

# May Wine Bargains

## Red Wines:

### **Pinot Patch Pinot Noir, 2012, California**

**\$14.00**

Aromas of dusty cranberry lead to notes of blackberry with herbal undertones of sage and lavender rounding out the dried red fruits. The first sip explodes with fresh red fruit before it infuses spicy herbal complexities into the mid-palate. The body is light, yet full with a lifting acidity that keeps the mouth engaged, finishing with depth and intensity.

### **Anton Bauer Zweigelt, 2012, Wagram, Austria**

**\$13.00**

This indigenous Austrian red variety exhibits an aromatic combination of candied red fruit and bracing freshness not unlike that of Zinfandel, and a sheer juiciness, along with warm spiciness and notes of white pepper that are reminiscent of Grenache.

### **Cantina Dorgali "Filieri" Cannonau, 2012, Sardinia, Italy**

**\$14.00**

This Cannonau (thought to be a local clone of Grenache) is an attractive, mid-weight wine with fragrant aromatics and good varietal character. Sweet herbs, mint, tobacco and dried cherries linger on the finish. This forward Cannonau is best enjoyed over the next two to three years.

### **La Tribu Garnacha / Monastrell / Syrah, 2010, Valencia, Spain**

**\$12.00**

90 points from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate, "La Tribu is made up of equal parts Monastrell, Garnacha, and Syrah aged in oak for 4 months. Aromas of meat, game, underbrush, blackberry, and blueberry are followed by a succulent, impeccably balanced, friendly wine that offers outstanding value. Drink it over the next 3-4 years."

### **Rubus Proprietary Reserve Red, 2014, South Eastern Australia**

**\$14.00**

A unique blend of 44% Rubired (a cross between Tinto Cao and Alicante Ganzin, 31% Durif (Petite Sirah) and 25% Shiraz. Never mind, just taste it, you'll like it! The wine shows aromas of blue fruits, confectionery and subtle licorice characters, thick luscious palate with good structure and soft finish. I'm thinking barbecue.

### **Casa Lapostolle Merlot, 2012, Rapel Valley, Chile**

**\$13.00**

Sweet black berries and red cherries are found in the aromatics of the 2012 Merlot. It offers flavors reminiscent of gorgeously candied cherries, cookie dough, and super-ripe blackberries. It is armed with excellent depth of fruit, good structure, and a lengthy finish. Drink this beauty over the next 4-5 years.

### **Kaiken "Reserva" Cabernet Sauvignon, 2012, Mendoza, Argentina**

**\$14.00**

I'd argue that this is one of the best values in Cabernet Sauvignon on the planet. From the amazingly talented Aurelio Montes, this is the Argentinian side of the Montes wineries. Run by Aurelio's son, it has a blockbuster nose with blackberry, tart red cherry and crushed stone that is extremely well-defined. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannins, the judicious oak deftly interwoven into the crisp blackberry and blueberry fruit. The finish pulls back the throttle: refined, nicely focused with a wonderfully poised finish.

## **White & Rosé Wines:**

### **Casa Mariol Blanc Vi de Collita, Catalunya, Spain**

**\$12.00**

Old-vine Macabeo and Grenache are combined here to great effect. The Macabeo gives a bit of zip and nice vibrancy to the blend whilst the larger, more rounded Grenache Blanc gives the wine a lovely sense of breadth and depth. A massively over-delivering wine. The family-owned Casa Mariol estate has been producing wines for over 100 years. They, and their bottles call a spade a spade, and print onto the labels clear information about grape variety, taste and background. Utterly unpretentious good wine.

### **Louis Vallon Bordeaux Blanc, 2013, Bordeaux, France**

**\$11.00**

Made from Semillon blended with Sauvignon Blanc & Muscadelle, it exhibits a ripe, lush, tropical fruit-scented nose, remarkable texture and weight for a wine of its price, outstanding purity, and gobs of fruit, all presented in a medium-bodied, lively, vibrant style. This personality-filled, delicious dry white Bordeaux should be drunk over the next year.

### **Domaine de Montmarin Viognier, 2013, Languedoc, France**

**\$12.00**

Lovely white peach aromas are found in the aromatic profile of this Viognier from vineyards close to the Mediterranean Sea. Medium-bodied as well as satin-textured, this excellent bargain offers a suave mouthful of expressive peach and apple flavors. It's amazing with roasted chicken or pork chops.

### **North By Northwest "NxNW" Chardonnay, 2013, Columbia Valley, Washington \$14.00**

Racy and energetic, with lime, mineral, hints of herbs and flowers, medium-bodied and lively on the palate, with nice richness and layers of crushed stone and mineral on the finish. Juicy, with lovely length on the finish.

### **Chateau Laroche St Jean Rosé, 2014, Bordeaux, France**

**\$11.00**

We are so excited to see the rosé wines every spring, which are spectacular wines for pairing with a wide variety of meals. The aromas soar from the glass, offering strawberry, spring flowers, & mineral. A crisp, luscious mouthfeel with lots of fruit but a dry finish. Yum!