

PRWS

June 2021 Wine Club



Wines for ‘Hot Vax Summer’?

Yeah...I recently opened an online newsletter, only to be faced with ‘Welcome to Hot Vax Summer’. Which honestly sounded like a terrible title even before I read that public health officials are bracing for big upticks in some fairly irresponsible behavior. Eww.

But what’s in a name? We’ve decided to lean into this by declaring our own ‘Hot Vax Summer’, filled with some tastings, the opportunity to entertain friends again, and –above all–some delicious wines, starting with 1 Italian, 1 Spanish, and 3 French, the Pour Richard’s version of a full-house hand.

White #1) 2019 Domaine Kientzler La Soif

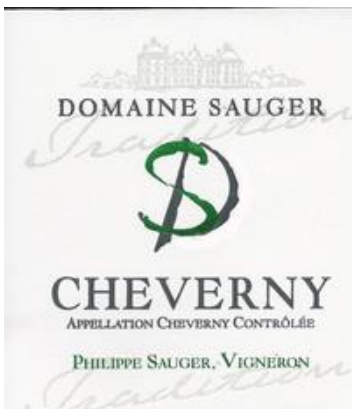


This wine is VERY well-named, La Soif (the thirst) is in fact the definition of a thirst quencher. Domaine Kientzler is located in Alsace, a region known for its white wines, but also known for varietal purity and wine styles that are not always immediately attractive to the American palate.

La Soif is a brand new wine that Domaine Kientzler has been working to cultivate for a number of years. The goal was to create an Alsace wine that is all-around usable for food, but which can also be enjoyed on its own.

A blend of Auxerrois (60%), Riesling (25%), and Muscat (15%), this is a dry blended wine - the palate has the right balance of fruit and liveliness, which gives a nice impression of freshness. It is a wine with really fine and diverse aromas and with notes of white peach, melon, and citrus.

White #2) 2019 Domaine Sauger Cheverny Blanc



Domaine Sauger has been family owned for 5 generations: From François-Sylvain, to Eugène, Lucien, Marcel, and now finally Philippe, the family has managed the winery since 1870.

Cheverny is a relatively recent appellation; it was approved in 1993. Located between Loire and Sologne, the appellation of Cheverny is strongly marked by the movements of the Loire River, and the geology of the appellation is quite original compared to other appellations in the Valley: the soils there are predominantly of a sandy texture.

Sauger’s Cheverny Blanc is a blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Chardonnay. This wine is a happy marriage between the Sauvignon grapes that pull mineral tones from the soil and the Chardonnay grapes which lend a certain elegance. Brilliantly pale, with aromas and flavors of melon, pear, and Meyer lemon, this makes a perfect aperitif. Or pair it with shellfish.

Red #1) 2019 San Silvestro Ottone 1 Barbera



San Silvestro is located in Novello, in the heart of the Barolo district. Here, Paolo and Guido Sartirano run the winery with wisdom and respect for the traditions and history of their family. They represent the 4th generation in this business, and want to respect the work of their forebears while still being open to modern innovation. They operate under the principles of ‘consistency, authenticity, and innovation’, in that order.

They own 7 ha of vines, but also purchase grapes via long-term contracts. Working closely with grapegrowers from several areas of the Piemonte, they offer a range of well-made but value-driven wines that span several DOCs. Ottone is 100% Barbera, a grape that can be lean and harsh in the wrong hands. Deep bright ruby red, with a fresh and expressive nose, bursting with soft ripe flavors of blackberry, black cherry, and plum jam, this is a textbook pairing for the perfect grilled burger.

Red#2) 2018 Bodegas Olarra Rioja Reciente



Bodegas Olarra is located on the outskirts of Logroño, in the heart of the Rioja DO and within the highly regarded sub-area of Rioja Alta. Due to its beautiful grounds, Y-shaped reception building, and 111 hexagonal domes. Bodegas Olarra is commonly known as the Cathedral of Rioja. This winery tastefully merges cutting edge wine-related technologies with the traditional winemaking methods of La Rioja, and as a result, it creates wines with the strictest parameters of quality.

One of the oldest labels Olarra makes, Reciente is nevertheless one of the most modern, producing a red that’s smooth and silky, ready to drink earlier than most traditional Riojas. Very deep black-cherry with ruby glints. Full and rich fruit aromas. Good structure on the palate, with plum, vanilla, and a touch of spice. Smooth, round, and silky.

Rosé Option) 2020 Domaine Rimbault-Pineau Coteaux du Giennois Rose



Located in the heart of Sury-en-Vaux, just 5 miles from Sancerre, Domaine Rimbault-Pineau was created by a family of Sancerre winemakers who have been producing wine here for more than 3 centuries.

This wine, from vineyards surrounding but not included AC Sancerre, has the same calcareous and clay-limestone soils, the same rolling hills, and the same careful, traditional, sustainable production. 100% Pinot Noir, it tastes like equal parts wild strawberries and silk.