

New Wines We Like...Top Quality.

FLYING B WALLA WALLA CABERNET

\$59.99 ❖

Former NFL quarterback Drew Bledsoe has a winery in his hometown of Walla Walla, Washington. Bledsoe's Doubleback Cabernet is a triple-digit priced bottle. In a recent blind tasting we had a tough time deciding which wine to rank as our first place pick. When the wines were unveiled, we had an easy choice! This one resembles some favorite French Bordeaux but at a much more sensible price. It's named after Bledsoe's grandfather's old cattle ranch.

FRANZ HAAS "MANNA" Dry White \$39.99 ❖

Italy's Alto Adige region produces many exceptional white wines. Some of the most interesting are blends and a number of wineries are capable of piecing together a complex jigsaw puzzle. Franz Haas named his flagship wine after his wife. Manna is based on barrel-fermented Sauvignon Blanc & Chardonnay with tank-fermented Riesling, Traminer and Kerner. Try this in place of a California Chardonnay...great in the company of Asian-styled dishes.

PROOF Napa Valley PETIT SIRAH \$47.99❖

The DeSante winery made a couple of barrels of a wildly exotic Petite Sirah. It's dark and inky in color with some black plum-like fruit and a blackberry note. There's maybe a touch of a floral quality here, too.

GILLES BARGE 2014 CÔTE-RÔTIE SALE \$49.99

For many California and Washington State Syrah producers, the Côte-Rôtie appellation is a benchmark, as a wine such as Monsieur Barge's wine is a reference point. This bottling, though, does not carry a \$75-\$150 price tag. It's 95% Syrah and 5% Viognier, a wonderful bottle to pair with lamb, duck, beef or well-seasoned pork.

CASA PIENA 2012 Napa CABERNET SALE \$149.99 ❖

Former San Francisco 49er president Carmen Policy and his wife Gail own a small vineyard in the Napa Valley town of Yountville. We had included this in a blind tasting of triple-digit priced Cabernets and it was our top choice amongst a pretty strong field. Black cherry notes and some nutmeg and wood spices make for a delicious and special bottle.

DOMAINE MARC ROY GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN \$ 74.99

Winemaker Alexandrine Roy's "Vieilles Vignes" are roughly 70 years of age. The parcels resemble more a garden than a vineyard. This 2016 vintage is remarkably showy despite its youth and it will continue to develop and blossom over the next decade. You'll find red fruits such as cherries, raspberries and pomegranate along with a hint of oak.



DAME GAFFELIÈRE Saint Émilion SALE \$39.99

Here's another "second" wine that's superior to many "first tier" bottlings. It's from Château La Gaffelière, a prominent Saint-Émilion estate. It's predominantly Merlot with about 10% Cabernet Franc this vintage. It's sweetly-scented with some cedary, woody notes from its maturation in small oak barrels. Delicious now-2025.

TERRE NERE 2016 "ETNA ROSSO" \$23.99❖

The Terre Nere reds tend to be "built to last." We have one of their single vineyard wines in the shop and it's a keeper. Their 2016 entry level bottling, though, is medium-bodied and supple on the palate. If you're a fan of Pinot Noir, consider discovering this Sicilian red. Nerello Mascalese is the main grape.

PONZI 2014 Reserve CHARDONNAY \$36.99 ❖



Her studies in France's Burgundy region are beautifully displayed in a bottle of Luisa Ponzi's new Reserve Chardonnay. With a mere 10% new oak, this shows a smoky, toasty element that's a brilliant example of Chardonnay.

SMITH MADRONE CABERNET SAUVIGNON \$49.99❖

The Smith family makes a bright and airy wine from their vineyards near the top of Spring Mountain in Napa, as they have since the 1970s. This is from the 2014 vintage and displays all sorts of bright red fruit notes; currants, a touch of raspberry, a hint of plums and, despite a higher percentage of new oak, just a whiff of wood.

CHÂTEAU D'AMPUIS CÔTE-RÔTIE SALE \$159.99



The Guigal family makes a trio of \$350-\$600 bottles of single vineyard Syrahs. If you are looking for those, give us a call. But if you want to taste an exceptional bottling that's showier in its youth and of similar quality, splurge for a bottle of D'Ampuis. It comes from seven parcels of roughly 50 year old vineyards. The wine spends about 3 years in new oak barrels which they make themselves. We've described this as "the Rhône Meets Bordeaux." 2013 is currently in stock.

PAGO DE LOS CAPELLANES RESERVA SALE \$49.99

There are some remarkable wines in Spain's Ribera del Duero and one of our favorites is Capellanes' reserve bottling from 80-year-old Tempranillo vines. They employ a cold soak before starting the fermentation and the wine spends about 3 more weeks in tank and then it goes into French oak for 14 months. You'll find dark fruit and some wood spice notes. Dynamite now, but it can go 5-10+ years, too.

