

**From:** The BrightWines Beacon [lighthouse@brightwines.com](mailto:lighthouse@brightwines.com)  
**Subject:** grab a Cab, and a little Oktoberfest, and more!  
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**The BrightWines Beacon for 9/24/21: ~~grab a Cab, and a little~~ OKTOBERFEST, and more!**

It's late September, which also means Oktoberfest! That's right, Oktoberfest is indeed celebrated mostly in September as a lead-up to October. In Bavaria, it officially runs each year for 16 to 18 days at the end of September until the first Sunday in October. This year (and last year) it was cancelled due to the pandemic, but it would have run September 18th - October 3rd this year. I'll leave you to your own devices to read more about the history of Oktoberfest in Bavaria and Germany. Here at BrightWines I'm going to offer a range of German and Austrian wines this weekend in honor of Oktoberfest. There's a full week of September left, so my timing should be about right.

Oktoberfest is mostly associated with beer of course, not wine. But when I visited Germany a few years ago it was just before Oktoberfest, and I discovered that this time of year in the Mosel and Rhein is harvest festival season too. At this time of year, walking through small towns on the Rhein and Mosel you'd see plenty of chalkboard signs announcing that Federweisser is available! Federweisser (feather white) is a frothy, yeasty, fizzy white wine beverage that is basically akin to drinking the "must" juice as it's partially fermented (and fermenting) and is naturally drunk as fresh as can be, usually served in mugs, and it's low alcohol, sweet, and a little carbonated. In can also be referred to as new wine. So while Bavarian Oktoberfest is all about the beer, in the wine areas of Germany September is about the Federweisser!

For this week's newsletter, I've put together a small but high quality range of wines from Germany and from Austria. Sorry, no "Federweisser" though, you'd have to visit Germany in September like I did once... but I do have some wonderful estate Rieslings from the Mosel and Rhein, and some Gruner Veltliner, and even a red and a rose too. Read the Bright Lights section of today's newsletter for this little Oktoberfest in-stock offer.

~~\*\* Grab a Cab. New top-rated Smart Buys in Cabernet Sauvignon. Read BRIGHT LIGHTS today...~~

~~Highlights include: 93-point rated Paso Robles at \$19.99 per bottle, and a \$12.99 Cabernet from Argentina that just rated 90 points in the Wine Spectator.~~

~~\*\* Special purchase on a rich full-bodied Geyserville - Alexander Valley red wine by Trentadue and Miro! "Affordable Luxury" at \$26.99 per bottle. (see Bright Lights)~~

~~\*\* a little OKTOBERFEST offer from Germany and Austria... some wonderful estate Rieslings from the Mosel and Rhein, some Gruner Veltliner, and even a red and a rose too. Read on to BRIGHT LIGHTS!~~

**THE LAMP IS LIT: Store Hours and Shopping Preferences**

Here are the Store Hours for this weekend and next week, along with some updated shopping preferences:

*I am fully vaccinated (masks are optional) but I am practicing social distancing here in the store AND until further notice I am operating as "order pickups preferred" while I continue to offer both curbside as well as in-store pickup options. I realize it's not always possible to be 100% "orders only" and still offer the responsive customer service folks are used to from BrightWines, so I'll do my best to be flexible.*

*I am hoping for some moderate weather (and some time to do it) between now and the end of September so I can clear out the back of the shop by opening up the back warehouse doors and loading up small trailer-load of recycling. When I can get the store cleared out, and the remaining stock better organized, then I will assess whether it would be appropriate to be more fully open to in-store shopping and events. But for the time being, BrightWines is NOT currently fully open for in-store browsing. So if you prefer the in-person shopping experience, it's best to begin with an email to Dave so we can be on the same page and efficient over the process of selecting your wines for pickup. You can always ask Dave to be your personal shopper! Again, start that process by email preferably... help me help you, in other words!*

~~\*\* FRIDAY September 24th: OPEN until at least 6pm (order pickups preferred)~~

~~note: this Friday night is the final "car show" Friday of the season, but Margaret Street and environs should be wide open for regular traffic thru 6pm~~

~~\*\* SATURDAY September 25th: OPEN from 10:30am to 5:30pm (order pickups preferred)~~

~~\*\* SUNDAY September 26th: closed per usual~~

~~\*\* MONDAY - TUESDAY - WEDS September 27th - 29th: OPEN from 11am to 6pm (regular weekday, order pickups preferred)~~

~~note: on Tuesday I will be open around Noon~~

~~\*\* THURSDAY & FRIDAY & SATURDAY Sept 30th - Oct 2nd: OPEN at 10:30am (stay tuned for more in next weekend's newsletter)~~

**BRIGHT LIGHTS: Grab a Cab, plus a little Oktoberfest, and more!**

*reminder: email orders are preferred and I'll do my best to reply asap, especially for orders planning to pickup already this weekend!*

**\*\* new top-rated Smart Buys in Cabernet Sauvignon \*\***

**Piattelli 2019 Cafayate reserve Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$139.99/case = \$11.67 each)**

This wine is perennially rated well by Wine Spectator and Wine Enthusiast, and the importer for this Argentina winery just learned this 2019 "High Altitude" reserve Cafayate Cabernet is going to be rated **90-points Wine Spectator** this fall. It's already been recommended by Wine Enthusiast, who says "Typical of Cafayate Cabernet, this opens with rustic, saucy aromas of spicy and herbal black fruits. The palate is sound and medium in body, with good structure and clear lines. Herbal plum and spicy blackberry flavors finish steady and solid. Drink through 2023."

