black currants, vanilla and spice.

2009 Novellum Chardonnay \$12.99 (\$15.99)

One of the things that makes this unoaked wine so delicious and unique is that it is aged on the lees of Viognier for 3 months giving it peach and stone fruit as well as the more typical apple, pear notes. It is crisp, lively and refreshing.

2009 Albert Mann Pinot Blanc \$17.99 (\$19.99)

Straw-yellow. Musky soft citrus fruits, hazelnut and spring flowers on the nose. Fat, supple and slightly sweet, but with good shape to its creamy stone fruit and spice flavors.

2009 Chateau de Presle Touraine \$12.99 (\$15.99)

Though it hails from Touraine, Chateau de la Presle is very New World in style. Reminiscent of an excellent New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, it has a zippy acidic structure and bright flavors of grapefruit, tropical fruit, green pepper, and fresh grass.

Baker's Dozen

In case you haven't checked out this section of the store, these are our "Green Stickered" wines that you get a 15% discount on full or mixed cases. These wines are typically under \$15 and perfect for parties, weddings, or just everyday drinking!

Heron Pinot Noir \$11.99 (13.99)	Heron Sauvignon Blanc \$11.99 (15.99)
Boneshaker White \$9.99 (11.99)	Boneshaker Red \$9.99 (11.99)
Dom de Ballads Gascogne Blanc \$10.99(12.99)	"Sensation" Cotes du Rhone \$10.99 (12.99)
Colonia las Liebres Bonarda \$8.99 (9.99)	Borsao Garnacha \$7.99 (8.99)
Clos la Chance Chardonnay \$9.99 (13.99)	Paladin Pinot Grigio \$9.99 (12.99)
Grayson Cellars Cabernet \$10.99 (12.99)	Novy Four Mile Creek \$10.99 (14.99)
Marques de Caceres Rosé \$9.99 (11.99)	

Mark the dates below on your calendar! We have some great visits from some amazing wineries and want you to join us! Better yet, sign up at vintagewine@vintagewineshoppe.us to join our mailing list so you don't miss any of our great events, sales or blowout wines!

April 7th 5-6:30

Special In-Store Tasting!

Come meet Kenny "The Snake" Stabler and taste his new South American Wines. Mr. Stabler will be signing bottles, so come shopping for Father's Day (or Mother's Day!)

April 13th 5-6:30

Letizia Pasini from Colterenzio will be in the store!

You may be a great big huge fan of the Colterenzio Pinot Grigio (one of our biggest sellers in the store), but they have so many other fantastic wines from the Alto Adige region of Italy! Just in time for Spring we have a wonderful Pinot Bianco, a delightful Pinot Nero and an awesome Schiava. Don't know the Schiava grape? Come to the tasting and learn all about this fun Italian varietal!
No Charge

April 21st 5-6:30 we have a very special tasting and book signing with Wynter Byrd.

Love at First Light: The Story of a Shelter for Homeless Women and Children

Tells the story of the First Light Shelter in Downtown Birmingham. Wynter Byrd, the photographer and the Author Ellen Dosset will be here signing the book and pouring wine! These women's inspiring stories would make a fantastic Mother's Day Gift!

May 17th 5-6:30

Spencer Graham of Elizabeth Spencer will be here. He always packs the store with fans of his wines! So come EARLY. No Charge

Vintage Wine Shoppe

280 Station Shopping Center

432 Cahaba Park Circle

Birmingham AL, 35242 Phone 980-9995

www.vintagewineshoppe.net, or visit us on Facebook!

April Tasting Schedule

All Thursday and Friday Tastings 5-6:30

There is **NO CHARGE**, but please bring a canned good to support Oak Mountain Missions!

Fri April 1: Newsletter

Fri April 8: Newsletter

Sat April 9: Special Tasting with Willamette Valley Vineyards and Lindsay Green

Fri April 15: Tax Relief Day! Wines 15% off!

Thurs April 21: Tasting with Wynter Byrd

Fri April 22: Earth Day: All Sustainable, Organic and Biodynamic Wines

Don't Miss "The Thunder from Down Under" featuring wines from South America

Thurs April 28: South America

Fri April 29: South America

Sat April 30 3-4:30: South America

April and May Wine Classes:

We don't like calling them "classes" because they are so much fun...but you still learn something...

ALL CLASSES REQUIRE
REGISTRATION and PREPAYMENT
Classes start at 7:00

April 12th: 2005 Produttori del Barbaresco Tasting \$40

If you missed this sold-out event in November, now is your opportunity to taste some amazing wines from Barbaresco

April 19th: German Riesling Tasting \$25

A fantastic opportunity to learn about one of the world's most fascinating wine regions!

May 10th: 2009 White Burgundies \$40

A wonderful vintage for one of our favorite wine regions in the world! This class is guaranteed to be a sell-out!

May 24th: The 4 B's \$40

What are the Four B's? Brunello. Barolos Barbaescos and Braised Pork. YUMMMO!!!!

May Tasting Schedule

All Thursday and Friday Tastings 5-6:30

There is **NO CHARGE**, but please bring a canned good to support Oak Mountain Missions!

Fri May 6: Women Winemakers (We are celebrating our Mothers all weekend long!)

Fri May 13: Rose's!!!! Yay!

Fri May 20: Barbeque Tasting

And our May Open House, we are celebrating wines from the good ol' USA!

Thurs May 26: American Open House

Fri May 27: American Open House

Sat May 28 3-4:30 American Open House

April Sale: 20% off

Pottery, Pillows and Paintings

May Sale: 20% off

Wine racks, Books,
Openers and
Accessories

Order your Gift Baskets for Mother's Day, May 8th!
We have a GREAT selection of gift baskets to choose from. Stop by the store to place your order or go to our website: www.vintagewineshoppe.net to see our offerings. LOVE YOUR MOTHER!

April Open House: Thunder from Down Under
Most gifts 25% off

And of course we will have wines open!

Thurs. April 28 and Fri. April 29 5-6:30

Saturday April 30: 3-4:30

***Please bring a canned good for Oak Mountain Missions!

May Open House:

Memorial Day Weekend, Kickin' Off Summer!

Most gifts 25% off! May 26-31

And we will have wines from the USA!

Thurs May 26 and Fri May 27: 5-6:30

Saturday May 28 3-4:30

Special Memorial Day Hours

9am to 3pm