

A Vintage for the Ages

enduring vintage, and many 2005 Bordeaux are eminently cellar-worthy wines (*vins de garde*, as the French say). Right now, they are massive, with rich, intense flavors that conceal their formidable tannins, but they can be laid down for decades, softening and improving year by year until the day they are opened and allowed to dazzle us with their beauty.

One of the many reasons 2005 is truly a great vintage is that the weather blessed everyone in Bordeaux – big and small, rich and poor – with identical growing conditions. The quality of the wines from the petits châteaux is unquestionably the finest in a lifetime, warranting attention not only from hardcore Bordeaux-ophiles but really from anyone who likes a glass of wine now and again. This vintage has ushered in a new level of quality that simply must be experienced.

One note of caution regarding these wines: along with the high praise, consumers can expect high prices from the established châteaux. While we feel the prices being asked for these wines are fair given their phenomenal quality, there are still excellent values from many vintages on our shelves.



BREATHTAKING BORDEAUX FROM 2005

- 2005 Roc de Ségur, Bordeaux Rouge, \$9.99 (#18720)
- 2005 Ch. des Ducs, Bordeaux Supérieur, \$11.99 (#18719)
- 2005 Ch. de Parenchère “Cuvée Raphaël,” Bordeaux Supérieur, \$16.99 (#19008)
- 2005 Ch. Marquis D’Alesme Becker, Margaux, \$36.99 (#19233)
- 2005 Ch. Boyd Cantenac, Margaux, \$54.99 (#19237)

BORDEAUX VINTAGE BREAKDOWN

...and one excellent bottle from each year



2004 offers a lighter, crisper expression, with a gentle character perfect for early consumption.

2004 Ch. Pontet-Canet, Pauillac, \$64.99 (#18721)



2003 was a hot year and the wines are both exotic and flamboyant, with unusually chewy textures.

2003 Ch. Rollan de By, Médoc, \$32.99 (#17824)



2002 is a classic vintage, restrained and a touch austere with excellent cellaring potential.

2002 Ch. d’Armailhac, Pauillac, \$41.99 (#14651)



2001 is similar to 2002, but with a bit more roundness. This, along with the additional year of age, adds up to a complete drinking experience.

2001 Ch. La Conseillante, Pomerol, \$89.99 (#18530)



2000 remains a modern classic producing wines similar to 2005 with a touch less structure though the finest still require cellaring.

2000 Ch. Clos Dubreuil, St.-Émilion, \$84.99 (#91065)



1999 is a favorite for current consumption offering a delicacy that is rarely found in Bordeaux and a complexity that only comes with maturity.

1999 Ch. Trotanoy, Pomerol, \$59.99 (#18140)

TOP 11 Values

FOR FEBRUARY



At Astor, we often come across amazing and arresting wines. Every once in a while, though, we’ll hear the price of a really great bottle and exclaim, “That’s ALL?” This is the test a wine must pass in order to be in our Top Values selection: we must be shocked, both by its quality and by its low price. We’ve put our fragile nerves on the line for you, so please enjoy the fruits of our labors.

