

KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

FEBRUARY 2023



Didier Barral

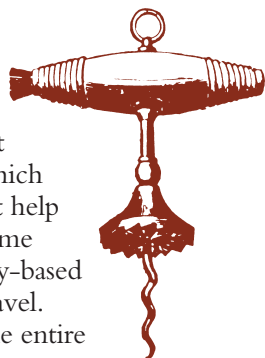
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ROSÉ SALE! • LAPIERRE MORGON • AOSTA AND ADIGE
THE AMAZING RANGE OF ITALIAN WHITES

ROSÉ SALE

by Tom Wolf

THERE HAS NEVER been a better time to be a rosé lover. Far from a single profile of wine, rosé is a big, beautiful umbrella encompassing all kinds of styles and with hues ranging from faint rose-gold to light burgundy. Consider Domaine de Reuilly's Pinot Gris, which blurs the line between *blanc* and rosé so expertly you can't help but go back to your glass to ponder it again and again. Some are all about their charming fruit—like Dupeuble's Gamay-based rosé—and others display earthy depth, like Gaël Petit's Tavel. Whether you prefer one style or another, or appreciate the entire range of possibilities, this collection has you covered.



*Now through March 5, take 20% off dozens of rosé selections from France and Italy. Visit our Berkeley shop or shop.kermitlynch.com/rose and use coupon code **ROSE2023** at checkout. Expanded selections are available in-store and online.*

WITH 20% DISCOUNT

2021 BEAUJOLAIS ROSÉ • DOMAINE DUPEUBLE	\$15.20
2021 CHIARETTO DI BARDOLINO “NICHESOLE” • CORTE GARDONI	15.20
2021 CORBIÈRES ROSÉ “GRIS DE GRIS” • FONTSAINTE	16.00
2021 SAINT-CHINIAN ROSÉ • MAS CHAMPART	17.60
2021 PIC-SAINT-LOUP ROSÉ • ERMITAGE DU PIC SAINT LOUP	17.60
2021 CORSE CALVI ROSÉ “E PROVE” • MAESTRACCI	20.80
2021 REUILLY PINOT GRIS • DOMAINE DE REUILLY	20.80
2021 VALLE D’ITRIA ROSATO “LE ROTAIE” • I PÁSTINI	20.80
2021 CHINON ROSÉ • CHARLES JOGUET	22.40
2021 VIN DE FRANCE ROSÉ “AU PETIT BONHEUR” DOMAINE LES PALLIÈRES	23.20
2021 VIN DE CORSE ROSÉ “GRIS DE MARQUILIANI” DOMAINE DE MARQUILIANI	25.60
2021 CÔTES-DE-PROVENCE ROSÉ • SAINTE-MAGDELEINE	25.60
2021 TAVEL “LA COMBE DES RIEU” • GAËL PETIT	32.00
2021 BANDOL ROSÉ • DOMAINE DE TERREBRUNE	34.40
2021 CORSE FIGARI ROSÉ • CLOS CANARELLI	39.20
2021 ALPILLES ROSÉ “PETRA” • DOMAINE HAUVETTE	40.00
2020 VINO ROSATO “SUPERLUNA” • MASSERIA DEL PINO	55.20

LAPIERRE MORGON

by Dixon Brooke

MORE THAN ANY OTHER GROWER, Marcel Lapierre did pioneering work that paved the way for what we do today as a company. I feel fortunate to have joined many casual gatherings at the rough-hewn oak table in the courtyard of his domaine in Les Chênes, a hamlet of Villié-Morgon. His *cuvée*, cellars, family home, and some of his vineyards were all there, and it was the heartbeat of the entire Beaujolais region. As I lived only an hour away in Beaune, I went often, and he was the type of person who made sure that a foreigner with a funny accent felt comfortable. Wine would be poured, *saucis-*

son would be sliced, and (most importantly) conversation would flow—open debate reigned and nothing was off the table, so to speak. Several of the most memorable bottles of Beaujolais I’ve ever tasted were served there. A magnum of his 1989 Morgon looms large. Marcel was always generous and gracious with his time and knowledge, and he had an insatiable curiosity and ever-present mischievous sparkle.

