

Winter 2022

GRAPE PRESS

"In wine there is truth." — Roman Proverb

BACCHUS *Delights Wine Lovers*

As a showcase of fabulous wines available in the region, The Wine Sellers' Bacchus Fest is without peer. Our twenty-first annual Bacchus was held October 14, 2022, at the beautifully renovated banquet hall of the Marina Grand Resort. Attendees sampled more than eighty wines from around the world, presented by representatives from six of our favorite distributors. All wines were offered at a significant discount available only during the event.

Bacchus is The Wine Sellers' grand introduction to our wines for autumn, winter and the holidays. Based on the enthusiasm of our Bacchus guests, it's going to be a great end to the year! We're stocked in-depth at all price points. Traditionally, the majority are reds with more complex profiles than the light-hearted wines of summer.

SHOW AND TELL

For all the great wine celebrated at Bacchus, one of our primary goals is to educate. With our knowledgeable reps from distributors Veritas, Imperial Beverage, Woodberry Wines, AHD Vintners and Great Lakes Wine and Spirits as our guides, we want to satisfy our guests' curiosity as well as their palates.

Our special guest was Jack Volz, representative for Round Pond Estate, a producer of ultra-premium cabernet sauvignon wines from the heart of Napa Valley. Jack was generous in sharing with our guests his wealth of experience on cabs. He brought outstanding "learning materials," showing the...



**2019 Kith & Kin
Cabernet Sauvignon,
Napa Valley (\$52),**



**2019 Estate Cabernet
Sauvignon (\$90)
and the luxurious**



**2019 Bovet Reserve
Cabernet Sauvignon
(\$145).**

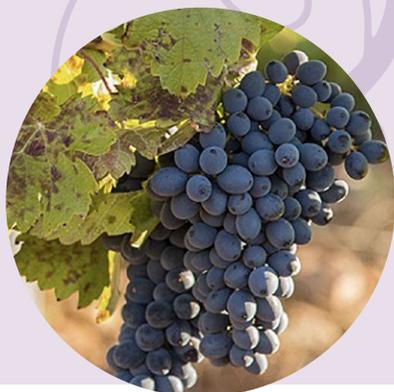


GET TO KNOW *Your Grapes*

Bacchus was also the occasion to offer some lighthearted education on the role of the grape. We complimented three lesser-known yet extraordinary varieties.

MARSELAN

The marselan grape is from southern France where the Rhône River empties into the Mediterranean. A highly regarded hybrid blend of cabernet sauvignon and grenache, first bred in the early 1960s, it is the grape behind the **Mas de Valériole 2019 Beauduc Bouches-du-Rhône Terre de Camargue Rouge (\$24)**. With a Provencal character, the Beauduc is pure marselan, producing a chewy, pure and exotic red with a medium body and floral, fruit and meaty undertones.



FRAPATTO

The frapatto grape is indigenous to Sicily, and is known for its pungent florality. It was represented at Bacchus by the **Centonze Frappato 2018 (\$18.95)**. Think California pinot noir with a brighter fruit profile of red cherry and violet. A wine of weightless elegance, it's medium in body, and fresh on the vibrant, juicy finish. Pairs with vegetables and seafood.

SCHIAVA

The schiava grape grows in the Italian/Austrian Alps. Smooth and refreshing, it is used to produce lighter reds such as the **Alois Lageder 2019 Schiava (\$22.50)**, a medium quaffing wine packed with the flavor of tart red fruit, earthy notes and black pepper. Fresh, light and rounded tannins and a moderate alcohol content make this an ideal companion to light fare. Goes well with turkey.



SIDE BY SIDE

Tasting is learning at Bacchus. As a fun exercise in wine education, we put together some interesting side-by-side pairings to compare similarities and differences. (You can try these and other taste tests from the comfort of your home, as all Bacchus wines are available in the shop.)

We paired a white Burgundy with a domestic chardonnay:

Château de la Crée Montagny 1er Cru 2020 Chevalier De La Crée Knights Templar Cuvée (\$44)

Subtle, youthful Burgundy reveals aromas of golden apples, fresh almonds, fern and a touch of citrus. The lively palate is surprisingly rich with spicy back-flavors. Delicacy is harmoniously matched with a durable structure, building to an aftertaste with distinctive minerality.

