

...To the U.S....

Burgundy is the home of Pinot Noir, but it doesn’t by any means have a monopoly on great bottles; after all, Pinot Noir’s recent resurgence in popularity was fueled largely by the great varietal wines emerging from California’s Santa Barbara region. There are great regions for growing this grape throughout California, and all the way up through the state of Oregon.

At one time, Sonoma County’s cooler climates were home to the finest Pinot Noirs in the country. The Russian River Valley in particular has been growing the grape since the repeal of Prohibition. It took several decades and lots of hard work by forward-thinking, innovative winemakers to get all the pieces in place, but Pinot Noirs from Russian River soon became world-class wines, and for years they had no domestic equal. The cool microclimates, heavily influenced by the fogs rolling in from the Pacific Ocean, produce wines with firm structure, balanced acidity, and profound fruit. As in Burgundy, the concept of terroir is very important here, and with its hugely varied soils (over 60 distinct types have been identified), the Russian River Valley still has a few tricks up its sleeve. If you’re a Pinot Noir fan, this is definitely a region you’ll want to watch in the future.

While Santa Barbara Pinot Noir is a relatively new phenomenon, the region is perfectly suited to high-quality Pinot Noir cultivation, and the best vineyards have shot right to the top of the heap. As in Burgundy, Santa Barbara’s proximity to the coast means that prevailing temperatures remain cool and that fogs shield the grapes during the early morning hours – making it just right for cultivating Burgundian grape varieties. The complex soils here are even blessed with some lovely limestone-rich parcels, producing wines that combine a distinctively Californian ripeness with a complexity and depth rarely encountered outside the Côte d’Or.

Oregon has emerged as a leading producer of Pinot Noir because, much like Santa Barbara and the Russian River Valley, it is the lucky beneficiary of the Pacific Ocean’s cooling influence. Oregon’s

climate varies much more from year to year, however, and its noticeably cooler temperatures produce wines that are somewhat less powerful than their California cousins. In many ways, they’re more like Burgundian Pinot Noir, with bright acidity, slightly lower levels of alcohol, and deep cores of earthy fruit.

**17618 Belle Vallée Pinot Noir, Oregon** 2005 \$16.99  
While many wineries in Oregon are quite specific as to where their grapes come from, Belle Vallée strives for continuity of quality, year in and year out. You can count on getting a wine with consistently juicy red fruit, made in a fresh, appealing style.

**76598 Arcadian Pinot Noir, Santa Rita Hills, California** 2004 \$28.99  
Yes, believe it or not, this is the real deal from Joe Davis, at a never-before-seen price. Anything this well-loved winemaker touches turns to gold, and this Pinot Noir is no exception. You can taste the blood, sweat and tears (figuratively, of course) that went into the creation of this masterpiece.

**66374 Ponzi Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, Oregon** 2005 \$34.99  
This is a full-bodied wine with a solid core of fruit and a fine, tannic structure. Dick Ponzi is one of Oregon’s best Pinot Noir producers, and can be counted on for consistent quality in both his regular and “reserve” bottlings.

**16890 Freeman Pinot Noir, Sonoma, California** 2004 \$54.99  
Freeman has created an amazingly delicate California Pinot Noir. A blend of grapes from seven different vineyard sites in Sonoma, this wine shows notes of red raspberry, exotic tea, and dried flowers.

...And everywhere else in between.

In this short space, we can’t talk about all of the great Pinot Noir terroirs around the globe, but we’d be remiss if we didn’t mention some of our other favorites.

South African wines have soared in popularity and quality over the past few years. For the first time, South African winemakers are able to capitalize fully on the unique conditions found in their country. The best South African vineyard sites, like most of the world’s great Pinot Noir-producing areas, tend to be near the coast and subject to the sea’s cooling influences. The country produces ripe, structured wines that combine the best attributes of both the old and new worlds.

