

From: The BrightWines Beacon <lighthouse@brightwines.com>
Subject: Bargain blasts, Brunch hunches, and Spring SALE Stalwarts
Date: May 19, 2017 12:35:26 PM CDT
To: The BrightWines Beacon

The BrightWines Beacon for May 5th & May 12th (and beyond): annual Spring Sale is on NOW through Memorial Day!

We have **Bargain Blasts**, and **Brunch Hunches**, and a wide range of **Spring SALE Stalwarts!**

For those of you expecting to see a pdf listing of the entire annual 2017 Spring Sale list, that list is coming soon. It will be emailed in time for next weekend, but for now is still a work in progress. In the meantime, the annual spring sale is indeed ON now and today's newsletter hits several highlights! IN-STOCK at SALE prices! So without further ado:

**** BARGAIN Blasts: \$5.99 per bottle, mix and match OR take your pick ****

(the BEST bargain Sauv Blanc in years) **BEACH HOUSE 2016 (by Douglas Green) SAUVIGNON BLANC @ \$5.99 per bottle**
I've been trying to remember the last time a \$5.99 Sauvignon Blanc was this good. It was several years ago that "120" was truly great, and last year's Beach House and this year's Sanama have been "very good" but not truly great at the \$5.99 price. Frankly the answer might be the Douglas Green label Sauvignon Blanc from two holiday seasons back. Well, guess what? The Beach House IS a Douglas Green Sauvignon Blanc, is also from South Africa, and is as fresh as can be - **a 2016 vintage that was bottled on March 15th of 2017. This could easily pass for \$10 (or more) New Zealand** but at a bargain blast price! This is the no-brainer to buy by the case to stock the cabin or for Memorial Day gatherings or for wedding and grad parties. I have a full pallet with my name on it, 30 cases in-stock now at \$5.99 sale price (\$71.88/case).

(classy Cabernet from Chile, for cheap) **Vina los Boldos SANAMA 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$5.99 per bottle**
The verdict is in: all 3 of the Sanama wines are very good for the \$5.99 price, nice and dry by comparison to "120" series, and the BEST of the three selections is the Cabernet Sauvignon for Cachapoal vineyards in Chile.

(new shipment, best price of the year) **RIB SHACK RED 2016 Pinotage/Shiraz blend @ \$5.99 per bottle**
The name says it all. By combining the natural smoke and spice personality of Pinotage with the red/black berry richness of Shiraz, Douglas Green has created a South African version of Shiraz that is designed for BBQ. By the way, the South Africans are famous for their weekend-long bbq gatherings called Braai - so it's no surprise, either.

**** BRUNCH Hunches: two great ideas for Spring Brunches or any time of day ****

PAMPLEMOUSSE (from France) Rose wine with grapefruit and peach @ \$9.99 per bottle
solid Case Price of \$107.88 if you want to stock the cabin or throw a party - just **\$8.99 each with the extra case discount**
Read "The View from the Top" section above for more background. This French rose is 8.5% alcohol, with a delicate hint of sparkle and sweet (very delicate) and rich peachy and pink grapefruit flavors galore. A screwcap bottle of a pre-made wine & juice beverage that is popular in France - some **BrightWines customers just recently had some of this very product in Paris!**
Check out this fun article from the end of April in the Minneapolis City Pages!
<http://www.citypages.com/restaurants/your-new-drink-for-spring-and-summer-low-proof-wine-blend-that-actually-tastes-good/419620523>
NOTE: Pamplemousse will be **OPEN FOR SAMPLING at BRIGHTWINES on Friday evening** between 6pm and 7:30pm

(another great Brunch hunch) **BOCELLI d.o.c. PROSECCO @ \$12.99 per bottle**
Yes, this is the family for Andrea Bocelli, yes that is his picture on the back with his brother, but no this is not a vanity plate wine - the Bocelli family has been making wine for over a century. But YES this is my best-selling Prosecco both at the holidays and in summer, and comes Wine Spectator recommended at \$19 retail!

**** Spring SALE Stalwarts ****

The full list pdf for the 2017 Spring Sale is yet to come, and hundreds of cases of stock and dozens of great new selections will be featured. For this "opener weekend" (pun intended) as fishing opener weekend is also the first full weekend of my annual spring sale - which will run all the way through Memorial Day weekend to the end of May. Some of the superb wines that will be stalwarts of the sale, and "go to" wines around here for the rest of spring are IN-STOCK now in good supply at SALE prices!