- | Item | Name | Vintage | Price |
|---|---|---------|-------|
| 11 | 14155 Vinum Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch, South Africa) | 2006 | 11.99 |
| There’s more Chenin Blanc under vine in South Africa than any other variety. Vinum’s version offers more than just everyday appeal, it’s versatile with foods too – anything from seafood stew to pork dumplings – boasting plump aromas of fresh lime, white flowers, and a touch of vanilla bean from the oak aging. | | | |
| 10 | 17839 Falù Rosso, Antica Enotria (Puglia, Italy) | 2005 | 13.99 |
| This Montepulciano comes from the Puglia region of Southern Italy (a.k.a. the heel of the boot). It’s fermented and aged without any oak treatment, leaving the dark fruit character absolutely pristine and fresh on the palate. There’s a solid richness to this red that makes it an ideal complement for equally rich foods. | | | |
| 9 | 16525 Madiran, Pierre Laplace (SW France) | 2004 | 10.99 |
| Madirans are generally rich and chunky and full of black fruit. This one certainly leans that way, but it is fresher and much more lively on the palate than the typical high-tannin Madiran (no doubt owing to its 20% each of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon). | | | |
| 8 | 17706 Faugères, La Croix Belle (Languedoc-Roussillon, France) | 2004 | 12.99 |
| Wines from Faugères are always blends of local varieties. This one is based on Grenache, with Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignan picking up the slack. Completely unoaked, this is a fresh, pure red wine meant to be enjoyed in its youth. | | | |
| 7 | 19030 Ch. Bellevue Cru Bourgeois, Médoc (Bordeaux, France) | 2005 | 15.99 |
| A lively Cabernet Sauvignon-based red wine that’s full of redcurrants and cassis on the palate. It’s excellent with meat dishes and stews. | | | |
| 6 | 18153 Tinto da Anfora, Herdade das Anforas (Alentejo, Portugal) | 2005 | 9.99 |
| A tasty wine from southern Portugal, laden with dark berry fruit. It’s made from a blend of red grapes and aged in oak for 12 months. This is one of those wines that’s just easy to love. | | | |
| 5 | 18182 Rully Rouge “En Rosey,” Dureuil-Janthial (Burgundy, France) | 2005 | 27.99 |
| This red Burgundy, coming from the village of Rully in the south of the region, represents a more modern style of winemaking. It is a light, spiced Pinot Noir that’s full of red berries, and even some smoke and ginger. This works stunningly well with lighter fare and is a great match for subtly spicy Latin and Asian dishes. It’s not a long-term ager, but it will give you a great read on this phenomenal vintage and will drink well for several more years. | | | |
| 4 | 15546 Muscadet VV “Pierre de la Grange,” Luneau-Papin (Loire, France) | 2005 | 11.99 |
| Pierre Luneau-Papin’s estate, also known as Pierre de la Grange, is situated in the heart of Muscadet country and has been in existence since the early 18th century. His wines are meticulously produced, from the hand-harvested old vines to his exceedingly careful cellar work. Clean, crisp wines with underlying intense minerality are the result. This is one of those rare Muscadets that will age beautifully. | | | |
| 3 | 17737 Roi Patriote, Mas de Martin (Languedoc, France) | 2005 | 15.99 |
| This is an endeavor from Christian Mocci, a one-time history professor who left Corsica to pursue winemaking in the Languedoc. He found an excellent plot of old vines, and his winery has already become known as one of the top domaines in the region. This bottle is full of dark fruit flavor and firm tannins. | | | |
| 2 | 18967 Marleo, Salustri (Tuscany, Italy) | 2004 | 14.99 |
| This is everyday Sangiovese from the relatively new Montecucco D.O.C. The fruit is prominent, ripe, and full of dark cherries and mixed spices. An excellent match for any number of everyday dishes – from pizza to grilled steaks. | | | |
| 1 | 16976 Sobon Estate Zinfandel, Hillside (Amador, California) | 2006 | 9.99 |
| This delicious Zinfandel is produced from old vines in Amador County. Flavors of cocoa and blackberries ooze from the glass, making this sturdy wine an absolute joy with hard cheeses or a grilled steak. | | | |

TOP TEN Under \$10

Each month, we select ten of our favorite wines under \$10 and put them together in a case at an unbeatable price. We call this our Top Ten under \$10. You get a bottle of each of the delicious wines listed below, plus one extra bottle of the two wines marked (**), all for one great price. (#19337) **\$83.99**

