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Subject: Thanksgiving to the vine!
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To: The BrightWines Beacon newsletter

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The BrightWines Beacon for 11/22/25 - 11/27/25: Thanksgiving to the vine! <https://www.brightwines.com/updated-bfs25-winelist.pdf>

"Pour forth the cheering wine! There's life and strength in every drop, thanksgiving to the vine." (Albert Gorton Greene)

As we get closer to Thanksgiving 2025, our shopping lists and errands and other "to do" lists seem to get longer as the time left before the holiday gets shorter. I have prepared a newsletter for this weekend that I hope is useful and timely. Now is not the time for lengthy tomes or in-depth analysis, now is the time for efficiency. With that in mind, this weekend's newsletter format will be a little different, I've narrowed everything down to "seven savvy suggestions for a successful fine wine Thanksgiving time." And here we go...

7 savvy suggestions for a successful Thanksgiving with fine wine:

**** Suggestion #1:** the annual BrightWines Fall SALE is on, and runs until Thanksgiving weekend (while supplies last)

Whether you're pairing your wines to the preferences of people that you're serving and just gotta have a "red blend" or a Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, or you are looking for classic combinations for turkey (a "game bird" after all) or the trimmings, or the All-American wine concept (like old vine Zinfandel or Willamette Valley Pinot Noir) the annual FALL SALE at BrightWines has something for everyone. It's timely, there is still plenty of stock, and best of all it's been updated... **the FULL LIST of the BFS-25 has been UPDATED and is ONLINE now in PDF format.**
<https://www.brightwines.com/updated-bfs25-winelist.pdf>

**** Suggestion #2:** go off the beaten path! Have some fun with something new, or unique, or unexpected!!

Some of Dave's TOP PICKS for not-so-traditional options for Thanksgiving

"Lini 910" Labrusca Rosso 2024 (dry, sparkling, red) LAMBRUSCO @ \$12.99 per bottle

Not the Lambrusco of the 70's and 80's TV ads! This is the real stuff. Corked like a Champagne. Lini's wines are renowned for their signature freshness and classic dry character. Labrusca is the ancient Roman name for the family of Lambrusco grape varieties; this one uses 85% Salamino and 15% Ancellotta. Wine Enthusiast reviewed a recent (but past) vintage in 2023, saying "Supertasty and requiring some restraint, the palate is like biting into the juiciest plum you can conjure yet is balanced with notes of dried leaves, wild herbs and roasted coffee, making this joyous and very drinkable wine more complex than you might think." (Wine Enthusiast, a recent but previous vintage)

Te Pa "Oke" 2021 Sauvignon Blanc @ \$27.99 per bottle

The new vintage of this wine is in the Wine Spectator Top 100 list that was just published! Oaky Chardonnay is too much for turkey, but an oaky Sauvignon Blanc would be awesome! Rated 90 points Wine Spectator in this vintage, it is a luscious oaky Sauv Blanc with peachy honeyed citrus tones. This reminds me of the old Ferrari-Carano Reserve Fume, or a top-tier Pessac-Leognac Blanc. In reality, it's an expensive-tasting, sexy/oaky, Marlborough - New Zealand.

Duquesa de Valladolid (by Bodegas LAN) 2023 RUEDA Verdejo @ \$10.97 per bottle

100% Verdejo (aka Verdelho) meaning it's a pure, top-tier, Rueda white. Dry and refreshing like a Sauvignon Blanc but with oranges infused citrus flavors and peach/melon hints. Fans of Albarino and fans of Sauvignon Blanc often fall in love with good Spanish Rueda whites, and this is a great sale price on a very recent vintage by a great winery. Winner, winner... turkey dinner!

Landhaus Mayer 2021 Burgenland, Austria ZWEIGELT @ \$16.67 per bottle

A new addition to the BFS-25, a wine that was supposed to be included in the "Oktoberfest" feature as a good red wine pick for game. But it took an extra week for my supplier to come up with the last 23 bottles of this vintage that's drinking so well. And hey, Turkey is a "game bird" right? For Austria, the 2021 vintage has been described as phenomenal. And while I normally prefer Blaufrankisch for my Austrian reds, this Zweigelt red is drinking superbly with just as much complexity and depth but just ever so slightly less full-bodied. Fans of Barbera d'Alba should try this!

Alfredo Arribas (Portal de Priora) 2019 Gotes del PRIORAT @ \$22.50 per bottle (ARRIVES 11/24)

A rare Priorat, drinking at peak. Some say it's Spain's answer to Chateaufort du Pape. I will write more about this wine soon, and it's another NEW ARRIVAL (available Monday Nov 24th). But it's rated 91 points by the respected Spanish publication Guia Penin "cherry, purple, spicy, ripe fruit, black fruit, flavourful, good acidity and long;" and wine notes by the blog Cadus Vinum are quite accurate when they say: "Vibrant red and dark berry. The wine is delicious in its simplicity, with deep tones of ripe red and black berries and subtle hints of oak. Gently tannic with a lovely cherry finish." 50% Garnacha, 40% Carignan, 10% Syrah. MORE ON THIS WINE in a future newsletter too!

**** Suggestion #3:** *le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrive!*

Yesterday was the traditional "third Thursday of November" annual release of the first 2025 vintage AOC wines from France, Beaujolais Nouveau. I know many of you are indifferent to the category, and some folks simply aren't fans, but there ARE plenty of you who are fans of the category and the style, and the hoopla too! So if you count yourself as one who enjoys Beaujolais Nouveau, here is your word to the wise:

The bad news is that it's limited stock and seasonal (as always) and it's no longer a sub-\$15 wine, due to tariffs and freight. Moreover, our market had the fewest selections available to us as any year in my 33 seasons in the wine business!! (due to a combination of several factors) The ONLY true French Beaujolais Nouveau producer that shipped here for the release day was the iconic, Georges Duboeuf. BrightWines was able to secure just under 10 total cases (I was short by a couple from what I'd planned) and already this week I've sold quite a bit to some of the true fans.

