

**From:** The BrightWines Beacon <lighthouse@brightwines.com>  
**Subject:** **Fall SALE Sneak Preview!**  
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**To:** The BrightWines Beacon

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### **The BrightWines Beacon for 10/25/19 - 10/31/19**

**This week at BrightWines is the traditional "Fall Sale" SNEAK PREVIEW Weekend!** The BrightWines Fall Sale (BFS-19) begins already with the traditional in-stock, in-store "Sneak Preview" of some of the many new wines and re-stocked autumnal favorites and trade-show and special event wine-finds that have already arrived and are ready to go for the Fall Sale. The full sale will run through November 16th, which is 3 full weeks! In-stock now at **BrightWines Fall SALE prices - NEW arrivals plus some great re-stocked favorites!** The "Sneak Preview" of in-stock new arrivals and re-stocked favorites runs through Halloween, so let's start off with some ideas for that!

\*\* re-stocked favorites, **fun and thematic for Halloween!** Highlights include:

**COLOSSAL Red Blend** (90-points and "Top 100" Wine Spectator, Casa Santos Lima winery) for **just \$10.79 each**  
the two BEST wines in the FREAKSHOW series @ \$15.99 sale prices... **Freakshow CHARDONNAY** (with the Mermaid label) and **Freakshow RED Blend** (the Wolfman label)  
and MORE... see The View from the Top for some good wines with fun labels for Halloween entertaining!

\*\* **more 90 to 93 point rated NEW and re-stocked wines, including "Top 100 Best Buys" and some Affordable Luxury**

**92 points** Wine Enthusiast for the current 2016 **Shooting Star Barbera** (Jed Steele) @ \$12.99 each

**90 to 93 points** (W.E. and W.S. and J.S. and R.P. and V and D) for 3 **new 2017 Mendoza, Argentina reds by La Posta @ \$12.99**

93 point rated "one of the best ever" (RP) **Rosso di Montalcino** 2016 @ \$33.33

**90 points and "Top 100 Best Buys"** W.E. Alvarez de Toledo (Bierzo, Spain) @ **\$8.99 per bottle**

and more! (new vintage of 3 **Degrees Willamette Valley Pinot Noir**, and **Hahn GSM red**, etc, etc) See Bright Lights for details.

\*\* **UPCOMING TASTINGS (winemaker meet-and-greet this coming Weds evening, October 30th**

RSVP by email to attend, see The Lamp is Lit...

### **THE LAMP IS LIT: Store Hours and Tasting Schedule** this weekend, through Halloween

\*\* **UPCOMING TASTING: this WEDNESDAY October 30th from 6:30pm - 8pm, winemaker tasting with Forlorn Hope!**

**RSVP by email is required to attend this special winemaker meet-and-greet tasting.** Come meet Matthew Rorick, founder and winemaker for Forlorn Hope (how's that for Halloween theme) the winemaker who's been called "one of the most progressive winemakers in California". His Queen of the Sierra white and red are both Smart Buys, plus we'll taste several tiny production "Affordable Luxury" whites and reds with Matthew Rorick himself guiding our tasting. RSVP, reply to this newsletter or inquire with Dave to attend - space is limited to 25 to 40 total attendance.

\*\* Monday October 28th - Saturday November 2nd, OPEN REGULAR HOURS most of the week

MONDAY & TUESDAY: OPEN from 11am to 6pm, or later (daily hours)

WEDNESDAY Oct 30th: OPEN from 11am to 6:30pm, plus "RSVP required" winemaker tasting at 6:30pm

THURSDAY Oct 31st: OPEN from 10:30am to 5:30pm (closing early for Halloween activities)

FRIDAY November 1st: OPEN from 10:30am to 7pm, plus in-store tasting to be announced

SATURDAY November 2nd: OPEN regular hours, plus in-store tasting to be announced

### **THE VIEW FROM THE TOP: "Sip the Blood of the Vine"**

One of my favorite wine tee-shirts that I've acquired over the years is from a wine that only once was ever good enough quality wine to be featured at BrightWines. I have a "Vampire Wines" tee-shirt that says "Sip the Blood of the Vine" which I got at least a decade ago or longer along with some drinkable, and bargain-priced Romanian wines. Yes, I did feature them in October around Halloween, but there was a white and a red that were decent wines. The brand still exists, but the wines is not very good and frankly is not even from Romania anymore. This

fall I saw plenty of Halloween-themed wine labels at the trade shows, most of which were not very good - the labels were fun, but the wines were not. The labels were far better (but not always) than the wines, mostly. There are plenty of great wine labels covering up bad wines, of course. Heck, many of them are very popular brands.

