

From: The BrightWines Beacon 
Subject: fine Wines for a fine Fall forecast
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To: The BrightWines Beacon newsletter

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The BrightWines Beacon for the week of October 5th - 12th: fine Wines for a fine Fall forecast

This week is predicted to possibly be the finest week of the fall season, with sunny days and cool nights, the crisp clean air, fall color in the trees, and those deep blue skies of October reminding us why we love autumn in Minnesota!

The days are getting shorter though, so there's no time to waste burning daylight before the "**The Lamp is Lit**" (and speaking of which, BrightWines will be **OPEN by 11am Tuesday & Wednesday & Thursday** and here until 6pm daily for full weekday hours... and this weekend BrightWines will be **open by 10:30am both Friday & Saturday** this weekend, but closing time on both days is yet to be determined (stay tuned for a weekend update emailing later this week).

I've prepared an **extensive newsletter for this week** (week of Oct 5th to Oct 12th) to fill all of these wonderful fall days with fine wines!!

**** (new arrivals) Dave's TOP Picks for PINOT NOIR:**

Read Bright Lights for three lovely 91 - 93 point rated Pinots at deeply discounted trade-show season prices (while supplies last) from \$17.99 per bottle on a Russian River Sonoma on up \$19.99 and \$33.33 each for two versions of a Willamette Valley Oregon classic winery. See BRIGHT LIGHTS section today!

**** (wines of the month for Sept) Dave's TOP Picks for California CABERNET**

In case you missed it... I have stocked up (10 case stacks) on my two favorite California Cabernets of my recent samplings with my supplier. There's a very impressive Smart-buy for just \$14.99 from one of the best winemakers in the northern coast, plus a very special, 469 case production, estate-bottled Cabernet from the winery that we love because of the "Tievoli" reds. See BRIGHT LIGHTS section today!

**** MORE of the \$12.99 is the new \$9.99 for good wine values** (new arrivals and restocks):

Read BRIGHT LIGHTS section today for \$12.99 pricing on impressive wines like a new Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, a new Garnach rosado from Spain by Zorzal, the last cases of "Diversus" Douro (Portugal) red blend until November (word to the wise) plus a new-arrival companion red blend from Spain with a nice 90-point rating too! And there is a re-stock of Babich "Black Label" Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough coming this week too. See BRIGHT LIGHTS section today!

**** RECAP of the Piedmont winemakers meet-and-greet tasting event** here last week

In case you missed it... last Wednesday evening here at BrightWines a crowd of 30 of us were able to meet and taste with two Piedmont, Italy winemakers - the wines of Vigin (Barbaresco) and Negretti (Barolo). Read BRIGHT LIGHTS for a recap of the wines, the prices, the tasting notes, and available stock.

**** Affordable Luxury from France:** top-rated rarties from Burgundy and from the Northern Rhone

Read BRIGHT LIGHTS for details on the last 3 - 5 cases available of these highly rated vintages of the limited production, Cru designation reds from Saint Joseph and from Morgon.

BRIGHT LIGHTS: fine Wines for a fine Fall forecast this week

Check this selection of NEW ARRIVALS, and TOP PICKS, and some re-stocked favorites too!

**** NEW ARRIVAL \$12.99 Smart-buys in-stock now (is \$12.99 the new \$9.99 ??) ****

Quinta de Porrais 2023 Douro DIVERSUS Red Blend @ \$12.99 per bottle

Quinta de Porrais originally belonged to the legendary Ferreira family. Casa Santos Lima (we loved both the Colossal and the Confidencial) has been partnered with the Ferreira family for the past 15 years and is full responsible for the production and marketing of the wines. The Douro vineyards offer classic stoney and peppery aromas, dry wine structure and dark fruit tones while the winemaking style of Casa Santos Lima shines through with the emphasis on smooth and approachable wines of depth and character. The "Diversus" red blend is a classic Douro blending of Touriga Nacional with Touriga Franca, Sousão, and Tinta Barroca.

NOTE from DAVE: we have already sold through nearly 20 cases of the 25 available in local inventory. **BrightWines now has the LAST 7 cases until the next shipment** which won't arrive locally be until early November. So in case you missed it, or want to get some more for the season, email your order now! CASE PRICE: \$155.88 per case.

(new from SPAIN, a 90-rated red blend of Monastrell, Syrah, and Merlot)

CARRO (by Bodegas Barahonda) 2024 Yecla red @ \$12.99 per bottle

Yecla is in the southeast of Spain and despite its relative rarity in the market is known for great value! This example is rated 90-points by Wine Enthusiast, who points out that "This wine punches above its weight. A perfume of black raspberry, black plum and pomegranate entrances the nose dusted with petals of violet blossom. The palate is rich yet lifted with florals that carry to the finish. 90 points." CASE PRICE: \$155.88 per case.

