

THE ANCHOR & VINE WINE CLUB SPRING 2020



Viña Real Rosado 2019

The grapes of the Rioja Alavesa are at the heart of this winery. The proximity of the vineyards to the old Camino Real inspired its name. And on that same terrain, integrated into a hill called the Cerro de la Mesa, rises a monumental fermenting vat covering nearly 30,000 square meters: the Viña Real building, an iconic 2004 design that succeeds in blending the Rioja orography into its very construction.

Varieties: Viura, Tempranillo, Garnacha

Tasting notes: This is an aromatic wine, the nose revealing floral aromas along with peach, apricot and background notes of strawberry and citrus. Delicious, balanced palate, rounded with a lightly acidic aftertaste and a long, fruit-driven finish.



Twenty Bench Cabernet 2018

In the fall of 2000, Nine North proprietors purchased 20 tons of exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon grapes from a friend's Napa Valley vineyard without a specific plan for the them. All they knew at the time was it was great fruit from a trusted friend. Because the particular vineyard did not have a name, one of the cellar hands, who also works from time to time in the vineyards, chose to label the barrels 'Twenty Bench'. The name was chosen to signify the 20 tons of fruit from the gentle rising bench land vineyard from which they were picked.

Varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon 100%

Tasting notes: There is a ripe black cherry core, twining with blackberry syrup, a subtle minerality, with the smokiness of charred French oak on the nose. The mouth is creamy and dense, with layered of juicy berries, the darkest of dark chocolates, rich espresso and black pepper. The wine is well-balanced and drinking well in its youth.



Broccardo Dolcetto 2018

In 1900, the Broccardo family laid down roots in Italy's Langhe region and established a wine-grape growing concern on seven acres. In 1965, the next generation started making wine from their grapes for family members and friends and spent the next two decades refining and perfecting their style as well as increasing output.

Today, third generation brother and sisters, winemaker Filippo, Laura and Federica, are the culmination of experience and the vineyards that have been passed down from their parents and grandparents: a respect for the land; a passion for the hard-work of grape farming and winemaking; farming techniques that naturally and responsibly cultivate the vineyards, and winemaking with as little intervention as possible to preserve the fruit and terroir characteristics of the Langhe area

Variety: Dolcetto

Tasting notes: The scent of red fruits and cherry is fresh, fruity and persistent. On the palate it is pleasant with soft and light tannins and good structure.



Chateau St George St Emilion 2015

Once a walled fortress, Château St. Georges sits impressively atop a prominent hillside overlooking St. Émilion and Montagne. It has long produced the best known wine of the tiny satellite appellation St. Georges- St.-Émilion. The vineyard is comprised of 60% Merlot and 20% each Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, with the oldest Merlot vines planted in the 1950's. Château St.-Georges consistently produces a rich, ripe wine that is supple, fruity yet well-structured, a wine that can give immense pleasure when young and with the ability to age gracefully for 15 to 20 years.

Varieties: Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc

Tasting notes: A well-balanced wine with silky tannins and a fine attack. Firm finish with notes of red and black fruit and a hint of oak. Classic notes of plums, cassis, and cedar abound.

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Guy Amiot Crémant NV

The Domaine Amiot was founded in Chassagne-Montrachet in 1930 by Arsene Amiot when he acquired select parcels in Chassagne including Vergers, Caillieris, Clos St. Jean and what is today La Montrachet. Under Arsene, Amiot became one of the first domaines in Burgundy to bottle their own production. In the 30s, Arsene's son added to the domaine's properties and his son, Guy, took the reins in 1985 and solidified the house's reputation for producing wines of exceptional quality. His son, Thierry, succeeded him in 2003 and continues the tradition of expressing the unique character of each vineyard site while constantly seeking to improve the quality of the wines.

Varieties: Chardonnay, Aligoté & Pinot Noir.

Tasting notes: Crémant de Bourgogne by law is produced in the méthode champenoise. This has a fine persistent mousse with light citrus and green apple flavors with a hint of pastry.



Ca' Rugate Monte Alto 2017

Ca' Rugate, in Veneto, produces local wines that express in a simple and natural way the land on which they are grown; Soave Classico, Valpolicella and Lessini Durello. The company has known how to innovate: reinterpreting traditions and investing in the vineyards most suited to the cultivation of historical vine types. Its history goes back 100 years, bound to the four generations of the Tessari family and the dark and volcanic land of the Rugate hill, near the center of Brognoligo, where it all began. At the beginning of the 20th century Amedeo "Mideo" Tessari recognized the high-quality potential of his while selling his own wine in the family hostelry. From father to son the history of Ca' Rugate is rooted the land of the Rugate. Today it is owned and operated by the fourth generation.

Variety: 100% Garganega

Tasting notes: There's an intense and lingering bouquet of wildflowers, ripe fruit, and almonds. This is a beautifully structured wine that will reach its peak after several years in the bottle. It's ideal with grilled vegetables and fish dishes.



If you take a look out the window you can almost certainly see that Spring is in the air, and despite our beloved Tasting Studio being closed over the last couple of months we have a bunch of new releases included in this month's shipment. As an exclusive, Club Members Only Release we've brought in a **Crémant de Bourgogne Brut NV** from Côte-d'Or producer Guy Amiot. We love the crisp tiny bubbles and robust, yeasty nose and all the premium quality fruit for this limited production wine is grown in Chassagne-Montrachet! For this month's white, we chose a complex, unfiltered **2017 Soave Classico** that deserves a rich seafood meal or perhaps just an extra moment to ponder as it evolves in the glass. The candied nose and slight weight on the palate make the surprisingly dry, refreshing finish all the more exciting. And what's Spring without a little pink? The **2019 Viña Real Rosado** is a knockout, and truly pairs best with sunshine. Although, we especially like it with sushi or ceviche and think it's more than a simple, basket-o-berries picnic wine (although it is a perfect picnic wine).

The just released **2018 Broccardo Dolcetto** is the lightest bodied wine of the three reds. Dolcetto, or "little sweet one" in Italian, is often referred to as the Pinot Noir of Italy and is usually overshadowed by its more popular regional neighbors, Nebbiolo and Barbera, but nothing says late spring like a light, floral red that can be served slightly chilled. The **2018 Twenty Bench Cabernet Sauvignon** was made by our own winemaker, Molly Lyman, and had a label makeover as well. Molly's style leaps out of the glass with this dense and lush Cab which isn't fussy or difficult (nor do we find it difficult to open mid-week). Now, Merlot gets a bad rap these days but the deep, brooding Merlot that makes up the majority of a blend in a French Right Bank Bordeaux can be out of this world. The **2015 Château St. Georges Saint-Georges-Saint-Emilion** Bordeaux is certainly a mouthful to say, but it's because the estate vineyards of Chateau St. George have so consistently made excellent wines for decades that the winery and its surrounding area was designated its own Appellation in Bordeaux. Also, the castle on the label is the actual property and it's gorgeous.

Cheers, we hope you enjoy the wines!