(\$7.99 days in May) **ILLUSION 2015 red blend @ \$7.99 per bottle**

New from Peirano Estate, a complement to The Other Red and The Immortal Zin. "Illusion" is Zinfandel, Merlot, Petite Sirah and Cabernet

(\$7.99 days in May) **CONO SUR (Chile) 2015 CARMENERE @ \$7.99 per bottle** (new arrival, best Carmeneres under \$10)

(\$7.99 days in May) **BOGLE 2015 California CHARDONNAY @ \$7.99 per bottle** (nicely oaky/butery)

(\$7.99 days in May) **Angels Tears 2015 Merlot/Cabernet/Shiraz @ \$7.99 per bottle** (Bordeaux meets down-under style)

This Merlot/Cabernet/Shiraz blend is a new arrival at 25% off. Like many red blends from around the world (like my popular Silk & Spice from Portugal) that are marketed to the U.S. market for red blend wines - this wine is more balanced, has more earth and spice, and more food-friendly than a comparably priced California red blend, but still plenty of fruit richness and smoothness.

(best under \$10 reds from Europe) **BACARO Terre Siciliane (Sicily) 2015 NERO d'AVOLA @ \$8.99 per bottle**

It's back, and the new vintage is as impressive as ever. This has always been the **best Nero d'Avola** (think Malbec meets Italy) **value from Sicily. Rich purple fruit depth, good supporting oak**, and a great value direct from the local importer - Gran Sasso, in Minneapolis.

(best under \$10 reds from Europe) **CABRIZ 2014 DAO vinho tinto (Portugal) @ \$9.99 per bottle**

The same shipment, same vintage, and same Wine Spectator Top 100 List (90 points, \$10 retail) spicy, red-fruited, dry Portugal

(best under \$10 reds from Europe) **LECHUZA (Spain) 2015 GARNACHA @ \$8.99 per bottle** (purple and peppery)

(best under \$10 reds from Europe) **Chateau Signoret 2014 Bordeaux rouge @ \$8.99 per bottle** (Star Trib pick)

(best under \$10 reds from Europe) **Chapelle Ste Arnoux 2015 VENTOUX rouge @ \$9.99 per bottle** (stoney and earthy, Rhone)

("not SB" and "not Pinot Grigio") **NEBOA 2015 Rias Baixas ALBARINO @ \$12.99 per bottle**

great 2015 Atlantic vintage means an impressive and expressive Albarino from Galicia, NEW to the market!

("not SB" and "not Pinot Grigio") **Stadt Krems (Austria) 2015 Gruner Veltliner @ \$11.99 per bottle** (90 points)

("not SB" and "not Pinot Grigio") **BACARO Terre Siciliane 2016 GRILLO bianco @ \$9.99 per bottle**

("not SB" and "not Pinot Grigio") **YALUMBA 2016 un-oaked VIOGNIER @ \$8.99 per bottle** (best in years)

("down under" back on top) **TERRA BAROSSA 2015 Barossa SHIRAZ @ \$11.99 per bottle** (91 points Wine Spectator)

Yes, as you probably surmised, the recent "down under" feature here at BrightWines was just part of the sneak preview for the spring sale.

This \$11.99 sale price was also the "case price" during that feature, and is 25% off the \$16 retail as listed in Wine Spectator magazine for this 91-point rated mocha/purple richness Shiraz. **TERRA BAROSSA 2015 Barossa SHIRAZ @ \$11.99 per bottle**

("down under" back on top) **WITHER HILLS 2016 Marlborough, NZ SAUVIGNON BLANC @ \$10.79 per bottle** (new 2016 vintage)

the latest and freshest vintage of a perennial spring/summer favorite here, the Wairau district of Marlborough is prime, best price since 2014

("down under" back on top) **JIM BARRY "The Cover Drive" 2014 Coonawarra CABERNET SAUVIGNON @ \$15.99 per bottle**

Cabernet lovers take note, Australia is not just for Shiraz - especially the famed Coonawarra district Cabs.

("down under" back on top) **HOWARD PARK 2013 Margaret River CABERNET SAUVIGNON @ \$19.99 per bottle**

91 points and "Editors Choice" by Wine Enthusiast. Cabernet lovers take note, Australia is not just for Shiraz.

**** New Arrivals in Dry ROSE/pink wines from around the world (a sure sign of spring) ****

The rose shelf is back, and back for the remainder of the spring and for all summerlong too! I have an entire shelf full of rose/pink, over 15 different options with more to come every week. Of the 15 selections, all of which are dry rose priced from \$7.99 to \$17.99 per bottle, here are handful of the latest and greatest, the newest of the new!