Northern Italy has a long history with Pinot Noir. Brought to the northern provinces while some of them were still under French rule, it was used for years in the production of fine Champagne-style sparkling wines. Pinot Nero from the Alto-Adige has emerged in recent years as a unique expression of the grape, with caressing, tea-flecked raspberry fruit, and a core of earth that makes these wines (we think) an ideal synthesis of Burgundy and Oregon. Still flying under the radar, this is a region for any Pinot Noir fanatic to start exploring pronto – before the word gets out!

Finally, for all of you “first adopters” out there who love to stay way ahead of the curve: take a look at the emerging Pinot Noir region of Chile. Along the coast (again) and in cool mountain valleys, forward-looking vintners are carving out Pinot Noir vineyards that resemble those pioneered in California and Oregon years ago. Like South Africa, Chile is free from the strict sense of tradition that can accompany centuries of viticulture. Combining innovation with intuition, Chileans are now producing incredible wines that marry the best attributes of traditional and modern winemaking.

**11043 Hamilton Russell Pinot Noir, Walker Bay, South Africa** 2005 \$33.99  
Hamilton Russell Vineyards concentrates on only two grape varieties - Chardonnay and Pinot Noir - because they believe these are best suited for the terroir of Walker Bay, South Africa. This Pinot Noir is medium-ruby in color, with aromas of cherries and warm “winter” spices like vanilla and cinnamon.

**17262 Pinot Nero Blauburgunder “Meczan”, Hofstätter, Alto Adige, Italy** 2005 \$18.99  
Any way you describe this – Pinot Nero or Blauburgunder – one thing is certain: this is perfect for those who enjoy traditional red Burgundy. It’s delightfully earthy, with beautiful red-berried fruit, almond-peel tannins and playful acidity. Food is a must; something saucy, meaty or gamey would be ideal.

**11689 Leyda Pinot Noir “Lot 21”, Maipo Valley, Chile** 2005 \$29.99  
Structured, elegant and delicious, this Chilean offering shows classic Pinot Noir notes of strawberry and cinnamon, along with an exotic nuance of scorched citrus peel. It is full in the mouth, with a restrained structure that lurks beneath the imposing fruit. This is immediately accessible, but will no doubt continue to drink well over the short term.

All prices subject to availability. Vintages subject to change without notice.

IN A BOX  
Cellar

The Cellar-in-a-Box showcases small producers and atypical varietals—a great way to discover new wines. Get a list of all of the Buyer’s Notes in each box! (#17768)  
**\$158.88 – 15% = \$135.05**

**RED WINES**  
Item Name Vintage Retail Price  
**17731 Aglianico “Vignantica,” Fatt. Selvanova (Italy)** 2005 12.99  
Full of minerals and dark-berried fruits. This is a fresh and very densely packed red wine that’s surprisingly approachable, given that it’s made from the brawny Aglianico grape. It takes one vine of grapes to make a single bottle of this wine. Unoaked.

**17735 Bandol Rouge, Dom. le Galantin (France)** 2004 18.99  
The young Celine Pascale has taken over the reins from her father, and the wines have never been better. Made from older vines, this is full of intense dark fruit that’s incredibly precise and rich on the palate. It really does taste like a bowl of mixed, freshly crushed dark berries.

**17737 Roi Patriote, Mas de Martin (France)** 2005 15.99  
This is an endeavor from a former history professor, Christian Mocci, who left Corsica to pursue winemaking in the Languedoc. He found an excellent plot of old vines and his operation has already become known as one of the top domaines in the Languedoc. Full of dark fruit with a firm backbone of tannins.

**17708 Corbières “Cuvée Alice,” Ch. Ollieux Romanis (France)** 2005 9.99  
A rumor was started in Paris stating that Alice was the name of the winemaker’s mistress. We’re here to state the facts – namely, that Alice was his grandmother, who started the winery. This is based on old-vine Carignan. Light and fruit-driven (and much easier to deal with than any mistress).

**17577 Carina Cellars Syrah (USA)** 2003 15.99  
This Syrah is a must-try! Made by Joey Tensley in Santa Barbara, California, it’s brambly, smoky, and always elegant. Plush, dark berries and an amazing mineral undercurrent make this taste more like it’s from the Northern Rhône than California.