(new arrival dry Rose, Garnacha rosado from Spain for just \$12.99 per bottle)

Vina ZORZAL 2025 Garnacha rosado @ \$12.99 per bottle

A later-arriving Rose with the darker pink tones associated with Tavel and similar Grenache dry roses, Zorzal is a Garnacha specialist with old vines in Navarra. In previous years we've loved this Rose, and also two price levels of red too. So once you see the bird on the label, you might recognize it.

(new from Italy, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo with ripe fruit smoothness)

LUNATICO 2025 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo @ \$12.99 per bottle

Another recent trade-show find from one of my favorite local suppliers. This is a local import. Fans of a smoothly fruited Montepulciano d'Abruzzo from the Adriatic coast of Italy will have a new everyday favorite, and astronomy fans will love the moon and star chart label too.

... and *STAY TUNED* for a re-stock shipment of **BABICH "Black Label" Marlborough SAUVIGNON BLANC** coming soon at **\$12.99** per bottle too!

**** Dave's TOP picks for PINOT NOIR ****

Balletto 2020 Estate Russian River Pinot Noir @ \$17.99 per bottle (\$215.88 per case)

Suggested Retail: \$34 (the last handful of cases on wholesaler clearance this month)

Rated 91 points by Tastings, who notes: "Aromas of black cherry, raspberry leaf, cocoa, and mushroom with a full body and a long baked cherry, bakers chocolate, and cherry cola finish. Earthy and fruity and **a great example of Russian River Pinot Noir.**" NOTE from DAVE: this is the same Pinot Noir that I featured at \$50 per case more back around the Fourth of July (and it all sold out then) but I just grabbed the last handful of cases available on clearance from the wholesaler this fall.

PANTHER CREEK 2023 "Winemakers Cuvee" Willamette Valley PINOT NOIR @ \$19.99 per bottle

Rated 91 points Wine Spectator, 90 point Vinous, and 92 points JS. Wine Spectator notes: "Precise and snappy, with sleek flavors of cherry, cranberry, green tea and dusky spices that end with refined tannins." And Vinous says: "This is a juicy effort, offering tart wild berry fruits and a cascade of inner florals. The 2023 finishes juicy and long, with an air of violet inner florals and a hint of tart cherry that slowly fades." Panther Creek is a venerable top-quality label with a great history going back 30 years in the Dundee/Wilamette region of Oregon, this offers great value and great pedigree as well as being highly rated across the board.

PANTHER CREEK 2023 "Dundee Hills" cuvee PINOT NOIR @ \$33.33 per bottle (\$399/case).

Rated 92 points by Wine Enthusiast, will 100% Dundee Hills vineyard sources for top quality Pinot Noir. Wine Enthusiast notes: "'It's all about the brambly fruit with the Dundee Hills Cuvée. First up are aromas of blackcap raspberries and earthy blackberry tea. These tangy fruit scents are accompanied by a devilishly tempting sweet note that comes across like vanilla poundcake. The light-bodied wine flashes gentle acidity and silky tannins, making it a smooth and juicy sip of wine. The big finale is the wine's flavors of blackberry, black iced tea and a hint of fennel. Bramble on! 92points." Panther Creek is a venerable top-quality label with a great history going back 30 years in the Dundee/Wilamette region of Oregon, but it's been quite a long time since we've seen them here. Credit goes to the new partnership with Dobbes (our favorite last fall).

**** Dave's TOP picks for CABERNET ****

Graziano 2023 Mendocino Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$14.99 per bottle

Mix/Match case Price: \$159.99 = **\$13.33 ea, mix/match**

Solid Case Price: **\$155.88 is just \$12.99 per bottle** (must be solid case)

The winemaker who made the Kalpela Vineyards Mendocino (north of Sonoma) Cabernet we loved the past couple of years. This is younger, and in the flagship black label Graziano labeling, and is a fuller-bodied and chewier version of Cabernet Sauvignon, with the oak and tannin and depth you expect from Greg Graziano! This is a one-time bottling, that we plan to feature as long as we can during this fall wine season. 10 cases available.

Oak Farm Vineyards "Estate" (painted label) 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon @ \$25.99 per bottle

Only 469 cases produced! This is the same winery that makes our fave-rave "Tievoli" series reds. This limited production reserve style powerful and luxurious Cabernet is **rated 93 points by Wine Enthusiast** Retail Price: \$28 CASE PRICE: **\$299.88 solid case is just \$24.99 ea**

https://www.oakfarmvineyards.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2023Cabernet-Sauvignon_Estate.pdf

**** In case you missed it... a RECAP of the Piedmont, Italy winemakers event ****

Last Wednesday evening here at BrightWines a crowd of 30 of us were able to meet and taste with two Piedmont, Italy winemakers - the wines of Vigin (Barbaresco) and Negretti (Barolo). As promised, here is the full list of wines from that event, with tasting notes, prices, and current availability. Of note, the two "special treats" both sold the exact same number of bottles by the end of the evening which we found to be interesting and noteworthy! (wines listed in order of sampling)