I know he would be extremely proud of the way his talented son and daughter, Mathieu and Camille, have maintained the standards he set during his storied career. They have continued to imbue their wines and the domaine that bears Marcel’s name with the same spirit, and the wines

are as good as ever. Lapierre is still on the cutting edge globally of what can be achieved with zero-intervention, totally free winemaking, which of course must by definition start with maniacal viticulture that produces grapes that can stand up to the rigors of their technique (or lack thereof!). The Lapierre name remains a benchmark for the greatest Gamay produced on planet Earth. Their new and recently delivered 2021 vintage is delicious proof.

2021 MORGON

\$45.00 PER BOTTLE

\$486.00 PER CASE



The Lapierres' courtyard © M. & C. Lapierre

ALPINE WINES FROM AOSTA AND ADIGE

by Jane Augustine, KLWM NEW YORK

2021 SÜDTIROL EISACKTALER KERNER MANNI NÖSSING



If you didn't know we import only French and Italian wines, this Kerner—a German variety and relative of Riesling—would fool you into thinking we dabble in the Mosel, or Austria, whose southern border is just thirty minutes from Manni Nössing's winery. Sure, this *bianco* is aromatic, and softly floral like some Alsatian whites we import, but that likeness fades after a few sips, overshadowed by a strikingly chalky, saline minerality more reminiscent of a fancy Chablis in the way it polishes the palate. Whereas sunlight is scarce in many mountainous regions, Manni's vines receive so much he prefers to keep them shaded under a leafy canopy. In doing so, his Kerner stays pristine and zesty, true to its Alpine terroir. For anyone who's a value-hunter, or who needs a break from routine, this one is a clever pick.

\$34.00 PER BOTTLE

\$367.20 PER CASE

2021 VALLE D'AOSTA TORRETTE CHÂTEAU FEUILLET

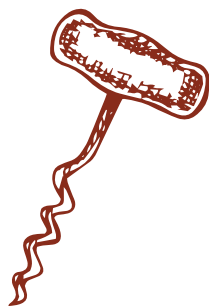
If the Valle d'Aosta's treasured wine production goes mostly unnoticed by wine drinkers, it's not for lack of intrigue or a worthy terroir. On the contrary, this tiny appellation—tucked into the peaks and valleys of the Italian Alps—offers conditions any winegrower would envy, though the fainthearted need not apply. Manually maintaining the steep and stony slopes is arduous work that Maurizio Fiorano commits to willingly and with conviction. His Torrette blends Petit Rouge with a drop of Mayolet from parcels that ripen slowly on the prized sunny side of the Dora Baltea River. This *rosso* demonstrates the benefit of prolonged but gentle sunlight in balancing a wine's intensity with its weight. Torrette is steeped in character, fruit-driven, and plummy with a touch of violet. Among the silkiest, most refreshing reds I've enjoyed, it's one I would reach for to pair with spicy foods that provoke thirst and command a bold accompaniment.

\$31.00 PER BOTTLE

\$334.80 PER CASE

PINOT NOIR

by *Chris Santini*, KLWM BEAUNE



WHEN I ORIGINALLY dove headfirst into wine, the ones that most impressed me were big, dark, and over-the-top. Wines that would leave little to the imagination, sock you over the head, and stain your teeth dark purple. As often happens, with time and tasting, the realization that bigger wasn't always better set in, as did the understanding of the grandeur of subtlety and finesse, qualities that naturally lead you straight to Pinot Noir. Within a few years Pinot had risen to the top of my pantheon, so much so that I moved to Burgundy to get as close to the source as I could, and never looked back. Chances are, if you're reading this page, you don't need any convincing on the Joys of Pinot: its perfume of pleasure, brilliant ruby color, intense nose, and fine, sensuous, long tannins. While in my book Burgundy retains the crown, I am increasingly awed with Pinots that come from cool microclimates and poor, rocky soils from all over the world, often imbued with unique nuances imparted by their own neck of the woods and local winemaking culture.

2019 PINOT NOIR • KUENTZ-BAS

Bright, lively, and fun, with just the right of amount of tannin for some chew as well. Fresh and versatile.

\$28.00 PER BOTTLE

\$302.40 PER CASE

2018 TOSCANA ROSSO “BRENDINO” • CUNA

No novelty or “international-style” Pinot here; this terroir-driven, (very) high-altitude wine is from grapes fermented in large, open fermenters to capture all the native ambient yeasts of this cool, forgotten corner of Tuscany. Violets mix with balsamic notes and exotic spice here.

\$89.00 PER BOTTLE

\$961.20 PER CASE

2019 GEVREY CHAMBERTIN TAUPENOT-MERME

This bottling features forest floor and spice box scents, with dark fruit and a long, elegant finish. Quite showy now, yet certain to continue to develop over the next decade.

