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Subject: remember the wines of September
Date: September 26, 2025 at 2:41 PM
To: The BrightWines Beacon newsletter

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The BrightWines Beacon for September 24th - 30th, 2025

Try to remember the kind of September when life was slow and oh, so mellow. Yes, we're deep into September now although there is one full week left of this month of transition from summer to fall, and the forecast is for "summer" all weekend! And as famed author Helen Hunt Jackson said, "September Days are here... with summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer." So follow... follow, follow, follow, follow me as we **remember the wines of September!**

**** REMEMBER** that Sept/Oct are "Trade Show" months for Dave, here are some **recent Wine TRADE SHOW "FINDS"**

I've been trying to attend as many fall season wine trade shows as I can, and there are still a couple of great ones for me next week yet too. Many of the best new wines are slated for October arrival, but a few very good options have already arrived into stock here. HIGHLIGHTS include: a **91-point rated smart-buy ZINFANDEL from Alexander Valley**, and a **92-point rated northern California Merlot**, a great value in **Cotes du Rhone**, and a multiple **90-point** (three magazines) **rated Sauvignon Blanc** from Washington (not New Zealand) as a new addition to the Pac NW feature here. Read today's *Bright Lights* for all the details, and MORE...

**** REMEMBER** to check out the annual autumnal **PACIFIC NORTHWEST WINES** feature!
<https://www.brightwines.com/pacnw2025-andmore.pdf>

**** REMEMBER** this (past) Thursday, September 25th: meet and taste with winemaker Pierpaolo Pecorari!
The past two Thursday evenings saw winemakers Alessandro Pecorari (Pierpaolo Pecorari) and also Anton R. Zaccheo (Carpineto) make in-store tasting visits at BrightWines here in September. I am working on more for October, so stay tuned.

**** REMEMBER** that many lovely (some new arrivals - and good favorites) **dry ROSES of summertime are still here!**

It's going to be a lovely summery September weekend, one that feels like Rose to me... especially since some of my favorite wines of the recent features have included tasty roses! Like the **Sangiovese rose from Tuscany** from last week's winemaker event, and the **Willamette Valley Rose of Pinot Noir** from the Pacific Northwest newsletter, and MORE. See *Bright Lights* for a full listing of great, late-summer, Rose selections!

BRIGHT LIGHTS: New Arrivals and Top Picks... remember the wines of September!

**** recent wine trade show "finds" IN-STOCK this weekend ****

I've been trying to attend as many of the fall season wine trade shows that my suppliers are doing as I possibly can, and there are still a couple of great ones for me next week yet too. Many of the best new wines are slated for October arrival, but a few very good options have already arrived into stock here. IN-STOCK this week!

FIDELITY 2022 Railway Vineyard, Alexander Valley ZINFANDEL @ \$17.99 per bottle
Suggested Retail: \$20 - \$22 (see winery, and Wine Enthusiast) (MORE ARRIVES NEXT WEEK)

An old favorite returns! It's been a few years, but for a while there the **Fidelity Zinfandel** (by Goldschmidt) was one of the annual fall/winter favorites here. We even had winemaker Nick Goldschmidt do an in-store tasting for us. I am pleased to report that we have the \$17.99 price from all those years ago too! This impressive Alexander Valley (think Dry Creek though) Zinfandel is rated 91-points by James Suckling, who says: "**Ripe and rich with notes of sweet berries, cherries, chocolate and cooking spices.** Full-bodied, **plush and generous with broad and delicious fruit character.** Creamy and long. **91 points**" Wine Searcher says "Based on critic scores and price, this wine **represents outstanding value** (at \$22)."

FIDELITY 2022 Alexander Valley RED @ \$17.99 per bottle (in-stock now)
Suggested Retail: \$20 - \$22 (see winery, and Wine Enthusiast) CASE PRICE: \$199.99 = \$16.67 each
Rated 90 points Wine Enthusiast! This is a "meritage" style red blend of Merlot, Cabernet, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc, and a dash of Malbec. Wine Enthusiast notes: "This blend offers **generous aromas of raspberry, black cherry and cocoa powder** on the nose, while the palate delivers rich tannin, **juicy acidity and vibrant berry flavors that linger with whispers of graphite and black pepper** on the finish. 90 points."

