The BrightWines Beacon for weekend of August 24th/25th through August 28th - 31st, 2018

The annual Summer Sale at BrightWines is on NOW and continues through the August 31st version of The BrightWines Beacon newsletter, with wines and lists and stocks and prices all valid while supplies last - through Labor Day!

*For the rest of summer, drink the best of summer!*

** fully re-stocked dry Roses, their best prices of the season, 9 good examples of dozens of roses **

Chateau Barbebelle cuvee Madeleine 2017 Coteaux d’Aix en Provence @ $14.99 per bottle (sale price)
Chateau Barbebelle cuvee Madeleine 2017 Coteaux d’Aix en Provence @ $14.99 per bottle ($179/88/case)

mis en bouteille au chateau, grenache/cinsault/syrah, proprietaire/recoltant, locally imported, and it's the picture-perfect pastel pale pink!

MAS DONIS Montsant 2017 Rosat @ $12.99 per bottle (sale price)
My top selling Spanish rose of the year, and one of the best labels of the season too.

KLINKER BRICK 2017 "Bricks and Roses" Lodi dry ROSE @ $12.99 per bottle (sale price)
June 2018 Wine Spectator notes: "Crisp and vibrant, with dried cherry and orange zest accents. Grenache, Carignane, Syrah and Mourvedre. 87 points. $15 retail." AND the June 2018 Wine Enthusiast rated 89 points (also at $15 retail).

AIRFIELD (Washington) 2017 Rose of Sangiovese @ $12.99 per bottle (sale price)

ALTERA 2017 Grenache @ $9.99 per bottle ($119.88/case)
A "poor-mans" Provence style? Or maybe just a classic Rhone/Languedoc dry Rose. An early-season favorite which sold out in May, and again in July, fianlly back in stock!

Domaine de l'Idylle 2017 Vin de Savoie Rose @ $15.99 per bottle (limited)
From an independent vigneron in the French Alps comes this 11.5% alcohol dry Rose - the dryest, with the most zing, of any in-stock and it also happens to be one of the rarest too.

Tank Garage (Napa Valley) 2017 Rose @ $12.99 per bottle (sale price)
Napa Valley hip, Provence-inspired dry rose Mourvedre blend.

Cuvee JEAN-PAUL 2017 Cotes de Gascogne ROSE @ $8.99 per bottle ($100/case = $8.33 solid case price)
This dark pink blend of MerlotTannat/Cab Franc/Cabernet from Cotes de Gascogne is soft with exuberant red fruit tones overlaying a crisp, dry, refreshing summer screwcapped rose!

Portada (Portugal) 2017 Rose @ $7.99 per bottle (sale price)
softy and fruity but totally dry and not vinho verde bubbly

Ame de Vin 2017 Provence Rose @ $16.67 per bottle (sale price)
the "painted bottle" soul-of-wine Provence rose with the glass stopper, back in stock!

Landhaus Mayer 2017 Rose of Zweigelt @ $12.99 per bottle ($150 solid case)
This winery also has the famed "Beethoven" Heurige am Pfarrplatz in Vienna. Be sure to inquire about their delicious Gruner Veltliner too AND also their fantastic (Affordable Luxury) "Nussberg" designation Gemischter Satz! (a really good bone dry white blend)

** New TEMPRANILLO reds in 3 styles **

LOPEZ de HARO 2015 RIOJA Crianza @ $11.99 per bottle
new to our market, a classic Tempranillo Rioja matured in barrel "crianza style"
COLOREA 2016 TEMPRANILLO-Syrah @ $9.99 per bottle
Suggested Retail: $12 (see Wine Enthusiast, and others) $119.88 per case
Rated 87 points VM and is also a current pick in the Star Tribune too - definitely a good "everyday" red wine. This has nice oaky body, good rich ripe fruit, an eye-catching label, and it's even a screwcap! Fans of modern Spanish wines AND fans of classic Rioja styles should also easily find something to like about this fun red wine.

