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- **NEW ITALIAN WINES**
- **DOMAINE TEMPIER** 2007

OPEN • TUESDAY–SATURDAY 11 A.M. TO 6 P.M. CLOSED • SUNDAY & MONDAY

JULY 2009

BANDOL IS FUN TO DRINK

I HAVE BEEN HAVING FUN ever since I arrived here near Bandol four days ago. What a coincidence—I arrive here and the wines arrive in Berkeley.

2008 BANDOL ROSÉ • DOMAINE DE LA TOUR DU BON

Pale salmon color; a sexy perfume, if you ask me—it is subtle and haunting like a fragrance that reminds you of some past love affair—then a delicate touch on the palate as that magical perfume snuggles up and makes itself at home.

\$26.00 PER BOTTLE **\$280.80** PER CASE

2008 BANDOL BLANC DOMAINE DU GROS 'NORÉ

Here we are—July—and it matters because this dry white has the sun and sea in it. A vacation in a wine glass!

At Gros 'Noré, at first I thought the wine had an intense citronelle smell to it. Then I realized it was the winemaker's aftershave. In fact, he caught me sniffing at him, so I asked him why he smelled so . . . strong. He giggled like a schoolboy. "If you knew where I'm headed," he said, "you'd be jealous."

"Well, where?" I asked.

"She's blonde," he said, beaming and making weird shapes in the air with his gnarly, wine-stained hands.

I brought the bottle home, far from the odor of horny vigneron. This white smells as inviting as a slice of cold honeydew melon on a hot day, and there is indeed a twist of lemon to it—but subtle, thank goodness—not at all like aftershave.

Summertime, summertime. I will never have enough summertimes.

\$29.00 PER BOTTLE **\$313.20** PER CASE

2005 BANDOL ROUGE DOMAINE DE TERREBRUNE

One sniff and you'll know where this wine comes from. The nose is classic Bandol: cherries, berries, *sous-bois*. So what part of it is signed Terrebrune? The elegance, the gentle tannins, the lovely feel as it slides down the gullet. This cuvée contains 85% Mourvèdre.

\$30.00 PER BOTTLE **\$324.00** PER CASE

—PRE-ARRIVAL OFFER—

2007 **BANDOL**
DOMAINE TEMPIER

YES, I JUST ARRIVED at my place near Domaine Tempier and immediately visited to re-taste their great 2007s now that they are in bottle. How convenient!

It is a great vintage for Tempier in the sense that the reds have quite a monumental quality, grand wines brimming with flavor, and they will obviously age almost forever. To compare them to something, trying to give you an idea of the vintage style, I'd look to really stunning Bordeaux vintages like 1945 or 1947. I mean, there is one hell of a lot of wine in these wines.

La Migoua and Tourtine show their personalities vividly in 2007. Winemaker Daniel Ravier concurs: "Definitive Migoua, definitive Tourtine."

La Migoua is fat and sweet and juicy. The nose combines ripe black cherry with dried thyme and other local herbs. Don't let my use of the word *sweet* throw you. I couldn't believe that Migoua 2007 is really dry, but Ravier showed me the analysis. When I once had the luck to taste a 1947 Cheval Blanc, I had the same impression.

Tourtine is the aristocrat—perfectly formed, lean, muscular—and more closed at the beginning of its life than Migoua. The infinite depth is obvious. It shows more dried herbs, a dash of black pepper, and Ravier said it also reminds him of the smell of a good steak on the grill.

Cabassaou is close to being too much. I mean it is unbelievably concentrated and powerful. Pure old-vines Mourvèdre. Great vintage. Extreme Mourvèdre! At this stage of its life—hmm, let's just say I won't touch my stash of bottles for a number of years.

2007 BANDOL "CLASSIQUE"	\$396.00	PER CASE OF TWELVE
2007 BANDOL "LA MIGOUA"	\$298.50	PER SIX BOTTLES
2007 BANDOL "LA TOURTINE"	\$298.50	PER SIX BOTTLES
2007 BANDOL "CABASSAOU"	\$216.75	PER THREE BOTTLES

Inquire about availability in tenths, magnums, and jeroboams.

Pre-arrival terms: Half-payment due with order; balance due upon arrival.



AFFORDABLE BOUNTY

by Dixon Brooke

WE READ THE PRESS, too, and we know that in some circles it is no longer fashionable to publicly afford expensive wines, so we will highlight some of our cutting-edge new arrivals that not only knock yer socks off—they are easy on the budget. A recent blog exchange with some members of the wine-drinking public inspires me to remind you that we don't import "cheap" wines. No. But we do import a lot of wines with character and distinction that taste more expensive than they cost. For example:

2008 CORBIÈRES "GRIS DE GRIS" DOMAINE DE FONTSAINTE

This is our best-selling rosé alongside the Domaine Tempier Bandol, which no longer makes the cut for this section of price points. Gris is as good as ever, a rosé from Grenache Gris—a Fontsaïnte invention, by the way. It has so much delicacy and finesse and pure downability that it practically drinks itself.

