

From: The BrightWines Beacon [REDACTED]
Subject: Sunny Days and Chardonnay, or maybe a Rose!
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To: The BrightWines Beacon newsletter

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The BrightWines Beacon “wines of the weekend” edition for April 24th - 27th, 2026

“Life needs more sunny days and Chardonnay” (Anonymous, also ubiquitous)

“Oh, but you need more chardonnay... and BETTER chardonnay.” (Lisa Kudrow to Courtney Cox in TV’s “Cougar Town”)

I have had a productive week here at BrightWines, the spring cleaning I began last weekend has progressed rather nicely, and the aisles are getting clearer, I’ve loaded all of the partial cases on the shelves, and the solid cases are on the pallets or stacked neatly along the wall. I do have more work to do, but if you happen to be shopping for wine this weekend or into next week I am sure you will notice!

This weekend’s newsletter is going to be rather short and focused, or “narrow-casted” if you like hip jargon. California Chardonnay fans in particular, or French Rose lovers. See *BRIGHT LIGHTS* for two 90-94 point Chardonnays, plus a good French rose! In addition, there’s alot that I am working on for my upcoming newsletters and for wines and themes, and for BrightWines plans for the rest of spring too. It’s all a big work in progress, but progress is being made!

Here is just a teaser of SOME of the things I am working on for **COMING SOON**:

“Wine and Health” updates: this upcoming newsletter is actually a re-scheduled topic from January that got pushed to the side due to other events and other wine features. Suffice to say that for as much as you might be seeing about the health impacts of alcohol, just in the past few months there has been plenty of GOOD news about “wine (in particular) and health that I plan to share. I also plan to offer some wine-and-health related tasting opportunities in the near future, in particular focusing on some of the good news for wine as it relates to Parkinson’s. So **STAY TUNED** for upcoming newsletters if these topics are of interest.

“Wine of the Month Club” updates: this newsletter is nearly ready to send AND the designated “wine of the month” for MAY has already been chosen, and the quantity had been ordered, and the pallet will arrive (direct from the source) sometime in mid-May. Word to the wise: this Wine of the Month Club is a NEW FEATURE at BrightWines, something I have actually done before with customers but on a smaller scale than I’m announcing soon. The focus will be to give newsletter readers who are perhaps drinking a little less nowadays, but do still enjoy a nice glass or two of wine every so often, a monthly excuse to include BrightWines in their shopping errands even if you are not buying cases at a time anymore. Naturally, the WINE that is chosen will also be available to purchase (bottles or mixed or cases, etc) and will be included in newsletter features and wine sales too - which is why I say the “pallet” will arrive in mid-May. **STAY TUNED** for upcoming newsletters if this topic is of interest.

“For the Love of Wine” updates: newsletter readers know that I do a pretty good job at creating excitement and interest for the particular wines I’ve selected to recommend. I am ALSO working on some newsletters that focus on creating excitement and interest for wine in general. I plan to share my thoughts on drinking wine instead of other adult beverage options, it’s been said that wine is the most healthful and hygienic of beverages. I plan to share new or different (or just reminders) ways to think about enjoying wine, I’ve often spoken of good wine being good entertainment in and of itself as well as being good for meals. It’s said that good wine is a good familiar creature, if it be well used. So **STAY TUNED** for upcoming newsletters if these topics are of interest.

So those are some of the themes and features I am working on. I am also working on the details of an upcoming winemaker meet-and-greet tasting event for early May too, which is one reason I need to finish the “spring cleaning” and not lose momentum on that, as we’ll definitely need clear aisles for that event. But all of that is in the near future and for the rest of springtime.

So what about THIS weekend? Like the subject line, and today’s very sunny day, both suggest...

BRIGHT LIGHTS: Sunny Days need Chardonnay, or maybe Rose!

New arrivals and recent favorites... including **two great 90-94 point rated** (by multiple magazines) **California Chardonnay picks**, both are for fans of the classic/traditional California style, but **with a modern sense of flair and elegance too!** *email orders accepted, or stop by this Saturday during regular hours (or next week too) and check out the “spring cleaning” progress here!*

(Affordable Luxury) **GRAND NAPA Vineyards 2024 Los Carneros - Napa Valley CHARDONNAY @ \$19.99 per bottle**

Suggested Retail: \$28 (case price \$239.88 per case, mix/match, is nearly 30% off retail)

Rated 94 points by Tasting Panel magazine, who says: “A touch of spun honey drips from the notes of fresh apples, yuzu and tangy meringue.

A touch of peach and a touch of honeysuckle tease. A holistic wine that is expertly crafted, the disparate tastes coalesce for an experience that is greater than the sum of its parts.” ALSO rated 90 points by Wine Enthusiast too, just for good measure!

(90-rated Smart-buy) **LADYBIRD North Coast 2024 CHARDONNAY @ \$12.99 per bottle**

Suggested Retail: \$15 (see Wine Enthusiast) (solid case price: \$143.88 = 20% off retail)

Wine Enthusiast rated 90 points: “This is a classic version of North Coast Chardonnay, the aromatics are a combination of fresh stone fruits, citrus zest, florals, and notes of integrated oak throughout the palate; **the mouthfeel is lively with youthful yellow apple, lemon zest, crushed herbs, intertwined with fresh caramel in the mid palate but finishing dry.”**

Love sunny days but not so much Chardonnay? Here’s a restocked favorite French rose!!

Domaine de Millet “La Cloche” 2024 Cotes de Gascogne dry Rose @ \$12.99 per bottle

Lovely color of true pink tones and an **interesting varietal mix** comprise **this Rose from the southwest, 50% Egidola and 50% Syrah**. The Egidola grape variety, which means “pure blood” or “blood brother” in Basque, is a dark-skinned vinifera variety used in the production of red and rosé wines in Southwest France, as in the case of this Cotes de Gascogne. It is a rare variety but is frequently used in blends with Syrah where it lends its deep, dark color and considerable tannins and known for its pleasant rustic qualities and plum and blackberry notes. As a dry Rose **this wine offers noticeably red fruits like watermelon and strawberry or raspberry too, yet the wine remains dry and refreshing!**

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THE LAMP IS LIT: Store Hours this weekend and next week

**** SATURDAY April 25th: OPEN from 10:30am until 5:30pm** (regular Saturday)

**** MONDAY April 27th: OPEN from 11am until 5:30pm** (regular weekday hours)

**** TUES & WEDS April 28th/29th: OPEN from 11am until 5:30pm** (regular weekday hours)

**** NEXT WEEKEND Thurs/Fri/Sat, April 30th - May 2nd: OPEN at 10:30am** on the weekends

And stay tuned to upcoming newsletters for more great wines, and more progress updates on the spring of 2026; including fun ways to support your local wine shop, some new and improved ways to think about wine and health, and inspiring ways to think about wine, in general. There’s much more to come this spring here at BrightWines!

email orders accepted, or stop by this Saturday during regular hours (or next week too) and check out the “spring cleaning” progress here! That’s all for today. I’d like to close up shop while it’s still sunny and with time to take the long way home past Silver Lake here in North St Paul. Cheers to spring! —Dave

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The Right Wines are BrightWines!

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