

**From:** The BrightWines Beacon [lighthouse@brightwines.com](mailto:lighthouse@brightwines.com)  
**Subject:** new solstice Smart-buys that rock!  
**Date:** June 25, 2025 at 3:15 PM  
**To:** The BrightWines Beacon newsletter

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## The BrightWines Beacon for June 20th - June 25th, 2025

We're already two thirds the way through June, and summer only lasts so long, so let's rock-and-roll with these hot new solstice smart-buys!

### **\*\* Rock and Rogue: new and exciting smart-buys from Oregon!**

"Rock Point" and "Del Rio" two great labels from one impressive estate - winery and vineyards - in the Rogue Valley. New to our market, and offering some of the best quality and value of anything available from Oregon. It may not be Willamette Valley, but this is one heck of an impressive site.

#### **ROCK POINT 2023 Oregon PINOT NOIR @ \$17.99 per bottle (\$16.67 each, mix/match \$199.99 per case)**

Rated **90 points** by Wine Enthusiast magazine, at \$19 retail.

"The Rock Point is always a great Oregon Pinot Noir value. This year's model is riper and juicier than the past few vintages, beginning with super-ripe blackcap raspberries, sweet Amarena cherries and a touch of earthiness. Zippy acidity and a crisp texture escort ripe red cherry and sweet-sour hoisin sauce flavors across the finish line. \$19 retail. **90 points.**" (Wine Enthusiast)

#### **ROCK POINT 2023 Oregon PINOT GRIS @ \$14.99 per bottle (\$12.99 each, mix/match \$155.88 per case)**

Light and lively with wet stones and lemon and chamomile aromatics (credit to Wine Enthusiast) with a refreshing personality that offers a 12.5% abv dryness and purity that seems less intense than many Willamette Valley Pinot Gris (at much higher cost) yet plenty charming and is a perfect "patio style" Pinot Gris. This offers a nice middle ground between "Pinot Grigio" and Willamette "Pinot Gris"

#### **DEL RIO 2024 estate grown Rogue Valley dry Grenache ROSE @ \$17.99 per bottle (\$15.99 each, mix/match)**

New fresh 2024 vintage, just released! Wine Enthusiast highly recommended the 2023, with the following commentary (which I endorse for the 2024): "Aromas of watermelon, lime and saline come across as a festive tropical cocktail. The light-bodied pink wine's lime sorbet, peach and agave nectar flavors continue the theme."

#### **DEL RIO 2023 estate grown Rogue Valley VIOGNIER @ \$17.99 per bottle (\$16.67 each, mix/match \$199.99 per case)**

"100% estate-grown Viognier is grown at the vineyard's lowest elevation in mineral-rich, ancient riverbed soil. It is light gold in color and opens with an expressive nose of orange peel, apricot, lemon zest, and hints of white blossom. On the palate, vibrant flavors of citrus, peach, apricot, and honeysuckle shine through. Subtle mineral undertones and delicate spice add to this wine's mouthfeel and complexity." (winery notes)

### **\*\* Land of Saints: one of my favorite "cult" labels from California**

*"always a stranger when strange isn't fashionable"* (Paul Simon, The Rhythm of the Saints)

Land of Saints is one of my favorite "cult" labels from California. I say "cult" as in perhaps lesser-known, but savvy winelovers should know and love them... not in the "impossible to get and cost way to much" kind of way. In point of fact, these two \$22 affordable luxury summer wines from Santa Barbara were the best two wines I sampled this week. Land of Saints is a joint venture winery whose most famous partner is "A Tribute to Grace" (that's a real cult wine) and as that partnership suggests, they are best known for their lovely Grenache blend - and this summer they have added a very impressive and truly one-of-a-kind Santa Barbara Sauvignon Blanc to enjoy too.

#### **LAND of SAINTS 2022 Santa Barbara GSM (grenache blend) @ SOLD OUT (more coming after the 4th of July)**

smooth and complex and drinking beautifully, this is southern California's version of Côtes du Rhône. Literally the best red wine I tasted all week. If there's a better Grenache winemaker in California than "A Tribute to Grace" I don't know who it might be. (maybe Saxum, but then that's a real cult wine !!)

#### **LAND of SAINTS 2024 Santa Barbara SAUVIGNON BLANC @ SOLD OUT (more coming after the 4th of July)**

New vintage, and my first time trying a Sauv Blanc from this winery. This wine really stood out in my samplings this week, as it's a unique style of Sauvignon Blanc (in a good way). The best description I can give is that it shines with delicate minerals and crystalline quince.

### **\*\* Fire up the grill, fill up the ice bucket, raise the patio umbrella...**

... with a bottle or two of these **UNIQUE solstice smart-buys**, you've got it made in the shade!

*"We drink wine with diamonds in the glass"*

*By the case, the meaning of expensive taste."* (lyric from the song, Lady Marmalade)

#### **MARMALADE (by Breaking Bread / Kokomo) 2024 "Orange Wine" (skin contact dry white) @ \$22.50 per bottle**

Simply put, this is the BEST "orange wine" I've tasted since the trend hit California. Unfiltered "diamonds in the glass" and Marmalade is the perfect name how this wine tastes! Breaking Bread is the "fun" set of labels (great artwork too) by the winemaker at Kokomo (Dry Creek, Russian River, and Alexander Valley) INQUIRE with Dave if you happened to miss those wines in the Father's Day newsletter edition last week.

#### **Breaking Bread 2024 dry Rose of Zinfandel PET NAT @ \$29.99 per bottle (very limited stock)**

dry sparkling Zinfandel Rose from Dry Creek... diamonds in the glass indeed!! My best PET NAT since Carboniste (if you know, you know). Breaking Bread is the "fun" set of labels (great artwork too) by the winemaker at Kokomo (Dry Creek, Russian River, and Alexander Valley) INQUIRE with Dave if you happened to miss those wines in the Father's Day newsletter edition last week.

#### **IOPPA 2024 Colline Novaresi ROSE of NEBBIOLO @ \$17.99 per bottle (limited stock)**

Alpine, crystalline, lively.... tastes like diamonds in the glass! Rose of Nebbiolo from way up there in northern Piedmont, the Colline Novaresi DOC. The best use Nebbiolo since Langhe Nebbiolo became a thing.

*"I feel a hot wind on my shoulder... I dial it in from south of the border." (Wall of Voodoo, Mexican Radio)*

**ELQUI 2018 Elqui Valley, Chile CARMENERE/Malbec/Syrah red blend @ \$17.99 per bottle** (\$215.88 per case, feature price mix/match)  
Rated 92 points, **this complex blend is just now entering its peak** 7 - 10 year range right now. **Rich and mouth-filling with lingering spice and fruit blends with the more mineral laden flavors** of the terroir of the Elqui Valley, the ancient Elqui river bed. **Rated 92 points** by the senior editor for "James Suckling" wine reviews, "Rich berries, chocolate and a touch of grilled herbs and peppercorns. Flavorful and rich on the palate with a medium to full body rounded by dusty tannins. Round and fleshy finish full of flavor and salinity." DAVE SAYS: this is the best Carmenere available in our market right now for any sort of reasonable price. **I love a good Carmenere with meat on the grill, and I love a good Carmenere outdoors, and this is great Carmenere!** A blend of 45% Carmenere, 32% Syrah, 23% Malbec. ***Fire. Up. The. Grill.***

**The Right Wines are BrightWines!**

2420 Margaret Street  
North Saint Paul, MN 55109  
651.748.0793  
[www.brightwines.com](http://www.brightwines.com)