

**From:** The BrightWines Beacon lighthouse@brightwines.com  
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**The BrightWines Beacon for April 30th, 2022: "In Case You Missed It" (ICYMI)**

April sure went by in a dreary cold blur with only a few tentative hints of spring. Here at BrightWines I am very much looking ahead to the merry month of May!

And believe it or not, April was actually a rather eventful month here at BrightWines! But the way this month has gone, you might not have noticed... and I can hardly blame you. So for today's newsletter, I've decided to call our attention to some of the recent highlights for the wine features and newsletters of the spring so far.

And make note, these are **not just reruns... there are several NEW wines as newsletter add-ons, and "late entries" from my suppliers, to these popular themes of the past month.** So here we go!

**\*\* (ICYMI) some NEW additions and LATE ENTRIES for "April Showers Bring Spring Cabs" newsletter dated 4/22/22:**

*a long-ago favorite California "Claret" is back! 90-point rated and a discounted price too! First time available in several years, and I love still love it!*

**DONATI Family Vineyards 2019 Paso Robles CLARET @ \$17.99 per bottle (\$215.88/case)**

Suggested Retail: \$23 (see Wine Enthusiast)

**Rated 90 points** Wine Enthusiast! "Subtly integrated aromas of roasted strawberry and charcoal show on the nose of this **blend of all five major Bordeaux varieties. Soft, while thick tannins frame the palate, where a polished texture carries comforting flavors.** 90 points. \$23."

**Esk Valley 2019 Gimblett Gravels red @ \$17.99 per bottle (\$199.99/case = \$16.67 mix/match)**

Suggested Retail: \$23 (see Wine Enthusiast)

**Very rare to see, but one that is always on my radar** for that rare time I have one available, **the Gimblett Gravels is the absolute best spot on the north island of New Zealand** (think Hawkes Bay) for red wines that are "not" Pinot Noir (apologies to those even rarer creatures, the great Martinborough Pinot Noir). The style of red wine from the Gimblett Gravels is reminiscent of Western Australia, or Colchagua Chile, or even Bordeaux, and the varietal mix of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec for this wine proves that point. Wine Enthusiast recommended (at \$23 retail) "Bordeaux blend that offers typical regional characteristics like cigar box, bright cherry and strawberry fruit, dried florals and chocolate."

**Salvestrin "Dr Crane Vineyard" Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon "two-bottle sets" @ \$159.99 per set** (inquire)

(one bottle of each of 2017 and 2018 vintage) note: the 2018 was #9 on this year's Wine Spectator Top 100 (rated 95 points) and the 2017 is rated 93+ points.

.. and *In Case You Missed It*, an **UPDATED version of the 4/22/22 newsletter is now online!** <https://www.brightwines.com/aprilshowers-springcabs.pdf>

in-stock HIGHLIGHTS include:

Alexander Valley Vineyards 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon  
Alexander Valley Vineyards 2019 "Homestead Red"  
Alexander Valley Vineyards 2019 Merlot  
Mi Terruno 2017 Mendoza Cabernet Franc  
Canoe Ridge 2017 "The Expedition" Red Mountain Cabernet  
Piattelli 2019 Cafayate Cabernet Sauvignon  
Piattelli 2020 Cafayate Malbec+Tannat

... plus two Smart-Buys from Bordeaux, and a Carmenere from Chile, and MORE... <https://www.brightwines.com/aprilshowers-springcabs.pdf>

**\*\* (ICYMI, newsletter dated 4/15/22) the Easter Bunny's BrightWines Easter Baskets may be gone until next year...**

but it's still a good **reminder that you can still ask Dave to be your personal shopper! Just reply to this newsletter - or contact Dave - with your requests**, for wine styles, price ranges or total cost, and the quantities of each (or a ballpark idea) and I'll be happy to put something together for you from recent newsletters, current stocks, and maybe even a sneak preview of some of "Dave's Top Picks" coming soon!

