

From: The BrightWines Beacon <lighthouse@brightwines.com>
Subject: new "august" wines, and "new to you" reruns
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To: The BrightWines Beacon

The BrightWines Beacon for 8/3/18: new "august" wines and "new to you" reruns

August can often be the best of summer - but also is a time for back-to-school and a time to enjoy the last few weekends of the official summer-season. Here at BrightWines there are some tasty NEW wines to highlight this weekend, plus new vintages of perennial favorites, and re-stocked customer favorites from previous newsletters this summer.

**** binge-watch (or case-worthy, shall we say) these tasty summer reruns:**

90-point Wine Spectator Piattelli Malbec @ \$11.67 AND 91-point W.S. Piattelli grand reserve Malbec @ \$15.99 per bottle (back in stock)
Cline Sonoma Syrah @ \$9.99 per bottle (back in stock)
Chateau Pas de Rauzan 2015 Bordeaux Superieur (wood cases) @ \$119.88/case (\$9.99 per bottle)
Wither Hills 2017 Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc (91 pts W.S. back in stock)

**** new vintages of perennial favorites:**

Shannon Ridge 2015 Lake County Cabernet Sauvignon - simply the BEST \$10 California Cabernet, period.
Shannon Ridge 2016 Lake County Petite Sirah, the best-rated \$10 California Petite Sirah, period.
new fresh 2017 vintage of Piattelli Torrontes (rated 88 points Wine Spectator) @ \$10.99 per bottle

**** NEW "august" wines and a couple that are at least perhaps "new to you":**

Affordable Luxury, a Dry Creek Zinfandel @ \$19.99 per bottle
the circus is in town, El Circo "Acrobat" Garnacha from Carinena, Spain @ \$8.99 per bottle (sale price)
Trediberri Barbera d'Alba @ \$19.99 per bottle (back in stock after last weekend's tasting)
Darnaud 2016 mis en bouche Crozes-Hermitage (last 3 cases of the French feature)
famed Vienna, Austria winery: new Gruner Veltliner and Dry ROSE of Zweigelt by Landhaus Mayer!

**** binge-watch (or case-worthy, shall we say) these tasty summer reruns:**

PIATTELLI 2016 rserve MALBEC-TANNAT @ \$11.67 per bottle (\$139.99/case)

Suggested Retail: \$16 (July 2018 Wine Spectator)

From the new winery that is riding high (altitude pun-intended) for quality up in Cafayate, Salta. Hot off the press, rated 90 points Wine Spectator in the current July 2018 issue! "A rich and muscular red, offering espresso hints that flank the dark fruit flavors, accented by dried green herbs, with dark chocolate and Asian spice notes on the finish. Drink now through 2022. \$16 retail. 90 points."

(Lafite-owned Malbec/Cabernet from Mendoza) AMANCAYA 2015 reserve MALBEC-CABERNET @ \$14.99 per bottle (\$179.88/case)

This so-called Reserve Red Blend is a joint-venture wine between the Domaine Rothschild (Lafite) and the famed Nicolas Catena family winery from Mendoza, Argentina called Bodegas Caro. 85% Malbec and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. Rated 92 points by James Suckling (former Wine Spectator editor now scoring his own reviews) who notes: "This shows a depth of fruit and balance. Hints of sweetness in the center palate. Full to medium body, balanced and refined. A blend of malbec and cabernet sauvignon."

PIATTELLI 2015 Grand Reserve - Cafayate MALBEC @ \$15.99 per bottle (\$191.88/case)

Suggested Retail: \$22 (see Wine Specator, July 2018 issue)

From the new winery up in Cafayate, Salta for Piattelli that is riding high (altitude pun-intended) for top quality. Hot off the press too, this rated 91 points Wine Spectator in the current July 2018 issue! Wine Spectator notes: "A suave red, with plenty of chocolate accents to the blackberry, dark plum and dried cherry flavors. Asian spice notes come in midpalate, carrying through the ripe, rich finish. Drink now through 2022. \$22 retail. 91 points."

