

From: The BrightWines Beacon - lighthouse@brightwines.com
Subject: the Holiday Season in 2020 Vision
Date: December 11, 2020 at 6:56 PM
To: newsletter@brightwines.com

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The BrightWines Beacon for December 11th/12th, 2020

(to the tune of Happy Holiday by Andy Williams)

*It's the holiday season... and BrightWines has, a good wine, for every taste - and every style!
It's the holiday season... so whoop-de-do, and don't forget, affordable luxury coming up next.*

Yes, it's the holiday season, we're only 2 weeks from Christmas and 3 weeks from New Year's. I'm sure for most of us, the new year can't get here fast enough. So just a reminder and some gentle encouragement to savor "the holiday season" of 2020. There's plenty to enjoy if we have the right approach.

And speaking of the right approach, I thought I had it nailed down with my stated intention to send out The BrightWines Beacon on the Monday evenings of December 2020, to compensate for the Thurs/Friday dates for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. **The first newsletter of December was the BORDEAUX offering**, and many-many of you responded in a big way to that newsletter. **INQUIRE if you missed it**, stocks are limited but I do have a wide range of great Bordeaux to offer. Then for this week, many more of you noticed that I did not get out a Monday "send" this week. It turns out that I needed to spend the early part of this week re-ordering, re-stocking, and replenishing my selections so that I'd have some good wines and good quantity on hand. Thankfully, this weekend is not a holiday weekend just yet...

My tradition over the years for the 3 major December newsletters has been to follow a pattern of themes like "Entertaining with Wine" and "The Gift of Wine" and of course the famous "Champagne" newsletter and tastings to cap the year. For 2020 with the change in how (and how many) folks are gathering, and the fact that (sadly) we won't be able to have the Champagne tastings, I'm going to adjust the pattern just a bit. **Today's newsletter will be "Christmas Cookies: wine comfort-food and wines for the whole season"** and next week (maybe Monday, but probably midweek) will be **"The Gift of Wine, part 1, Smart Buys and Affordable Luxury"** and the following week (definitely on the Monday) **will be "The Gift of Wine, part 2, Making Spirits Bright"** which will have a listing of some of the fun spirits and other interesting wines and individual bottles I have at this time of year. And the final newsletter of 2020 (again on the Monday) instead of being Champagne, will instead be the return of the every-so-often theme of the **"BrightWines Top 20 of 2020" as the newsletter theme that last Monday of 2020**. So that's my plan, we'll see if I can stick to it. Let's get to it...

**** Christmas Cookies: comfort food wines and great values for the whole season!**

Re-stocked and replenished with new picks too. Highlights include:

favorites from Thanksgiving's Pacific Northwest feature like the Elk Cove Pinot Gris and the 3-legged Red by Dunham Cellars and the Treveri Blanc de Noirs Brut, and the 91-rated Milbrandt Merlot and Milbrandt Pinot Grigio, as well as other Thanksgiving favorites like the Pedroncelli Russian River Pinot Noir, and Pinta Negra, and Kalpela Vineyards Pinot Noir and Mendocino old vine Zinfandel, and also favorites from the fall sale "stock-up" like Silk and Spice, and Highlands 41 "Darkness" red blend, and Witness Mark Chardonnay and Witness Mark Red Blend, and newer favorites too the Koha Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand. Plus NEW wines from \$7.99 to \$15.99 like a fresh shipment of GLUHWEIN and a Russian River Sauvignon Blanc and a tasty bargain Rosso from Piedmont, Italy and MORE. Read on to BRIGHT LIGHTS for the full listing.

**** Dave as Personal Shopper:** let Dave pick out a range of wines to fill your pantry for the holidays. Just tell me how much wine, what sort of styles, and what sort of prices and I'll pick out mutual favorites to save us some time and keep the crowds to a minimum this weekend and next weekend at BrightWines.