**\*\* (ICYMI) two NEW ADDITIONS plus a re-stocked favorite too, for the "22 Trips Around the Sun" newsletter dated 4/8/22:**

This newsletter was a celebration of the 22nd anniversary of BrightWines on April 9th. And this year, come August, also marks 30 years in the wine business for Dave. Coincidentally, the main reason I "fell into" this business was by way of a part-time job to pay for a trip to Australia way back in 1992. This week, I have a new addition wine from Australia to feature, which is also a "Sneak Preview" of an upcoming feature too. ALSO in that newsletter was a listing (ala Oprah) of a few of "Dave's Favorite Things" and here are some in-stock highlights for this weekend:

*(one of "Dave's Favorite Things" is a fun Aussie Shiraz)*

**ZILZIE 2018 Murray Darling SHIRAZ @ \$12.99 per bottle (\$139.99/case, mix/match = \$11.67 each)**

My new favorite value in classic Aussie Shiraz, a bit of a throwback to the deeply fruited versions of the early 2000's but with a purity and a brightness to it too. Very tasty! The Murray Darling wine region is the second largest region in Australia, and this warm but very dry river region of New South Wales has been growing wines for over 100 years ever since irrigation made it possible to grow fruit in the otherwise arid landscape through which this part of the Murray River flows.

*(one of "Dave's Favorite Things" is a reliable and focused importer)*

**Fratelli REVELLO (La Morra) 2018 Barbera d'Alba @ \$19.99 per bottle** (\$215.88/case = \$17.99 ea)  
estate-bottled in La Morra, this great Barolo winery - a Marc di Grazia selection - offers wonderful quality and value in a drinkable and complex (but not too serious) Barbera. Marc di Grazia's stable of Piedmont Barolo/Barbaresco/Barbera etc is second to none. He's been a longtime favorite, and imports more than just Piedmont wines, but is absolutely of the most reliable, and focused, importers of wines from Piedmont. This 2018 **Barbera d'Alba is rated 91 points** by James Suckling, who says "Blackberries, wild raspberries, violets, freshly grated nutmeg and cracked black pepper on the nose. Lovely, soft fruit and floral notes. It's medium-bodied with smooth, velvety tannins and a warm finish. Drink or hold."

**El Domador del Valle 2016 RIOJA Reserva @ \$12.99 per bottle** (\$150/case)  
a classic and true Rioja Reserva, barrel aged and bottle matured Tempranillo that is elegant and dry and complex, and was a Como Favorite too

**\*\* (ICYMI) some NEW ADDITIONS and re-stocked favorites in White Burgundy, for the newsletter dated 4/1/22:**

This newsletter, no fooling, was one of the most popular of the year so far. All of the red burgundy have already sold out, as did multiple shipments of the Bordeaux, and most of the White Burgundy too. But this week I was able to get in some new options (and restock a couple favorites) to offer **one more newsletter worth** (for the time being) **for you WHITE BURGUNDY fans!** Stocks are limited, across the board, and be sure to check out one of the **2 available cases of a White Burgundy "Affordable Luxury Sampler Case"** too!

(in-stock now) **Joseph Drouhin 2020 Macon Villages @ \$15.99 per bottle** (\$179.99/case, limited stock)

(in-stock now) **Joseph Drouhin 2020 Macon-Lugny "Les Crays" @ \$19.99 per bottle** (\$239.88/case, limited stock)

(in-stock now) **Domaine Bersan 2020 Saint-Bris (Sauvignon) @ \$21.99 per bottle** (\$239.88/case, \$19.99 ea, very limited)

(in-stock now) **Joseph Drouhin 2020 Saint-Veran @ \$21.99 per bottle** (\$239.88/case, \$19.99 ea, very limited)

**(only 2 cases available) White Burgundy "Affordable Luxury Sampler Case" for \$275.88** per 12-bottle case, as follows:

1 bottle of **Domaine Gautheron 2019 Chablis Premier Cru "Vaillons"** (rated **95 points** Wine Enthusiast @ \$48 retail)  
— and —

