

The Vintage Missive

December 2008

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year Wishes!

December Picks of the Month



2005 '75 Wine Company Cabernet \$18.99 (22.99) 90WS

What were you doing in 1975? If you were Tuck Beckstoffer, you were heading cross country in to Cali with your parents, eventually learning how to grow grapes and make wine. The 75 wine company Cabernet comes from the Amber Knolls vineyard from the Red Hills Appellation. It has bright aromas of cherries, cranberries and roses, with deep layers of earthy spices, and cocoa. Finishes with youthful tannins and great structure.

CHATEAU TOUR D'AURON

2005 Chateau Tour d'Auron \$14.99 (16.99)

We have spent most of 2008 featuring 2005 Bordeaux, and this is really and truly our last offering from this stellar vintage. It is definitely one of our favorites (yeah, you've heard us say that before, but this time we mean it). We have saved the best for last! This Bordeaux is predominately Merlot, about 75%, the rest is Cab and Cab Franc. It is a beauty, deep garnet in color, with licorice and leather popping out on the bouquet. The palate is pure Right Bank, round and elegant with dark blackberry and cocoa. It is perfect for these cold winter nights; serve with roast, wild game or a braised stew.

There is an additional 15% off on full cases of the Picks of the Month!

December Cellar Selections

2003 Casanova di Neri Brunello di Montalcino "Tenuta Nuova" \$72.99 (79.99) 92WS, 92WA

A blend from the "Pietrodonice" and "Le Centine" vineyards. Plenty of dark cherry, plum, smoke earth and toasty oak. Well-balanced tannins, as well; a feat in this vintage.

2005 Conn Valley Vineyards "Right Bank", Napa \$46.99 (50.99), 95WA

Full-bodied with a good balance of oak and fruit. Some smoke and caramel lead into a long finish..

It is 70% Merlot and 30% Cab Franc. A great blend from a great producer.

2006 Vieux Telegraphe, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, \$71.99 (77.99) 92WA, 92IWC, 93WS

Deep red, with lots of crushed raspberries, cherry liqueur and cured meats on the nose. Red fruit flavors with *garrigue* with impressive depth. Perfect for your cellar!

December Spotlight: 2005 California Cabernet Sauvignon

Joseph Phelps Cabernet \$53.99 (59.99) 90WS: A dark, ruby colored wine that resembles a classic Bordeaux in both bouquet and flavor. A rich bouquet of cinnamon, spice, licorice, graphite and caramel followed by layers of cherry, fresh currant, and sweet tannin.

Chappellet Winery, Signature Cuvee \$43.99 (48.99) 90WS: Opens with expressive notes of blackberry, cherry and cassis. It is rich and full-bodied with hints of chocolate and espresso layered over spicy oak which add complexity to the rich supple texture.

Whitehall Lane Cabernet \$39.99 (42.99) 91WE: A captivating and delicious wine with lush fruit. Explosive cherry, plum and toasty oak smooth into velvety tannins for a well-balanced wine.

Honig Winery Cabernet , \$31.99 (35.99), 90WS: A VWS favorite! From our friend Michael Honig, we have a blend of Rutherford and Napa fruit, resulting in a wine with vibrant fruit aromas, framed by spice, vanilla and cocoa-powdery tannins (must be that famous "Rutherford dust").

Buehler Vineyards Cabernet \$24.99 (29.99) 90WS: From a small, family owned winery found in St. Helena, this Cab is full of fruit aromas and flavors found on the dark fruit side of the Cab spectrum: plums, blackberries, and black currants. Rich, full-bodied and ready to drink now.

Rodney Strong Alexander Valley Cabernet, \$19.99 (24.99): This wine showcases the best of Alexander Valley terroir: bold red plum flavors, boysenberry and softer tannins. A great value!

The McDeal is back through December!

McManis Cabernet, Chard and Merlot

Only \$9.99 (12.99)

McManis Pinot Noir, \$12.99 (14.99)

We have more Bubbles! Because of the amazing low prices, there will be No Further Case Discount of these Sparkling Wines!

Canella Prosecco di Conegliano, NV \$12.99 (20.99)

A splendid straw yellow with a fruit bouquet and smooth floral flavors.

Zardetto Prosecco di Conegliano, NV \$13.99 (16.99)

Soft and Harmonious on the palate, a perfect party bubbly for the season!

Gruet Methode Champenoise, Brut, NV \$14.99 (18.99)

A crisp and full-bodied sparkling wine with rich complexity and fine mousse.

Roederer Estate Brut, Mendocino, NV \$20.99 (25.99)

Elegant with complex pear, spice, and hazelnuts. Great finesse and depth of flavor.

Patrick Bottex Bugey-Cerdon Rosé "La Cueille", NV \$22.99 (29.99)

For lovers of Chocolate, this wine is perfect with Molten Lava Cakes and Brownies.

Domaine Achard-Vincent Clairette de Die "Tradition" \$25.99 (30.99)

This wine region is older than Champagne, but the wines are far more flirtier and fun!

Nicolas Feuillate Brut Champagne, NV \$29.99 (39.99)

Floral with notes of apple, almonds. It is smooth and balanced, perfect for appetizers.

Philipponnat Reserve Rose NV, \$40.99 (53.99)

Dry with hints of strawberries and candied oranges. Pair with charcuterie and fish.

