

## **NAPA close out, another great 07 Rhone & Conterno DI**

**Happy T day to all.** The Holiday season kicks into high gear around this time and it can be a little overwhelming. A quick reminder that I will gladly arrange for some good wine selections for your holiday needs. I can put together a mixed case or offer some nice selections beyond the wines we feature here -as long as I know what you are looking for. Please contact me.

I have made some suggestions about selecting holiday wines in NFTC a few weeks ago (it was at the bottom portion of the newsletter). If you missed it - scroll down to the "Thanksgiving what should I drink" at the following link: [Thanksgiving](#)

On the lighter side -check out the link at the very bottom of today's NFTC for an amusing video clip.

A jam packed one edition today so let's dive right in:  
Wine maker Ed Sbragia passed through town several weeks ago and once again I was impressed with the overall quality of the wines I tasted from his collection. It reminded me of a wine we featured earlier in the year. His Beringer Chardonnay- one of those wines that is extremely versatile a perfect wine for holiday gatherings. Rich and flavorful it is a great sipping wine on it's own, yet it is well balanced with a good acidic backbone to pair well with a large variety of foods. I am glad that I managed to get a hold of a few more bottles and at the close out price it is an easy call.

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

## **BERINGER SBRAGIA "Limited Release" Napa Valley Chardonnay 2006.**

**\$28.50/bottle, or \$27-/bottle- with our cash discount** (checks are ok)

(compare to \$40-60)

A Napa Chardonnay that is tasty, not over done and affordable -well these are indeed hard to find.

The Deal: This is a relatively good buy at the regular price of around \$50. But these are tough economic times and this is exactly the price point where demand has taken a hit. So **we managed to find this rare bird on a close out list.** An opportunity -to find Oakville NAPA juice, highly rated, and from a top notch wine maker under \$30 is almost unheard of. Yet here we have a premium wine, at a price lower than most NAPA wineries basic juice.

This is not a wine you will often see on a wine store shelf. Most of the Beringer "limited production" series is distributed to high end restaurants. The style is perfect for that market, as it is a wine that can



be very enjoyable even at a young age.

**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 Winemaster Emeritus Ed Sbragia calls "unctuous."  
From Sbragias Tasting Notes:... 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."

**Robert Parker** in the Wine Advocate Dec 2007: **92 Points:**" the 2006 Chardonnay Sbragia Limited Release reveals an opulent tropical fruit character, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and hints of hazelnut, brioche, and honeysuckle as well as abundant glycerin and length. Good acidity provides balance and overall zest. Drink it over the next 3-4 years. Drink: 2007 - 2011"

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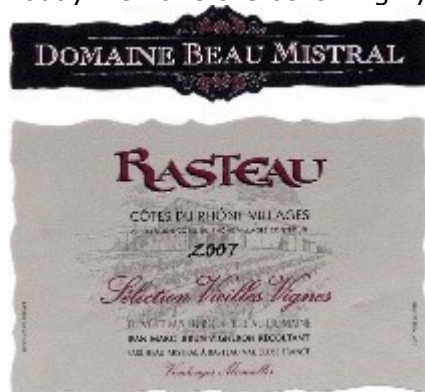
Yes! Another one of those amazing and very affordable **Southern Rhone from the incredible 2007**. These wines are disappearing quickly. I urge you to go long. You can't go wrong.

What I have been telling our readers for about a year and a half now is becoming common knowledge; **-this is a truly an exceptional year**. -add to it the recent hit the US \$ is taking, and any reorders we are seeing are coming at much higher prices. In most cases the wines are already completely sold out at the source. Today we have another wine that I was fortunate to order in the early part of the year. It's from the same estate we featured last week (I still have a few bottles of the Floriaelle, but less than a case if you missed it). In any case for a little more info on the producer -see the full story here [Beau Mistral](#)

## Domaine BEAU MISTRAL Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau St.-Martin 2007

**\$28.50/bottle, or \$27-/bottle- with our cash discount** (checks are ok)

Today we have the other highly rated wine from Beau Mistral



Jun 2009 **Robert Parker: 93 points**

"The last released Beau Mistral 2007, the Cotes du Rhone-Villages St.-Martin, is a brilliant effort composed of 45% old vine Grenache and the rest old vine Syrah and a dollop of Mourvedre. Proprietor Jean-Marc Brun (who made the finest wines of his career in 2007) has fashioned a peppery, earthy, dense purple-colored, full-bodied, heady wine that captures the beautiful fragrance of the top reds from the southern Rhone and Provence. Revealing plenty of garrigue and

black cherry notes along with hints of earth and truffles, this superbly concentrated, full-bodied 2007 possesses amazing staying power as well as length, and there is not a hard edge to be found. It should drink well for 5-6 years:" Drink 2009-2015"

**Collector's corner :**

## **Attention Piedmont fans CONTERNO Direct Import**

I wanted to get this out as soon as possible as I know we have many Conterno fans - Last year's DI sold out very quickly and with the consistent hi ratings these wines get they are always a quick sell out.

The Cascina Francia Barbera has been on fire in the past few vintages - considered by many experts to be the finest example of this grape in all of Italy, and it has the ability to age like a fine Barolo -a not to be missed wine . It just received the highest rating ever for a Conterno Barbera in the Wine advocate at 94 points !

The Cascina Francia Barolo hardly needs any introduction. While this is not a cheap this is a wine which can be compared with any fine wine from any of the world's finest -a true blue chip and one that is a reference point for Barolo lovers everywhere -it already received a 95+ point rating making it one of the top rated vintages ever for this wine. **The wine is expected to get here in a few months** and when released the DI prices will seem like a bargain.

**Giacomo Conterno Barbera CF 2007** Special DI pre arrival price **\$41** or **\$39** (with cash discount)

**Giacomo Conterno Cascina Francia Barolo 2005** Special DI pre arrival price **\$125** or **\$119** (with cash discount)

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**Just for fun:** We take all things wine seriously around here, but a friend send me a link to a U tube video that just cracked me up -a little humor never hurts... so here you go

[The new wine critic](#)

have a great Thanksgiving weekend everyone!

**Thanks for all your support and referrals.  
Tell your friends, share the wine, & spread the good vibe. 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.**