1 bottle of **Domaine Gautheron 2018 Chablis Premier Cru "Montee de Tonnerre"**  
— plus —

1 bottle of Joseph Drouhin 2020 Saint-Veran

2 bottles of Joseph Drouhin 2020 Macon-Lugny "Les Crays"

3 bottles of Domaine Bersan 2020 Saint-Bris

4 bottles of Joseph Drouhin 2020 Macon Villages

*(average cost of the White Burgundy "sampler case" is \$22.99 per bottle, one case per customer, only 2 cases available, email order required and subject to confirmation)*

**\*\* (ICYMI) restocked favorites from the "Mambo Italiano" newsletter dated 3/24/22:**

*(a wonderful wood-fired pizza red)* **Masciarelli 2018 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo @ \$12.99 per bottle** (\$139.99/case)  
screw-capped Rosso that used to be the house wine at a local pizza locale, recently a Como favorite too, \$11.67 mix/match

*(importer clearance price, great Tuscan winery)* **Montecalvi 2016 Chianti Classico @ \$17.99 per bottle** (limited stock)  
2016 was a great Tuscany vintage, and this modern-flair Sangiovese from a longstanding favorite and high quality Chianti Classico producer is on a last-of-vintage, and last-of-stock clearance price from the importer and BrightWines is doing my darndest to take advantage. Inquire for an unpublished (at the request of the supplier) solid cases extra discount price.

**\*\* (ICYMI) last but not least... we're STILL waiting... "Who's Ready!?! for some new Roses" newsletter dated 3/18/22**

New fresh vintages of tasty **Dry Roses** (yes, I taste them ALL, every vintage) from old favorites and some new (and unique) ones too! **Prices range from \$9.99 per bottle to \$17.99 per bottle.** IN-STOCK NOW includes these, and others too!

Ryan Patrick 2021 (Washington)

Vina Zorzal 2021 (Spain)

Campuget 2021 (Gard - Costieres de Nimes)

Hopler "Pannonica" 2021 (Burgenland, Austria)

FICTION 2021 (Field Recordings, Paso Robles)

"And Why am I Mr. Pink" (Washington)

Chateau Routas 2021 (Provence)

Groundwork 2021 Picpoul Carbonique (Paso Robles)

*... and several others too, with MANY many many MORE to come in MAY (stay tuned).*

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

*Until further notice, BrightWines is STILL operating as "order pickups preferred" during regular store hours. Wine orders are available for in-store pickup and with curbside pickup options also available. BrightWines is not currently open for in-store browsing, standard retail shopping, or for tasting events. I am fully vaccinated (and boosted) but I am practicing social distancing here in the store (masks are optional at pickup). I do*

*realize that 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. If you prefer the in-person shopping experience, it is still 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 and arranging for pickup at a time that is mutually convenient.*

When you email an order, please indicate your preference for the pickup and I will confirm back accordingly in as timely fashion as best I can.

**\*\* MONDAY & TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY May 2nd - May 4th: OPEN weekdays from 11am until closing**

BrightWines is OPEN next week for confirmed order pickups from recent newsletters, including ANY/ALL of the ICYMI newsletters listed in today's edition, as well as "Dave as Personal Shopper" requests. email orders preferred, I'll confirm back asap - please indicate your pickup preferences when you email your order... just reply to this newsletter or contact Dave.

**\*\* THURSDAY & FRIDAY & SATURDAY May 5th - May 7th: OPEN after 10:30am**

BrightWines is OPEN next week for confirmed order pickups from recent newsletters, including ANY/ALL of the ICYMI newsletters listed in today's edition, as well as "Dave as Personal Shopper" requests. email orders preferred, I'll confirm back asap - please indicate your pickup preferences when you email your order... just reply to this newsletter or contact Dave.

*There is plenty of excitement planned for MAY around here, and in the meantime be sure to check out any of the things from March/April you might have missed. And THINK SPRING! —Dave*

**The Right Wines are BrightWines!**

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