\$13.95 PER BOTTLE \$150.66 PER CASE

2007 CORBIÈRES ROUGE DOMAINE DE FONTSAINTE

Fontsaïnte's 2007 red really deserves a full Value of the Month page. The Laboucarïé family has been managing this property for generations, and they have provided us with consistently outstanding Corbières for three decades. Their boldly flavored red is a blend of Carignan, Grenache, and Syrah, bottled unfiltered for the United States of America, and in 2007, what an outrageous blaze of dark berries, black currants, and *réglisse*.

\$12.95 PER BOTTLE \$139.86 PER CASE

VIN DU BUGEY-CERDON • PATRICK BOTTEX

Fanfare, please: Vin du Bugey just received official appellation status in France, and Cerdon is a *cru* within the new appellation. (You didn't realize this was a VDQS before?!) The good news is that you can forget all that; the wine hasn't changed, it's the same blend of Gamay and Poulsard, gently sparkling, lovely rosé color, a true *vin de plaisir*. One sip and you'll wonder where it's been all your life.

\$22.00 PER BOTTLE \$237.60 PER CASE

2008 TAVEL ROSÉ
CHÂTEAU DE TRINQUEVEDEL

Tavel is the *grand cru terroir* of French rosés—unlike other appellations, at Tavel the best grapes from the best parcels all go into rosé. They don't even make red wine. Trinquevedel's 2008 has an intense personality with that wild herbal quality you find in southern reds and shows great balance and finesse.

\$16.95 PER BOTTLE **\$183.06** PER CASE

2008 BORDEAUX BLANC • CHÂTEAU DUCASSE

The new vintage of Ducasse has just arrived, and it is a classic with great energy and nerve. Quantities were severely diminished due to weather conditions, so the vigneron, Hervé Dubourdiou, pinched a bit of Sémillon from his Sauternes vineyards. It shows.

\$14.95 PER BOTTLE **\$161.46** PER CASE

2007 VIN DE PAYS D'OC ROUGE
"LES TRAVERSES DE FONTANÈS"
CYRIAQUE ROZIER

This is a workin' man's Cabernet Sauvignon. It smells of ripe cassis and has a fully loaded palate and a peppery finish. It ain't the most complex wine or the most elegant, nor is it tryin' to be. It's good table wine, not cheap wine.

\$12.00 PER BOTTLE **\$129.60** PER CASE

2007 CHINON "CUVÉE TERROIR"
CHARLES JOGUET

Cuvée Terroir is a blend from all of Joguet's different parcels, including their top vineyards. The complexity in this bottle of wine will astound you, as will its versatility at table. It is truly a sweeping brushstroke representing the entire appellation of Chinon.

\$17.95 PER BOTTLE **\$193.86** PER CASE



ÉRIC CHEVALIER

A RISING TALENT IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

by Dixon Brooke

IT MIGHT TAKE some effort NOT to get excited about the wines of Éric Chevalier. The *terroir* of the Muscadet wine producing region on the western end of the Loire Valley where it borders the Atlantic is among the most complex in the world, but fortunately for us this has never translated into high prices. Although Éric works with a number of different grape varieties, his *terroir* leaves its distinctive mark on each of his delicious, price-worthy wines.

2008 CHARDONNAY

An anomaly in the region, Éric's Chardonnay is planted in sandstone, silex, and quartz next to one of his Muscadet vineyards, and it doesn't much resemble Chardonnay from anywhere else. It is crisp, clean, flinty, and easy to down. Some folks buy cases at a time.

\$12.95 PER BOTTLE **\$139.86** PER CASE

2008 MUSCADET "CÔTES DE GRAND LIEU"

Côtes de Grand Lieu is the area just west of Sèvre-et-Maine, the most widely known appellation in Muscadet, where approximately 80% of all Muscadet is produced. The Grand Lieu appellation is named after the nearby Grandlieu Lake and benefits from a slightly different microclimate. It shows the classic character we'd expect from Muscadet wines: bright, invigorating, almost salty or briny. Éric raises his *sur lie* in temperature-controlled stainless steel *cuves*. The lesser-known appellation helps keep the price tag reasonable.