Aubrey Champagne Brut, NV \$40.99 (47.99)

Snappy and charming with great length and a mineral finish (perfect for oysters!)

Henriot Souverain Blanc "Pur" Chardonnay, NV \$43.99 (65.99)

A fine delicate expression of smooth aromas and a fresh palate.

Dom Perignon, NV, \$116.99 (168.99)

It's Dom...at an awesome price!

Other December Wine Features...

2005 Turnbull Merlot, Oakville \$24.99 (37.99)

“Yes Virginia, there is a good California Merlot” Behold Turnbull Winery’s wonderful Merlot, an all-estate wine with complexities and character (for real, Merlot?). Consider this your invitation back to Merlot, a wine with a warm cinnamon and cherry aroma, dark berry compote and round tannins.

2007 Tiefenbrunner Pinot Grigio, Alto Adige \$13.99 (17.99) 90WS

A pretty yellow wine with copper highlights, this Pinot Grigio offers a complex bouquet of pear and candied orange (when is the last time you had a “complex” Pinot Grigio?). Dry and full-bodied with a zesty acidity and a harmonious finish. Very worthy of its 90 point score.

2006 Bouchard Père et Fils Bourgogne Blanc 2006 \$17.99 (24.99)

Produced and bottled by Bouchard Père & Fils from parcels located mainly in the Côte de Beaune. Pale color, with hints of pear and peach on the nose. A refreshing and smooth chardonnay, balanced, with a touch of oak. Best enjoyed within a few years of the vintage.

2006 Terlato-Chapoutier Shiraz-Viognier, Central-Victoria, Australia \$19.99 (23.99)

A spicy Shiraz from the vineyards of Central Victoria brightens with a boost of Viognier for aroma and balance, as often practiced in France’s most highly regarded appellation of the Northern Rhone.

2005 Nipozzano Chianti Rufina Riserva, DOCG \$19.99 (22.99) 90WS and #76 Wine Spectator Top 100

A deeply fragrant wine, exhibiting dark fruit such as plum and black currant enriched by a pungent spiciness. The palate offers a dense and impressive juice that marries well with the fine-grained tannins, resulting in a solidly built, yet elegant bottle of fine Italian wine.

2007 Chateau Ducasse Bordeaux Blanc, \$14.99 (16.99)

Chateau Ducasse is located in Barsac, one of the villages surrounding Sauternes, made from 50 year old vine Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc with a touch of Muscadelle. It has an elegant mouth feel with mineral notes on the nose and palate. There is a lovely pear flavor firmed up with lemon zest.

2007 Neyers Chardonnay, Carneros, \$27.99 (30.99) 93WS

An atypically cool summer season in Carneros is what made this such a stunning vintage, producing powerful and complex wines with naturally higher acidity levels. This Chard has a creamy texture and an attractive *pain-grillé*, fig and a bit of smokiness. A beautifully well-balanced wine.

2007 Seghesio Zinfandel, Sonoma, \$20.99 (22.99) 93 WS and #10 Wine Spectator Top 100

As if we *need* to convince you to buy this wine. It will seduce you with its smoky black cherry and wild berry aromas leading into a mouthful of sage, cracked pepper and zesty tannins. You will definitely have more than one glass, so you should buy several bottles before it is all gone.

Baker’s Dozen

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

Parducci Pinot Noir \$11.99 (13.99)	Dom Provenquiere Chard \$8.99 (10.99)
Excelsior Cabernet \$9.99 (10.99)	The Show \$11.99 (14.99)
Fontanafredda Barbera WS90 \$12.99 (16.99)	Fruitiere Muscadet \$11.99 (12.99)
Cono Sur Sauvignon Blanc \$8.99 (10.99)	Red Diamond Merlot \$9.99 (11.99)
Two Princes Riesling \$11.99 (15.99)	Yalumba Shiraz \$11.99 (13.99)
Lot 205 No.1 Red \$10.99 (11.99)	Alamos Chardonnay \$9.99 (12.99)
Vina Borgia Campo de Borgia \$6.99 (7.99)	

Vintage Wine Shoppe Sales & Events

December Tasting Schedule

We have just ONE tasting this month on:
Friday Dec 5, 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:

2009 Resolution: To learn more about wine!
2009 Solution: Take a wine class at VWS!

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

January 6: Wine 101: \$25

Just starting to enjoy wines? This class is for you!

January 13: Wine Spectator Top 100: \$35
Taste 2008 Winners!

January 27: Tre Bicchieri: Sezione 6: \$40
Again... so many Winners!

Pinot Camp is coming up!

Feb 17th, 2009

Tickets are on sale:

\$25 in advance

\$35 at the door

They make great
Stocking Stuffers!

December ONLY!!!

Crystal, Candles and
Christmas Items
20% off!

...and...

Every Monday in
December is "Customer
Appreciation Day"!
Most gifts 20% off!
(ex. arthur court and fresh
cheese)

*The Vintage Wine Shoppe has a
Website!*

www.vintagewineshoppe.net
**Check out our gift basket ideas
and for ordering info.**

The Vintage Wine Shoppe
280 Station Shopping Center
432 Cahaba Park Circle
Birmingham, AL 35242
(205) 980-9995

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 2433
Birmingham, AL

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!