\$108.00 PER BOTTLE

\$1,166.40 PER CASE

DOMAINE LEON BARRAL

FAUGÈRES

by Dixon Brooke

DIDIER BARRAL has been at the forefront of the movement to return to traditional methods of viticulture ever since he took over his family's farm in Lenthéric, deep in the heart of the Faugères AOC in the Languedoc of southern France. His goal has always been to grow grapes so perfect that he would never need to use any foreign substance in winemaking, including sulfur. This new vintage may represent the pinnacle of his achievement. Most of the techniques that are still rolling out and being extolled in natural wine circles across Europe were invented or resurrected, and perfected, on Didier's farm.

2019 FAUGÈRES

Cinsault- and Carignan-based, this is the lightest and juiciest of Didier's three *rouge* cuvées, with a velvety-soft mouthfeel. The soil in Faugères is all schist, favoring silky tannins.

\$47.00 PER BOTTLE **\$507.60** PER CASE

2019 FAUGÈRES "JADIS"

Didier's Syrah-based cuvée displays a significant step up in density and concentration from the last bottling. Chewy, meaty, spicy, full-bodied, and complex—nothing was left behind when he bottled this beauty unfiltered after two winters in barrel in his icy stone cellars.

\$68.00 PER BOTTLE **\$734.40** PER CASE

2019 FAUGÈRES "VALINIÈRE"

Mourvèdre is the starring grape in this show, a deep, dark, brooding, muscular wine that channels the greats of Bandol, along with notes of violet and white pepper that recall Hermitage, thanks to the northern-facing Syrah vineyard that contributes its fruit to this cuvée. Buy and age this one as you would a wine from Tempier or Clape.

\$94.00 PER BOTTLE **\$1,015.20** PER CASE



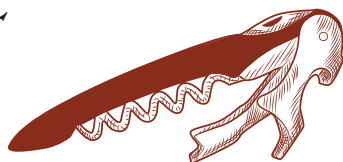
Didier and his full-time staff of vineyard managers

© Gail Skoff

TUSCAN SANGIOVESE

by Anthony Lynch

2019 CHIANTI CLASSICO VILLA DI GEGGIANO



My dad made the wise decision to tuck away some of Geggiano's Chianti Classico in the '90s, and we are rewarded with rustic, old-school Tuscan goodness each time we uncork a bottle. This 2019 release—a dense, dark Sangiovese so chewy you could cut it with a knife—clearly shares lineage with those great old vintages, and has the stuffing to go the distance should you seek to stock your own cellar. They make Chianti just how we like it: organically farmed, aged in big barrels, and bottled without any of its strong personality filtered out. With a choice cut of meat, you can hardly do better—now or in twenty years.

\$35.00 PER BOTTLE \$378.00 PER CASE

2020 ROSSO DI MONTALCINO • FERRETTI

Ferretti, a small estate run by the young Matteo Perugino, is the latest addition to our Tuscan portfolio. While the farm dates back to the early days of Brunello di Montalcino history—Matteo's great-grandfather was among the twenty-five founding members of the Brunello Consortium back in 1967—only recently did the family start to bottle their own wine. They fashion a lean and energetic style of Sangiovese from exceptionally rocky vineyards at high elevation, where cool nights confer a bright spine of acidity to provide the juicy, sun-charged wild fruit with a delightfully fresh balance. While still new on the scene, Ferretti is a name to remember in Montalcino, as this delicious young Rosso attests.

\$47.00 PER BOTTLE \$507.60 PER CASE

2017 BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO • SESTI

In contrast to Ferretti, Sesti sits in a warmer subzone of the Brunello appellation, making for a thoroughly different expression of Sangiovese. Basking in Tuscan sunshine and regularly caressed by cooling breezes from the coast, these vines produce a generous Brunello that radiates Mediterranean warmth. The regal perfume is both sweet and savory, with ripe berry fruit accented by balmy herbs and earthy wafts of incense. This deep, rich red is so elegant it feels almost weightless, its suave tannins gently ushering in the long, fragrant finale.