\$14.00 PER BOTTLE **\$151.20** PER CASE

2008 FIÉ GRIS

Fié Gris is a local name for Sauvignon Gris, a grey- to rosé-hued relative of the Sauvignon Blanc grape. Mostly abandoned in the Loire Valley and Bordeaux, where it was formerly planted with some regularity, the grape may be in the early stages of a comeback. Éric's version is solid proof that there is merit to the grape as a *mono-cépage*—it gives a unique, highly aromatic wine loaded with spicy and even tropical nuances. André Chatenoud of the Château de Bellevue in Lussac-Saint-Emilion has also planted some in order to make a white Bordeaux, while Éric is lucky enough to have a parcel of older vines to work with.

\$22.50 PER BOTTLE **\$243.00** PER CASE

NEW ARRIVALS

ITALY

by Dixon Brooke

2008 BIANCO DI CUSTOZA • CORTE GARDONI

Gianni Piccoli and his three sons labor quietly and passionately in their vineyards in the Veneto region of northern Italy, which lie roughly between the mind-boggling town of Verona and the idyllic Lake Garda. Their outstanding *vino bianco* has been a perennial favorite on the KLWM shelves for over twenty years thanks to its stunning price/quality ratio. The Custoza is a blend of Garganega, Trebbiano, Trebbianello, and Cortese, grapes that combine forces to give both generosity and freshness. You could compare it in character to a Soave. Quite versatile at table, it is also delicious all by its lonesome. Try it with artichoke risotto, the preferred match of the winemaker.

\$12.95 PER BOTTLE **\$139.86** PER CASE

2008 BARDOLINO “CHIARETTO” CORTE GARDONI

The Chiaretto strikes a cheerful chord in me every time I uncork one: it has a great balance, starting with the bass notes of the Bardolino red varieties (Corvina, Rondinella) and a treble in the form of just the right amount of freshness and minerality. This impeccable rosé makes a year-round spirit brightener. And you don't need to be lakeside in the Veneto to enjoy the Piccolis' Chiaretto, because it is at home any old place, any old time.

\$12.95 PER BOTTLE **\$139.86** PER CASE

2008 BARDOLINO ROSSO “LE FONTANE” CORTE GARDONI

The triumvirate of Corte Gardoni wines isn't complete without their young Bardolino Rosso. Le Fontane is vinified for early drinking pleasure, emphasizing the bright, exuberant fruit for which the appellation is known. Le Fontane is all about carefree quaffing, and it is hard to beat with a slight chill during the summer months. Keep it around as your Old Reliable.

\$12.95 PER BOTTLE **\$139.86** PER CASE

2007 **ROSSO TOSCANO**
“MONTELECCIO” • SESTI

The must-be-seen-to-be-believed property of the Sestis is in the Brunello di Montalcino zone on a hilltop graced by a 12th-century castle and an 8th-century chapel. Cypress trees all over the place. Just another day in the Tuscan hills . . . Monteleccio is the Sestis' early-drinking pure Sangiovese, raised in big oak *botti* for twelve months. The 2007 is a grand success, intense and bursting with flavor. This is classic, classy Sangiovese, irresistible today, so dive right in!

\$18.00 PER BOTTLE **\$194.40** PER CASE

2007 **ROSSO DI MONTALCINO** • SESTI

The Sestis' Rosso di Montalcino definitely shows the more serious side of the Sangiovese universe. The nose is deeper and darker with more depths to plumb. Reserved and compact with a firmer tannin than the Monteleccio, the Rosso demands an hour or two in the decanter or another year or more in the cellar to really show its stuff. Consider it a younger sibling of a great Brunello, from the same *terroir*, but aged and refined in wood for a shorter period of time.

\$27.00 PER BOTTLE **\$291.60** PER CASE

2001 **BARBERA DEL MONFERRATO SUPERIORE**
“VALPANE” • CANTINE VALPANE

In my opinion, Pietro Arditì's winery in the Monferrato region of northern Piedmont is one of our most exciting discoveries of the past several years. This is Pietro's flagship Barbera, for which he has created a lengthy five-year *élevage* including time in cement, *demi-muid*, and *barrique*. The resulting wine is eventually blended with 10% Freisa, another indigenous Piedmontese varietal, for a dose of fresh, bright fruit. The 2001 is truly a gem and is in perfect harmony right now. A tinge of smoky meatiness hints at its age, but the dominant theme is fresh, vibrant Barbera fruit and lots of it. Bravo, Pietro! This is quite a creation, and a superb vintage.

\$19.95 PER BOTTLE **\$215.46** PER CASE

KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT—TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All wines purchased from Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant are deemed sold in California and title passes to the buyer in California. We make no representation relative to the customer's right to import wine into his/her state. In placing an order, the customer represents to Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant that he/she is at least 21 years of age and the person to whom delivery will be made is at least 21 years old.