**14421 Kaleido Bonarda, Pircas Vineyards (Argentina)** 2005 12.99  
Bonarda is one of the most widely planted red grape varieties of Argentina. This fantastic red is from Mendoza and is everything you could want in a full-bodied red – spice, lush black fruit (blueberries and blackberries) and medium tannins.

**WHITE WINES**  
Item Name Vintage Retail Price  
**15845 Avinyó Cava Brut Reserve (Spain)** NV 14.99  
**on sale 12.99**

Produced in the Penedès region north of Barcelona, Spain, this Cava is a great sparkling alternative. It’s a blend of the traditional grapes used for Cava: Parellada, Xarel-lo, and Macabeo. Made in méthode champenoise with no dosage, meaning it’s bone dry.

**17745 Pinot Blanc, Ginglinger (France)** 2006 10.99  
A dry white wine that’s plush with white flowers and peach fruits on the palate. A complex white wine from France’s Alsace region that’s a natural with baked trout or shellfish dishes.

**17592 Pinot Bianco, Cantina Nalles Magrè (Italy)** 2005 11.99  
This is a white wine that is incredibly approachable and fruit-forward (as we say in winespeak). It’s dry, but full of lush yellow fruit – plums and ripe citrus – making it dangerously drinkable. We like it with a good chill, too.

**17710 Bourgogne Aligoté, Dom. des Remparts (France)** 2006 11.99  
The little-known Aligoté grape has come a long way. In our opinion, this bottle reflects everything an Aligoté should offer: freshness, affordability, and light, approachable fruit. An excellent match for seafood soups or anything shellfish-based.

**13321 “Flaneur” Halbtrocken, Königschaffhausen (Germany)** 2005 10.99  
Coming from the Königschaffhausen co-op in Baden, Germany, this white is made from the Müller-Thurgau grape. This highly aromatic wine is crisp and refreshing, with notes of lime leaf and pollen.

**17346 Weinert “Carrascal” White (Argentina)** 2005 12.99  
There’s always an exotic edge that’s enveloped into something that’s not so typical for Mendoza wines. Maybe it’s the influence of the European winemaker. This is an endearing white wine that’s made from Sauvignon Blanc. Full of pears, juicy acidity and a touch of vanilla bean. A great match for white meats.



TOP TEN  
Under \$10

Astor’s Top 10 Under \$10 features staff favorites at great prices—12 bottles for the price of 10! (#17751)  
**\$88.99**

Item Name Vintage Retail Price  
**16641 Ch. Haute Brande, Entre-Deux-Mers (Bordeaux, France)** 2005 6.99

The appellation of this wine, Entre-Deux-Mers, describes the placement of the vineyards between two seas. This Sauvignon Blanc-dominated white blend is light, dry and incredibly fresh on the palate. Fish would be a great pairing for this one, but it’s also a knockout with soft cheeses.

**14441 Trebbiano d’Abruzzo, Lillà (Abruzzi, Italy)** 2005 7.99\*\*\*  
A remarkable Trebbiano from Abruzzo, a coastal region nestled alongside the Adriatic Sea in central Italy. This white comes from medium-to-old vines planted at the foothills of the Majella mountain range, one of the highest points of the Abruzzo appellation. Dry on the palate, the wine offers a harmonious balance of citrus fruit and minerals on the finish. Just as in Abruzzo, this wine is best enjoyed with seafood: fresh anchovies, octopus or shellfish are great choices.

**16742 Blanc de Nulles, Vi de Nulles (Tarragona, Spain)** 2005 9.99  
From the Tarragona region of northeast Spain, this white is a blend of Macabeo, Xarel-lo, and Chardonnay. With its creamy mouthfeel, citrus notes and white pepper on the finish, you may just think you’re drinking a Bourgogne Blanc.

**15561 Morro Bay Chardonnay, Central Coast (California)** 2003 9.99  
Morro Bay is an idyllic fishing village on the Pacific Coast of California, home to blue herons and falcons as well as this lovely Chardonnay. The full mouthfeel, toasty elements, and crisp apple notes make this a great, well balanced wine. Excellent with – you guessed it – fresh fish dishes.

