

From: The BrightWines Beacon <lighthouse@brightwines.com>
Subject: Dave's Top Picks for Labor Day Weekend
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BRIGHT LIGHTS: spectacular offer on **WOOD CASES** of a lovely Tuscan red plus some "Wine al Fresco" picks too

**** RARE and LIMITED offer on lovely WOOD CASES of a nicely rated, big-name, Tuscan Rosso @ \$9.99 per bottle (case price) ****

BrightWines is the FIRST retailer in Minnesota being allowed to feature this **one-time shipment into the local wholesaler's warehouse of the special edition of WOODEN CASES of one of the most respected names in Tuscan red wines**. Not only do I have the first crack at these, but I have been offered a deeper-than-usual price for the month of September only! I have 20 cases available immediately and in-stock now, and depending on how well-received this offer is with my customers (it's a no-brainer if you ask me) I can order more after the holiday weekend. NOTE: **the prices do mix/match with other wines, but solid-case orders to claim a wood case please**. Supplies are limited and so is the pricing, so if you are out-of-town this weekend you will want to e-mail an order to reserve your case.

Based on the wholesale cost and the local wholesaler inventory of these wood cases, you will not see this offer widely distributed.

BrightWines is very PROUD to feature this one-time offer this month! This wine is available for purchase by the bottle too, and will be OPEN to TASTE on Friday evening at the Open House tasting. Supplies are limited and so is the pricing!

Castello Banfi 2007 CENTINE Rosso Toscana @ \$10.79 per bottle AND just \$119.88 for solid WOOD CASE (\$9.99 each)

One of the premiere names and wineries in Tuscany! Castello Banfi is home to perhaps the most famous of all Brunello di Montalcino and one of the most-visited winery sites (and the most picturesque) in all of Tuscany. CENTINE is their lovely "Rosso Toscana" **blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot from the GREAT 2007 vintage in Tuscany!**

Wine Spectator notes: \$13 retail. A fruity young red, with **crushed berry and mineral character** on a soft, silky medium-to-full body, with plump fruit and a clean finish. **Always good value.** 87 points."

Wine Enthusiast notes: "\$13 retail. Polished stone, mineral and milky blueberry tones make up the dense fabric of this **well-concentrated blend** of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Banfi's Centine is **inky and dark in appearance** and offers aromas of raw fruit and Indian spice. The **mouthfeel is chewy and soft.** 87 points."

DAVE notes: The **wood cases look great, smell great, and are very solidly constructed; just the wine inside them!** A no-brainer if you are a fan of GOOD quality but still everyday-drinking Tuscan red wines and/or want to add a nifty wooden case to your collection, or both!

Castello Banfi 2007 CENTINE Rosso Toscana @ \$10.79 per bottle AND just \$119.88 for solid WOOD CASE (\$9.99 each)

**** Wine al Fresco:** some white and rose suggestions from Bordeaux, and two lovely reds from Chile, perfect for outdoors enjoyment **

As I mentioned in the wine al fresco article above, experience has taught me that the combination of fruit and herbs that many Chilean reds (like Carmenere) have to offer seem to shine when sniffed and sipped out-of-doors. With that in mind, here are Dave's Top Picks in-stock now!

NOVAS (Vinedos Emiliana) 2005 limited selection Cabernet-Merlot @ \$9.99 per bottle AND/OR \$99.99 per case (just \$8.33 each)

The final cases available (8 total) on this supplier closeout pricing have arrived and are in-stock now. Mix/match OK for case pricing.

Suggested Retail: \$16 (see Wine Spectator)

This wine is made with the help of famed Chilean consulting winemaker Alvaro Espinoza Duran and is made from certified organic vineyards by Vinedos Emiliana. WINE SPECTATOR notes: "\$16 release price. **Polished, with good concentration to the black cherry, currant, vanilla and toast** notes. The fleshy finish shows a coffee hint."

