



## SIGNATURE WINE CLUB MAY 2020

For May we're celebrating women winemakers, and we're thrilled to work with so many in our own portfolio. Historically, women have often been the main work force in the vineyards and the cellars, especially in Europe where iconic images of women picking grapes with wooden baskets on steep hillsides or groups of smiling ladies stomping grapes barefoot after a harvest comes to mind. Today there remains a disproportionate number of women playing a lead role in the production of wine, but thankfully, year after year more women are reshaping the roll of "winemaker" with many also managing the entire operation from the vineyard to bottle shops all around the world as well. For this month's club we chose two wines from wineries that are both owned and operated by women.

Jules Taylor was a key ingredient to the success of Kim Crawford's ubiquitous Sauvignon Blanc as the original winemaker, and her own wines are gaining many accolades and awards. As of this month we're proud to announce the 2018 Grüner Veltliner received 91 points from Wine Enthusiast! Along with the score they noted "pale gold in hue, this wine offers a perfume of pineapple and lemon juice flecked with herbs and honey. Highly textural, the oily mouthfeel is buoyed by tangy fruit and finishes on a spicy note. Try this alongside rich dishes like risotto or buttery lobster." We recently got in touch with Jules via Zoom and posted her thoughts on the wine online at [www.maritimetasting.com/News](http://www.maritimetasting.com/News).

To complement the Grüner we're including a staff favorite Rioja from another all-female winemaking team from owner to winemaker to vineyard manager. Viña Real was established in 1920 as a more modern and feminine counterpoint to the more traditional and masculine wines from Cune, and the wines also score above 90 points by critics year after year. The new release of the 2014 Viña Real Reserva has received an initial 91 points from Robert Parker and the Wine Advocate in which they mention that despite a challenging year, "It's quite gentle, with a soft, velvety texture, fine tannins and lively acidity". Since the vineyards for the Viña Real Reserva are from Rioja Alavesa the grapes are grown at a higher elevation giving the wines a focused food friendly style. We thought it would complement any meal cooked on the grill during this gorgeous weather we've been having!

### Jules Taylor Grüner Veltliner 2018



The grapes for this wine were harvested from three vineyards, each in a different sub-region of Marlborough. The fruit was both harvested by hand and machine. The fermentation in tank was kept cool and slow to retain the vibrant aromatics.

This approach contrasted with the handpicked portion of grapes which were pressed directly into old French oak for a hot, fast, wild ferment followed by malolactic fermentation. Soon after fermentation the wine was gently clarified, bottled and sealed with a screw cap to maximize freshness.

**Variety:** Grüner Veltliner

**Tasting notes:** The nose has an intense core of fresh white stone fruit along with subtle notes of blossom and white pepper. The palate has great fruit richness combining mandarin peel, stone fruit and blossom. These also a hint of that classic

Grüner white pepper flavor. This is a fine, concentrated wine with a lovely textural element from the wild fermented portion and has a stunning, refreshing finish with crisp acidity.

### Viña Real Reserva 2014



Wine made from high quality plots located in Rioja Alavesa manually harvested. After a cold maceration, the alcoholic fermentation is carried out in stainless steel tanks at controlled temperature. It ages in new and second use barrels (70% french and 30% american) where it remains an average of 22 months. Once in the bottle, the wine ages in Viña Real cellars for a minimum of one year acquiring the necessary roundness before it is released to the market.

**Varieties:** Tempranillo: 90%  
Garnacha, Graciano and Mazuelo: 10%

**Tasting notes:** On the nose it is long and intense with aromas of red mature fruits well combined with nuances of toffees, spices, and smoke from the barrel. In the mouth it is a long and well-structured wine where the same hints already found in the nose appear, complex traces of very mature fruit and oak. This is a wine that will continue evolving inside the bottle for many years. Perfect for pairing with red meats and fatty fishes.