

# Club wine Steward

*December 2019 Edition*

As we head into the Holliday Season the wine will be a flowing with home parties and family get togethers. Christmas and New Years Eve will be a day of celebration closing out the old year welcoming the New Year of 2020. This is the time to stock up on wines, champagne, sparkling wines, cordials and maybe a little Porto.

Now that December has arrive big bolder red wines are on the radar. Also, creamy elegant Chardonnay are on tap as consumers look for these wines as gifts or with a hearty dinner. We will look at several wines this month that will fit your budget and taste profile. Porto is also a great alternative after a big meal or maybe just with some cheese or dark chocolate dessert with a little fruit. I have a few recommendations. Sparking wine will be popular for New Years Eve. Again, I have a few bubbles for you! On a chilly night a hot coffee of coco always needs an added kick. I have some nice offering in that department as well. Now sit back get out a pen and some paper take some notes as we are ready to go!

### **Chardonnay for gifts or for your home:**

When you need to give a gift for a client, good friend or family member you want something very nice not just Traders Joe wine or grocery store wine. A Chardonnay one would appreciate! Below I have several great recommendations from Napa Valley. Wines that scored between 90 to 98 point in many wine publications.

[Sanford, 2017 Chardonnay](#) \$38.99

[Stags Leap, 2017 Karia Chardonnay](#) \$33.99

[Cakebread, 2016 Reserve Chardonnay](#) \$74.99

The striking golden color of this Carneros Chardonnay wine reflects abundant yellow apple, vanilla, baking spice and brioche aromas. In the mouth, these characteristic scents morph into intense flavors, enhanced with fresh melon and pear. Orange blossom notes provide a hint of citrus, before the lush, creamy and intense flavors lead to an even touch-of- vanilla and oak finish. Balance acidity, freshness and evolving layers of complexity are the signatures of this remarkable, rich, bold Chardonnay Reserve.

[Cuvaion, 2017 Carneros Chardonnay](#) \$24.99

[Cakebread, 2017 Large Format Bottle Chardonnay](#) \$99.99 Limited!

[Darioush, 2016 Signature](#) \$54.99 (Outstanding bottle of wine) Small production!

[Grgich Hills, 2017 Blue Beret Chardonnay](#) \$30.99



[Davis Estate, 2014](#) Carneros Hudson Vineyard \$47.99 A hidden gem not many places have this wine!  
[Patz and Hall, 2016](#) Dutton Ranch Chardonnay \$44.99  
[Hanna, 2018](#) Chardonnay \$24.99 A sleeper!  
[Groth, 2017](#) Chardonnay \$35.99  
[Frei Brothers, 2017](#) Russian River Chardonnay \$24.99  
[Staglin Estate, 2016](#) Chardonnay \$101.68 Saving the best for last very allocated one of the best Chardonnay's around!

### **Cabernet Sauvignon and full-bodied red wines:**

Christmas is a time of giving. Giving a gift that someone who loves a great bottle of red wine means more than one really knows. To see someone, open the gift bag and stare at the label checking out the back reading the print is priceless. Below are some very exceptional red wines for you to check out.

[Stags Leap, 2017](#) Artemis Napa Cabernet Sauvignon \$73.99

This wine is thick and rich in cocoa powder, cassis and cedar, plus a slight note of blueberry in the background. Polished tannins give it structured elegance and a medium-bodied sense of ripeness that's welcome at the dinner table

[Patz and Hall, 2016](#) Hyde Pinot Noir \$74.99

[Zabacco, 2016](#) Zinfandel Son Her \$17.99

[Trig Point, 2016](#) Cabernet Sauvignon \$23.99

[William Hill, 2017](#) Benchland red Blend \$34.99

[Jodot, 2015](#) Pommard Red Burgundy \$66.99 France

[Simi, N/V](#) Rebel Cask Red Blend \$19.99 A sleeper!

[Simi, 2015](#) Landslide Alexander valley vineyard \$42.99

[Tenuta La Fuga, 2016](#) Brunello di Montalcino \$72.99 Italy

[Staglin Estate, 2017](#) Salus Cabernet Sauvignon \$99.99

This is a beauty. Aromatic nose of dried cherry, oak and tobacco leaf. Dark filled glass shows complexity, many layers of spice, cedar, leather, dried fruit and earth. This one could age well for a bit, but drinks so well in its youth. Beauty trapped in bottle. Dark and inky with plum and berries with fading hint of cocoa. Long gentle finish

[Terlato Vine, 2016](#) Rutherford Hill 465.99

[Darioush, Danius II 2014](#) Cabernet Sauvignon \$251.99 Outstanding vintage very limited will cellar for 20 years average point score 96 by several wine magazines.

