


From: The BrightWines Beacon <lighthouse@brightwines.com>
Subject: **Tondo Tondo, meaning "just right"**
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The BrightWines Beacon for 7/27/18 - 8/2/18: Tondo Tondo, and other "just right" wines!

Tondo Tondo: an Italian idiom that means something along the lines of "just right" or "on the money" or "just so" - it literally it means "round, round" or perhaps, perfectly round. It's the inspiration for the name for the Sangiovese wine that is bottled by Tuscan Sun winery, in turn inspired by Frances Mayes' Under the Tuscan Sun.

We have reached **that great stretch of summer where things are "just right" it seems**, the weather is perfectly summery, the mornings are bright and the evenings are long, we are in the full swing of summer yet there is still plenty of time left to enjoy it. Here at your favorite wine shop, where The Right Wines are BrightWines, this weekend's newsletter is filled with NEW wines and re-stocked FAVORITES, and all of them seem "just right" for most any occasion - including the namesake wine of today's newsletter, a friendly and drinkable Sangiovese from the Tuscan Sun called "Tondo Tondo."

**** Tondo Tondo is an Italian idiom for "just right" and so are these NEW ARRIVALS from ITALY**

Tondo Tondo (Tuscan Sun wines) **Rosso Toscana Sangiovese @ \$12.99** per bottle
exotic whites, the **Argiolas Costamolino 2017 Vermentino** - and - **"Le Salse" Verdicchio @ \$14.99** each
Nebbiolo Langhe Rosso (an Affordable Luxury) via Barbaresco @ \$17.99 per bottle
new **Barbera d'Alba** (an Affordable Luxury) in a rock-star style @ \$19.99 per bottle
see Bright Lights for details...

**** new vintages and new labels** (and new shipments) for these "just right" (Tondo Tondo) perennial favorites:

new **FRESH vintage and new lables for GAZELA** (new 2018 bottling Vinho Verde) \$5.99 per bottle!
new vintage and new package for **Cline Sonoma Syrah @ \$9.99** per bottle
see Bright Lights for details...

**** These re-stocked CUSTOMER FAVORITES** are also "just right" (Tondo Tondo):

Simple Life 2016 Pinot Noir (89 pts WE) @ \$10.79 per bottle
3 great reds (and highly rated) from Portugal priced just \$8.99 to \$10.79 (**Colossal, and Confidential, and Pinta Negra**)
Los Vascos (Chile) **Cabernet Sauvignon and un-oaked Chardonnay (Bargain Alert)** at \$7.99 each
Caythorpe Marlborough New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc is back (small family winery) @ \$10.79 each

All this and MORE in-stock now at BrightWines! See the **Bright Lights** section...

THE LAMP IS LIT: Regular Store Hours for the last week of July and first week of August

**** MONDAY & TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY:** OPEN from 11am to 6pm, or later
**** THURSDAY & FRIDAY:** OPEN from 10:30am to 6:30pm, or later (Friday's until 7pm, plus tastings t.b.a.)
**** SATURDAY:** OPEN from 10:15am to 6pm (plus tastings t.b.a.)

THE VIEW FROM THE TOP: a very small family winery in Marlborough, New Zealand
Caythorpe is a family estate that has been growing fruit in Marlborough, New Zealand since the 1880's - that's a long time in New Zealand. I say growing "fruit" because **they are actually more famous for their cherry orchard** than they are for their wine. They are gradually making more wine, but it's still just a side venture for this family estate. They are so small their entire export comes only to a small importer in Minnesota. They are so small that the BrightWines "como favorites" listing of their Sauvignon Blanc is on the very first google results page, they are so small that they wanted to come visit Minnesota to get feedback from the importer here (and the handful of local retailer/restaurant purveyors who know their wines) about their planned new labels and possible expansion into more wines. They are so small I think **their website sells more boxes of cherries than wine**. So why am I writing about Caythorpe?

Because it's a **customer favorite Sauvignon Blanc at a great sale-price from the importer** and it's back in stock! Oh, and because **Simon Bishell from the family** that is Caythorpe (named after their ancestral village in Britain) wines **was kind enough to email me a great photo**

of his visit here to **BrightWines** recently and I thought it might be fun to forward along. (see attached jpeg photo, below) Read on to Bright Lights for my sale-price offer on Caythorpe 2016 Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc

BRIGHT LIGHTS: Tondo Tondo, meaning "just right" wines. (The Right Wines are BrightWines)

**** "Just Right" NEW ARRIVALS from ITALY ****

Tondo Tondo (Tuscan Sun wines) 2016 Rosso Toscana Sangiovese @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$139.99/cases = \$11.67)

Friendly and classy, this wine is inspired by La Vita Toscana...

Argiolas "Costamolino" 2017 Vermentino di Sardegna @ \$14.99 per bottle (\$155.88/case = \$12.99)

New vintage of one of our favorite V wines, a "Leonardo Locascio selection" Vermentino from the island of Sardinia. This is a "semi-serious" seafood white with a lively Sauvignon Blanc meets Pinot Grigio sort of style.