- | Item | Name | Vintage | Price |
|---|---|---------|---------------------|
| 12804 | Piazzolla Malbec (Mendoza, Argentina) | 2005 | 6.99** |
| Malbec is what comes to mind when wine drinkers think of Argentina. This version is unoaked so that you can appreciate the full spectrum of flavors that flourish in Malbec grown in Mendoza. It is packed with rich, dark, jammy berry fruit. | | | |
| 17296 | Torrontés “Plata” (La Rioja, Argentina) | 2007 | 9.99 on sale 7.99** |
| This brilliant Torrontés is crafted in northern Argentina’s La Rioja region. The Torrontés grape, a distant cousin of Muscat, produces distinctively aromatic white wines, and we think they’re some of the best bottles to come out of Argentina lately. The “Plata” is dry on the palate, with notes of mixed white flowers, yellow plums, and even some white peppercorn on the finish. Overall, it has a remarkably fresh character, enabling it to complement lighter dishes without overwhelming them. It’s fresh and surprising each and every time you open a bottle. | | | |
| 18174 | Vezzo Pinot Grigio (Friuli-Venezia Giulia) | 2006 | 6.99 |
| A dry white with ripe, luscious, mixed citrus flavors, this is no run-of-the-mill Italian wine. We get especially excited about discoveries like this because unknown wines of this caliber are all too rare. The Vezzo is appealing enough to please any palate, yet complex enough to reward repeated tastings. It’s versatile, fascinating, and truly a wine of substance: try it with a few different dishes and you’ll see what we mean. | | | |
| 18175 | Delacroix, Brut (France) | NV | 9.99 on sale 7.99 |
| This is exactly what bubbly should be: fun, friendly, and festive enough for a special occasion. An exceptionally tasty dry French sparkler, the Delacroix bottling will please just about any palate; enjoy it as an apéritif or marvel at how it sets off your most luxurious lobster dish. Many of our customers are buying this wine by the case, and wisely so: we think everyone should have a bottle of bubbly chilling in the fridge at all times, ready to be popped whenever the situation calls for it. Which turns out to be quite often. | | | |
| 18416 | Beaujolais-Villages, La Burgette (Burgundy, France) | 2006 | 9.99 |
| Sometimes people forget that Beaujolais is actually a part of Burgundy. It’s located at the southern end of the region, and the wines of Beaujolais are made from Gamay, Burgundy’s “other red grape.” This bottle is full of tangy red fruits and makes a delightful match for sausages or even grilled salmon. | | | |
| 18792 | Savia Viva Blanco “Clásico” (Penedès, Spain) | 2006 | 9.99 on sale 7.99 |
| Pure white wine goodness in a bottle. This is one of our proudest discoveries: a still, dry, fruit-driven, and delicious everyday white made from the great grapes that go into Cava. Full of delightful quince fruit and intriguing minerals on the palate, this is great on its own, and a savvy match for seafood dishes. | | | |
| 18442 | Castillo Labastida Rioja, Crianza (Rioja, Spain) | 2003 | 9.99 |
| La Bastida is situated in the foot of the Sierra Cantabria in an ancient village. Their Crianza is made from 100% Tempranillo grown at an elevation of 2500 ft. The vines are hand-harvested and then aged in American barrels, creating a wine that expresses notes of black cherries, earth, and a lively acidity. | | | |
| 19268 | L’Etoile de Rachele, Merlot (Vin de Pays, France) | 2006 | 8.99 |
| There’s almost no other wine that has the jubilant character and broad appeal of a fruit-driven, friendly Merlot. This bottle comes from the south of France, and it is simply everything you want and need from an everyday red wine. Soft, velvety, and enticing, this goes down easily any night of the week. | | | |
| 19270 | Baron d’Alienor Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux, France) | 2006 | 8.99 |
| No one does Sauvignon Blanc like the French. This one has full, floral fruit and a light touch of herbs, with freshness ruling the day; the vibrant acidity and perfect balance will physically prevent you from putting your glass down until you’re done. | | | |
| 77224 | Kronendal Shiraz (Robertson, South Africa) | 2006 | 7.99 |
| There may be a few people out there who still haven’t realized that South Africa is an excellent source of fantastic wines for any occasion – but this Shiraz will make a believer out of anyone. This hearty red wine is full of mixed berry flavors – blueberries and blackberries especially – that are very ripe on the palate. It also happens to be one of the most crowd-pleasing wines we carry, so stock up if you’re having a party. | | | |