TOAD HOLLOW 2022 Mendocino MERLOT @ \$14.99 per bottle (in-stock now)
Suggested Retail: \$15 - \$16 Case Price \$175
Rated 92 points Wine Enthusiast! Toad Hollow is a longtime Merlot specialist, and this is a true smart-buy while this vintage lasts. Wine Enthusiast notes: "aromas of plum, boysenberry, red vines, bittersweet chocolate shavings, and notes of violets on the nose. The flavors on the palate are dried cherry, strawberry compote, espresso, and supple with a lip-smacking finish. 92 points." (Wine Enthusiast)

Courtois "la Source" 2022 Cotes du Rhone @ \$12.99 per bottle (limited stock)
Suggested Retail: \$15 CASE PRICE: \$139.99 = \$155.88 each
Rated 90 points by Natalie Maclean, who says "Courtois La Source 2022 is a great value Grenache and Syrah red. Dry, medium-bodied and mouth filling, it is fragrant with pink florals, ripe dark berry, strawberry, cherry, baking and black pepper spice flavours fresh with velvety, supple tannins. Easy to love and enjoy."

AIRFIELD Estate 2024 Sauvignon Blanc @ \$14.99 per bottle (in-stock now)

Suggested Retail: \$17 Case Price \$175

Rated 90 points Wine Enthusiast, who says "The Airfield represents an excellent value in Sauvignon Blanc. Its aromas of apricots, guava and steamed white rice are joined by a spicy, resinous note that is similar to sagebrush leaves. Acidity that refreshes without jolting, complements flavors such as pear, kiwi, salty shelled peanuts and a hint of lemon verbena." Also rated 90 points by James Suckling and (Washington specialist) Paul Gregutt too. This is a "not New Zealand" style that Washington is actually famous for, note all the non-grapefruit tones mentions and the "refreshing, but not jolting" style of acidity too.

Land of Saints GSM 2022 Santa Barbara Grenache red blend @ \$22.50 per bottle (FINALLY BACK IN STOCK, same vintage!!!)

PLUS... as is true every year... in the fall... there is always MUCH more to come, as we enter "wine season" so stay tuned for lots of excitement in the newsletters in October too!

**** Roses for the "last of the summer wine" for this fine late-September weather ****

It's going to be a lovely summery September weekend, one where the sunny warm days turn will to cool early evenings. It's not quite "sweater weather" yet, but it sure feels like "rose weather" to me!

(new this month) **Dogajolo 2024 Toscana Sangiovese rose @ \$14.99 per bottle**

This wine stands out for the lovely color, the beautiful label, the delicious flavor, and because it's made from Sangiovese grown in Greve - Chianti Classico by Carpineto, one of the very best wineries in Tuscany.

(new this month) **Willamette Valley Vineyards 2023 "whole cluster" dry Rose of Pinot Noir @ \$15.99 per bottle**

Suggested Retail: \$18 - \$22 (from various sources) \$191.88 per case = \$15.99 mix/match

100% Pinot Noir (makes great Rose) and will be a great pick for this feature, for the early fall, and even for Turkey too if it's still around for that.

The WVV whole cluster Rose of Pinot Noir has 10 consecutive vintages of 90-92 ratings from most major wine magazines including Wine Spectator, Wine Enthusiast, James Suckling, and other reliable reviewers. Here is what James Suckling says about the current offering: "Aromas of **strawberries, watermelon, rose petals** and citrus zest. The palate is bright and juicy, with fresh acidity and a light core of red fruit. Clean and refreshing, with a crisp finish. **90 points.**"

(new this month) **Pierpaolo Pecorari 2024 Venezia Giulia "Ros Alba" rosato @ \$16.67 each** (\$199.99/case, mix-match)

A rose of Refosco and Pinot Noir, rated 89 points by Falstaff: "Bright reddish pink, pronounced nose of ripe nectarine, cherry and rose petal. Juicy, well-integrated acidity."