THE LAMP IS LIT: Store Hours and Shopping Preferences

BrightWines is OPEN regular hours for curbside and/or for in-store pickup and I do prefer to focus on **new-or-existing orders only**. I do realize it's not always possible to be 100% "orders only" and still offer good responsive customer service, so I'll do my best to be flexible... but just remember that **I am limiting the in-store browsing and not holding in-store tastings** until further notice. And if you prefer the in-person shopping experience, it's still a good idea to begin with an email to Dave so we can be on the same page and efficient over the process. Help me help you, in other words!

When you email an order, please indicate your pickup timing and plans (advance notice is preferred) and remember that masks are required inside BrightWines during in-store pickup.

email Dave@BrightWines.com OR just REPLY to this newsletter. For call-ahead, my office number is 651.748.0793 (landline, no texting).

**** SATURDAY December 12th: OPEN from 10:30am to 5:30pm or later**

Open for new email orders, for existing email orders, and for new "dave as personal shopper" pre-packed orders (curbside, or in-store pickup) email Dave@BrightWines.com OR call 651.748.0793 (landline, no texting) OR just REPLY to this newsletter

When you email an order, please indicate your pickup timing and plans, and remember that masks are required inside BrightWines for in-store pickup.

**** MONDAY & TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY December 14th-15th-16th: OPEN from 11am to 6pm**

Open for new email orders, for existing email orders, and for new "dave as personal shopper" pre-packed orders (curbside, or in-store pickup) email Dave@BrightWines.com OR call 651.748.0793 (landline, no texting) OR just REPLY to this newsletter

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**** THURSDAY & FRIDAY December 17th and 18th: OPEN from 10:30am to 6:30pm**

Open for new email orders, for existing email orders, and for new "dave as personal shopper" pre-packed orders (curbside, or in-store pickup) email Dave@BrightWines.com OR call 651.748.0793 (landline, no texting) OR just REPLY to this newsletter

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** NEXT WEEKEND and the NEXT WEEK too: OPEN REGULAR HOURS (stay tuned for upcoming newsletters with more details)
Open for new email orders, for existing email orders, and for new "dave as personal shopper" pre-packed orders (curbside, or in-store pickup)
[email Dave@BrightWines.com](mailto:dave@BrightWines.com) OR call 651.748.0793 (landline, no texting) OR just REPLY to this newsletter
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BRIGHT LIGHTS: Daves Top Picks of New Arrivals and Re-Stocked Favorites

Today's newsletter is going to focus of the wide range of good values and some smart-buys that are NEW and/or newly re-stocked. All of the wines except for one particularly popular blend at \$17.99 per bottle (the "Three-legged Red" by Dunham Cellars is back) are ALL priced from \$7.99 to \$15.99 per bottle. **I'm calling these the "Christmas Cookies" wines, comfort food wines and great values for the whole season!**

** Dave's Top Picks of NEW Arrivals, new wines to fall in love with for the season **

Fuego Blanco 2016 Malbec-Syrah (Argentina) @ \$15.99 per bottle (\$191.88/case)

Bottled in a heavy-gauge bottle in Mendoza this is a blend of 60% Malbec and 40% Syrah grown in the Valle del Silex, in Pedernal (elevation 4900 ft) Argentina. "Earthy and smoky with spicy, berry fruit aromas. Full and firm palate and a warming finish. 92 points." (Decanter Magazine)
Dave says: not your casual Malbec, this is a serious dinner (or cellar) pick for Malbec lovers looking for a more dry and intense style. (limited to stock on hand)

Balletto 2017 Russian River Sauvignon Blanc @ \$15.99 per bottle (\$179.88/case = \$14.99 each)

Rated 88 points at \$20 retail by Wine Enthusiast. This is a classic "not New Zealand" example of Sauvignon Blanc from estate family vineyards in Russian River. Has peach and melon and even the barest hint of background vanilla from some partial barrel blending. Crisp yet soft and elegant, a Sauv Blanc for fans of the mellow, not of the zing. (limited to stock on hand)

NEXT 2017 Red Blend (by King Estate) @ \$11.67 per bottle (\$139.99/case)

Columbia Valley Red Blend of Syrah, Merlot and Cabernet. This is a fun label and a screwcap that would have made a great addition to my recent Pacific Northwest feature, but only recently came across my desk at this 1/3 off closeout price of just \$11.67 instead of \$17.99 (limited to stock on hand)

Monte Degli Angeli 2019 Piemonte @ \$10.79 per bottle (\$129.48/case)

This Rosso from Piedmont caught me totally by surprise. It's labelled as Pinot Noir, and there IS plenty of good Pinot Nero in Piedmont, especially in the Monferato D.O.C. between d'Alba and d'Asti. I joked with the supplier and told them they could probably sell more if they took the words Pinot Noir off the label. Piedmont purists don't be shy, Pinot Nero is allowed, and in this case it's really quite darn tasty and authentic rosso.