Cantine Belisario 2016 Verdicchio di Matelica "Le Salse" @ \$14.99 per bottle (\$159.99/case = \$13.33)

I've been looking for a good Verdicchio white all summer, and to my surprise my favorite so far is not "Castelli di Jesi" but rather from a Jurassic seabed DOC called "Matelica" but no surprise who found this little wine from a little importer for us in Minnesota - good old Marc Mackondy wine buyer for local importers and formerly of Buon Giorno and I Nonni (ah, good times).

Luigi Giordano (in Barbaresco) 2016 Langhe Rosso Nebbiolo @ \$17.99 per bottle (\$199.99/case = \$16.67)

Drinks like an elegant, lighter-bodied Barolo that is ready to drink, but is actually a value-priced blend of mostly Nebbiolo with some Arneis. Aromatic and textbook, just lighter style. Another local import angle of some fame, via The Piedmont Guy.

(Affordable Luxury) **Trediberri (Nicola Oberto - La Morra) 2017 Barbera d'Alba @ \$19.99 per bottle** (\$215.88/case = \$17.99)

Big and purple (hue and color) with blue (berries) and black (pepper) all coming together in this knockout new Barbera.

**** "Just Right" NEW SHIPMENTS and NEW LABELS for 2 perennial favorites ****

GAZELA (new 2018 bottling) Vinho Verde \$5.99 per bottle (\$71.88/case)

Perennial favorite bargain summer white has a **new label and new-look package, but is still the same fizzy and fun white from Portugal. 2018 bottling**, just over 3 months ago this spring. 25 cases should get us past Labor Day, but at \$5.99 per bottle you just never know (nor even care) how fast it goes!

CLINE 2016 Sonoma SYRAH @ \$9.99 per bottle (107.88 per case = \$8.99)

New label on this Sonoma Syrah which has always been our favorite "bargain" red by Cline (apologies to the oft-impressive Lodi Zin and the Ancient Vines series) and this new vintage is as good as ever. Blackberry mocha and even a hint of peppered bacon. Rich and full and Cline-smooth. New Arrival.

**** These re-stocked CUSTOMER FAVORITES are also "just right" ****

three great reds from Portugal to lead off the re-stocks...

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.

Casa Santos Lima 2013 "Confidencial" reserva (Lisboa) @ \$10.79 per bottle (\$119.88/case = \$9.99 mix/match)

90 points, Wine Spectator - who notes: "This is loaded with concentrated dark plum, chocolate and allspice flavors, offering a plush, creamy texture. The lusciously spiced finish lingers with cocoa powder and toasted coconut notes. Drink now through 2020. 90 points." **AND 91 points Wine Enthusiast** too!

Casa Santos Lima 2015 "Colossal" reserva (Lisboa) @ \$10.79 per bottle (\$119.88/case = \$9.99 mix/match)

90 points, Wine Spectator - and Top 100 of 2017 too - who notes: "Plum and boysenberry notes weave together with dried herb and smoky mineral accents in this sleek red. Savory spice details chime in on the finish. Offers moderate, grippy tannins." Dave says: darker, but not necessarily better, than the Confidencial. Think **Douro style** here, but bargain-priced.

what could be more "Tondo Tondo" than "Simple Life"

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."

(Bargain Alert) **LOS VASCOS 2016 estate Colchagua CABERNET SAUVIGNON @ \$7.99 per bottle** (\$95.88/case)

Their flagship wine since 1988 and a classic Cabernet style from Chile. Not as fruity/oaky as other Chilean wines it competes with internationally (like Casillero del Diablo, to name one) but that is also why fans of Los Vascos prefer this Lafite-owned winery. It has a dryness and a seriousness to it, despite the bargain price. Here is what Wine Spectator said in their review: "A firm red, with flavors of dried berry and plum, supported by firm tannins. Savory finish. Drink now."

(Bargain Alert) **LOS VASCOS 2016 (Chile) un-oaked CHARDONNAY @ \$7.99 per bottle** (\$95.88/case)

Suggested Retail: \$13 (see Wine Spectator)

We are still waiting for a new fresh vintage of their popular Sauvignon Blanc, but I was quite impressed by this screwcapped un-oaked Chardonnay and both Wine Spectator and also James Suckling (he gave it a 90 rating) were impressed too! 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."

Fuerza 2013 Jumilla Monastrell-Cabernet @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$139.99/case = \$11.67 each)

A re-stocked favorite from Father's Day! Wine Spectator notes: "**90 points**. Cola, sassafras and clove notes frame a deep core of plum and currant fruit in this dense red. The texture is plush and polished, supported by well-integrated tannins and balsamic acidity. Monastrell and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2020." Dave says: well-oaked so it has a mocha/smoky backdrop, and it is plush and polished.

Caythorpe 2016 Marlborough New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc @ \$10.79 each (\$119.99/case = \$9.99)

(see above in The View from the Top, or see below for the attached jpeg image)

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

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