(last of the summer favorites) **Domaine le Loup Bleu 2024 Cotes de Provence Rose @ \$19.99 per bottle**

The most popular of my "true Provence" selections this summer, for good reason.

(last of the summer favorites) **MULDERBOSCH 2024 dry ROSE of Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$12.99 per bottle**

Mulderbosch might be famous for white wines, but Stellenbosch is famous for Cabernet Sauvignon. Actually, Cabernet Sauvignon is notoriously difficult to make Rose from, but when it works - the wine has herbal tones combined with a more expansive mouthfeel than most, think Tavel perhaps but with less "fruit" from Grenache and more "herb" from Cabernet.

(last of the summer favorites) **BAUER 2024 ROSE (Austria) @ \$15.99 ea.** (screwcapped, with the Austria flag, full 1-liter bottles)

Estate-grown dry Rose of Zweigelt, by Familie Bauer nearby the Wagram/Kremstal region of Niederosterreich. Zweigelt is a famous red in Austria, but I always seem to prefer it when done as a dry Rose! This is lovely wine, complex and juicy with subtle herb and expressive red fruit tones. This is nice and dry, and quite mouthwatering actually - so thank goodness it's a full liter bottle! I bought this end-of-season offer on their liter bottles in conjunction with the Gruner Veltliner. The net price per standard bottle is only \$12 and this great quality for that price.

(last of the summer favorites) **RAZA 2024 vintage (2025 shipment) Vinho Verde ROSE @ \$9.99 per bottle** (\$107.88/case = \$8.99 ea)

Our favorite Vinho Verde of the past few recent summers, Quinta da Raza has a family history back to 1758 in Portugal. This summer, we'll fall in LOVE with the new Rose version! It's been out-selling the regular nearly two to one. **Super tasty with nice fizz and exuberant red berries** and melon aromas and flavors, with a crisp refreshing personality.

(last of the summer favorites) **MONTGRAVET 2024 vin de France ROSE @ \$10.97 per bottle**

This is made in a Provence style, and really pulls it off! From the pale color and dryness with depth and complexity. Previous vintages of Montgravet have been more powerful, using Syrah from Gascony. This new fresh and beautiful dry Rose 2024 bottling is now sourced from Saint Chinian in the heart of the Languedoc, a cooperative winery in Cebazan.

Last but not least... one last REMEMBER... the wines from the tasting this week. *Missed the tasting??*

(some stock is still available) **Pierpaolo Pecorari 2024 Friuli Pinot Grigio @ \$16.67 each** (\$199.99/case, mix-match)

(some stock is still available) **Pierpaolo Pecorari 2024 Venezia Giulia Sauvignon Blanc @ \$16.67 each** (\$199.99/case, mix-match)

(some stock is still available) **Pierpaolo Pecorari 2023 Friuli Friulano @ \$16.67 each** (\$199.99/case, mix-match)

(some stock is still available) **Pierpaolo Pecorari 2024 Venezia Giulia "Ros Alba" rosato @ \$16.67 each** (\$199.99/case, mix-match)

(very limited stock, last few bottles) **Pierpaolo Pecorari 2022 Venezia Giulia Refosco rosso @ \$16.67 each** (\$199.99/case, mix-match)

(some stock is still available) **Pierpaolo Pecorari 2022 Venezia Giulia Cabernet Franc @ \$16.67 each** *DAVE'S FAVORITE*

**** POSTSCRIPT:** I'm trying to remember... *ah yes, I remember now!*

“Try to Remember the kind of September” is the opening line (followed by follow, follow, follow) of the most famous song from the Broadway musical The Fantasticks. Why do I remember that? Because in my youth our school put on a version of The Fantasticks as our school musical one year, probably around 1979. And although I was not (yet) in any such performances, the song kind of stuck with us amongst the (maybe not so) hip crowd I was in. —Dave

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

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