

From: The BrightWines Beacon <lighthouse@brightwines.com>
Subject: **Where's Dave? (livin' la vida vino)**
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To: newsletter@brightwines.com

The BrightWines Beacon for 9/15/17: I am here, and with a mid-September update.

So didya miss me? Or maybe you didn't even notice I was gone. Either way, **I'm back!**

Actually I did not really go anywhere, I just had a few days in the past week where I was on a different schedule than usual here. The schedule for The BrightWines Beacon newsletter was also affected too. It's already mid-September, the first two weeks of this month were a blur. Early September can be as hectic a time of year as any, with the transition from summer to fall, from vacation to school, from work to vacation, and this September has been a busier wedding season than I recall in a few years too for some reason. But as of this weekend, my schedule for the store and for the newsletter is back to normal for the rest of the month with only very minor exceptions. So now that I am back to a regular schedule, after a little personal time off each week so far in September, plus an offsite wine event last Wednesday, what is up at BrightWines? **We are livin' la vida vino!**

And there is more to come too! **Mid-to-late September is the start of the "trade show" season**, when **many of the local wholesalers and importers I deal with open their warehouses, rent reception halls or restaurant space, and open up their portfolio to showcase** to the local retail (and restaurant) trade. Many invite in their respective importers and wineries to participate. These events are an annual tradition in the early fall, and every year I try to attend as many as I can - always looking for new wines, sampling new vintages, checking out new labels, and most importantly looking for great DEALS to pass along to BrightWines customers. I will make sure that my schedule of store hours here at BrightWines is (mostly) unaffected, as many of my favorite suppliers have their events into the early evening. So with the exception of this coming Tuesday, when I will be closing at 4pm, my store hours should be mostly unaffected by these trade show events. But it's an exciting time of year to be in the wine biz.

**** RE-STOCKED FAVORITES @ extended SFS-17 SALE PRICES:** Runquist "1448" red blend, Runquist Barbera, Silk and Spice red, Macrostie Sonoma Chardonnay, Shannon Ridge Wrangler Red, Shannon Ridge Sauvignon Blanc, Vigilance Cimarron red, KONO Marlborough New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, and more! See Bright Lights for the list and the SALE prices!

**** NEW ARRIVALS: new labels, new vintages, new wines!** Highlights include:

CLINE old vine Lodi Zinfandel @ \$8.99 per bottle (**new label, new "old vines" bargain Zin**)

Mont Gras "Antu" reserve Cabernet/Carmenere (new upper-tier Mont Gras from Chile, via a new importer)

Viu Manent Carmenere (new \$9.99 value Carmenere, via new supplier to **replace Casas del Bosque - gasp, but fear not**)

CATENA "**Tinto Historico**" Malbec blend (a new Smart Buy from Catena, and really-really good)

12 e Mezzo 2016 ROSATO del Salento (**dry Rose from Apulia/Salento**, new and exclusive to BrightWines)

THE LAMP IS LIT: Store Hours and Tasting schedule

**** FRIDAY September 15th:** OPEN until 7pm (regular hours)

**** SATURDAY September 16th:** OPEN from 10am to 6pm - plus RSVP Guided Tasting at 6:15pm

-- tasting details --

This **Saturday evening, Sept 16th, from 6:15pm until 7:30pm will be a Guided Tasting of New Arrivals**, and re-stocked customer favorites. The weather is predicted to be rather dreary, so we'll focus a bit more on reds than whites - but we will for sure sample the new dry Rose from Italy, as well the other featured new arrivals this week. **RSVP by email if you would like to attend, just reply to this newsletter** and I will confirm space available through midday on Saturday as best I can. Space is limited to 24 tasters.

**** NEXT WEEK: MONDAY September 18th through Saturday September 23rd, OPEN (mostly) REGULAR HOURS**

note: trade-show season begins in earnest next week, with many of my favorite suppliers hosting trade-only portfolio showcase tastings in advance of the prime-time fall and holiday seasons. I will do my best to make sure that my schedule of store hours here at BrightWines is (mostly) unaffected. One exception is this coming Tuesday, I will be closing up early on Tuesday afternoon. Other than that, my schedule next week should be a regular schedule.