LOPEZ de HARO 2013 RIOJA Reserva @ $14.99 per bottle
new to our market, a classic Tempranillo Rioja matured in barrel, true Reserva and tastes like $20+

** top-selling, and highly rated, "red blends" at $8.99 per bottle to $11.99 per bottle **

SILK & SPICE 2016 Red Blend (Portugal) @ $9.99 per bottle ($119.88/case)
Suggested Retail: $13 (see Wine Specator and Wine Enthusiast)
Wine Specator made this a "Daily Wine Pick" back in May, noting it to be: "A round, juicy red, with chocolate-covered cherry and macerated raspberry flavors mixed with spice, grilled herb and smoky mineral details. Moderate tannins. Touriga Nacional, Baga, Syrah and Alicante Bouschet. Drink now through 2020. $13. 88 points." AND Wine Enthusiast magazine rated it 90 points, noting: "This blend across different regions of Portugal celebrates the voyages of Portuguese explorers in the 15th and 16th centuries. It is a juicy, ripe wine, well structured and rich. With warm red fruits and balanced acidity, this smooth wine can be enjoyed now. $13. 90 points."

Klinker Brick 2015 TRANZIND red blend @ $11.99 per bottle (sale price)
Wine Specator (June 2018) notes: "Trim and zesty, with modest dried cherry and cracked green peppercorn flavors. Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2022. 87 points. $15 retail."

Shooting Star red blend "Scarlet A" (by Steele) @ $8.99 per bottle sale price ($107.88/case)
New bottling is now screwcapped, but it's the same nicely oaked blend of Cabernet Franc, Syrah, and more from Lake County.

** Smart-Buys in California wines including a 93-rated smooth red Zin **

Scott Harvey 2013 Amador County "mountain selection" Zinfandel @ $14.99 per bottle (sale price)
93 points at $24 retail from Tastings.com Very smooooth and classy Zin with a "blockbuster" rating even though it's not a heavy nor jammy style, it's an elegant style - not a blockbuster.

SIMPLE LIFE 2016 PINOT NOIR @ $10.79 per bottle ($129.48/case)
Rated 89 points (at $13 retail) by Wine Enthusiast, who says: "It has aromas and flavors of cherries, forest floor and cloves, plus a healthy streak of smoky, spicy oak. Moderate tannins give good grip on the palate and there is enough flavor concentration to fill the mouth and linger nicely on the finish."

POPPY 2015 Santa Lucia Highlands Reserve PINOT NOIR @ $15.99 per bottle

PHANTOM/Bogle 2016 Clarksburg CHARDONNAY @ $14.99 per bottle (sale price)
Suggested Retail: $18 various sources online, including Tastings.com and 17.99 at TotalWine too
Tastings.com "Highly Recommended" saying: "Aromas and flavors of pecan shortbread, lemon cream pie, and caramel cheesecake with a satiny, bright, fruity medium body and a polished, delightful, medium-length caramelized pineapple, vanilla gelato, and asian pear finish with soft tannins and heavy oak. Creamy chardonnay fans win be greatly satisfied by this decadent Clarksburg example."

JUGGERNAUT (by Phantom/Bogle) 2015 Hillside CABERNET SAUVIGNON @ $17.99 per bottle (limited)
This is new from Phantom/Bogle and only available (for the first time ever) until a new vintage next fall/winter in limited supply. My sales rep has been very resourceful in finagling more allocations of this wine to come our way from other markets, other sales reps, etc. and I keep selling it out. Just wait until you try this "wow factor" Cabernet, it's even better than the regular Phantom red!

** BARGAIN ALERTS **
MONTGRAS 2017 Reserve Colchagua CARMENERE @ $7.99 per bottle ($95.88/case)
Suggested Retail: $10 up to $12.99 (Wine Spectator and Total Wine online)
Previous BrightWines Price: $9.99 per bottle (spring 2018)
SALE PRICE: $7.99 per bottle, limited to one pallet only! (special purchase)
Wine Spectator recommends this new 2017 vintage Reserve Colchagua Carmenere as follows: "Features plenty of graphite and slate accents to the succulent plum and dark cherry flavors, with green herbal notes on the finish. Drink now." And DAVE says: Carmenere fans need to take note, as this is the best/cheapest bang for the buck for this style - period.

