

# GRAPE PRESS

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

## BACCHUS@20: BRING THE STAR POWER

The twenty-fifth anniversary of The Wine Sellers just keeps getting better. Not only is it our twenty-fifth, 2019 also featured the twentieth edition of the Bacchus Fest as well.

Bacchus@20 had it all. Held on October 18, it featured a special appearance by an industry star, Marco Ricasoli-Firidolfi. We welcomed enthusiastic guests and our favorite industry representatives. The Marina Grand Resort setting was inviting. And then there were the celebrated wines!

Ultimately, it is our wines that make the year special. Bacchus is The Wine Sellers' walk-around tasting and coming-out party for our autumn and winter inventory. All wines poured are offered at a significant discount for that evening only. By following a best-ever Summer Tasting event with a memorable and highly successful Bacchus Fest, we feel that our selection of wines has done justice to the high standard of our two significant anniversary celebrations.

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The 20th edition of the Bacchus Fest.

## TOP 10 OF BACCHUS@20

Once again, nearly every wine at Bacchus had sales. Our top ten took our tasters from Oregon to Spain, from Coonawarra, Australia, to the heart of Chianti Classico. All top ten wines are currently available in the shop.

### ***Rocca di Montegrossi 2017 Chianti Classico***

Blend of 85% sangiovese, with canaiolo and colorino. This is the estate's flagship wine. Lively ruby, with bright violet reflections, and on the nose displays rich fruity aromas, particularly forest berry fruit and sour cherries. On the palate it is harmonious and well-structured, with nice tannins and savory notes.

**\$24.00**

### ***Viña Herminia 2014 Rioja Crianza***

Hearty, complex and fruity aromas, with rich tones of cherries and plums with balanced and elegant oak. Round on the palate, rich, spice notes, viscous and creamy. Satiny smooth, long and balanced finish with plenty of silky tannins.

**\$20.00**

### ***Berton 2017 The Black Shiraz***

This vintage stands out with rich, ripe and juicy characteristics with great length and depth of color. A bold example of the Australian-style Shiraz, with deep color and aromas of blackberry and plum with notes of spicy oak. The palate is intense with rich plum, blueberry and mocha notes. The tannins are dense and balanced allowing for great structure and a lengthy finish.

**\$15.00**

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# BACCHUS@20 WAS A STAR EVENT

*Throughout the evening, Marco Ricasoli-Firidolfi brought the welcome warmth of his native Italy to Bacchus through his congenial personality. Marco presented his beautiful collection of the estate wines from the Rocca di Montegrossi Winery, located near Monti in Chianti (one of the finest sections of the Chianti Classico subregion). Rocca di Montegrossi is one of Wine and Spirits' 2019 Top 100 Wineries in the World.*

Jacqui has visited the winery and has known Marco for many years, having met him at one of her first visits to Vinitaly in Verona. Marco already had an established reputation as a Tuscan producer of red wines. In the years since, his stature has only grown. His wines are fabulous. We were pleasantly surprised that because of new distribution, the prices of his wines are much more friendly than they have been in the past.

While the line at Marco's table was never ending, our industry reps have their following, too. The choice selection of wines from the portfolios of our distributors were professionally presented at Bacchus@20 by Annie Burch (Woodberry Wines), Debby Bowser (Great Lakes Wine & Spirits), Stuart Allen (Imperial Beverage), Callie Christiansen (AHD Vintners), and James VanDerKolk and Franco Antias of I-lixir Beverage.

We would also like to introduce and thank three special holiday helpers at Bacchus. Laura Morris, Sherrie Williams and John Hurtt are former students of the Enology curriculum at Lake Michigan College. They assisted at the check-in/order table, and worked at our Mix of Six table.



Marco Ricasoli-Firidolfi of Rocca di Montegrossi Winery.



Special Bacchus helper Laura Morris at the Mix of Six table.



The Wine Sellers' wines, and the people who love them, together at Bacchus.