CLINE 2016 Sonoma SYRAH @ \$9.99 per bottle (107.88 per case = \$8.99)

New label on this Sonoma Coast estate Syrah which has always been our favorite "bargain" red by Cline (with apologies to the often impressive old vines Lodi Zin and the Ancient Vines series) and this new vintage is as good as ever. Blackberry mocha and even a hint of peppered bacon. Rich and full and Cline-smooth.

(wood case offer) **Chateau Pas de Rauzan 2015 Bordeaux superieur @ \$9.99 per bottle** (\$119.88/case)

Great wooden cases, and a very tasty and ready-to-drink "claret" style Bordeaux in a classy package from the great 2015 vintage. This is our 2nd vintage of Pas de Rauzan, so Bordeaux fans here might recognize it, and it's even better than last time just because the vintage is so good. A drink-now Bordeaux that's light-to-medium bodied, but with purity and depth - after all it's a Bordeaux Superieur designation!

WITHER HILLS 2017 Marlborough SAUVIGNON BLANC @ \$10.79 per bottle (sale)

Suggested Retail: \$14 (see Wine Spectator)

Wine Spectator rated 91 points, noting "Honeysuckle, peach cobbler and Key lime pie notes are aromatic, lush and expressive, set on a crisp, sleek frame, with plenty of juiciness and refreshment, finishing with a dash of grapefruit zest. Drink now. \$14 retail. 91 points."

** new vintages of perennial favorites **

Shannon Ridge 2015 Lake County Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$9.99 per bottle (\$119.88/case)

Simply the BEST \$10 California Cabernet, period, and the flagship red for Clay Shannon's eponymous winery. The 2015 vintage Cabernet has really come into form, just as we reach the last pallet the supplier has until the switch to new 2016. This always happens to good quality value wines from California, the vintages roll through faster than the wine can mature. This has lead-pencil, cassis, and smoothness balanced by just enough Cabernet grip and structure. AND remember who introduced Clay Shannon and Shannon Ridge to Minnesota in the first place - yes, it was BrightWines.

Shannon Ridge 2016 Lake County Petite Sirah @ \$9.99 per bottle (\$119.88/case)

The flagship wine at Shannon Ridge might be Cabernet, but the best-rated wine they make might just be the Petite Sirah (certainly for Wine Enthusiast). In fact, without a doubt this is the best-rated \$10 Petite Sirah in all of California over the past few vintages.

Piattelli Torrontes 2017 Cafayate, Salta Torrontes @ \$10.99 per bottle (\$129.99 for solid case)

Suggested Retail: \$16 (see Wine Spectator)

Wine Spectator consistently likes this version of the unique and classic Argentine white: "Bright, with tangerine, sweet pea and green peach flavors that feature engaging spicy notes. The crunchy finish lingers with dried peach accents. \$16 retail. 88 points."

** NEW "august" wines and a couple that are at least perhaps "new to you"

(Affordable Luxury) **Lake Sonoma Winery 2014 Dry Creek Zinfandel @ \$19.99 per bottle**

Tastes just like the name implies, and just as you'd imagine, and that's a GOOD thing!

(the circus is in town) **El Circo "Acrobat" Garnacha** (Carinena, Spain) **@ \$8.99 per bottle** (sale price)

Light and dry yet very juicy and fun with lots of almost jolly-rancher cherry and subtle spice.

Trediberri Barbera d'Alba @ \$19.99 per bottle (\$215.88/case = \$17.99 each)

Back in stock after last weekend's tasting, yep it was the "tasting winner"

Landhaus Mayer 2017 Gruner Veltliner @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$150 solid case)

This winery also has the famed "Beethoven" Heurige am Pfarrplatz in Vienna. ALSO - **inquire about their fantastic - but Affordable Luxury priced - "Nussberg" designation Gemischter Satz white!**

and because we are doing dry Rose/pink wines every weekend this summer...

Landhaus Mayer 2017 Rose of Zweigelt @ \$14.99 per bottle (\$159.99 per case = \$13.33 each)

That's all folks! Some new, and some "new to you" I'd think, and of course ALL of these are "Tondo Tondo" or "just right" (to borrow the term from last week's newsletter).

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

brightwines.com 651-748-0793

2420 Margaret St, North Saint Paul, MN 55109