BRIGHT LIGHTS: Dave's Top Picks of the New Arrivals and re-stocked customer Favorites! (livin' la vida vino)

** NEW and exclusive to BrightWines! Are you tired of dry Rose yet? Hope not!

"12 e Mezzo" (Varviglione) 2016 Rosato del Salento (dry Rose) @ \$11.67 per bottle

We loved their PRIMITIVO this summer, now BrightWines the only case of their delicious dry Rose (Rosato del Salento) made from Negroamaro in Salento/Apulia. **Rated 89 points** (at \$14.99 retail) by Tastings.com who notes: "Pink coral color. Rustic, roasted aromas and **flavors of wild strawberry, ripe red watermelon**, vanilla marshmallow, and chocolate brownie with walnuts with a **velvety, crisp, petillant, dryish light body** and a delightful, medium-length"

** it's still "Summer For September" (SFS-17extended for BrightWines Beacon newsletter readers) with re-stocked customer favorites, and more!

(whites)

KONO 2016 Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc @ \$10.79 per bottle

lively grapefruit with mineral zing, top selling NZ of summer, 12.5% abv

Shannon Ridge 2016 Sauvignon Blanc @ \$9.99 per bottle

89 pts WE, fresh melons and delicate citrus - classic Lake County style

Stadt Krems 2015 Gruner Veltliner Austria @ \$10.79 per bottle

90 pts WE, our favorite Gruner of the year so far, lowest price ever

Luna Nuda 2016 vigneti dolomiti Pinot Grigio @ \$10.79 per bottle

it's back, "Alto Adige style" better than Santa Margherita for the money

MacRostie 2015 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay @ \$17.99 per bottle

our favorite classic California Chard of year, "the Rombauer of Sonoma"

(reds)

Runquist "1448" red blend 2015 @ \$12.99 per bottle

classic Runquist rich red blend, best price and hist best wine in years

SILK & SPICE 2015 red blend @ \$9.99 per bottle

most popular red blend around here, recently rated 90 pts W.E. (again). Portugal, but tastes California.

Shannon Ridge 2015 "Wrangler Red" Zinfandel blend @ \$9.99 per bottle

new vintage and new label, both are better than before (and it was always pretty good anyway)

Runquist 2015 Amador Barbera @ \$20.83 per bottle

the best red wine Runquist makes, in my (and others) humble opinions

** NEW ARRIVALS: new wines, new labels, new vintages, new suppliers, new favorites!

(new label, new vintage, new "old vines" Zin) **CLINE 2015 old vine Lodi ZINFANDEL @ \$8.99 per bottle** (sale price)

Although we are all longtime fans of Cline, and of course of Cline Zinfandel wines, it's actually been a couple of years since we have really liked their bargain-priced Zinfandel. Although we loved the 2012 (yes indeed) the 2013 was a bit less exciting, and we skipped over the 2104 vintage entirely here at BrightWines. Well, Cline has a new "old vines" version of their Lodi Zinfandel, in a new label, and the new 2015 vintage - and it is very impressive and tasty, especially at the bargain \$8.99 sale price available this month! I have 14 cases available.

(new from Chile/Argentina) **VIU MANENT 2014 CARMENERE @ \$9.99 per bottle** (\$119.88/case)

Fans of good \$10 Carmenere take note. Casas del Bosque is changing suppliers and is currently unavailable. Fear not, another old favorite is here! The Viu Manent is drinking superbly! It's a bit more dry, and a bit more for "fans of Carmenere" than the universally loved Casas del Bosque, but this tasty and serious and impressive Carmenere for \$10 (estate grown Colchagua, which is nice too).

(new from Chile/Argentina) **Mont Gras "ANTU" 2014 Cabernet - Carmenere blend @ \$15.99 per bottle** (\$89.95/6pk = \$14.99 ea)
70% Cabernet Sauvignon with 30% Carmenere. The "Antu" series from Mont Gras is a \$19 retail series of wines that have not been widely available here in MN previously. **This Cabernet would appeal to fans of both Napa Valley Cabernet style (it is lush and expensive-tasting) as well as fans of Carmenere from Chile.** This new vintage has no ratings, but the Antu series has recently done well in Wine Spectator!

(new from Chile/Argentina) **CATENA 2014 "Tinto Historico" MALBEC blend @ \$15.99 per bottle** (\$191.88/case)

A couple of months ago, BrightWines was among the very first in the market to offer this NEW wine from the famed Catena family in Mendoza, Argentina. This Tinto Historico (historic red) is mostly Malbec with a little Petit Verdot. It is the best Malbec under \$20 I have tasted in a long time. Rich blackberry tones with smooth vanilla shadings. I doubled my order from my initial order, and it just came in

Reminder: some of the new arrivals and some re-stocked favorites will be part of the Saturday evening Guided Tasting at 6:15pm this Saturday (RSVP by email to attend).

Have a good weekend, and "live la vida vino" --Dave

September days are here,

With summer's best of weather

And autumn's best of cheer.

-- Helen Hunt Jackson, September, 1830-1885

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

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