

~~From: The BrightWines Beacon~~ ~~lighthouse@brightwines.com~~
~~Subject: "Easter eggs" hidden gems for brunch or ham or lamb~~
~~Date: March 29, 2024 at 12:55 PM~~
To: The BrightWines Beacon newsletter

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The BrightWines Beacon for March 29th - April 1st, 2024: "Easter eggs" hidden gems for brunch or ham or lamb

The March hare and the white rabbit, sweet sixteen and opening day, the biggest snowstorm of the winter arriving just in time for a white Easter (after a brown Christmas). It's been an eventful season already and spring only officially began a week ago. The way I look at it, all these "rites of spring" are a good opportunity to have a glass - and share a bottle or two - of fine wine! So whether you plan to watch your sport, host a brunch, or serve some ham or some lamb, **today's newsletter offers a full egg carton worth of curated selections for brunch, or ham, or lamb.** A dozen tasty wines in all, from traditional Easter picks, to recent favorite smart-buy reds, to hidden gems just waiting to be found...

HIGHLIGHTS include:

- ** a **93-point rated, single vineyard Dry Riesling** (smart-buy)
- ** a favorite **sparkling Brut** (smart-buy) is a lovely **Rose of Sangiovese** from Tuscany
- ** ratings of 90-94 points from five different wine magazines for impressive red wine Smart-buys of latin origin: a **Tempranillo**, and a **Malbec**, and a **Rhone-ranger red blend from Chile**
- ** **Affordable Luxury from Willamette Valley**, a 92-point rated (multiple magazines) Pinot Noir and its delicious Pinot Gris companion, both by the great Lemelson winery
- ** classy **lieu dit Beaujolais-Villages** and a perennial favorite Vouvray from France
- ** and much, much more... read today's BRIGHT LIGHTS for all the details!

THE LAMP IS LIT: holiday weekend Store Hours for March 29th - April 1st

**** SATURDAY March 30th: OPEN from 10:30am until 5:30pm**

BrightWines will be OPEN regular hours this weekend, for order pickups from this newsletter as well as for other recent orders and Dave-as-personal-shopper requests too. email orders are preferred, just reply to this newsletter or contact Dave and be sure to mention when you prefer to pick up your order so I can reply and prepare accordingly.

**** SUNDAY:** closed, Happy Easter

**** MONDAY April 1st:** OPEN for the "afternoon only" (no fooling, I've got morning obligations this Monday)

BrightWines will be OPEN limited hours on Monday for order pickups. email orders are preferred, just reply to this newsletter or contact Dave and be sure to mention when you prefer to pick up your order so we can arrange a mutually convenient pickup time.

BrightWines will be OPEN regular hours again starting midweek, and be sure to stay tuned for the newsletter for the first week of April, to be emailed in time for next weekend.

BRIGHT LIGHTS: Easter eggs, hidden gems for brunch or ham or lamb

**** Smart-buys in traditional Easter whites ****

Maidenstoen "Zabala Vineyard" Arroyo Seco 2019 DRY Riesling @ \$17.99 per bottle

Suggested Retail: \$22 (\$199.99/case = \$16.67 each, mix/match)

Rated 93 points by Wine Enthusiast magazine! "Though appropriately tense and stony on the nose, there's an approachable aspect of kumquat and honeysuckle on the nose of this bottling. The palate is full of citrusy freshness, delivering lemon and grapefruit-juice flavors against lush tones of gardenia and more honeysuckle. \$22 retail. 93 points." (W.E.) DAVE says: Maidenstoen specializes in German/Alsace/Austria styled wines from the central coast of California. Mike Callahan created Maidenstoen to focus on quality, site-specific, limited production, California examples of these classic dry white styles.

"White Rabbit" Ressa Family 2022 Rhein Riesling @ \$14.99 per bottle (\$159.99/case = \$13.33 each, mix/match)

This V.D.P. producer is a family winery in the Rhein and this fun and refreshing Riesling is made to be off-dry in the "kabinett" style.

~~**"La Forcine" 2022 Vouvray @ \$12.99 per bottle** (\$155.88/case, mix/match)~~

~~a perennial favorite here, this Chenin Blanc has body and depth and plenty of fans here.~~ limited stock.

(fans of Vouvray, try this fun wine) **Bonny Doon "le Cigare Volant" central coast "Orange" wine @ \$12.99 per bottle** (limited stock)

"Orange wines" are skin-contact white wine fermentations, using white grapes. The wines are not roses (those are from red grapes) but the golden/orange color tones of the wine are from the skins. Trust a fun-loving winery like Bonny Doon to have one of the most orange-color of them all. A small percentage of Orange Muscat completes the orange wine flavor profile too. Off dry and a similar body and character to a Vouvray, from California.

LEMELSON 2022 "Tikka's Run" Willamette Valley PINOT GRIS @ \$19.99 per bottle (limited stock)

Tikka's Run Pinot Gris is sourced from Chestnut Hill Vineyard, Lemelson's higher elevation site. At over 1,000 ft of elevation, natural acidity and freshness are preserved. The wine has bright pear, Meyer lemon, melon, fresh apricot, ginger and white flower notes that go into a long, mineral and citrus-driven finish.