Barnett Vineyards 2018 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (\$47.50)

Enormous aromatics of pure jasmine, white peach and honeysuckle are immediate. White pepper, vanilla bean and a light soapstone minerality come off the glass. More floral elements of tropical fruit and a bit of butterscotch on the palate with a honeysuckle spice finish.

A cabernet franc native to Loire with a cabernet franc from South America:

Cave De Saumur 2018 Rouge Les Pouches (\$16.95)

Medium-bodied red with lovely floral notes of violets and rose petals combined with dark minerals, black fruits and gritty tannins. A touch of earth on the palate followed by soft tannins. Hint of cocoa dust on the finish.

Fabre Montmayou 2019 Cabernet Franc Reserva (\$22)

From Mendoza, Argentina. Intense and almost opaque in the glass. Red and black fruit aromas with hints of eucalyptus, dried flowers. Bold, meaty, masculine wine has a tiny vegetal note on the backside. Has a big finish and is a HUGE bargain!

An upscale barolo made from nebbiolo with an everyday nebbiolo:

Malvirà Barolo 2016 Boiolo (\$110)

100% nebbiolo. Bright ruby red with orange hues, subtly perfumed, with a range of spices, black fruits, mint, drunken cherries and cocoa. Supple and elegant with a tightly woven tannic structure and savory, super-dry finish.

Malvirà 2017 Roero Nebbiolo (\$30)

Well-priced wine is a great example of classic Roero — 100% nebbiolo, and 100% true to the variety. Bright cranberry red with hints of pink and orange. A springtime basketful of fruit and floral aromas: raspberries, cherries, blood oranges, rose petals, tea, sandalwood, pink peppercorns and crushed rocks. Decanting for 60 minutes before serving will reward.

As one client said, "We love coming to your tastings because we learn so much."

TOP SELLERS

The top-selling wines at Bacchus Fest 2022 are currently available in the shop:

Shiba Wichern 2019 Willamette Cuvée Pinot Noir (\$36)



Burgundian styled, full of silky red fruits, delicate spice and savory accents, carried through on a lithe frame with surprising staying power. Mix of dark cherry, raspberry, cranberry, blood orange, balanced with forest floor, spice and earth. Medium body, medium+ acid. Well integrated tannins, but there's some tannic grip in the finish.

La Spinetta 2019 Barbera D'Asti Ca' Di Pian DOEG (\$35)



Exudes a rich concentration and relatively tame acidity. Aromas of blueberry, wet earth and a hint of orange peel, along with dark fruit, graphite/tarry notes. The full body and intensity are balanced by a silky smooth finish, combining richness with finesse.

Vignerons de Buxy, 2020 Buissonnier Mercurey (\$29.50)



Deep red with ruby glints, pleasant aromas of red fruits backed by a firm tannic structure becoming more supple when matured. Raspberry, strawberry and cherry gradually give way to underbrush spices (tobacco) and leather. Mercurey has become one of the most important appellations in Burgundy.

Domaine Lafond 2020 Tavel Les Oueyrades (\$24.50)



From the Southern Rhône Valley. One of our favorite Thanksgiving wines and the only rosé we sell all year. 60% grenache, 20% syrah, and 20% cinsault. Aromas of fresh strawberries, melons and lime juice. Medium to full-bodied, and silky on the palate. Fresh, bold berry fruit (no wallflower!) with a long, elegant finish showing exemplary finesse.

FIRESIDE WINES

Stay cozy this winter.

All it takes is a crackling fire on the hearth, and a hearty glass of wine. But not just any wine. Our Fireside Wines are big and bold enough to hold winter at bay.



Le Calendre 2018 Rosso Veronese Istadela (\$29)

30% cabernet sauvignon with the typical Valpolicella grapes (corvina, corvinone, rondinella, molinara). Leathery nose, tasty and juicy attack of red fruit with a bit of cedar box on the finish. A full, robust wine, well suited for red meat and aged cheese.