Wine

CALIFORNIA

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
66054	Hogue Fumé Blanc Columbia Valley	2006	7.99	6.99
14823	Mirassou Pinot Noir	2006	8.99	6.99
<i>The Mirassou family started making wine in the late 1800s, earning them the distinction of being the oldest winemaking family in America. This Pinot Noir, coming from the cooler region of Monterey County, exhibits the Mirassous' expertise. Bright raspberry and red currant flavors explode on the palate, while underlying notes of spice, earth, and smoke create a lasting finish.</i>				
67664	Blackstone Merlot, California	2005	8.99	6.99
14146	Chalone Vineyard Chardonnay	2006	9.99	6.99
81084	Ch. St. Jean Chardonnay, Sonoma	2006	9.99	7.99
81094	Clos du Bois Chardonnay, North Coast	2006	11.99	9.99
66014	Simi Chardonnay Sonoma	2006	14.99	11.99
18446	Elizabeth Spencer Sauvignon Blanc	2006	15.99	12.99
<i>This alluring Sauvignon Blanc comes from the winemaking team of Elizabeth Pressler and Spencer Graham. They use 30-year-old vines, which produce concentrated, richly perfumed fruit. Extended lees contact lends it a rich mouthfeel; grapefruit and white flower aromas burst from the glass.</i>				
14855	Whitehaven Sauvignon Blanc	2006	16.99	12.99
<i>A lovely expression of Sauvignon Blanc, this bottling features the classic notes of gooseberry and cut grass on the nose, but in a cool, ripe register that also hints at white cranberries and crisp citrus notes. In the mouth this is a textbook Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, zippy with lovely citrus flavors supported by bright acidity in a medium-bodied style, finishing dry with a subtle mineral note that makes this is a natural match for lighter fare.</i>				
66044	Simi Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley	2004	19.99	15.99
61114	St. Francis Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma	2004	21.99	15.99
81494	St. Supéry Merlot, Napa	2001	21.99	15.99
62884	Beringer Cabernet Sauvignon, Knights Valley	2005	22.99	16.99
<i>The wine that made Knights Valley famous. This has been even better in recent vintages than when it began, yet it always retains its ripe, soft, appealing style.</i>				
64314	BV Tapestry, Napa	2003	33.99	22.99
<i>Beaulieu's Napa Valley "Tapestry" is woven from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc, and Malbec. The brambly fruit shows notes of coffee, dark cherries, and chocolate; the structure is firm with substantial tannins and good minerality. It's aged in small oak barrels, so spicy vanilla flavors are present to round everything out nicely.</i>				
69024	BV Cabernet Sauvignon, Georges de Latour, Napa	2003	77.99	54.99

FRANCE

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
17525	Kriter Sparkling Rosé	NV	5.99	3.99
21664	Vin de Vaucluse, Dom. de l'Ameillaud	2005	7.99	5.99
<i>This is a refreshing rosé sparkler from France. With red fruit flavors and a small bead, it's a great way to celebrate any occasion.</i>				
13184	Pichon Merlot	2004	7.99	6.99
18222	Côte du Ventoux, Delas	2006	9.99	6.99
<i>This is a fresh, youthful wine that allows its fruit flavors of plums and black cherries to take center stage, as the juice never sees any wood. Coming from the base of Mount Ventoux, east of the Rhône River, it is 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah. Drink this with a slight chill to experience a perfectly approachable and delicious wine.</i>				
27304	Vouvray, Dom. de Vaufruges	2006	9.99	7.99
<i>This delicious, ever-so-slightly off-dry Chenin Blanc hails from the Vouvray appellation in the Loire Valley's Touraine district. Don't worry about pronouncing the producer's name; just focus on the unhindered fruit flavors and fresh floral aromas inside the bottle. This wine marries perfectly with salty charcuterie and white fish dishes.</i>				
15351	St. Guilhem Merlot, Dom. de la Patience	2005	11.99	8.99
21384	Muscadet, Dom. de la Pepière	2006	12.99	9.99
23692	Petit Chablis, Dom. Ste. Claire, Brocard	2006	14.99	9.99
<i>Petit Chablis is one of four official ranks of French Chablis. Consider this the beginner's Chardonnay – yet it comes from such a solid producer that you'll be amazed at the quality. This is unoaked and full of yellow plums, citrus fruit, and even honey.</i>				
18279	Pic Saint-Loup "Les Tonillières," Mas Foulaquier	2005	16.99	12.99
<i>This Pic Saint-Loup comes from southern France's Coteaux du Languedoc wine region. It is a hearty, full-bodied, unoaked, dry red wine that bursts with mixed dark fruit aromas. Excellent with seared meats or any rich, grilled foods.</i>				
95865	Riesling, Blanck	2005	16.99	13.99
22054	Pinot Gris Reserve Trimbach	2003	17.99	13.99
<i>Deep, golden tropical fruit is the theme here. Full-bodied and sublimely flavorful, this wine is incredibly rich (yet fully dry), and it shows great balancing acidity.</i>				
17694	Sancerre "Mélodie de Vieilles Vignes," Vincent Gaudry	2005	21.99	15.99
<i>If you have ever wanted to see the impact of old vines – in this case, more than 50 years old – take a drink of this brilliant Sancerre. It's concentrated with white fruits, citrus and floral aromas. Just beautiful, and an excellent example of how older vines can produce stellar wines in the right hands.</i>				
27374	Pouilly-Fuissé, Jadot	2005	22.99	15.99
18895	Châteauneuf-du-Pape VV, Dom. de la Millière	2005	27.99	21.99
<i>This full-bodied red wine comes from the southern Rhône. As a traditional Châteauneuf-du-Pape, it is an amazing value. It's full of dark plum flavors and black pepper spice with an unbelievable velvet texture. Winemaker Michel Arnaud is of the 5th generation of Arnauds to work on the domaine.</i>				
22824	Dom. Ott, Clair de Noir Rosé	2006	31.99	24.99