**17655 Mantinia, Dom. Spiropoulos (Peloponnese, Greece)** 2005 9.99  
This dry white is produced from the indigenous Moscophilero grape, grown at an altitude of 650 meters. Similar in style to Muscat, the Mantinia is clean and crisp, with a floral bouquet and citrus flavors on the palate.

**16536 Santa Sara, J.P. Vinhos (Portugal)** 2005 6.99  
This is one of those great, juicy, everyday red wines that’s packed with bright fruit flavors and a nicely tannic finish. From the south of Portugal and made from a blend of Tempranillo, Trincadeira, and Alicante Bouschet.

**14282 Jelu Malbec (Mendoza, Argentina)** 2005 9.99  
Try as you might, it’s extremely hard to find fault with this Malbec. Jelu is a perfect example of how well the grape can do in the Mendoza region of Argentina. It’s full-bodied, with dark berry fruit – blueberries and blackberries – and a spicy edge on the finish. This is a rich, bold red that will go perfectly with any meat dish, grilled or roasted.

**13050 Corbières “Premier Pas,” Dom. des Deux Anes (Languedoc, France)** 2004 9.99  
The “Premier Pas” (or “first step”) was the first wine produced by a husband-and-wife team when they moved their whole family to Corbières in the Languedoc-Roussillon. It is an accomplished, Natural red wine, produced organically and without the addition of sulfites. Medium-bodied and great any time of year, this shows blackberry fruit with underlying herbal layers and cocoa notes.

**12037 Nero d’Avola, Poggio Bidini, Valle dell’Acate (Sicily, Italy)** 2005 9.99  
This delicious red wine is made from Nero d’Avola grapes grown on vines located in the Ragusa region of southeastern Sicily. Aromas of fresh raspberries with a hint of cocoa on the finish. A clean, easy-drinking red to enjoy every day.

**16017 Sea Star Zinfandel (California)** 2004 6.99\*\*\*  
We just can’t get enough of this spicy red wine. Packed with aromas of candied blackberries and cherries, this ripe, luscious red makes a perfect match for anything from burgers to pizza.







# Wine

ON SALE

## SPARKLING

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
17524	Gruet, Blanc de Noirs	NV	12.99	<b>10.99</b>
16934	Gruet Brut	NV	12.99	<b>10.99</b>
15845	Avinyó Cava Brut Reserve	NV	14.99	<b>12.99</b>
Produced in the Penedès region north of Barcelona, Spain, this Cava is a great sparkling alternative. It's a blend of the traditional grapes used for Cava: Parellada, Xarel-lo, and Macabeo. Made in méthode champenoise with no dosage, meaning it's bone dry.				
17994	Dom. Carneros, Brut	2003	16.99	<b>14.99</b>
Produced by Taittinger, this is an excellent value in California sparkling wine. It has an impressive complexity with aromas of yeast, apples, vanilla and spice, and a smooth finish.				
15413	Schloss Gobelsburg Brut Reserve	NV	23.99	<b>19.99</b>
56824	J Sparkling Jordan	2002	26.99	<b>21.99</b>
16894	Piper-Heidsieck Brut	NV	28.99	<b>25.99</b>
15395	Laurent-Perrier Ultra Brut	NV	39.99	<b>32.99</b>

## SPAIN

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
14009	Campo de Borja “Los Dos”, Almira	2005	5.99	<b>4.99</b>
53664	Borsao, Campo de Borja	2005	6.99	<b>5.99</b>
50024	Chivité Rosado Gran Feudo, Navarra	2005	7.99	<b>6.99</b>
13289	Cortijo Rioja	2005	8.49	<b>6.99</b>
17120	Negre de Nulles, Vi de Nulles	2005	9.99	<b>7.99</b>
Coming from the Tarrogon region of northeast Spain is this blend of Tempranillo, Garnacha, and Merlot. The wine never sees oak, which allows its earthy terroir to shine through; full of funky black fruit flavors too.				
17431	Gaba do Xil Godello, Telmo Rodriguez	2005	9.99	<b>7.99</b>
12974	Padre Pedro, Casa Cadaval	2002	12.99	<b>8.99</b>
The vines for this Portuguese wine grow 60 km north of Lisbon, in the region of Ribatejo. This is a more internationally styled wine, made from a blend of both indigenous and French grape varieties. You'll find clean, dark berries on the palate with a touch of spice on the finish.				
71983	Sierra Cantabria Crianza Rioja	2002	15.99	<b>12.99</b>

