

The Vintage Missive

December 2011: Happy Holidays and Happy New Year Wishes!

Check out www.vintagewineshoppe.net to see our dazzling options of gift baskets for the holidays!

December Picks of the Month

A lot of thought goes into deciding the picks of the month. We have spent many a sleepless night going over these selections because we want them to be perfect for EVERYBODY. This year, we think we have outdone ourselves! We have 3 very different wines, the best from their region, and in all different price points. Enjoy!

2010 Ch Blouin Rouge, Bordeaux \$8.99 (12.99)

This wine is a true find. It is from a small chateau located on the Right Bank of Bordeaux, in the Graves de Vayres region.. A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, it is full of lush red fruit with some subtle chocolate and menthol flavors.

2008/2009 Mer Soleil Chardonnay, Santa Lucia Highlands \$26.99 (39.99)

This is the best price we have seen on this wine in a long time! The perfect example of a California Chardonnay,: lots of pineapple, and other tropical fruits. Lemon meringue pie and vanilla ring through the palate.

2007 Hess Collection Cabernet Sauvignon, Mt Veeder \$37.99 (44.99) 92 WS

"Bordeaux -like in its aroma, structure, weight and range of flavors, this is tight with cedar, cigar box and tobacco scents. Dry and savory, with dried currant, mineral and gravel notes, ending with subtle flavor nuances. Drink now through 2022. 7650 cases made.: **W.S.**

"Alabama's Version Of Oregon Pinot Camp" Tickets Are On Sale Now!!!

If you haven't already marked your calendars, do so now for the 9th Annual Pinot Camp, Tuesday February 21st, 2012, at B & A Warehouse.

*****This year we have 100 tickets available for a "V.I.P." tasting from 5-6:00. These are first come, first served, for \$50. Regular tickets can be purchased for \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door. The times for regular ticket holders are from 6-8:00. Please call 205-980-9995 to purchase these tickets today. They make great gifts for all of the Pinot lovers !!***

*****December Cellar Selections*****

2008 Shafer "Relentless" Syrah, Napa Valley \$56.99 (59.99) 96 WS, 95 WA

"The best Relentless yet. Shows all the muscle, density, richness and range of flavor found in many Shafer reds, yet takes it to another level in this vintage. The aromatics are full and distinct, with loads of dark berry, charcoal, and then as it unfolds, touches of black cherry, raspberry, red and black licorice, sailing along and then firming nicely on the finish. Syrah and Petite Sirah. Best from 2013 through 2023." **WS**

2009 Bouchard Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru \$149.99 (\$164.99) 95 IWC

"Tight, slightly metallic nose hints at lemon, lime, green tea, crème brûlée and vanillin oak. Very ripe but firm on entry, with penetrating stone fruit and lemon-lime flavors. Then explosive on the back half, with a rising, compellingly tactile and sweet finish that suggests a great future. These vines were picked very late, noted winemaker Prost, who added that he used a higher percentage of new oak for this cuvee (18%) than for any of his other whites in '09".- **IWC**

2005 Produttori del Barbaresco Riserva "Pora" \$49.99 (\$61.99) 92+ WA, 92 WS, 90 IWC

"Offers fabulous aromas of blueberry and sandalwood. Full-bodied with ripe, velvety tannins and a persistent, attractively fruit aftertaste. This will be gorgeous with bottle age. Best after 2011." **WS**

December Spotlight: 2008 California Cabernet Sauvignon

2008 Steel Creek Cabernet Sauvignon, Monterey \$9.99 (\$12.99)

Steel Creek's distinctive wines come from Monterey County, where soil conditions, generous sunlight, and cool sea air allow the growth of premium grapes rich with varietal flavor. This Cabernet tastes of blackberry, plum, allspice, and vanilla.

2008 Oberon Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley \$15.99 (21.99) 90 JS

Classic Napa Valley with deep, rich color and concentrated black fruit character. Lush, dark berry and cassis flavors complemented by 18 months of French oak barrel aging and a supple tannic structure.

2008 Carpe Diem Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley \$22.99 (30.99)

Carpe Diem launched its Napa Cabernet Sauvignon with the 2005 vintage, vinified under the strict supervision of Christian Moueix's winemaking team in Yountville, California. Carpe Diem Cabernet is made in a classic winemaking style and embodies the essence of Napa Valley classic Cabernet Sauvignon.

2008 Beringer Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley \$26.99 (39.99) 90 IWC

"Cassis, licorice, graphite, dark chocolate and menthol on the nose. Supple, suave, dry and classic, with a seamless texture. The dark berry and dark chocolate flavors are given definition by firm minerality."