Wine

ITALY

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
43474	Chianti "Borghesi d'Elsa," Melini	2006	6.99	5.99
18206	Cavaliere, Merlot	2006	7.99	5.99
44274	Santa Cristina, Antinori	2005	9.99	7.99
49494	Barbera d'Asti, Chiarlo	2004	9.99	7.99
12572	"Aragosta" Vermentino di Sardegna, Santa Maria La Palma	2006	9.99	7.99
<i>A light-bodied, dry, easy-drinking wine with aromas of fresh lemons and limes. It comes from the island of Sardinia, and naturally goes very well with seafood.</i>				
14209	Salento "Gelso Moro," Resta	2004	11.99	8.99
<i>Salento is in the "heel" of Italy, in the southeastern region of Apulia. This hearty red comes from estate-grown Negroamaro grapes. Dark in color with lots of dark fruit to follow – blueberries and black cherries – and a floral note on the finish. There's touch of an earthy, garrigue-like character on the finish as well.</i>				
18427	Barbera d'Alba, Rizzi	2005	13.99	11.99
<i>The red Barbera grape variety is one of the mainstays of Piedmontese viticulture. While Barbera is a wine that can be enjoyed young, it will also improve over a period of years. Barbera is always high in natural acidity, meaning that it will pair well with even the richest foods. Enjoy this alongside lamb, roasts and any number of aged cheeses.</i>				
11264	Müller Thurgau "Eisacktaler," St. Magdalena	2006	13.99	9.99
<i>A cross of the Riesling and Silvaner grapes. Müller-Thurgau is more typically seen in Germany - but does extremely well in the high altitudes of the Alto Adige in Northern Italy. This example is a delicious, fruit-forward, dry white wine with grapefruit and apple aromas.</i>				
00101	Chianti Colli Fiorentini Il Cortile, Poppiano	2005	15.99	12.99
10090	Rosso di Montalcino, La Palazzetta	2005	16.99	12.99
10733	Bianchetta Ü Pastine, Bisson	2006	16.99	13.99
<i>A dry white wine from the rare Bianchetta grape variety, this absolutely bursts with vibrant white peach flavors and firm mineral character. Born near the sea, it naturally pairs well with foods from the sea.</i>				