# Adios MATARO

One of our Top Ten Bacchus selections, Three Wine Company 2016 Old Vine Mataro, is called Old Vine for a reason. The vines for this wine were 127 years old. Sadly, the vines "were," not "are." As of October, the vines and vineyard no longer exist, the acreage having been sold for development. We can bid the wine a long goodbye. As noted, we have the excellent 2016 in house, and we can still look forward to the 2017, 2018 and 2019 vintages.

# Handmade, HEART FULL TAKE ITS TIME

Our Barrel Auction wine, En Garde Winery's Handmade, Heart Full 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon, now looks to become available in 2020.

Fine wine is not to be rushed! As you may recall, the fruit for this ultra-premium wine was harvested from the Fountaingrove District just days before the destructive Northern California fires of October 2017, and is the final testament to that particular winery block, which was pulled after the fires. Only five cases produced, and we are still accepting reservations.



## TOP 10 OF BACCHUS@20 Continued

### **Domaine de Chevalier 2016**

#### ***La Petit Lune Bordeaux Blanc***

A hidden gem of white Bordeaux. Fragrant with green apple, clean white flowers, and mouthwatering ripe peach, zingy and richly textured. The sémillon contributes the richness and texture of the body, while the sauvignon blanc supplies the vibrant acidity and fresh-cut grass and citrus notes. **\$18.95**

### **Domaine des Terres Jalmet 2016 Cinsault**

Concentrated and balanced, silky, medium-bodied red, with hints of black cherry/berry flavors, having the rare combination of black tea, black pepper and garrigue spices, with very soft tannins. Long finish and a cellaring potential of 10 years. **\$16.95**

### **Soléna 2016 Chardonnay**

The palette is complex, offering up fresh apple backed by honeyed pear, just baked croissant and clotted cream. The mellow finish is pure apple cobbler. Just 100 cases produced. **\$25.00**

### **Rocca di Montegrossi 2012 San Marcellino Chianti Classico Gran Selezione**

"Best of the best," produced only in great vintages. The blend is 95% sangiovese, 5% pugnello. Notes of dark cherry, smoke, plum and flowers gradually open. Concentrated on the palate, silky smooth. Accessible now but truly age worthy. Critical acclaim: 94+ Vinous. **\$50.00**

### **Three Wine Company 2016 Old Vine Mataro**

Spectacular blend of 81% mataro, 4% carignane, 7% black malvoisie, 7% petite sirah, and 1% alicante bouschet. Dusty nose of violets, ripe black-cherries and chocolate is draped with rich French vanilla, Provençal herbs, tobacco leaf, and a minerality through to the finish. Just 555 cases produced. Don't be afraid to cellar for five to ten years. **\$26.00**

### **Domaine de Roche-Guillon 2015 Clos de la Tour Fleurie**

100% gamay. Still young, full of smoky wood and juicy Bing cherry fruit flavors. Lush and pretty hefty. The tannins and the concentration are considerable, making this wine age worthy. Drinking beautifully now. 93 Points from Wine Enthusiast. **\$25.00**

### **Cline 2016 Cashmere Black**

Blend of petite sirah, zinfandel, mourvèdre, and carignane. Velvety, full-bodied, complex red wine with blueberry, plum and violet aromas with enticing flavors of juicy cherry, vanilla. Meat and roasted coffee lead to a rich, lengthy finish. **\$21.00**

2019 is winding down, but Bacchus is a herald that a great year of wine continues at The Wine Sellers. Our Bacchus Top Ten is always a great place to start for recommendations, and our Fireside Wines and Wines To Watch borrow from Bacchus as well. The entire Bacchus@20 lineup, with tasting notes, is available at <http://www.thewinesellersmichigan.com/Bacchus2019noteswithcovers.pdf>.

Ever since we began making our Fireside Wine suggestions, our customers have regularly made them part of their winter activities. We choose Fireside Wines for their heartiness as much as their flavor. With one of these wines, wherever you are, you can feel the warmth of the fireside, turning winter from dreary into cheery.