### **Orin swift:**

The three most often sought-after wines in the United States comes from Orin Swift. All three of these wines are very limited and exquisite.

[Mercury Head, 2015](#) Cabernet Sauvignon/Red Blend \$132.99 very limited in Ohio. This very unique bottle has a dime inserted in the glass. The 2015 is good to drink now or can sit a good 15 years in the cellar.

A familiar nose of pedigree, the wine opens with aromatics of ripe raspberry, blackcurrant, cigar box and a hint of fresh sandalwood shavings and Herbs de Provence- mysteriously intriguing at first but evolving into a thoroughbred with time and air. Dense and layered on the palate, an immediate note of mixed berry strudel topped with fresh cream, fresh raspberry and soft tannins akin to baking chocolate

transition to a finish of both nuance and concentration. Still young, the wine will continue to evolve gracefully while retaining its luscious quality and classic Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon nature.

**Orin Swift, 75864 Red Blend 2017** This is again a very limited items but one that is so good you will not want to put the wine glass down. \$49.99.

Every year, come early August, we adjust our alarms and start the early morning drives from vineyard to vineyard in a race against the sun. Throughout the year, we work with growers to get to this point, where the fruits of their labor come to fruition. Day in, day out, we rely on cars, trucks, tractors, boots and sometimes bicycles, allowing us to taste, deliberate, taste again and then decide when to pick and on to the next. Overall, from the ridges of Mendocino to the Sierra Nevada Foothills, from the canyons above Santa Barbara and to everywhere in between, we traverse an area of 75,864 miles, culminating in a haphazard dance across California's wine regions.

**Orin Swift, 8 years in the Desert** \$45.99 This one comes out in early November and won't be around much in December so buy it today if we can get it. There will be 8 total releases of this wine, one every year beginning in 2017, and each will have a unique label with the bottle. An opaque core with a red amethyst rim, the wine opens with ripe raspberry and blackberry, dark plum preserves and hints of black pepper and clove. An entry of heft, the palate is packed with blueberry and sweet black cherry along with a touch of fresh herbs- thyme, savory and tarragon. Long on the finish, the ripe tannins, a drop of ash and notes of black tea round out the wine.

#### **Port:**

**Fonseca, Bin 27** \$19.99

**Fonseca, Ruby** \$122.99

**Fonseca, 20 year Tawny** \$56.99

**Croft, Port Tawny 10 years** \$30.99

**Sandeman, Vintage Port 2016** \$129.99

#### **Bubbles for Celebrations:**

During the Holidays bubbles is always in demand at home. Here are some recommendations and some gift packs ideas.

**Ca Del Bosco, Cuvée Prestige extra Brut Spain** \$39.99

**Riondo, Prosecco Stelvin Closure Italy** 413.99

**Perrier Jöuet, Gift package includes two Champagne flutes France** \$49.99 Save \$6

The **Grand Brut Champagne** is one of the signature wines of Épernay's Perrier-Jouët and you may recognize it from its Art Nouveau label. Don't know much about Art Nouveau? *Nouveau* problem! This style of art was inspired by organic forms, like the curved lines of flowers, and was popularized in Paris in the late 1800's. The floral motif, indicating both delicacy and craftsmanship, is part of the Perrier-Jouët philosophy! Sourced from over 40 crus in the heart of the Champagne, including the prized vineyards of Côte des Blancs. An inviting and elegant wine that is well balanced and has a lively mouthfeel. Medium body and acidity. With notes of yellow apple, sweet honey, citrus and warm brioche, and a lingering finish of sun-ripened lemon and a touch of grapefruit.

**Mumm, Brut Prestige California Sparkling** \$17.99 Save \$10

**Mumm, Grand Cordon France** \$35.99 Save 20

The Mumm Grand Cordon is the ultimate icon of celebration. Mumm Grand Cordon was created in collaboration with avant-guard designer Ross Lovegrove. It's daring new package reinterprets the iconic Mumm Cordon Rouge sash which dates back to 1876 and was inspired by the Legion d'Honneur,



as a genuine red ribbon, which is laser cut into the bottle. The bottle boasts an unusually long slender neck which accompanies the development of the aromas of Mumm's legendary Mumm Cordon Rouge cuvee which is regarded for its intense expression of Pinot Noir complemented by the subtlety of Chardonnay and the fruitiness of Pinot Meuner

Mumm, Grand Cordon France includes two champagne flutes \$35.99 Save 20

Maschio, Prosecco Brut \$12.99

Champ Trudon, Brut Emblematis 34.99 France Save \$14

Champ Trudon, Magnificence Tete cuvée \$69.99

To all you and your families we wish you best for the Holiday Season but most of all a Healthy and Safe New Year.

