




Your Source of Wine for Every Occasion

Notes From The Cellar "NFTC" Newsletter March 27, 2009

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Super Tuscan red and Cali Chard. closeout prices!

The closeout lists keep coming but I haven't changed my mantra -if the wine was not great before, a lower price will not make it better.

Since our last NFTC I have gone over discount offer lists containing hundreds of wines. The lists keep getting bigger yet the wines I am actually interested in became more scarce.

Another trend is evident. More and more we are seeing distributors and importers narrowing their new selections, and, in many cases they will only bring in pre orders for fear of not moving the inventory. In the weeks and months to come we will keep the focus of NFTC on the wines that are worth ordering if the pre-arrival prices are good. As well many of our readers have taken advantage of some excellent prices on closeouts, and yes I am aggressively looking for the better wines out there. Today, - I have narrowed it down to 2 very solid selections at recession busting prices : a red and a white for your sipping & dinning pleasures.

\$\$\$ Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$

CORTE ALLA FLORA IGT Toscana 2005 our price: **\$25/bot.** (compare to \$35-50)

Super Tuscan wines have been some of the hottest selling Italian wines in recent years. They appeal to a variety of wine drinkers, as they are very versatile. The better ones are easy to enjoy on their own but even better with a large variety of food. Often based on classic grape varietals such as Cabernet and Merlot in combination with the signature grape of Tuscany the Sangiovese.

These blended wines are rich in flavors yet can maintain an elegance and structure of the old world style wines without getting into a more tannic and acidic profile, common to other wines of the region (for example Chianti where solely native grapes are used).

This Corte Flora Super Tuscan (do not confuse this with their other Roso IGT selection Giuggiolo, which is 100% Sangio. at lower prices and much larger availability) is composed of Cabernet Sauvignon (50%) Merlot (30%) and a local clone Prugnolo Gentile (20%). This is a full body wine yet the black and red fruit is accompanied by notes of mint, leaf tobacco and a hint of roasted meat. It also finishes with a rich mineral note typical of the better wines of the region. Already approachable, it has the ingredients to continue developing for another 10 years plus.

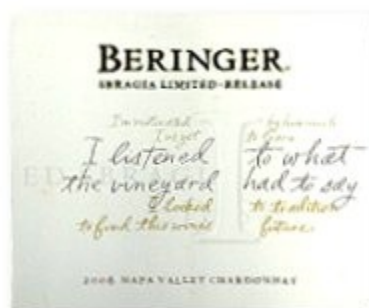


If you like these type of wines this is a "no brainer" selection. If you always wondered what the fuss is all about with these wines -well this is a great way to get acquainted with the genre. Production is tiny only 270 cases, according to the winery. A hand crafted gem of a wine which is not easily found.

The deal: At it's normal price I considered this wine to be outstanding value: after all many of the more famous examples of these Super Tuscans wines can easily set you back 2 to 3 times the price or more. A Change of distributors in the US has forced a liquidation of the existing remaining stock at the former supplier. This aggressively reduced price, is as easy on the pocket as the wine is on the palate. We took advantage of the situation and so should you. Grab some while you can as this price is downright silly.

BERINGER SBRAGIA Limited Release Napa Valley Chardonnay 2006.

our price: **\$27-** (compare to \$40-60)



A Napa Chardonnay that is tasty, not over done and affordable -well you guessed it, not many exist in my opinion, and that's why I seldom recommend them. While this wine is an exception it is not easy to find. Most of the limited production makes it to high end restaurants, as it is a wine that can be very enjoyable even at a young age. Well I guess the economic malaise has caused a big drop in demand and here was this rare bird on a close out list. To top it off, here was the premium wine at a price lower

than most wineries basic juice. I didn't ask too many questions but this was an easy one to go for. I am not going to hype this much more as there is very little of this to go around. (it did get a nice 92 points from Mr. Robert Parker in case that you wondered ...)

From the winery notes: The fruit for the 2006 Sbragia Limited Chardonnay came from our Gamble Ranch Vineyard. Located in Oakville, this vineyard customarily yields our most intensely flavored and rich Chardonnay fruit, and consistently provides flavors that Winemaker Emeritus Ed Sbragia calls "unctuous." From Winemaker Sbragias Tasting Notes:... my signature style, big, with more and more aromas and flavors that invite you back. In the 2006 vintage, gorgeous aromas of citrus and butterscotch greet the nose as rich flavors of lemon, crème brulee and spice fill the mouth and linger throughout a long and saturated finish. Enjoy.

Thanks for all your support and referrals.

Tell your friends, share the wine, & spread the good vibe. Cheers!

Paul David, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

