

Summer 2020

# GRAPE PRESS

*"In wine there is truth."* — Roman Proverb

## WINE IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

### **Wine is not a cure for COVID-19.**

But wine is a mild antidote for the adverse emotional fallout many have experienced. Wine brings people together, even as we physically distance ourselves. Wine uplifts, delights and nourishes the spirit while refreshing and quickening the palate.

### **Ingesting is recommended.**

The Wine Sellers has been open and busy. It seems that a great number of full and part-time residents have chosen to shelter in place in Harbor Country. We've welcomed the old gang of regulars and met many a new customer. Morale is high, despite the occasional freak-out (or as one customer stated, he was in a "pandemic wine panic").

Health precautions are in place and are working well. In-shop visits are one client or couple at a time. When two customers have arrived at the same time, one has been gracious and waited outside. Customers wear masks, as does the salesperson in attendance. Clients insert their own charge card into the terminal, so there is no additional contact. Curbside delivery is a popular option.

Our Annual Top 50 Tasting, originally scheduled for June 20, didn't happen and seems unlikely to be rescheduled this year. The vote is still out for the annual Autumn Bacchus Festival, usually held in October. It seems unlikely at this point.

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## STICK WITH THE WINE SELLERS

Through the years, The Wine Sellers sticker has been your guarantee of quality, as long-time customers know. You will find TWS sticker proudly attached to almost every bottle in the shop, indicating that the wine has been sampled and approved as meeting our (and your) high standards. Sip with confidence!



## However, the shop will always remain the ultimate destination for wine lovers.

At The Wine Sellers, a whole world of wine still awaits, because wine has no travel restrictions. You can transport yourself to southern France tonight, then on to Napa this weekend. Lombardy next week? With one sip, the sunset you're watching in New Buffalo is transformed to the sunset in Lisbon.

Wine is a microcosm of why we travel. We go places to explore, in search of experiences that give us new perspectives and excite our senses. But the real reward of these explorations is when they lead us to a greater appreciation of what we have in common, no matter where we are or who we are with. There is a natural harmony that surpasses borders. For us, wine is that commonality. It leads us to see ourselves in others.

Some experiences bring us together for the wrong reasons. Been there, done that this year! ***Wine is the opposite – it's a universal inspiration. Let's continue to come together in appreciation of wine, and raise a glass to better days ahead.***

## FEATURED WINE:

***Valenciso Rioja Reserva 2011  
The Soul of Rioja***



### ***Heritage***

Luis and Carmen Valenciso's Rioja Reserva is made from old vine Tempranillo, the quintessential Spanish grape varietal that defines the soul of the region. Vineyard yields are kept small in order to fashion wines of finesse and flavor. 2011 yielded a bolder and more concentrated Rioja Reserva than usual. The Rioja isn't released for a minimum of four years, until it is able to comport perfectly in the glass.

### ***Reviews***

92 and 95 points, respectively, from Wine Advocate and Master of Wine Tim Atkin's 2018 Special Rioja Report.

### ***Tasting***

The wine offers an amplifying aroma evocative of floral, fruit and spice tones. Tightly constructed around a core of polished tannins, the wine explodes in the mouth, filling the palate with persistent red and black berry flavors that wrap around a cache of cinnamon, sandalwood and vanilla.

### ***Serving***

Enjoy early drinking and extended cellaring. We suggest serving the Rioja at cool room temperature (60° F) after an hour or more of aeration. However, it will evolve in a glass or decanter for several hours. If unopened and stored properly, it will continue to mature in bottle and drink beautifully for a decade or more.

**\$46**



# Porch Wines:



You've probably been spending a lot more time than usual on your porch recently. Where else was there to go? It may be the pattern for the rest of the summer as well. Which in that case, you may want to stock up on Porch Wines, our annual summer sippers that capture the essence of the season with lightness and flavor.



## ***Lenotti 2018 Colle Dei Tigli Bianco del Veneto*** **\$14.95**

**Hello summer! People cannot get enough of this summer beauty From Veneto, Italy. An unusual blend of grapes that don't often go together.**

- 50% cortese, 50% garganega
- Intense aromas, with hints of peach, apple, with delicate floral notes
- On palate, fresh, easy echoing nose
- Nicely textured, dry and harmonious



## ***Ridge 2018 East Bench Zinfandel*** **\$39**

**2018 was a sensational vintage for Sonoma: incredible top-tier quality, a vast selection of beautiful wines at all price points, and wines that show their place of origin as well as singular characters. The 2018 East Bench Zinfandel is complex, nuanced, and layered. It will go hand-in-hand with grilling this summer.**

- Nose shows raspberry, fig with notes of vanilla
- Plum and black olive flavors give way to well-coated tannins and black olives in the lingering finish
- Bold but well-balanced
- 93 Points/Dunnick



## ***King Estate Sauvignon Blanc*** **\$23**

**It's unusual to see Sauvignon Blanc in Oregon. This one is a keeper.**

- Snappy, refreshing and super clean on the attack
- Fresh citrus (think lemon zest), wet stones, white peach hints
- Delightful – similar to a Sancerre style



# Rosé: Summer of Love



Don't let summer pass you by without indulging in a little love affair – with rosé wine. We do. We love rosé. They continue to grow in popularity, and are perfect for summer. The rosé selections at TWS rotate constantly. You can always count on 8 to 10 choices. These four affaires de cœur are standouts.