"Langa Style" 2022 Langhe Rosso @ \$15.99 per bottle

50% Barbera and 50% Nebbiolo from Piedmont. The "Langa Style" label is a joint venture among winemaker and importer friends, three of whom were represented here at the event... Davide from Vigin (Barbaresco) and Ezio from Negretti (Barolo) as well as Domace Vino (the local importer). This is a purple and rich blend, taking the body and blueberry fruit tones from the Barbera d'Alba and matching it to the lighter body and the tannin of Nebbiolo. Great value here!! **24 bottles available**

VIGIN 2022 Barbera d'Alba @ \$17.99 per bottle

Bright and tangy with lots of cherry and blueberry tones. Vigin designates his Barbera as "My Ruby" and this wine is a constant "by the glass" at Domacin. **7 bottles available**

NEGRETTI 2019 Barbera d'Alba @ \$19.99 per bottle

A mature example of Barbera from La Morra (Barolo) vineyards, a wine that spent time in oak barrels, all very typical of Negretti house style as we learned that night. The wine offers mellowed dark chocolate undertones with hints of earth and leather alongside brambly blackberry fruit flavors. **12 bottles available**

VIGIN 2019 “Cotta” BARBARESCO “Cotta” d.o.c.g. @ \$55 per bottle

100% Nebbiolo, a true Barbaresco “Cotta” d.o.c.g. that Vigin calls *Nonn Orlando* in honor of his grandfather. Vigin produces fewer than 200 cases of “Cotta” designation Barbaresco each vintage, and we were lucky to sample the 2019 vintage here, in all its elegance and power combined. These tasting notes are from a more famous producer’s “Cotta” Barbaresco, but match closely with Vigin’s version too: 2019 Barbaresco “Cotta” is the kind of wine that will deliver its best results when it has had time to flesh out and evolve. You can taste the freshness and the tightness of this vintage, along with plenty of wild cherry and crushed rose.. and spicy oak tones. (RP) **SOLD OUT**

NEGRETTI 2015 BAROLO d.o.c.g. @ \$55 per bottle

Wine Enthusiast original Oct. 2019 notes (at \$65 retail) say: "Delicate aromas of **cedar, cooking spices and dark fruit** emerge from the glass. The tight palate offers sour **cherry and toasted hazelnut**." This is now over 10 years mature (with years ahead of it too) 100% Nebbiolo, sourced from La Morra vineyards, with the mellow and mature earthiness typical of Negretti house style. **SOLD OUT**

**** AFFORDABLE LUXURY from FRANCE: Burgundy and Northern Rhône ****

Available THIS WEEK, the last 3 - 5 cases available of these highly rated vintages of these limited production, Cru designation reds from Saint Joseph and from Morgon. One shipment just arrived, the other arrives this week!!

(in-stock now, last cases of the vintage) **Jean-Marc Burgaud 2024 Morgon Cote de Py @ \$33.33 per bottle**

Rated 92 points by Vinous: "The 2024 Morgon Côte de Py has a **vivid, stony bouquet with redcurrant and raspberry** fruit unfolding in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins... **this is very promising.**" I featured this wine in July/Aug during my annual France feature, and just brought in the last available full cases the importer has left after tasting a bottle again recently from the last of my stock. This is always a small allocation each vintage, and BrightWines is pleased to say that we get the MOST of anyone in our market of this highly sought-after Morgon, and quite possibly the best Cote du Py made every vintage! This is an IYKYK sort of wine, and LIMITED.

(in-stock now, last cases of the vintage) **Domaine Boisseyt 2022 Saint-Joseph Les Garipelees @ \$33.33 per bottle**

Rated 92 points by Wine Enthusiast (at \$55 retail)

Northern Rhone 100% Syrah and possibly the very finest St-Joseph available in our market. I featured a Cotes du Rhone by this producer (Domaine Boisseyt - Chute Libre) in July/Aug during my annual France feature, and I was just offered the last available full cases the importer had available of this 2022 “les Garipelees” St-Joseph at a great discount!!

Rated 92 points at \$55 retail, this is a very impressive wine and a classic Northern Rhone (100% Syrah) that competes with Hermitage and Cote Rosie and Cornas (all of which paying \$55 would be a relative bargain too). Wine Enthusiast says: "**Deep and brooding, this wine reveals a core of black cherry and cassis, elegantly framed by dried herbs and sweet spices.** Full-bodied yet balanced by vibrant acidity, the palate is tightly woven, unfolding layers of black cherry, leather, black tea leaf, bay leaf, and underbrush. **Approachable now. \$55. 92 points.**" (July 2025, Wine Enthusiast magazine) **DAVE SAYS: only 5 cases available** at the \$399.99 case price (mix/and match) or **\$33.33 per bottle**

That’s all for this evening. **I hope you find some time to read this week’s extensive edition, as well as make time to enjoy the fine fall weather we’re having** and perhaps include some fine wines too. BrightWines will be OPEN by 11am Tuesday & Wednesday & Thursday and here until 6pm daily for full weekday hours... and this weekend BrightWines will be open by 10:30am both Friday & Saturday this weekend. Here’s to all these fine wines, and a fine fall forecast! —Dave

The Right Wines are BrightWines!

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