### ***Beyra 2016 Reserva***

Super cool, weighty winter wine. 70% tinta roriz and 30% touriga nacional from vineyards planted in the plateau area of the Beira Interior wine region. Vineyards are all of native varieties perfectly adapted to environmental and climatic characteristics created by the altitude, chosen depending of the vintage. Fruity aroma with discreet minerality in balance with barrel aging notes. On palate, rich berries, raisins, spices, subtle notes of vanilla and toast. Fruity and persistent with fresh and elegant aftertaste. Try it with beef roasts, Iberian ham and cheeses. **\$23.50**

### ***Domaine de la Solitude 2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Rouge***

The 2016 vintage in the Southern Rhône was wonderful and this is a great example. Rich blend is 50% grenache, 25% syrah, 10% cinsault, 15% mourvèdre. Nose has a garrigue bouquet, rockrose flowers, anise, and black currants. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, creamy, lush, plump with leather and savory notes, leather, red berries and stone fruit. It remains fresh and fruit-driven through the long spice inflected finish. Drink now through 2030. Wine Advocate - 93 Points. **\$52.00**

### ***Soléna 2017 Pinot Noir Grand Cuvée***

Willamette Valley wine has a vibrant nose of plum, cherry, and rich blackberry syrup. The soft mouth feel gives way to flavors of dark fruit with savory elements of toasted almonds, tobacco, ripe olives and a light spice of clove. Classically styled and just lovely. **\$35.00**

### ***Neyers Vineyards 2016 Chardonnay Carneros District***

Rich, smooth, lush, old fashioned chardonnay with a nice toasty note. Crème brûlée at first with juicy citrus acidity for balance. Additional contact with yeast lees after barrel fermentation results in a lovely aroma that the French call "Noisette" after the hazelnut character it resembles. **\$38.00**

## In the Shop:

### HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS PICTURE THIS

If you still enjoy seeing photos in a frame instead of a phone, we think you'll love these frames as much as we do. What a wonderful way to commemorate a wine-related event, or any special occasion.

**Frames fit 4x6 (\$17) or 5x7 (\$21).**

### PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE BUBBLY

It wouldn't be the holidays for wine lovers unless you feature at least one champagne. Make your celebrations complete with a choice from our expertly curated selection at The Wine Sellers.

One of our favorites this year is the André Clouet Grande Réserve Brut NV (**\$52**) is dreamy. It's 100% pinot noir, all grand cru fruit with a nose of pears, apples and marzipan. The palate shows cream, pears, red fruits, and a noticeable nutty essence. Complex and forward in style, with some biscuity characters and a long, persistent finish. From Bouzy, France.



## JANUARY SALE: STOCK UP!

May we suggest a New Year's resolution for 2020? Try a wine you never thought of tasting before. It's a pledge that's easy to keep, especially during The Wine Sellers' January Sale. Discounts of 5 to 50 percent on every wine, and the discounts change on a regular basis.

# WINES TO WATCH



## *Quest 2016 Proprietary Red*

Red blends are the rage and this beauty from Paso Robles is terrific. 57% cabernet sauvignon, 23% merlot, 15% petit verdot, 5% petite sirah from an outstanding vintage. Look for rich black cherry/currant/blackberry/cassis, espresso and caramel aromas and flavors. The wine finishes with firm tannins and a long toasty, French vanilla accent. 93 Points from Wine Enthusiast. **\$33**

## *Domaine Seguinot-Bordet 2017 Chablis Vieilles Vignes*

This elegant wine is a Wine Sellers' personal favorite. 100% chardonnay from vines that average 80 to 100 years old. Bright, luminous and limpid. The nose is copious, fresh and expressive. It illustrates its maturity with bright colors, sparkling yellows and shining gold. The taste reveals its powerful nature, rich, charming and elegant. A harmonious combination of powerful richness, earthy accent and tender vivacity. The big, long obviously mineral finish is a perfect illustration of the wine's serious yet charming character. **\$32**



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

16409 B Red Arrow Hyw, Union Pier, Michigan 49129

Winter hours you'll find us in the shop most weekends. Just to make sure, phone first at (269) 469-7566.

We will be on hiatus February, March and April.

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

The Wine Sellers is wheelchair accessible.