NOVAS 2005 limited selection Cabernet-Merlot @ \$9.99 per bottle, \$99.99 per case (just \$8.33 each) a savings of 48% off original retail.

TERRA ANDINA 2007 reserva CARMENERE @ \$11.99 per bottle AND \$129.99 per case (just \$10.83 each, mix/match is OK)

We are nearing the end of the vintage on my personal favorite for a moderately-priced Carmenere. I just re-stocked with 10 cases and told my rep (who is on vacation now) to update me when he gets back as to their remaining inventory. But while supplies last this is the one to buy for the price! Wall Street Journal's Best of Tasting in their Carmenere article last winter. "Very Good. Best of tasting. Distinctive, with black pepper and green pepper. Relaxed, earthy and warming, with roasted fruits and a long, meaty finish."

As much as I enjoy a good red wine "al fresco" a nice and **complex and refreshing white wine (or dry rose) might be the most popular "wine al fresco" choice** you could make. And moreover, when it comes to refreshing AND complex whites and dry rose, it is hard to beat the wines from Bordeaux. Every summer I bring in a slate (pun intended) of good quality white and rose wines from one of my favorite small importers of petite chateaux Bordeaux. This year's shipment arrived in two chunks, the second half of which arrived several weeks ago. Supplies are good for now, but if history is any guide by mid-autumn I will be wishing I bought more of them!

Any of these would be an ideal wine al fresco for Labor Day weekend! I will list them in price order, ranging from \$10 to \$15 per bottle. And if you want to taste a couple of these wines, I am sure that one or two will be open to taste on Friday evening during the open house tasting.

Chateau du Barail 2009 Bordeaux Blanc @ \$10.99 per bottle

Perennial favorite white Bordeaux in a modern citrus-forward style. Case Price (mix/match is OK) \$119.88 (\$9.99 each)

Chateau de Marsan 2009 Bordeaux rose @ \$11.99 per bottle

Classy dry Rose from the same producer as Chateau Lestiac (see below). Case Price (mix/match is OK) \$129.50 (\$10.79 each)

Chateau Lestiac 2009 Bordeaux Blanc Sec @ \$11.99 per bottle

Dave's Top Pick for fans of traditionally-styled dry white Bordeaux. Case Price (mix/match is OK) \$129.50 (\$10.79 each)

Chateau Lamothe-Vincent 2009 Bordeaux Blanc @ \$11.99 per bottle

Sauvignon Blanc - Semillon blend, one of last year's customer favorites. Fuller style. Case Price (mix/match is OK) \$139.99 (\$11.67 each)

Chateau Lamothe-Vincent 2009 Bordeaux Rose @ \$11.99 per bottle

This winery is actually better known for Rose than for white. Case Price (mix/match is OK) \$139.99 (\$11.67 each)

Chateau Landereau 2009 Bordeaux Clairet @ \$12.99 per bottle

Bordeaux Clairet is a special appellation for the darkest/richest dry Rose in Bordeaux! Case Price (mix/match is OK) \$149.99 (\$12.50 each)

Chateau Landereau 2009 Entre-Deux-Mers @ \$14.99 per bottle

My new favorite, and from an appellation that applies to white Bordeaux only. Case Price (mix/match is OK) \$155.88 (\$12.99 each)

Just a couple of final thoughts before we truly commence the long holiday weekend, a few famous words on wine that seem appropriate to the idea of Labor Day and the idea of wine al fresco!

"Wine moistens and tempers our spirits and lulls the cares of the mind to rest... it revives our joys and is oil to a fading lamp of life." -- Socrates

"Give me books, French wine, fruit, fine weather and a little music played out of doors..." -- John Keats

"Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance." -- Benjamin Franklin

Here's wishing you all a wonderful holiday weekend. If you plan to include some Bright Wines in your weekend please feel free to e-mail an order, or stop in during my holiday hours, or perhaps even RSVP to attend one of the tastings. I intend to have an enjoyable holiday weekend here, and I wish you all the same! --Dave

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