**DAVE says: this tastes like it's halfway between a good Sonoma Cabernet and a nice Chilean style of Cabernet...** from the newest winery, up in Cafatate, from one of the best (and best value) producers in Argentina! Right now, the real smart buys from Piattelli are this Cabernet Sauvignon, and their Malbec+Tannat blend and their Torrontes white (inquire with Dave for limited stock of new vintages of those two wines too). BrightWines currently has stock of 7 cases of this 90-point Cabernet, in-stock now!

~~Ancient Peaks 2018 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$19.99 per bottle (\$215.88/case — \$17.99 each)  
Rated 93 points and Editors Choice by Wine Enthusiast magazine, at \$22 retail.~~

~~Wine Enthusiast notes: "A deep blackberry aroma meets with licorice and mushroom on the fresh and savory nose. The palate's black currant and blueberry core is partnered harmoniously with notes of chipped wood and toasted herbs as well as jubilant acidity. 93 points."~~

~~DAVE says: I just received the last several cases of this top-rated smart buy in the 2018 vintage before the supplier moves onto the new vintage. It's been a favorite "Cab-lovers Cab" around here. It has the cedar and pencil-box tones that folks love in great Cabernet, combined with the dark fruits of Paso Robles. This is probably my best sub-\$20 Cabernet of the year so far, but it's down to the last handful of cases available... in-stock now!~~

~~\*\* one-time Special Purchase on a never-before-available BIG Sonoma red \*\*~~

~~Only 130 cases made. The winemaker is our friend Miro! from La Storia / Trentadue winery in Geyserville, Alexander Valley — Sonoma, this wine is usually "Wine Club" only, with a winery retail of \$40 per bottle.~~

~~55% Zinfandel — 45% Petite Sirah blend, only 7 cases came to Minnesota, and BrightWines has 5 of them in stock now!~~

~~La Storia (Trentadue) 2018 "cuvée Nicole" red @ \$26.99 per bottle (33% off the winery retail price)~~

~~DAVE says: I think the headlines above pretty much say it all. I know there are many fans of Miro, and Trentadue / La Storia, and of big Zins and Petite Sirah out there who will be able to read between the lines on this wine. One shipment only, just 7 cases came to Minnesota and I got almost all of them, at a great "special purchase" price! 5 cases are in-stock now! email orders required for quantity, subject to confirmation. When you email your order, please indicate your pickup plans. I will do my best to confirm email orders requesting Saturday/tomorrow pickup (while supplies last) asap yet today or first thing in the morning.~~

~~\*\* a little Oktoberfest at BrightWines \*\*~~

~~All of these Germany/Austria wines are estate-grown vineyards (no "brands" here) from top-quality producers in the Mosel, Rhein, and from Austria. Some are fully dry, some are off-dry, and some are traditionally a little sweet, but all of them are fine table wines from **some of my favorite producers and some wineries I've visited over the years during my times in Germany and Austria.** It's 9 wines in all, which seems about right for a little Oktoberfest... PROST !! ZUM WOHL !!~~

~~note for email orders: some of these are one-time shipments or limited stocks (or both). The feature prices and case prices mix/match within this offer only. email orders are preferred, and subject to confirmation while supplies last - please indicate your pickup timing preference in the email and I'll do my best to confirm back asap here during Oktoberfest! ;-)~~

~~(Dave's Top Pick - traditional style - rated 91 points Wine Enthusiast)~~

~~**Dr. Pauly Bergweiler (Mosel) 2019 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett @ \$19.99 per bottle** (\$239.88/case, mix-match)  
From vineyards nearby and surrounding the famed Doctorberg that includes some of the very best Riesling terroir in all of the Mosel. Made as a traditional Kabinett, so it's off dry - but has plenty of verve! Here is what the Wine Enthusiast noted about this wine: "Juicy pineapple and crystalline mineral tones abound in this profoundly ripe but briskly balanced Kabinett. Off-dry and delightfully salty on the finish, it's an easy-drinking yet elegant, linear sip anchored by a backbone of steel. Ready now but should drink at peak through 2025. 91 points." BTW the lowest Chicago retail case price (this importer is in Illinois) I could find is the same \$19.99 per bottle.~~

