

Notes From The Cellar (NFTC); Winepairings e-letter Jun 26, 2008
The House Red for the summer of 2008 and a 96 point wine from Spain

Hi Wine fans. We had such a great response to our last newsletter Summer white wine deal by the case last week [White Wine for Summer](#) that we wanted to offer a similar deal on a nice Red wine. The parameters were similar: Something you will be happy to have as house wine for the summer, easy to enjoy, by you and your guests, compliment a good variety of foods, and in the age of \$4/gallon gas -be easy on the wallet. So here is your chance to stock up and be ready for the long 4th of July weekend, and at this great price for the rest of the summer for that matter.

We also have a pre-arrival on a 96 point Spanish wine under \$45 in our Collectors Corner for those special occasions. Don't miss it.

Several weeks ago I was asked to help in pouring wine at fund raiser event organized by friend who owns one of the better wine shops in town. The wines I poured were not selected by me but I knew most of them and as such could provide folks with information on the various selections. One wine in particular caught my attention -I have had this in various vintages, always a good performer in the past. This time it was the new release, and I was happily surprised to see that the quality was even better than before. I also noticed that most folks who tasted at my table (and most never heard of this) really enjoyed this wine.

I thought to myself : here we have a crowd pleasing wine with exceptionally good quality -something to seek out for a deal to feature in the NFTC newsletter So here it is for your summer drinking pleasure:

Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$

Dominio Del Plata Crios Malbec 2007 \$16 -or \$ 175/case of 12

I have wrote about this winery from Mendoza Argentina before: founded & owned by two of the nicest people I have met in the wine business, Pedro Marchevski and Susana Balbo. In the past I have featured some of the high end wines from this dynamic duo. While true artisans, like most wineries, they have to make some wines that they can sell at lower price & larger quantities in order to pay their bills. Susana makes a line of wines under the Crios label which often provide fantastic value. In most years she pulls her best barrels to make the high end "signature" wines made in small quantities, which sell at top dollar. What is less known is that some of the other barrels which were made from top selected grapes end up in some of the Crios line wines. Based on what I tasted , I strongly suspect that some excellent material went into the 2007 Crios Malbec as this was excellent juice. The reality is that to get this kind of quality you can not afford to "grow" wine to sell at this price point-not even in Argentina, a wine producing country known for some of its great wine values.

The term used for this kind of wine in the business is "declassified" This is high end wine bottled in an affordable label - one sip and you will immediately notice the quality. This wine is soft yet lush; if you enjoy a good Merlot, chances are you will love this wine. Take a sip and the flavors keep coming. It is full of dark cherries, spices and Sandalwood. The flavors are rich and plentiful yet the wine maintains a nice sense of balance and elegance -a great glass of red to enjoy as a sipping wine on it's own yet there is also a nice note of smoke typical of good Malbec which makes it an easy match to food especially grilled meats. (and pretty much any meats that will

come off your BBQ this summer).

This is very versatile red and as I mentioned before a good crowd pleaser. Great now, and if you don't drink it all quickly -no problem, as this can easily age gracefully for another 2-3 years. A great value for \$16 and an even better purchase at a very modest price of under \$15/bottle based on our case deal.

Collector's Corner

Jumilla has been one of those back water areas of South Eastern Spain for years. In the arid hills near Valencia, under tough conditions and poor soils (perfect for growing great wine) locals have been growing Monastrell (Known as Mouvedre in France) and selling it in bulk for Generations. In the 1990's superstar Spanish importer Jorge Ordenez has put the area on the international wine scene by starting to import a group of wines which offered great flavor concentration and quality for a song. Modern Spain has been discovered. Traditionally the best wines came from the long established wine region of Rioja. In the late 80's areas such as Priorat & Ribera del Duero became household names with the international wine set, (with prices to match).

About 10 -15 years behind, Jumilla is now following. The first big international success came from rock star wine maker Chris Ringland from Australia with a wine called El Nido which now gets released at \$130. Soon the best vineyards were scooped up by eager wineries looking to expand and money & technology started a strong inflow to this once sleepy area. The wines that are coming out of the region are gaining recognition fast. With every new vintage new wines are being discovered and one thing is for sure: prices of these wines will continue to escalate as the wines garner more praise from the wines press and continue to be coveted by wine fans around the world. For now at least, prices are still a relative bargain as in today's offering.

Bodegas Y Vinedos de Murcia Sierra Carche Jumilla Spain 2005 \$43-

Please note :This is a pre-arrival* availability is very small, so please limit orders to a maximum of 6 bottles per person. This wine is expected to arrive by mid July. We are one of very few places that got offered this wine and in spite of the big ratings it is offered here below the suggested retail price of \$50. 96 point wines under \$45 don't stick around for long....

From Robert Parker's wine advocate : **96 points**

“The 2005 Sierra Carche contains 50% Monastrell, 25% Malbec, and 25% Petit Verdot aged for 13 months in French and American oak. Inky purple, the wine offers an array of scents which jump from the glass. Notes of toasty oak, pencil lead, tar, black cherry, blueberry, and blackberry are followed by a full-bodied, structured wine with gobs of flavor, terrific intensity, and a powerful palate impression. The wine is well-balanced with enough stuffing to evolve for 3 - 4 years. It will provide pleasure through 2025”

*pre arrival wines are obtained under a best effort basis -there is always a possibility that we will not get all of the wines we order, in which case we will allocate the arriving wine based on a first come first serve basis. Of course we will only take orders for wine we fully expect to obtain, but getting shorted by suppliers is unfortunately the reality in today's wine business. Thanks for your understanding.

Did you Know: Sale? What sale? We don't play games -in over 5 years since we started we have not has a single “sale”. We price the wine based on the best price we can obtain, for delivery to you in Colorado. (and ship out of state to where it is legal to ship). If we can, we will offer savings

based on a case purchase. We check prices on the Internet for any wine we sell. Sure we don't always have the lowest price though we sometimes are. If it's not a good deal we just don't go there.

events:

we usually feature other people's events in this section but why not have your event this summer: be it a dinner party, BBQ or maybe host an informal wine tasting for your friends. Give us a call we can help with ideas and get you some fine wine selections for your event

Thanks again for all your support and referrals, tell your friends, Cheers

Paul David, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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All orders are sold and shipped by a licensed Colorado wine retailer. Title passes to you, the buyer, in Colorado.

The buyer is solely responsible for the shipment of wine. We make no representations concerning your legal right to ship or receive wine into any state outside Colorado or any country outside the United States. By placing any wine order with us, you authorize Winepairings to act on your behalf to engage a common carrier to deliver your order to your selected destination.

Please note that **you must be at least 21 years old** to order or receive alcohol from this newsletter. All orders require the signature of a person at least 21 years of age.