## ***Château Minuty 2019 M De Minuty Rosé Côtes De Provence, France*** **\$24**

- Quintessential Provencal rosé
- Blend is 50% grenache, 30% cinsault, 20% syrah
- Nose of orange peels, peaches, red currants
- Dry, smooth, fresh and round on the palate



## ***Lionel Osmin & Cie 2018 Villa La Vie En Rose Languedoc, France*** **\$15**

- 100% négrette
- Pale rosé with nose of fresh red berries/cranberries
- Dry, full and refreshing on the palate, with acidity and richness bringing out pleasant aromatic range, reinforcing the nose
- Crisp and a bit tart but perfect for a warm day
- Perfect with almost any lighter fare



## ***Tenuta Monteti TM Rosé 2018 IGT Toscana Tuscany, Italy*** **\$18.50**

- Blend is 80% merlot, 20% cabernet franc
- Nose of floral and citrus, hints of white peach, small red currant, creamy tree fruits and cherry
- Fresh and full, of great grip, sapid, with an inviting and persistent ending
- Versatile; perfect for the aperitivo and lighter fare



## ***Thomas Stopfer 2019 Zweigelt Rosé Niederösterreich, Austria*** **\$15.95**

- Grape is a hybrid of Saint-Laurent with Blaufrankisch
- Salmon pink, with aromas of wild strawberries and currants
- Fresh and lively on the palate
- Lighter in alcohol – 12%



## Yes to Order

The Wine Sellers is still your reliable source for ordering wines. If a wine is available (distributed) in Michigan, we are happy to order it – even if the order is only one bottle. Please note that due to (pandemic related) circumstances, such as import or warehouse problems, there is a possibility that orders may be delayed or not fulfilled. We will do our best!

## In the Shop

Sometimes, it's what's outside that counts, as when the very shape and detailing of a decanter enhances the appeal of the wine within. The proof is in these elegant decanters by Abigails, which have become immediate best sellers at TWS (**White Nights \$67, Tear Drop \$97**). These and other decanters and carafes new to the shop make an ideal gift item and an elegant addition to any table.

*Tear Drop*



*White Nights*



Drop in to the shop and put a little pop in your stoppers with **TrueCap™** jewel tone bottle stoppers by True (**\$2.50**). These brightly colored stoppers fit tight on standard and screw top wine bottles as well as champagne and beer bottles of all sizes. Great for parties, and a must for kitchen or bar. Also popular in the shop.



For customers who have enjoyed our **Vinrella products** (designer umbrellas and matching no-drip wine bottle or bottle-shaped holder), we have many new designs available. **\$23**

# WINES TO WATCH



## ***Pascal Aufranc Juliéna Les Cérissiers 2017*** **\$22**

**Beaujolais has become the darling of sommeliers everywhere, and Pascal au Franc's wines are a phenomenal showcase of Cru Beaujolais.**

- The grape is gamay, not pinot noir, but they do have similarities
- Nose of violet, blackberry, and cherry
- Soft and well-structured; flavors of cherries and crispy red currants with a touch of pepper and tannins
- Enjoy now or cellar 5-8 years
- 450 cases produced



## ***Luigi Baudana 2018 Langhe Bianco Dragon*** **\$24**

**Spectacular wine from a tiny estate in Piedmont, Italy**

- Unique field blend of chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, Riesling and nascetta
- Opens to fresh fruit aromas of kiwi, lime and pear
- Hints of minerality like flint and sea stones complete the bouquet
- Palate is citrusy with orchard fruit, macerated elder flower and candied orange peel
- Fresh and vibrant acidity

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Every day is  
10-percent day!  
Buy one case  
(even mix  
or match),  
10-percent off!

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The Wine Sellers is open Wednesday through Saturday from noon until 6:00 p.m., Sundays from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. through Labor Day, fewer days afterwards by chance or appointment. Just to make sure, phone first at 888-824-WINE.

We accept American Express, VISA, Mastercard, Discover and Diners Club.

The Wine Sellers is wheelchair accessible.