**** current favorites in Smart-buy dry Rose ****

Particolare Gran Cuvée Brut (Montecarlo, Tuscany) **Sparkling ROSE of SANGIOVESE @ \$17.99 per bottle** (\$199.99/case = \$16.67 ea, mix/match)

Sangiovese makes wonderful dry Rose - and - this wine is better than any "Rose Prosecco" I've tasted in a very long time. In fact, any fan of Rose Prosecco AND any fan of Brut Rose from France (or anywhere) will want to try this wine. This is truly one of my Top Picks right now. **It's a very tasty Rose of Sangiovese from Montecarlo in Tuscany, one that just happens to be a Brut sparkling.** I recently had dinner with friends and we had plenty of good wine open, and this bottle of this Rose Brut was the first bottle empty! Elegant and delicate enough for brunch, flavorful enough for ham.

Fossil Point 2023 Grenache Rose @ \$15.99 per bottle (\$191.88/case, mix/match)

New, fresh vintage! This Grenache dry Rose is from one of our favorite Central Coast Pinot Noir producers, and this Grenache rose could pass for a pale Provence but with more rounded and weighty character. Sourced from San Luis Obispo / Paso Robles area Grenache.

**** Smart-buys in Red wines for ham or for lamb ****

Jean Marc Burgaud 2022 Beaujolais-Lantignie @ \$17.99 per bottle (limited stock)

This is a beautiful and bright, smooth and red-fruited, juicy and flavorful Gamay from the *lieu dit* Lantignie, which is a Beaujolais-Villages designation from Regnie. It's a perfect modern French red Burgundy, it's from a warm and ripe good quality Burgundy/Beaujolais vintage but has elegance and dryness and is a very modest 12.5% alcohol. This is an ideal afternoon meal sort of red that will shine with ham.

P.S. Garcia 2017 "Bravado" Red (Itata, Chile) @ \$21.99 per bottle (\$250/case = \$20.83 per bottle)

Rated 90 - 94 points by 5 different magazines!

"Bravado comes from the Maule Valley side of Itata (Chile) and is a cuvee of **Carignan, Grenache, Petit Verdot, Syrah and Mourvèdre** that was grafted on to a 200-year-old Pais vineyard. Deeply coloured, yet remarkably fresh, sappy, **bright and persistent, with subtle wood, raspberry and blueberry fruit and some aromatic Mediterranean herbs.**" (92 Tim Atkin)

- AND -

"Another beautiful offering of this wine, showing dried violets and lavender, cloves, nutmeg and clay. The tannins really pull your mouth in to focus on the deep but bright, blue and dark fruit, the acidity carrying the entire package long and polished through to the expansive yet mineral finish." (92 J.S.)

Piattelli 2020 Cafayate "Grand Reserve" Malbec @ \$15.99 per bottle (\$191.88/case)

Rated 93 points James Suckling Note: this is the "tan label" Grand Reserve Cafayate Malbec at 20% off the \$20 retail price. A truly great smart-buy Malbec. The Cafayate winery for Piattelli is a new state-of-the-art facility, surrounded by truly high altitude vineyards that are just beginning to enter their prime production. Lately, most of my favorite Piattelli wines have been the Cafayate versions!

Fernandez Gomez (La Bastida, Rioja) 2018 Rioja cosecha @ \$17.99 per bottle MIX/MATCH Case Price \$191.88 = \$15.99 each

Suggested Retail: \$20

Full-bodied Rioja Tempranillo that drinks like a Ribera del Duero due to the aging in French oak as well as traditional American cask aging. This winery was awarded "Rioja Winemaker of the Year" for 2021 by Tim Atkin, based partly on the quality of the 2018 vintage of this impressive Rioja bottling. One of the real customer favorites and definitely a Dave pick from the Como event, I just got in five more cases of this great Smart-buy.

**** Affordable Luxury: wonderful Willamette Valley Pinot Noir to grace your meal**

92 points from multiple magazines, and one of the best-tasting wines, showing very well. this winter/spring at the Como event

LEMELSON 2021 Willamette Valley "Thea's Selection" PINOT NOIR @ \$33.33 per bottle (\$199.99/6pk, limited stock, mix/match)

Rated **92 points by Vinous**: "A smoky blend of wild herbs, ground ginger and crushed raspberries smolders up from the 2021 Pinot Noir Thea's Selection. **It's softly textured with cooling minerality and pure red berry fruits** underscored by saline minerals. Zesty acidity adds a liveliness through the finish as the 2021 tapers off long and spicy yet only lightly tannic. 92 points."

- ALSO -

Rated 92 points by Wine Spectator, who says: "Brisk and generous, with snappy cherry and pomegranate flavors highlighted by oolong tea and savory spices. Concludes with fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031."

That's a dozen. A dozen you say? Last but not least...

**** Special BrightWines "Easter Basket" offers ****

Easter Basket #1: 1 bottle of EACH of these dozen wines is \$209.99 for a case (an extra discount, avg per bottle = \$17.50 each)

Easter Basket #2: a 6 pack of just the reds (includes a bottle of Dave's Top Pick in \$15 California Pinot Noir) **for \$119 even**

Easter Basket #3: a 6 pack of just the whites/roses (includes either the "Orange Wine" or the Vouvray) **for \$95 even**

OR feel free to order an Easter Basket (6-pack or 12-pack) of Dave's Top Picks from recent newsletters, of your own choosing

just let me know what sort of mix and what sort of price range and we'll use the case prices, across the board, and you can have Dave as your personal shopper!

I hope everyone has a lovely holiday weekend. The way I look at it, all of this weekend's "rites of spring" are a good opportunity to have a glass - and share a bottle or two - of fine wine! —Dave

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

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