SPAIN

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
53664	Borsao, Campo de Borja	2006	6.99	5.99
13976	Luzon Verde	2006	7.99	6.99
11592	Las Rocas de San Alejandro Garnacha	2005	9.99	7.99
<i>A wine of deep ruby color, beautifully redolent of flowers, licorice, and pure cherry fruit, which drives through to the palate. Lush and densely textured, with a gentle structure.</i>				
50384	Marqués de Cáceres Red	2004	9.99	7.99
12151	Casa Castillo	2005	10.99	8.99
12396	Artazu Artazuri Garnacha	2006	11.99	8.99
13849	Pago de Valdeneje Bierzo	2005	11.99	9.99
<i>Made from the Mencía grape, this red wine comes from the small D.O. of Bierzo in northwestern Spain. This up-and-coming region is influenced by the Atlantic Ocean: in this case, the maritime climate has yielded a lighter-bodied wine, with bright, vibrant red fruit. This bottle is great with a slight chill.</i>				
57134	Rivola, Abadia Retuerta	2004	13.99	10.99
16791	Atalayas, Ribera del Duero	2005	20.99	16.99
<i>This is the latest project from the winemakers of Atauta. Made from 100% Tinto Fino (Tempranillo), this is a wine with incredible balance and restraint. Atalayas is made from grapes grown around the town of Atauta, and shows blackberry and dusty tannins. Unlike the other Atauta bottlings, this is very approachable in its youth.</i>				
11424	Gravonia Rioja Blanco, Lopez de Heredia	1996	22.99	18.99
54434	Los Vascos Cabernet Sauvignon	2005	8.99	7.49
13444	Gascon Malbec	2006	9.99	7.99
17162	Fresco, Domaine Hatzimichalis	2007	9.99	7.99
<i>Looking for something new and refreshing? How about Greek Nouveau? Made from Syrah and the indigenous Mandelaria grape, this light-bodied red wine shows fresh red fruit, soft tannins, and a spicy finish. We couldn't get enough Fresco. Serve chilled.</i>				
19209	Penfolds Shiraz, Koonunga Hill	2005	10.99	8.99
18127	Vienna White Blend, Wieninger	2005	11.99	8.99
<i>This crisp white, known as the "Vienna Blend," is a refreshing combination of Grüner Veltliner, Welschriesling, and Sauvignon Blanc. The perfect accompaniment to fish, it's light and crisp and it goes down smooth.</i>				
17460	Jelu Pinot Noir	2006	12.99	8.99
15310	Notios Red, Gaia	2006	12.99	9.99
56503	Karydas Red, Naoussa	2003	24.99	13.99
<i>This exotic red, made of 100% Xynomavro, hails from one of the best sites in Naoussa. Intensely aromatic with hints of dark olives, black fruit and lots of earth and tannins. Perfect with lamb kebabs.</i>				



Spirits

ON SALE

INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE

Leeds Vodka & Leeds Gin, LTR #13226, #13283 Retail Price: 8.99 SALE PRICE: 7.49	Michael Collins Irish Whiskey, 375 #18828 Retail Price: 17.99 SALE PRICE: 9.99	Normandie Brandy, 1.75 #07007 Retail Price: 16.99 SALE PRICE: 13.99
Platinum Vodka, 1.75 #19331 Retail Price: 17.99 SALE PRICE: 14.99	Rain Vodka, LTR #05326 Retail Price: 17.99 SALE PRICE: 14.99	Skyy Vodka, LTR #05086 Retail Price: 16.99 SALE PRICE: 14.99
Bailey's Irish Cream, 750 #08154 Retail Price: 21.99 SALE PRICE: 17.99	Tosolini Grappa Artigiana, LTR #14241 Retail Price: 23.99 SALE PRICE: 18.99	Jack Daniels, 750 #01204 Retail Price: 21.99 SALE PRICE: 18.99
Dewar's White Label, 750 #03254 Retail Price: 23.99 SALE PRICE: 18.99	1800 Tequila Reposado, 750 #07824 Retail Price: 24.99 SALE PRICE: 21.99	Bacardi Gold & Bacardi Silver, 1.75 #07107, #07117 Retail Price: 24.99 SALE PRICE: 21.99
Ferrand Cognac Réserve, 375 #07362 Retail Price: 29.99 SALE PRICE: 22.99	Hennessy VS, 750 #06504 Retail Price: 29.99 SALE PRICE: 26.99	Bowmore 12 Yr. Islay, 750 #04094 Retail Price: 36.99 SALE PRICE: 28.99
Macallan 12 Yr., 750 #03514 Retail Price: 44.99 SALE PRICE: 38.99	Rémy Martin VSOP, 750 #06804 Retail Price: 43.99 SALE PRICE: 36.99	Johnnie Walker Gold, 18 Year, 750 #03594 Retail Price: 57.99 SALE PRICE: 48.99

SPIRIT PICKS FOR FEBRUARY

NUX ALPINA WALNUT LIQUEUR
(#17031, 375 ML) \$29.99

This comes to us straight from the Alps, and who knows how to soothe a winter chill better than the people from ski-land? After a long day shooshing down the slopes, or just braving the biting winds whipping through the valleys of Midtown, this liqueur will be delicious in your coffee or hot chocolate.