Domaine De L'Espigouette 2020 Côtes du Rhône Vieilles Vignes (\$18.95)

Balanced, full flavored, traditionally made Côtes du Rhône represents a benchmark for price and quality. 75% grenache with 25% a mix of carignan, syrah, mourvèdre and cinsault. Nice mouthful of dark cherries/berries, good weight and some spice and pepper.



Bodegas Lan Rioja Gran Reserva 2015 (\$30)

Bright, ripe cherry red. Intense and complex in aromas: ripe red fruit, enveloped in white flowers, almond blossom and broom. Touches of cinnamon and resinous notes. Elegant, balanced and harmonious on the palate. A long finish, leaving a pleasant aftertaste.



Brown Estate Betelgeuse 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (\$27.50)

75% sauvignon blanc, 25% vermentino. Grassy nose with notes of guava, lychee, and honeydew melon. Time in the glass reveals Asian pear, wildflower honeycomb, limestone dust, and subtle saline. The palate is bright and crisp with ultra-fine tannins. Mouthfeel like washed silk, but liquid! Just 1200 cases produced.



CHAMPAGNE, *EVERYONE*

There are so many reasons to have Champagne at this time of year. That's why The Wine Sellers has one of the best inventories of Champagnes and sparkling wines in the region. Champagnes were projected to be in short supply, so we have stocked our inventory at all price points. For your Champagnes, try The Wine Sellers first.

By the way, Champagne is more versatile than many wine enthusiasts realize. It's a superb aperitif, and is a wonderful accompaniment to meals ranging from lobster to fried chicken. Demi-sec, with its touch of sweetness, is good with spicy food.

HERE IS A TASTE OF REPRESENTATIVE CHAMPAGNES IN THE SHOP:



Champagne Collet Brut, NV, Champagne, France (\$45)

50% pinot meunier, 30% pinot noir, 20% chardonnay. Since 1921, the house of Collet has been creating Champagnes of elegance and great finesse. Collet's vineyards are based mainly on Premier Crus and Grand Crus that reflect the diversity of the Champagne region's terroir.



Waris-Hubert Lilyale Grand Cru Blanc De Blancs Brut Zero – NV (\$69.50)

100% chardonnay. Nose of white flower, apple, pear and green apple. Light, crisp with high acidity on the palate. Notes of citrus, apple, bread with secondary notes of toast and vanilla. Beautifully dry with a long, delicious finish.



André Clouet nv Brut Rosé Grand Cru (\$65)

100% pinot noir rosé. Fine bead and salmon color with crisp berry aromas. Summer berry fruits on the palate with a smooth, creamy mousse. Lifted acidity and a clean finish. From Bouzy, France.



“SUNSET” WINES FROM SONOMA ARE SPECIAL

Jacqui once again attended the prestigious Sonoma County Barrel Auction in May. While she was there making the most of the extraordinary networking opportunities and to check out the new vintage, she couldn't help bidding on an especially appealing wine – **and ending up winning the bid!**

The wine is **Davis Bynum 2021 Red Sunset Pinot Noir**. This barrel lot is the last vintage of pinot noir made from Jane's Vineyard, which was planted to a mix of Dijon, Swiss and heritage clones of pinot noir, and after which was pulled up to be replanted. Red Sunset is a “never before, never again” blend from the incredible 2021 vintage, a wine that collectors will eagerly anticipate opening on the most special occasions.



Davis Bynum 2021 Red Sunset Pinot Noir. Celebrating the winning bid are Greg Morthole, Davis Bynum winemaker, Jacqui Schiewe, Brian Schiewe, and Carmen Castaldi, President of Rodney Strong Wine Estates, the iconic Sonoma County wine company which includes Davis Bynum Winery.



En Garde Cabernet Sauvignon, our Sonoma County Barrel Auction winning bid from 2018.

Red Sunset will be bottled in 2023, at which time the winemaker, Greg Morthole, will be in Michigan at a TWS function. We'll keep you updated on this exciting event!