(new fresh dry Rose/Pink) **WITHER HILLS 2016 dry ROSE of PINOT NOIR @ \$11.67 per bottle** (New Zealand)

(new fresh dry Rose/Pink) **Pere Caboché (via Chateaufort du Pape) 2016 Vaucluse @ \$9.99 per bottle**

(new fresh dry Rose/Pink) **Ca' Maiol 2016 Chiaretto @ \$12.99 per bottle**

(new fresh dry Rose/Pink) **Chateau Pesquie 2016 Ventoux @ \$12.99 per bottle**
(new fresh dry Rose/Pink) **Rousseau Freres 2016 Touraine Noble Joue @ \$14.99 per bottle**
(new fresh dry Rose/Pink) **The Rose Garden 2016 (Boschendal) @ \$9.99 per bottle**
(new fresh dry Rose/Pink) **Deloach 2016 Rose (California) @ \$11.67 per bottle**
famed Russian River name, but this is a dry Rose of Barbera (not Pinot Noir) and sure is tasty!

**** more "7 days" in May: \$7.97 and \$9.97 clearance items, and some \$17.99 "Smart Buys" too ****

Bouchard and/or Mommessin 2016 Beaujolais Nouveau @ \$7.97 per bottle

gluggable and fruity yet dry with subtle pepper, drinking as well or better now than earlier this winter, if these we "cotes du rhone" at this price, they would be hugely popular.

Somdinou 2012 old vines Carignan (Terra Alta, Spain) @ \$9.97 per bottle (\$59.82/6pk)

Last 5 cases of an importer clearance that I have market down an additional \$24 per case. Original retail of \$20 means this is now 50% off!
This wine is a 75 year-old vines Carignan from Terra Alta, near Priorat. Wine Spectator notes: "This juicy red offers crisp black cherry and red plum flavors, with notes of smoke and spice. Light tannins and lively acidity impart focus, while licorice and floral details linger. \$20. Drink now." (Wine Spectator, November 2014)

HOWARD PARK 2016 Margaret River SAUVIGNON BLANC / Semillon @ \$17.99 per bottle (\$215.88/case, mix/match)

Suggested Retail: \$23 - \$25 (see W.E. and W.S.)

This fresh vintage that's not-quite New Zealand but not-quite Bordeaux Graves is part of the "Miamiup" label series for Howard Park. This Bordeaux-style blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon rated 89 points by Wine Enthusiast, who notes: "This is pungent, showing some sweaty, boxwood notes alongside lemony citrus fruit. It's light on its feet, with moderately intense lemon flavors that fade on the finish. Drink now. 89 points."

(90 point "Smart Buy" @ \$25 by Wine Spectator) **MACROSTIE 2014 Sonoma Coast CHARDONNAY @ \$17.99 per bottle (sale price)**

One of the best Chardonnay producers in California, Macrostie made "Rombauer-esque" Chardonnay years before Rombauer ever did. This new Sonoma Coast designation keeps all of the rich, creamy, smooth characteristics of a classic Macrostie but also has a lively fresh brightness too. **Rated 90 points by Wine Spectator** who also **designated it a "Smart Buy" at \$25 retail** (which would still be the lowest-priced Macrostie Chardonnay from this great Chardonnay specialist). The sale price of \$17.99 is a savings of 28% and is part of a special purchase offer for a limited time. This is the BEST Chardonnay under \$20 in the classic California style I have tasted recently, and I'm a longtime Macrostie fan who wishes it was available at a discount more often.

... and last but not least...

**** 91-point rated Affordable Luxury in Willamette Valley (Oregon) Pinot Noir with Minnesota origins ****

This is the first time their wines have been available here, and they were recently featured and pictured in the March 31st, 2017 Wine Spectator under the "newcomers at a glance" article on Willamette Valley. Patty Bjornson was here at BrightWines at the end of April, and I'm pleased to feature:

(Affordable Luxury) **BJORNSON 2014 Eola - Amity Hills (Willamett) PINOT NOIR @ \$24.99 per bottle**

Rated 91 points Wine Spectator, who notes: "Supple, expressive and generous, positioning the blueberry, currant, pomegranate and spice flavors against polished tannins, finishing with presence and transparency. Drink now through 2021. 525 cases made. \$29 retail. 91 points."

Whew, that's a lot to cover. But my **annual Spring Sale** is a big deal. **email orders accepted, and the store is well-stocked!** The sale is on NOW through Memorial Day weekend and the end of May, with much more to come! --Dave

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

www.brightwines.com 651-748-0793

2420 Margaret St, North Saint Paul, MN 55109