\$120.00 PER BOTTLE \$1,296.00 PER CASE

THE AMAZING RANGE OF ITALIAN WHITES

by Dustin Soiseth

2021 VENETO GARGANEGA “EL GIAN” DAVIDE VIGNATO

Nestled in the hills between Verona and Venice, this small family estate has been farmed by the Vignato family for almost 100 years. The main variety here is Garganega, the same grape used in nearby Soave. Davide Vignato’s 2021 El Gian bottling has a substantial, almost tannic, aspect—a real weight and fleshiness that comes not from ripeness, but rather from the volcanic soil in a way that’s similar to whites from Mount Etna in Sicily. I’m sure Davide’s organic and biodynamic vineyard practices don’t hurt, either.

\$19.00 PER BOTTLE

\$205.20 PER CASE



2021 COLLI TREVIGIANI VERDISO • GREGOLETTO

Because of its tendency to ripen later than the region’s other white grapes, Verdiso was almost lost to history in the mid-twentieth century. That would have been a shame, because it makes a unique and refreshing wine. The 2021 has a sweet nose with summery whiffs of peach and apricot, a silky mid-palate, and a lovely citrus and mineral finish.

\$22.00 PER BOTTLE

\$237.60 PER CASE

2021 SICILIA MOSCATO “MIZZICA” RIOFAVARA

With a nutty nose, a palate full of juicy green apple notes, and a spicy, mouth-watering, lemon-zest-tinged finish, Massimo Padova’s fully dry Mizzica—made from a local Moscato variant called Moscato di Noto—is the perfect pairing for all manner of *frutti di mare*. It’s like Muscadet with an Italian accent.

\$23.00 PER BOTTLE

\$248.40 PER CASE

LOIRE WHITES

WEST TO EAST

by Tom Wolf

THE LONGEST RIVER in France, spanning more than 600 miles, the Loire weaves through an eponymous wine region so vast it is home to not one, or two, but three great white grape varieties. Near the mouth of the river, where it feeds into the Atlantic just west of Nantes, Melon de Bourgogne yields some of the most chiseled and crisp, seafood-friendly white wines you'll taste anywhere. Farther east, from Angers to the Touraine—the region's majestic château belt—Chenin Blanc reigns, producing *blancs* with mesmerizing texture and impressive longevity. Finally, along the eastern stretches of the region, where the river bends south, you arrive in the land of Sauvignon Blanc, arguably the Loire's most beloved grape, which, at its best, delivers *apéro*-hour perfection.



2021 MUSCADET CÔTES DE GRAND LIEU SUR LIE “CLOS DE LA BUTTE” • ÉRIC CHEVALIER

Less than twenty miles from the Atlantic coast, Éric Chevalier produces this exquisite Muscadet that is a perfect reflection of where it originates. It tastes as if it's been sculpted by winds off the ocean and infused with hints of sea salt in the air. It pairs beautifully with scallops, mussels, and—of course—oysters.

\$24.00 PER BOTTLE

\$259.20 PER CASE

2021 SAVENNIÈRES • CHÂTEAU D'ÉPIRÉ

At the same time that it evokes honey, Meyer lemon, and stone fruit, this Chenin Blanc is brilliantly chiseled and dry, underscoring how Savennières is home to some of the greatest terroirs for this grape variety, thanks to its soils of schist, sandstone, and blue slate and its proximity to the moderating Loire River. You can't go wrong opening it alongside grilled shrimp or pork dumplings.

\$31.00 PER BOTTLE

\$334.80 PER CASE

2021 POUILLY FUMÉ “VIEILLES VIGNES” RÉGIS MINET

Sancerre is the Loire’s best-known appellation for Sauvignon Blanc—probably because it is the largest and easiest to pronounce—but Pouilly Fumé, just down the river, is home to sublime renditions of Sauvignon, too, due to its prized soils of flint and Kimmeridgian limestone, the same foundation as Chablis. Zesty, mineral, and faintly tropical, this cuvée is a perfect match for fresh seafood or goat cheeses.

\$34.00 PER BOTTLE

\$367.20 PER CASE



Régis Minet

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THE PHOTO OF DIDIER BARRAL on our cover this month was taken by Gail in June 2016 during a trip to the Languedoc. The recent arrival of Didier's wines gave us a great opportunity to bring his cellar to life for you through this striking image. When working on final edits to the image, we wanted to capture Didier's personality, highlight the beautifully illuminated cobwebs, and show some of the finer details of the cellar—note the jagged schist stones in the floor and the old bottles that seem to have become one with those stones. Wine may be made in the vineyard, as the saying goes, but don't discount the importance of a great cellar. Here you are in the haunting, mysterious place where Didier guides each vintage. —Clark Z. Terry

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