SHEEP DIP VATTED MALT
(#03534, 750 mL) \$34.99

This is a terrific blended whiskey to drink neat. A little citrusy, a little sweet. But when's the last time you treated yourself to a good ol' Hot Toddy? Pour a shot or two of Sheep Dip into a mug, add half that amount of boiling water, a little honey, and a slice of lemon with two or three whole cloves stuck in it. Steep for a couple of minutes. Sip and relax. Try not to let the nose icicles melt into the glass.



RON ZACAPA CENTENARIO 23 YR. RUM
(#04714, 750 mL) \$35.99

One of the smoothest rums we've ever tasted. Sipping it neat, we imagine that if the pirates of legend existed today, this is what they'd be drinking. It is extraordinarily rich, with a subtle nutty flavor and a sweet spiciness. If you can't get away to sail the Seven Seas just now, this would also be perfect in hot cider, mulled wine, or even eggnog.

Greg's List

BY GREGORY DAL PIAZ, WINE DIRECTOR



Roessler

Saxon Brown

I've never been fully convinced by the explosion of California Pinot Noir, finding many of the wines to be too over-the-top for me. Thankfully, there are exceptions to every rule: the current lineup of Roessler wines made me stop and take notice. For consumption over the short term, you can't beat the rich, balanced Widdoes or the incredibly pure and precise Clos Pepe; if your tastes run more toward earthy, nuanced Pinot Noir, the Adler and the Brosseau both offer exceptional complexity. For the long haul, my money's on the Sanford & Benedict to turn into something really special. Try these now before they get the attention they deserve – and become impossible to find.

Roessler Pinot Noir, Widdoes 2005, \$54.99
on sale for \$46.99 (#18138)

Roessler Pinot Noir, Clos Pepe 2005, \$54.99 (#19098)

Roessler Pinot Noir, Adler Springs 2005, \$44.99 (#19096)

Roessler Pinot Noir, Sanford & Benedict 2005, \$49.99
on sale for \$42.99 (#19099)

Roessler Pinot Noir, Brosseau Vineyard 2005, \$44.99
on sale for \$42.99 (#19097)

Jeff Gaffner is the wine-maker/owner at Sonoma's Saxon Brown Winery. As many of you know, I have been a big fan of Jeff's for years, and have often enjoyed his wines with friends and family. This year we were finally lucky enough to score some of Jeff's Sémillon – and let me tell you, it was worth the wait. I'm not normally one to crow about Sémillon (though technically, with this wine's dashes of

Muscadelle and Sauvignon Blanc, it is a classic Bordeaux blend), but this is one heck of a wine. It underwent an extended fermentation at cold temperatures, months of aging on the lees, and was made with minuscule yields from dry-farmed, head-pruned, 75-year-old vines. All of this careful craftsmanship has produced a bottle of stunning, unoaked deliciousness, bursting with orchard fruits over a slightly creamy texture that is simply addictive. Don't forget about Jeff's reds, either: Black Kite from the cool Anderson Valley is a wonderfully delicate, nuanced Pinot Noir that is almost impossible to get. It shows superb acidity thanks to the cool climate, and with just the right ripeness and spice notes, it is quite a find. It offers a great contrast to the plush richness of the Saxon Brown Durrell

Hayfield block. I'm not saying either one is better; try them both and see which style suits you.