You may remember that our previous Sonoma winning bid was a “sunset” wine in its own way. The ultra-premium EnGarde Handmade, Heart Full 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$125), won in 2018, is the final testament to its particular winery block, which was pulled after the Northern California fires of October 2017. Only 60 bottles were produced.

Both wines will never be duplicated!

MIX PICKS

For our many Bordeaux-loving clients, six and three are their lucky numbers at this time of year, when the latest editions of the always-popular Mix of Six and Mix of Three become available at The Wine Sellers.

The Mix of Six (\$112) is a handsome package of six ready-to-drink wines from the 2019 vintage, accompanied by information about each wine and a map of their Bordeaux locations. **This year's Mix of Six are all gold-medal award winners in French competitions:**

Chateau Dubois Claverie

Chateau Cathalogue

Chateau Grand Meynau

Chateau Le Bourdiley

Chateau Franc Couplet

Chateau Poncharac



The Mix of Three

The Mix of Three (\$52) is the little brother of the Six.

This award-winning assortment of three Bordeaux –

Chateau Grand Montet, Chateau Grand Meynau and *Chateau Poncharac—2018 Gilbert & Gaillard* – is from the desirable 2018 vintage.



The Mix of Six and Mix of Three make impressive gifts.

More Bordeaux?

The Wine Sellers carries superb Bordeaux focusing on the 2015 and 2016 vintages.

GOING SOUTH

At The Wine Sellers, wine is a global experience. While domestics, French and Italian wines will always make up the backbone of our inventory, we taste wines from around the world to identify well-crafted, wonderfully drinkable beauties that we know our clients will love to experience.

Wines from below the Equator have been on our radar recently. South American wines are hot, and we're happy to make room in the shop for some favorites. The Argentinian Fabre Montmayou 2019 Cabernet Franc Reserva mentioned in the Bacchus article is a prime example.

Another southern country currently on trend is South Africa, where the wine culture dates back to the 1700s. Today it is flourishing.

We were delighted to discover the **Natte Valleij, 2021 Pinotage NAT Darling (\$20) from Western Cape**. It's a light, fresh wine, beginning with berry fruits and cured meat on the nose. The juicy palate has plums, berries, pomegranate and a bit of smoke.

The sumptuous **Vilafonté Seriously Old Dirt 2019 (\$37.50) from Paarl** is 86% cabernet sauvignon, 6%, malbec, 5%, merlot, 3% cabernet franc. Quite a nose of plum, black cherry, blackberry with warm notes of baking spice, vanilla pod/licorice, tobacco and hazelnut, too! Flavors of ripe black cherry with faint mineral notes.

Let us know what countries or regions interest you!





GIFT BASKETS

This holiday season, let The Wine Sellers design a personal or corporate gift basket that uniquely captures the tastes of family, friends, colleagues or business associates. For a standout visual touch, we can arrange the assortment in a genuine wine box. A box is also practical – wine is heavy and requires a sturdy carrying case! Order yours today.



When is a gift basket a box?

WINES TO WATCH



L'Atelier Crocus 2018 Malbec de Cahors (\$22)

Fresh violet, cherry blossom, red and black fruit such as cherry and black currant jam, finishing with a hint of spices. Palate is smooth, giving black cherry, fresh raspberry and ripe blueberry flavors. Ends with firm tannins and bright acidity.



Cave De Saumur 2018 Rouge Les Pouches (\$16.95)

Medium-bodied red crafted from old vine cabernet franc. Floral notes of violets and rose petals combined with dark minerals, black fruits and gritty tannins. Touch of earth on the palate followed by soft tannins. Hint of cocoa dust on the finish.



Ramey Claret 2017 (\$47)

44% cabernet sauvignon, 20% merlot, 14% malbec, 12% petit verdot, 8% syrah, and 2% cabernet franc. Opens with classic scents of chocolate-covered cherries, cedar, bay leaves and tobacco, with a frame of sweet spices. Medium-bodied and plush, fruited with fine grain and great freshness, finishing long. Drink now through 2026.

For more immediate, time-sensitive news, follow The Wine Sellers on [Facebook](#).



www.thewinesellersmichigan.com



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

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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.