2008 Paul Hobbs Crossbarn Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley \$35.99 (\$48.99) 91WA, 90 IWC

"A terrific bargain in Napa Cabernet, it possesses a dense ruby/purple color in addition to a brilliant perfume of smoked herbs, sweet crème de cassis and blackberry fruit, incense and hints of charcoal and herbs." **WA**

2008 Groth Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville \$44.99 (58.99)

The 2008 is big and lush with gobs of berries and other black fruits in the aroma and palate. Savory flavors lead into a soft and supple texture. This wine is ready to drink now, especially with a grilled steak

2008 Rodney Strong Symmetry, Alexander Valley \$48.99 (66.99)

The 2008 Symmetry greets you with a generous bouquet of blackberries, ripe dark plums, sweet spices and pie crust. It opens boldly on the palate with blackberry, cassis, dark chocolate and brown spice. This wine is rich, silky in texture, expansive and quite long on the finish..

2008 Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley \$52.99 (\$59.99) 90WA

"The 2008 is an impressive version. The dense ruby/purple color is followed by an attractive bouquet of crème de cassis and charcoal. Full-bodied richness and lots of depth, it is one of the finest regular Cabs Phelps has made in many years. This should age for 20 + years." **R.P.**

2008 Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley \$74.99 (\$83.99) 93 WA, 92 WS, 91 IWC

"Youthful purple. Potent, expressive aromas of cassis and cherry pie, with an intense spicy overtone. Round but quite structured and assertive on the palate, offering sweet red and dark berry preserve flavors and a touch of bitter cherry. Silky tannins add shape to the very long, spicy, penetrating finish." **IWC**

2008 Nickel & Nickel Cabernet Sauvignon "John C. Sullenger" Vineyard, Oakville \$89.99 (99.99) 93 IWC

"Bright ruby. Vibrant aromas of blueberry, licorice and graphite lifted by a violet element. Suave, lush and sweet, with pliant flavors of plum, currant and mocha. At once deep and accessible, and sweeter than the 2007 bottling from this vineyard. Finishes ripe and very long. Has the balance to enjoy now or cellar for a decade or more." **IWC**

2008 Chappellet Cabernet Sauvignon "Pritchard Hill", Napa Valley \$127.99 (135.99) 91 WS

"Tough-edged, earthy and leathery, though deeply concentrated and muscular. Built around a core of dense dark berry fruit, mineral, cedar and graphite, this is not the early-allure charmer it's been in recent years. Best from 2013 through 2022. 2,309 cases made." **JL**

Baker's Dozen

15% discount applies to full or mixed cases of these wines. Take Advantage Now!:

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| Angeline Merlot \$10.99 (14.99) | Lucky Star Chardonnay \$8.99 (10.99) |
| Colossi Rosso Nero d'Avola \$10.99 (12.99) | Tintonegro Malbec \$9.99 (11.99) |
| Bliss Sauvignon Blanc \$10.99 (12.99) | Riff Pinot Grigio \$10.99 (12.99) |
| JK Crossfires \$6.99 (12.99) | Glory Days Zinfandel \$7.99 (9.99) |
| Underwood Cellars Pinot Noir \$12.99 (15.99) | Fourteen Hands Cabernet \$10.99 (14.99) |
| Frisk "Prickly" Riesling \$11.99 (13.99) | Vina Borgia Garnacha \$6.99 (7.99) |
| Valle Pradinhos "Porta Velha" \$10.99 (13.99) | |

Over 90 Points, Under 20 Bucks for the Holidays! (a.k.a.: Impress Your Friends and Family Wines)

2008 Badia a Coltibuono Chianti Classico \$18.99 (22.99) 90 WS

“On the herbaceous side and high toned, showing floral, berry and mineral flavors. This is distinctive and intense, gaining complexity with time.” WS

2010 Burgans Albarino, Rias Baixas \$14.99 (17.99) 90 WA

“The 2010 Burgans Albarino delivers notes of lemon, peach, mineral and a hint of tropical fruit aromas. Round, ripe and savory with a slightly exotic personality, it is a nicely textured effort that over delivers in a big way.” RP

2009 Eyrie Pinot Gris, Dundee Hills Oregon \$14.99 (16.99) 90 WA

“The 2009 Eyrie Pinot Gris was fermented and raised in stainless steel and went through malolactic fermentation. It is a creamy-textured, flavorful effort that remains a benchmark for Oregon producers of this varietal..” JM

2009 Cuvelier Los Andes “Coleccion Malbec” 19.99 (22.99) 90 IWC

“Full ruby. Crushed dark berries, bitter chocolate and licorice on the nose. Thick and powerful but silky for all its density. Intriguing salty and earthy nuances contribute to the chewy impression of extract. Very ripe, serious, concentrated wine with just enough acidity to maintain its shape. Finishes with substantial dusty tannins. A lot of wine for the price.” IWC