And guess what? It's darn tasty this year too! It's easily the best version of the Duboeuf in several years. So that's the good news! Here's Wine Spectator magazine from YESTERDAY: "**Georges Duboeuf's workhorse, the widely available Beaujolais Nouveau bottling, was the highlight**

of its category, showing violet and blackcurrant jelly aromas and flavors with the vibrant, lifted character that Nouveau fans are looking for.”

Georges Duboeuf 2025 Beaujolais Nouveau @ \$17.99 per bottle (limited stock)

(ALSO available, very limited) **Georges Duboeuf 2025 Beaujolais-Villages nouveau @ \$19.99 per bottle**
- and - **2025 Beaujolais ROSE @ \$19.99 per bottle**

**** Suggestion #4** (*speaking of Rose*) Dry Rose pairs very well with turkey!

Here's a hint to why... the same reason we serve cranberries with the turkey is the same reason dry Rose wines pair well. The freshness, the tangy red fruit tones, etc. In addition to the Roses I have already listed on the PDF of the BFS-25 list, here are several other in-stock ideas too, some supplies are limited stock:

Dopf and Irion Brut Rose Cremant de Alsace @ \$22.50 per bottle
Georges Duboeuf 2025 ROSE Beaujolais nouveau @ \$19.99 per bottle
Raza Vinho Verde Rose @ \$9.99 per bottle
WVV 2023 Willamette Valley Dry Rose of Pinot Noir (on the pdf) **@ \$14.99 per bottle**
LOS DOS Cava Brut Rosado (on the pdf) **@ \$12.99 per bottle**
Montgravel Rose vin de France (Saint Chinian co-op) on the pdf **@ \$9.99 per bottle**
Le Loup Bleu 2024 Cotes de Provence @ \$17.99 per bottle
Chateau Jouclary 2024 Cabardes Rose @ \$15.99 per bottle
Dogajolo 2024 Toscana Rosato (100% Sangiovese rose) **@ \$14.99 per bottle**

**** Suggestion #5:** BFS-25 has plenty of traditional turkey picks available

Whether you traditionally serve **popular “Thanksgiving wines”** like VOUVRAY (the most famous of Chenin Blanc) or the “off-dry” (not too sweet, not too dry) RIESLING whites, or you go with red wines like PINOT NOIR, or the so-called “All American” red wine variety, red ZINFANDEL, or the aforementioned Beaujolais Nouveau or some Rose wines, there are several choices for ALL of those and many more too! Be sure to check the full list, which is online and updated. <https://www.brightwines.com/updated-bfs25-winelist.pdf>

**** Suggestion #6:** don't forget the BACKUP BOTTLES

What do I mean by “backup bottles” ?? It's simple really. So you've prepared a great meal and are serving some great bottles of wine to go with the menu, but holidays like Thanksgiving are daylong affairs, and often include football games, naps, turkey sandwiches later, and much more. And you might need more wine on hand for a larger group, or the longer day, but you only bought so much of the prime selections. That's when you need the backup bottles. For example, if you've decided to serve the wonderful Dobbles estate “Assemblage” Willamette Valley Pinot Noir (\$23.33 per bottle, BFS-25) with your meal, it might also be a good idea to stock in several bottles of the \$8.99 per bottle, eminently drinkable, 88 point rated, Castle Rock 2021 Monterey Pinot Noir for the rest of the day. (just a suggestion) With that being said, **here are 3 good ideas for “backup bottles” on the BFS-25 list:**

“Los Faroles” (Spain) **MERLOT @ \$5.50 per bottle** (dry, lighter, easy, and just 12% abv too, for good measure)
Castle Rock 2021 Monterey Pinot Noir @ \$8.99 per bottle (splurge on the Dobbles, back it up with Castle Rock, 88pts WE)
“Los Faroles” (Spain) **Chardonnay @ \$5.50 per bottle** (lower alcohol, dry and un-oaked)

Suggestion #7: grab a “Cornucopia Case” (or tote bag) or even just a few bottles... all with **Dave as Personal Shopper!**

The BFS-25 list is a lot of wines! My recent newsletters recommend a lot of wines! I have lots of other options too (believe it or not). It can be a lot to sort thru, and time can run short during the holiday season too. So if you'd rather just have DAVE put together a case for you (we can call it a Cornucopia Case, instead of “cabin case”) or a tote bag worth of wines, or even just select a few bottles for you, just reply to this newsletter, or email Dave and we'll get you all set up.

That's all for this edition, I'm sure at least one of these suggestions should work for you if you're looking for wine for this Thanksgiving. And if you're one of the MANY folks here this month who have already taken full advantage of BFS-25, thank you for your patronage! *Happy Thanksgiving to all. —Dave*

THE LAMP IS LIT: Store Hours up until Thanksgiving

**** SATURDAY November 22nd: OPEN from about 10:45am until at least 5:30pm** (regular Saturday)

**** MONDAY & TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY before Thanksgiving: OPEN 10:30am/11am until 5:30pm/6pm** daily
BrightWines will be OPEN REGULAR HOURS the first half of next week for order pickups from this newsletter, other recent newsletters, and for Dave-as-personal-shopper requests too. email orders are preferred, just reply to this newsletter or contact Dave and be sure to mention when you prefer to pick up your order so I can reply and prepare accordingly to fill your order.

The Right Wines are BrightWines!
<https://www.brightwines.com/updated-bfs25-winelist.pdf>
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