This is not meant to be a critical article on wine labels vs wine quality/ There are just as many great labels on good wines, and even on great wines. Today, I just want to highlight a few things that happen to be part of my current selections. So if you happen to be entertaining with a Halloween theme, or just want to bring along one bottle to a party, here are some ideas for you...

**COLOSSAL 2015 Red Blend @ \$10.79 per bottle** (BFS-19 price)

90 points Wine Spectator, and Top 100 list. Black label, with block letters. Colossal is back! Same vintage - stock up.

**FREAKSHOW 2018 CHARDONNAY (mermaid label) @ \$15.99 per bottle** (sale price)

my best, and most popular oaky/creamy/rich Chardonnay for around \$15 bucks - new to the Freakshow lineup

**FREAKSHOW 2016 RED Blend (wolfman label) @ \$15.99 per bottle** (sale price)

relatively new to the Freakshow series, and the BEST red of the lineup. Petite Sirah and Zinfandel and Syrah.

**THE LOST CHAPTERS 2014 Napa Valley CABERNET SAUVIGNON @ \$25.99 per btl** (BFS-19)

Suggested retail prices of \$32 to \$40 abound online and at the winery. This tastes like Napa Valley, if you know what I mean. Smooth and ready. (the Keep overlooking ocean cliffs label theme)

**DELINQUENTE "Pretty Boy" (Australia) 2019 Nero d'Avola ROSE @ \$17.99 per bottle** (BFS-19)

**X, SJP (Sarah Jessica Parker label) Marlborough, New Zealand SAUVIGNON BLANC @ \$17.99 per bottle** (BFS-19)

These are just a handful of ideas, any good wine will do if you plan to "Sip the Blood of the Vine" for Halloween!

**BRIGHT LIGHTS: Sneak Preview of the BrightWines Fall Sale 2019**

Well over one hundred cases of new wines (and re-stocked customer favorites) have arrived into stock just since Weds this week! This weekend at BrightWines is the traditional "Fall Sale" SNEAK PREVIEW Weekend! The BrightWines Fall Sale (BFS-19) begins already this weekend with the traditional in-stock, in-store "Sneak Preview" of some of the many new wines and re-stocked autumnal favorites and trade-show and special event wine-finds that have already arrived and are ready to go for the Fall Sale. The full sale will run through November 16th, which is 3 full weeks (and 4 weekends, counting this weekend's Sneak Preview). In-stock now at BrightWines Fall SALE prices - NEW arrivals plus some great re-stocked favorites! Grab some cool great wines for great cool weather this weekend, and next week.

\*\* re-stocked Customer Favorites - plus New Vintages on highly-rated Smart Buys \*\*

(last cases of the vintage) **SHOOTING STAR (Jed Steele) 2016 Lake County BARBERA @ \$12.99 per bottle** (BFS-19)

**Rated 92 points by Wine Enthusiast!** "Delicious fruit flavors, subtle spices and a generous mouthfeel come together in this full-bodied, luxurious wine. It has a mouth-filling texture due to lots of fine-grained tannins, very ripe and pure black-cherry flavors and excellent concentration that helps extend the finish. \$15 retail. 92 points." Wine Enthusiast magazine,

(90 to 93 points, multiple reviews/options) **LA POSTA (Mendoza, Argentina) reds @ \$12.99 per bottle** (BFS-19)

**La Posta 2017 "Pizzella" MALBEC @ \$12.99 per bottle** (BFS-19)

93 pts James Suckling, 90 points Vinous, 90 points RP. Tons of medium rich-smooth boysenberry/blackberry.

**La Posta 2017 "Armando" BONARDA @ \$12.99 per bottle** (BFS-19)

91 points (and Top 100 Best Buys of 2019) Wine Enthusiast, 91 pts JS, 90 pts Vinous. Mendoza's answer to Barbera.

**La Posta 2017 "Paulucci" MALBEC @ \$12.99 per bottle** (BFS-19)

90 pts WE, 91 pts JS, 92 pts Deschordos. Darker mocha blackberry richness.

