



STAYCATION RED WINE CLUB JUNE 2020

This month we're including a brand-new label from Cune as well as the 2018 vintage of a long time Maritime favorite released earlier this year.

New from Cune is a selection of single-varietal wines chosen by the winery's vineyard manager based on what grew the best that year. A field blend approach to showcasing a single grape. They wound up producing a Verdejo from Rueda and a Tempranillo from Ribera del Duero. Rueda is famous around the world for introducing the indigenous grape, Verdejo, and it is very much the Sauvignon Blanc of Spain. Perfect for a hot day with a bowl of olives. Ribera del Duero is a dramatic landscape of rocky hills, and Tempranillo is made into powerful, masculine wines.

The 2018 "Grief" is a relatively uncommon Italian red wine from Kornell in Alto Adige. Winemaker Florian Bergl was interviewed recently on this grape:

Q: How do you characterize the profile/character of lagrein? Are there any other more familiar red varieties to compare it to?

FB: Lagrein is a powerful ambassador of Alto Adige. Although it had nearly died out by the end of the 1970s, Lagrein has nowadays gained a big fan community. The indigenous wine, filled with character, has its roots in Bolzano and is impressive with its velvety fullness and soft acidity. The noble, spicy tones are accompanied by fruity berries, fresh cherries, and violets. When aged in small oak casks, Lagrein unfolds its elegant, full-bodied presence. A rosé version is also made from the grape, known as "Lagrein Rosato" (or "Lagrein Kretzer"). The Lagrein is very similar to the Terlodego grape from Trentino. Both show not only optical similarities, such as the strong and dark colour of the wine, but also a rustic, fruity and rugged character.

Q: Tell me a bit about the lagrein(s) you make (that are available in the U.S.), including a personal tasting note, full name and vintage, suggested retail price and food pairing suggestion.

FB: We produce two kinds of Lagrein, the Lagrein Greif and the Staffes Lagrein Riserva. The Lagrein Greif, already available in the US, is partly fermented in stainless steel and partly in big barrels, is bottled after an aging period of 6 months in big barrels. The Greif is an "easy drinking" wine for every day, with intense aroma of black berries, amarena cherries and spicy notes of pepper. Lightly chilled, it's the perfect partner for antipasti, mature hard cheese and barbecues, thanks to his lively freshness and juicy structure.

The full interview is available on our website to check out. Cheers!

Cune "Selección de Fincas" Ribera del Duero 2017

CVNE (pronounced Coo-nay), or as known by its full name — Compañía Vinícola del Norte de España (The Northern Spanish Wine Company), was established in Rioja in 1879. The first wine of CVNE was named after the company's initials but a simple orthographic mistake with the letter 'V' transformed the name CVNE to CUNE and hence the name Cune (also pronounced Coo-nay) was adopted as both the name of the original winery and for the wines produced under the Cune label.

Variety: Tempranillo

Tasting notes: High purple layer. Nose with many notes of black fruits softened by the floral aromas that are punctuated by a touch of mineral from the soil, which is intermingled with the vanilla coming from their brief stay in the barrel. At the palate it is smoothed with a noble tannin which provides a long and persistent after taste. Perfect pairing with all kinds of fatty meats and game in the form of roasts, stews, in addition to the different cheeses in the area.



Kornell "Greif" Lagrein 2018

Lagrein is an ancient grape variety that is thought to be native to Trentino and Alto Adige appellations of northeastern Italy. It's been grown there for hundreds of centuries, first mentioned in texts from the 16th century. While there are theories that the variety actually has Greek origins, the fact that its name comes from the village of Val Lagarnia in Trentino supports its Italian lineage. It's worth noting that Lagrein is the odd duck in the region where white wines dominate. There are some plantings of Lagrein in Australia and California but for a true expression of the variety, we think this version from Kornell is the best.

Varieties: Lagrein

Tasting notes: The aroma has invitingly intensive fruity aromas of ripe blackberries and spicy bitter chocolate. Fresh and fruity full-bodied flavors with strong tannins; it's juicy with a pleasant acidity and long finish. Enjoy this with hearty meals of red meat or game, roasted, braised, stewed or grilled