2009 Four Vines Zinfandel “Maverick”, Amador County \$17.99 (19.99) 90 WS

“Ripe and jammy, with an appealing rustic edge, offering aromas of blackberry cobbler and cracked white pepper that lead to soft, supple black cherry and licorice flavors. Drink now through 2016. 5175 cases made.” WS

2009 Bodegas Juan Gil Monastrell, Jumilla \$12.99 (16.99) 90 IWC

“Deep, bright ruby. Aromas of black raspberry, cola, oak spices and black tea. Musky and penetrating, offering spicy red and dark berry flavors that show a suave blend of richness and vivacity. Fine grained tannins add grip to

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the long, smoky finish.: 90 IWC

Bountiful, Beautiful Bordeaux!

Patti went to Bordeaux this past April and tasted a plethora of magnificent Bordeaux. She does it so that she can find the best deals for her beloved customers. These three are

OUTSTANDING and AFFORDABLE!

2009 Ch Vrai Caillou Bordeaux Superior \$12.99 (16.99)

2009 Ch Sauman \$14.99 (18.99)

2009 Ch Rauzan Despagne Reserve \$16.99 (20.99)
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★
★ **Attention! We have Bubbles! Because of the amazing low prices, there will be**
★ **No Further Case Discount of these Sparkling Wines!**
★

******Sparklings******

NV Veuve de Vernay Blanc de Blancs \$7.19 (11.99)

NV Roederer Estate Brut \$16.19 (25.99)

******Non –Vintage Champagne******

NV Nicolas Feuillate Champagne \$23.99 (38.99) 92WS

NV Moet Imperial Champagne \$30.99 (46.99)

NV Delamotte Champagne \$35.09 (45.99) 90 WS

NV Veuve Cliquot Yellow Label \$39.99 (54.99)

NV Henriot Brut Souverain \$40.39 (65.99) 92 WS

NV Roederer Brut Champagne Premier \$40.99 (56.99) 90 WS

NV Bollinger Special Cuvee \$53.99 (79.99) 93 WS

NV Krug Grand Cuvee \$135.99 (210.99) 95WS

******Vintage Champagne******

2002 Dom Perignon Champagne \$125.99 (171.99) 96WA

2002 Cristal Champagne \$209.99 (235.99) 97 WA

Vintage Wine Shoppe Events

280 Station Shopping Center

432 Cahaba Park Circle

Birmingham AL, 35242 (205) 980-9995

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

VWS Gift Basket Hotline! Call (205) 980-9995!

Don't worry! Let us help you with your gift baskets!

We have everything to check off your gift list for the season from hostess gifts to corporate gifts and custom-made baskets. Call or log on to www.vintagewineshoppe.net and let us help you with your shopping while you enjoy the holidays!

And remember: no basket is too small or too large!

December Tasting Schedule

We have just ONE tasting this month on:

Friday Dec 2, 5-6:30: All Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our canned food drive for Oak Mountain Mission. It has been an incredible success!

But don't forget about us for the month of December! Please bring a canned good for the *LAST TASTING* of the year, and help us out!

Let's make the Holidays special for these families.

January Wine Classes:

2012 Resolution: To learn more about wine!

2012 Solution: Take a wine class at VWS!

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

January 10: 2011 Wine Spectator Top 100: \$35

Join us as we will taste as many of this year's winners that we have available!

January 30: Tre Bicchieri Class Part 3 \$40

Don't you just love Italian wines? We do. Very much. So come taste some great ones.

Pinot Camp is coming up!

Feb 21st, 2012

Tickets are on sale:

We have 100 VIP tickets for \$50 each. (5-8)

Regular tickets:

\$35 in advance

\$45 at the door (6-8)

These tickets make great stocking stuffers!

Special Holiday Hours!!!!

Open every Sunday

from 12-5

(no wine sales, gift sales only)

Christmas Eve:

10-4

Closed

Christmas Day

New Year's Day:

10-3

Need a great gift?

Try our Wine of the Month Club for your hard-to-shop-for relative.

We have different levels and price points, but go to our website for more info:

www.vintagewineshoppe.net

December ONLY!!!

Crystal, Candles and Christmas Items 20% off!...and...Every Sunday & Monday In Dec. is "Customer Appreciation Day"!

Most gifts 25% off!

(ex. Gift baskets and fresh cheese)

Sunday Hours are 12-5 (GIFTS ONLY!)

Friday Jan 27, 2012

Mark your calendars, it is the next

**"Great Customer Cook-Off:
The Chili Cook-Off Edition"**

BRING IT.

Call 205-980-9995 to sign up.