(90-point rated Chilean) **ARAUCANO 2017 Colchagua Reserve CARMENERE @ \$12.99 per btl** (BFS-19)

(Top 100 Best Buys, Wine Enthusiast) **Alvarez de Toledo (Bierzo, Spain) @ \$8.99 per bottle** (BFS-19)

Back in stock! Same vintage as in my previous newsletter features. Smooth rich red.

(new vintage of top-rated Smart Buy) **Maysara "3 Degrees" 2017 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir @ \$17.99 per btl**

(new vintages of best-values from HAHN)

**HAHN 2017 GSM (grenache/syrah/mourvedre) @ \$10.79 per bottle** (BFS-19)

**HAHN 2018 PINOT GRIS @ \$10.79 per bottle**

**HANH 2017 Central Coast MERLOT @ \$10.79 per bottle**

**HAHN 2017 SLH Santa Lucia Highlands PINOT NOIR @ \$17.99**

(affordable luxury) **Canalicchio di Sopra 2016 Rosso di Montalcino @ \$33.33 per bottle** (very limited)

Another in a string of truly great, and drinkable now, 2016 Tuscan wines. Robert Parker's Wine Advocate called this one "one of the best Rossos I have ever tried" and shows why I love the 2016 Tuscan reds so much. We have to wait a couple years for the Brunello 2016 and even for Classico Riserva 2016 wines, but the Rosso Toscana, Chianti, and Rosso di Montalcino options I've been featuring are current, and noteworthy! **Rated 93 points by Robert Parker's Wine Advocate**, who says: "The 2016 Rosso di Montalcino opens to an extraordinary nose that is tart and sweet, fruity and spicy all at once. The wine is so full and generous, it almost comes out of left field. I guarantee that you would not recognize it as a Rosso in a blind tasting. The mouthfeel is tight, compact and slightly sour or bitter, but the energy generated from all the volume on the bouquet is enough to win your heart and mind. **This is one of the best Rossos I have ever tried. 93 points.**" (Monica Lerner) And ALSO rated 92 JS and 90 points WS just for good measure, who adds: ""A mix of rose, strawberry and cherry flavors, this red is supple and elegant, with enough structure for balance." (Wine Spectator)

Dave says: only 5 six-packs worth of this wine were available at retail locally for this fall, in-stock now!

All this above, and MUCH MUCH MORE are IN-STOCK NOW with more to come next week and into the week after. Word to the wise: not only does BFS-19 mean the "BrightWines Fall Sale" but it also means the BEST Fall Sale, starting now with this weekend's Sneak Preview on through the first 3 weekends of November too...

LASTLY... did I mention that **COLOSSAL 2015 Reserve Red is back** in stock? The same **90-point, Wine Spectator "Top 100 list" red from Casa Santos Lima in Portugal**. Darker and fuller than Silk and Spice, smoother but as highly rated as a top Douro red. **10 cases in-stock now at \$10.79 per bottle** (BFS-19 price).

That's (nearly) all for today. The Sneak Preview fun starts Saturday this weekend and continues through Halloween, and then really kicks into high gear for the first weekends of November. Remember to RSVP for the Sneak Preview tasting tomorrow/Saturday evening, or the winemaker tasting this coming Weds evening with Forlorn Hope. Enjoy this fine fall weather too! -Dave

**\*\* postscript \*\*** What's with that Sarah Jessica Parker reference up in The View from the Top?

**X, SJP 2019 Marlborough, New Zealand SAUVIGNON BLANC @ \$17.99 per bottle**

This was one of the "new wines" with a fun label that I found at this year's wine wholesaler trade-show circuit in September. I did not realize this was a "celebrity" wine, I just tasted it as a new fresh 2019 vintage from Marlborough because I was looking for good new NZ - SB wines to offer this fall. I quite liked the wine, and then heard the story. I checked it out afterwards, and it's legit, and in-stock now! BrightWines is one of the few MN retailers to have any, so we're in on the ground floor - sorry, no SJP meet-and-greet tastings scheduled just yet...

<https://www.winespectator.com/articles/wine-talk-sarah-jessica-parker-tries-on-wine-sauvignon-blanc-Invivo>

<https://www.winemag.com/2019/08/01/sarah-jessica-parker-Invivo-wine-sauvignon-blanc/>

*"October in scarlet and russet and grey is hymning of plenty and wine."  
James Riggs (Wild Flower Lyrics and Other Poems, 1897)*

*"Hail, old October, bright and chill... spice high the bowl and drink your fill."  
Thomas Constable (Old October)*

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