

 
Subject: Summer Vibes (attached photo)
Date: August 13, 2026 at 1:53 PM
To: The BrightWines Beacon newsletter

The BrightWines Beacon for 8/12 - 8/17, 2026: Smart-buys with "Summer vibes" (see attached photo)

"If the day was bright, I would buy a liter of wine and a piece of bread and some sausage and sit in the sun and read one of the books I had bought and watch the fishing." - Ernest Hemingway in *A Moveable Feast*

NEW ARRIVALS: Smart-buys with "Summer vibes" (see attached photo)

see attached photo... from LEFT to RIGHT (taken @ Silver Lake, North St Paul, 8/12/26)

Argiolas Costamolino 2025 Vermentino de Sardegna - Gran Sasso 2025 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo - "Le Cigare Volant" Red Blend (liter bottles) - River Farm 2025 Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc - Nortico 2025 Alvarinho

"Le Cigare Volant" (Bonny Doon) Red Blend 2023 @ \$14.99 each (Take Me To Your LITER)

- * Rated **93 points** by Wine Enthusiast at \$15 retail (standard 750ml)
- * Special **40th Anniversary bottling in full LITER bottles...** that's 25% more wine !! at same retail price !!
- * just a dozen cases in stock on a one-shot deal... only 14 cases of these liters were available
- * email orders accepted... full case of liters is \$179.88 so that's less than \$11.25/btl for standard btls price
- * Dave says: light and juicy and smooth, Grenache fans (and California Pinot Noir fans) will love this

Originally named **"Le Cigare Volant" or the Flying Cigar after a mythical UFO sighting over the vineyards in the southern Rhone near Chateauneuf du Pape.** Bonny Doon was established by the pioneering and groundbreaking (and very eccentric) Californian winemaker, Randall Grahm (recently retired, Been Doon So Long) who helped create the category of the California Rhone-rangers. Take me to your liter! (pun intended)

Rated 93 points at \$15 retail (standard 750ml size) by Wine Enthusiast magazine, who notes: "The newer ownership of this historic brand is doing a solid job of keeping the Rhône vibe and mission alive. This blend of **69% Grenache**, 15% Syrah, 14% Cinsaut and 2% Petite Sirah offers fresh red currant aromas that are layered in earth and herb elements. The palate pairs **raspberry and strawberry flavors (and) cracked pepper, making for a very drinkable glass! 93 points.**" (Wine Enthusiast)

Argiolas "Costamolino" 2025 VERMENTINO de Sardegna @ \$15.99 per bottle (\$191.88/case)

DAVE says: one of my favorite white wine varietals, Vermentino offers the perfect midpoint between Sauvignon Blanc and classic Italian whites that are "not" Pinot Grigio. This winery is always highly rated, and this is the brand new 2025 vintage (the same vintage was here over the Fourth and sold briskly). No press yet on the 2025, but I really enjoyed the "winemaker" notes on this wine (generally) from the importer, who said... Vermentino often shows the essence of macchia, the mix of evergreen shrubs and herbs that typifies the Sardinian landscape. Costamolino hints at aromas of pine and mint coupled with stone fruit and ripe citrus. The palate is at once vibrant and textural and finishes with lingering acidity.

Gran Sasso 2025 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo @ \$17.99 per bottle (limited stock, supplier sold out)

Made in a very traditional darker-pink style of dry Rose. The name Cerasuolo literally means "cherry red" is inspired by the deep pink/red color the wine obtains from even very brief skin contact with the highly pigmented Montepulciano. In Abruzzo, Cerasuolo has always referred to the dry Rosé style of wine made in the region. It has been produced under the rules of the Montepulciano d'Abruzzo DOC since it was established in 1968, and in 2010 it was promoted to its own separate Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo DOC. So really, in all respects, **for this delicious and exuberant dark pink... the name really does say it all.** Limited stock, the supplier has sold out twice now this summer despite allocating it out in small quantities.

River Farm 2025 Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc @ \$14.99 per bottle (\$162/case = \$13.50 ea)

New Vintage of one that was a big hit back in May. Rated 90 points by James Suckling. "Beautifully lifted on the nose with gooseberry, makrut lime, apricot and lemon peel aromas. This leads to a delightfully flavorsome palate delivering excellent fruit intensity and vibrant acidity, making it instantly appealing." (winemaker notes)

Nortico (Minho, Portugal) 2025 Alvarinho @ \$15.99 per bottle (\$179.88/case = \$14.99 ea)

Note: this is the official "Wine Club Selection" for the month of August for those in the "Smart Buys" wine club
100% Albarino from the northern region of Portugal, just below the Spanish region of Galicia which is home to the most famous Albarino white, Rias Baixas. Although this wine carries the Portuguese spelling, and comes from the region also know for Vinho Verde, this is a **lovely Alvarinho white that competes with any \$20 Rias Baixas.** The label is beautiful, the wines is very impressive (and very, very seafood-friendly and summery too) AND best of all, this new fresh 2025 vintage is **on a nice late-summer discount of \$20 per case LESS than when we had the previous vintage** of this very wine here at BrightWines this spring (it was a featured selection in March after my big Como wine event, for those who recognize it).

The Right Wines are BrightWines! (SEE ATTACHED PHOTO for Smart-buys with "summer vibes")

2420 Margaret Street
North Saint Paul, MN 55109
651.748.0793 (office)