~~(traditional style) **G.A. Schneider (Rheinhessen) 2018 estate Niersteimer Paterberg Riesling Kabinett @ \$15.99 per bottle**  
From a family winery that Dave has a personal history with, one that boasts Wine Spectator Top 100 on their Niersteimer Hipping Riesling (see below) a few years ago. Their Kabinett is one of the best values available, rated 89 points at \$15 retail. Here's how Wine Enthusiast magazine describes it: "Crushed minerals and river rocks lend elegance to pristine, juicy flavors of lemon, lime and yellow cherry on the palate of this zesty off-dry Riesling. It's a lip-smacking, spine-tingling sip with balanced sweetness. Best now — 2024. 89 points." BrightWines case price Mix/Match of \$179.88 — \$14.99 each.~~

~~(dry style, from Austria) **Landhaus Meyer 2020 Dry Rose of Zweigelt @ \$14.99 per bottle** (\$179.88/case, mix-match)  
A winery who's Heurige in Vienna I visited during my time in Austria, the "Beethoven" one on Erocagasse 4, Vienna - which is still the address on the back label. This Rose is one of the dry-est roses I've offered this year, with refreshing stoney crispness backing strawberry and watermelon fruit tones. Rose of Zweigelt from NiederOsterreich.~~

~~(dry style, from Austria) **Anton Bauer 2019 "Ried Gmirk" Gruner Veltliner @ \$12.99 per bottle** (\$155.88/case, mix-match)  
Sourced from a single vineyard in the Wagram, this bone dry Gruner Veltliner white is an absolutely textbook example, and a favorite of several local chefs too.~~

~~(Dry Riesling, Mosel) **Dr. Pauly Bergweiler 2018 Riesling Dry @ \$17.99 per bottle**  
I readily admit that I personally prefer the traditional (or off-dry) styles of Riesling when it comes to the great Mosel vineyards especially (why mess with several hundred years of success). But I also have to acknowledge that the vintages of the past decade or so, and the trends in~~

winemaking in the Mosel and Rhein, have really played into the hands of the “DRY Riesling” fans. So it’s also hard to argue with that success. This had all the crisp, dry, fresh green apple zing you expect, made by a winery with direct access to the best vineyard sites in the Mosel.

(dry style, from Austria) **Nigl 2020 “Freiheit” Gruner Veltliner @ \$19.99 per bottle** (very limited stock)  
the new fresh 2020 vintage (2020 has been great so far, for European white wines) of a perennial 90-pointer. This is a lovely “serious but refreshing” Gruner from old vineyards in the Kremstal.

(red wine, from Austria) **Prieler 2017 “Johanneshohe” Blaufrankisch @ \$22.99 per bottle** (very limited stock)  
Rated 91 points Wine Enthusiast, who notes the “plummy and dark-fruit notes on the nose. The palate is laced with freshness that tames that dark dense juicy fruit while peppery hints add interest. It is a very juicy, compact but layered wine with a dry finish. 91 points.”

(dry style, Mosel single vineyard) **Maximin Grunhaus 2019 von Schubert “Monopol” Riesling @ \$19.99 per bottle** (very limited stock)  
Dry Riesling from estate vineyards in Mertesdorf im Ruwertal. Totally dry with stoney mineral green apple and good depth, from a famed VDP (verband deutscher pradikats) winery in the Mosel/Saar/Ruwer.

(traditional style, Riesling Spatlese) **G.A. Schneider 2018 Niersteiner Hipping Spatlese @ \$19.99 per bottle**  
One of the best steep red soil vineyards in the Rhein, making this vineyard a value-priced equivalent to the rarer, and spendier, Urziger Wurzgarten of the Mosel. This is the wine that a few vintages back landed in Wine Spectator’s Top 100 of the year, and this current vintage is as impressive as always! Rated 89 points by Vinous Media (btw: they have a rather conservative scoring rubric at VM, with some of the top wine critics in the world) who says: “A lovely nose features orange, apple and sweet lime headily garlanded in honeysuckle. The soft, polished palate takes advantage of a certain looseness to come off as easygoing, at once soothing as well as subtly stimulating in its suggestions of orange zest and honeysuckle stem. Sweetness is modest and supportive, which, along with generous juiciness, allows the finish to genuinely refresh. Drinking window: 2020 - 2026.” (Vinous Media, 89 rating) BrightWines case price (\$215.88 = \$17.99 each, mix-match)

I hope all you German Riesling fans have time to read the full notes on these wines that I’ve found from the various wine magazines. I can also assure you that I am personally very familiar with all of these wines, whether it be by way of current tastings with local suppliers and importers to personal visits at the winery. This is perhaps not the most extensive offering I could imagine, but every single wine in this “little Oktoberfest” is right on the mark! (Euro-pun intended, these wines are worth every German Mark or Austrian Schilling of their respective price of admission):

~~And for you Cab lovers out there (and for fans of Miro’s wines) the highly rated big reds in today’s newsletter are in-stock in reasonable numbers (for now) but on the Ancient Peaks and also the La Storia, what I have here now is all there is to be had on the vintages in question, and once the Wine Spectator issue hits the same could be true of the Piattelli too. So just word to the wise...~~

*Thank you in advance for your patronage and email replies. Prost, and Zum Wohl! —Dave*

**The Right Wines are BrightWines!**

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