FAZIO "U Muntii" 2014 NERO d'AVOLA @ $7.99 per bottle ($95.88/case)
tasty BBQ-perfect dry red from Sicily, at a clearance price from the supplier!

GAZELA (new 2018 bottling) Vinho Verde) $5.99 per bottle ($71.88/case)
Perennial favorite bargain summer white has a new-look package, but is still the same fizzy and fun white from Portugal. 2018 bottling, just a few months ago. I plan to keep it stocked past Labor Day, but at $5.99 per bottle you never know (nor even care) how fast it goes!

PINTA NEGRA (by Adega Mae) 2016 Lisboa @ $8.99 per bottle ($107.88/case)
Smooth, rich, purple with subtle yet definite spice and boysenberry fruit. My favorite obscure varietal - Castelao. I loved this red last year (or was it two now) when the winemaker visited us. Castelao and Tinta Roriz (aka Tempranillo) blend from Lisbon area vineyards.

LOS VASCOS 2016 (Chile) un-oaked CHARDONNAY @ $7.99 per bottle ($95.88/case)
Suggested Retail: $13 (see Wine Spectator)
Both Wine Spectator and also James Suckling (he gave it a 90 rating) were impressed by this un-oaked Chilean Chardonnay. Here is the recommendation by Wine Spectator which is quite accurate to my impression when I tasted it "Fresh and crunchy, with Golden Delicious and ripe pear flavors that are well-spiced. $13 retail, 87 points."

COTE de PARADIS (South Africa) 2017 CHENIN/VIOGNIER @ $7.99 per bottle (sale price)
This Chenin Blanc - Viognier white blend from South Africa is a "Pine Ridge" clone that is more summery and peachy/fresh than a Vouvray.

** popular and highly recommended imports from A to Z (Argentina and New Zealand) **

AMANCAYA 2015 reserve MALBEC-CABERNET Mendoza @ $14.99 per bottle ($179.88/case)
This so-called Reserve Red Blend is a joint-venture wine between the Domaine Rothschild (Lafite) and the famed Nicolas Catena family winery from Mendoza, Argentina called Bodegas Caro. 85% Malbec and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. Rated 92 points by James Suckling (former Wine Spectator editor now scoring his own reviews) who notes: "This shows a depth of fruit and balance. Hints of sweetness in the center palate. Full to medium body, balanced and refined. A blend of malbec and cabernet sauvignon."

Caythorpe 2016 Marlborough New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc @ $10.79 each ($119.88/case = $9.99)
More rounded body than it's price competitor, Wither Hills, but has been a very popular classic New Zealand here in it's own right!

** Last but not least: special purchase (very limited) on MAGNUM bottles of red **

"Barter and Trade" (Field Recordings) 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon vol. 2 @ $33.33 per 1.5 liter magnum!
You read that right, the new and very tasty Washington Cabernet Sauvignon 2015 vintage, volume 2 of the "Barter and Trade" series by Field Recordings' winemaker, in rare 1.5 liter magnum bottles! This sale price translates to $16.67 for a standard bottle that would sell for $22 retail. Limited stock on these impressive magnums of Cab.

Shooting Star (by Steele) 2015 Blue Franc @ $19.99 per 1.5 liter magnum! (Very limited)
New vintage, a special bottling of the rare magnum size, of one of our favorite and most unique, reds from Steele. Only a handful of magnums available at $19.99 per 1.5 liter magnum (limited bottling).

All this and MUCH MORE are part of the ongoing, annual summer sale at BrightWines. Labor Day weekend is upon us. For the rest of summer, drink the best of summer! --Dave
The Right Wines are BrightWines!