Saxon Brown Sémillon, Casa Santinamaria 2006, \$26.99
on sale for \$22.99 (#19077)

Saxon Brown Pinot Noir, Durrell Hayfield 2006, \$49.99
on sale for \$42.99 (#19074)

Saxon Brown Pinot Noir, Parmalee Hill 2006, \$41.99
on sale for \$35.99 (#17216)

Saxon Brown Syrah, Parmalee Hill 2004, \$34.99
on sale for \$29.99 (#17217)

Saxon Brown Zinfandel, Casa Santinamaria 2003, \$34.99
on sale for \$29.99 (#17218)

Black Kite Pinot Noir, Kite's Rest 2006, \$44.99 (#18553)



Thursday & Friday 6 - 8 pm
Saturday 3 - 5 pm
Sunday 2 - 4 pm

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 CALIFORNIA PINOT NOIR WINES FROM NORTHERN ITALY VODKA FOR THE BIG GAME	2 ITALIAN GEMS OBSCURE ITALIANS A SUPER RUM FOR SUPER SUNDAY	3 TEQUILA FOR SUPER SUNDAY
5 MARDI GRAS, CREOLE STYLE	6 WINES OF NAVARRA	7 SLOVENIAN WINES FRENCH WINES PRE- VALENTINE SWEETS	8 PORTUGUESE WINE TASTING EL AMO TEQUILA	9 ITALIAN WINES AWESOME AUSTRALIANS A VODKA TRIO	10 A TASTE OF PEARADISE
12	13 THE SPIRIT OF SPARKLING	14 GREEK WINES PINK CHAMPAGNE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY ST. GERMAIN TASTING	15 SERIOUS SPANISH WINES CELEBRATE SPAIN	16 SPANISH SIPPERS POWERFUL PORTUGUESE WINES TASTE A "FIVE STAR" GIN	17
19	20	21 BOUTIQUE WINES FABULOUS FRENCH WINES WHITE LIGHTNING STRIKES	22 SMALL SOUTHERN ITALIAN PRODUCERS CALIFORNIA WINES MOUNT GAY RUM	23 AUSTRALIAN WINES TRY A TRUMPETINI OR TRUMPOLITAN	24
26	27	28 SOUTH AMERICAN WINES CALIFORNIA QUAFFERS LEAP YEAR ENERGIZER	29 NORTHERN ITALIAN GEMS TRY LA BASTIDA RIOJA TICKLE YOUR TASTEBUDS		

We pick the region ... YOU pick the wine! Every Tuesday
our buyers pick a region or type of wine and mark it down **15%**

February 5 Bordeaux	February 12 Germany	February 19 Cali Red Zinfandel	February 26 Oregon
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Join our email list to receive info on the wine region we choose each Tuesday, including a sneak peek at the wines on sale. Go to astorwines.com to sign up! (Discount excludes sale, allocated and Store Card items.)

OUR NEW EVERYDAY RED

This beautifully made Spanish red wine reminds us of a juicy Bordeaux from the Médoc. After resting in oak barrels for eight months, the blend (Merlot and both of the Cabernets) emerged full of dark red berry fruit and spice accents. It's great with roasts, braises, and company.

2004 Savia Viva Tinto "Familia" (#18793)
Was \$11.99, on sale for \$9.99



399 Lafayette at 4th Street
New York, NY 10003
t. (212) 674-7500

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FEBRUARY 2008

A Vintage for the Ages

After waiting on pins and needles for what seemed like forever (though it's actually only been a year and a half), we're finally starting to see the 2005 Bordeaux arrive on our shores. The pundits started proclaiming 2005 the "Vintage of the Century" when the grapes were still on the vines, and as we begin to sample them, we've confirmed that this is indeed a very special vintage, and completely atypical – in the best possible sense.

From the first days of the 2005 harvest, everyone knew that these wines would face great expectations. Vignerons all over the region had nothing but praise for the growing season. The word “perfect” was used over and over again to describe the pleasantly warm growing season, which was devoid of the heat spikes that can mark wines with their indelible imprint. Perfectly dry, yet with a perfect spot

of rain when it was needed, which perfectly refreshed the vines and prevented the hydric stress that has become a familiar problem across Europe these past few years.

In fact, when pressed,

most producers couldn't think of a single problem with the 2005 growing season; it was not only common, but universal, to hear comparisons to the greatest vintages of our lifetimes, with a small addition: "Only

better.” Producer after producer went on record: 2005 was like 1961, only better; like 1982, only better; like 2000, only better. High praise indeed!

In most cases, we'd have to agree. This is a memorable,

continued on page 2