El Circo "Acrobata" 2018 Garnacha (Carinena, Spain) @ \$9.99 per bottle (\$119.88/case)

fans of Los Dos, take note. 'nuff said.

and last but not least.... **HOFBURG (Germany) GLUHWEIN @ \$7.99 per liter bottle** (\$47.94 per 6pk case)

limited to stock on hand, a new fresh shipment and new-look label, but from the same winery as we've loved before and is used by Christmas markets around the world...

** re-stocked FAVORITES: cases upon cases of wines re-stocked this week (some supplies may be limited) **

most of these need no introduction...

Dunham Cellars 2018 "Three-legged Red" @ \$17.99 per bottle (\$199.99/case)

Cab/Merlot/Syrah ??? This Washington red blend was a huge hit in my pre-Thanksgiving newsletter and its finally back in stock!

PINTA NEGRA Red @ \$8.99 per bottle (\$107.88/case)

SILK and SPICE 2018 Red @ \$9.99 per bottle (\$119.88/case)

WITNESS MARK 2018 Central Coast RED @ \$9.99 per bottle (\$119.88/case)

WITNESS MARK (light-to-unoaked) 2018 CHARDONNAY @ \$9.99 per bottle (\$119.88/case)

Chateau GICON 2017 Cotes du Rhone @ \$9.99 per bottle (\$119.88/case)

Milbrandt 2017 Washington MERLOT @ \$10.79 per bottle (\$119.99/case)

Milbrandt 2019 Washington Pinot Grigio @ \$10.79 per bottle (\$119.99/case)

CALCU 2015 reserve Colchagua CARMENERE @ \$10.79 per bottle (last few cases of the vintage)

KALPELA Vineyards 2017 Pinot Noir @ \$10.97 per bottle (\$129.99/case)

Kalpela Vineyards 2017 Mendocino Zinfandel @ \$10.97 per bottle (\$129.99/case)

KOHA 2019 Marlborough, New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$139.99/case)

HUGL 2019 Gemischter Satz @ \$12.99 per bottle (Gruener Veltliner, etc)

Zenato "San Benedetto" 2018 LUGANA white @ \$12.99 per bottle (more "oomph" than a inot Grigio)

Highlands 41 - Paso Robles - DARKNESS red blend @ \$13.33 per bottle (mix/match \$159.99/case)

TREVERI Cellars - Blanc de Noirs - BRUT @ \$14.99 per bottle (\$179.88/case)

Pedroncelli 2018 Russian River Pinot Noir @ \$14.99 per bottle (\$179.88/case)

Elk Cove 2019 Willamette Valley Pinot Gris @ \$15.99 per bottle (\$191.88/case)

and MORE like new vintages of perennially popular **La Posta Pizzella Malbec**, and **The Fableist Malbec** too, and **PETS Petite Sirah** and more...

and **COMING NEXT WEEK: Cabernet lovers take note!** New Arrivals in Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet blends, priced from \$10.79 to \$19.99 and from \$24.99 to \$49.99 too. Some have already arrived, so inquire with Dave@BrightWines if you are looking for a Christmas Cabernet!

That's all for today. Remember I'm preferring to fill new-or-existing orders for either curbside OR in-store pickup (at my new "front of house" setup) so email orders are preferred! Just reply to this newsletter, or use Dave@BrightWines, and remember that email orders are subject to confirmation and please indicate your pickup timing and plans in the the email order. Thanks in advance for your support and patronage at this busy time of year! —Dave

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

2420 Margaret Street
North Saint Paul, MN 55109

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