## CALIFORNIA

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
67664	Blackstone Merlot, California	2004	8.99	<b>6.99</b>
A huge staff favorite. This wine is soft and packed with cherry flavors, with vanilla notes on the nose and a touch of chocolate on the palate. Pass on dessert: you can just have another glass.				
14823	Mirassou Pinot Noir	2005	8.99	<b>6.99</b>
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.				
10452	Wyatt Chardonnay	2004	8.99	<b>6.99</b>
86322	Dancing Bull Zinfandel Rancho Zabaco	2004	8.99	<b>6.99</b>
89810	Coppola Rosso California	2004	8.99	<b>6.99</b>
99825	Bogle Merlot	2004	9.99	<b>7.99</b>

81094	Clos du Bois Chardonnay, North Coast	2005	10.99	<b>8.99</b>
Long, intense flavors dominate this barrel-fermented wine. Truly a fine Chardonnay.				

81124	Columbia Crest Chard Grand Estates	2003	10.99	<b>8.99</b>
15789	A to Z Chardonnay	2005	14.99	<b>12.99</b>
17651	Purple Mountain Pinot Noir	2005	14.99	<b>12.99</b>
99014	Liberty School Cabernet Sauvignon	2004	14.99	<b>11.99</b>
17513	Bucklin Gewürztraminer, Compagni Portis Vineyard	2005	19.99	<b>16.99</b>
61430	Conn Valley Pinot Noir	1999	31.99	<b>26.99</b>

64314	BV Tapestry, Napa	2003	33.99	<b>26.99</b>
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.				



# Wine

ON SALE

## FRANCE

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
29454	Côtes du Rhône Rouge, Dom. Pelaquié	2004	9.99	<b>6.99</b>
46521	Counoise VdP, Ramière, Monpertuis	2004	9.99	<b>7.99</b>
15414	Mas de Gourgonnier, Baux de Provence	2004	12.99	<b>10.99</b>
15847	Bourgogne Pinot Noir Jadot	2004	16.99	<b>13.99</b>

17586	Rasteau, Dom. Grand Nicolet	2004	16.99	<b>13.99</b>
This Rasteau will charm you with its sultry behavior. On opening the bottle, you'll marvel as lovely black fruit and smoky undertones come out to greet you; give it some time in the glass, however, and you'll also get notes of lavender and garrigue, as you begin to experience the full extent of this wine's delicacy and elegance.				

22054	Pinot Gris Reserve Trimbach	2002	16.99	<b>14.99</b>
13055	Juliénas, Dom. du Clos du Fief, Michel Tête	2005	17.99	<b>14.99</b>
28624	Riesling, Hugel	2004	17.99	<b>14.99</b>
14890	Arbois Blanc “Melon Queue Rouge”, Puffeney	2002	22.99	<b>18.99</b>

## EUROPEAN MISC.

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
14976	Cserszegi Füszeres, Hilltop Neszmély, Craftsman	2005	8.99	<b>6.99</b>

14444	Lafazanis White, Peloponnese	2005	9.99	<b>7.99</b>
Lafazanis is a small winery in the northern Peloponnese that estate-bottles all of its wines. This white is made mostly from Greece's indigenous Roditis grape, with the remainder (15%) from Moschoudi, a white variety related to Muscat. Dry and fragrant, with floral aromas of pear and quince and a nice minerality on the finish, this is a natural with seafood.				

98690	Notios White, Gaia	2004	10.99	<b>8.99</b>
53699	Akakies, Ktima Kir Yianni, Rosé	2005	11.99	<b>8.99</b>

17656	Cabernet Sauvignon, Ch. Harlaftis	2004	11.99	<b>9.99</b>
Greek Cabernet, you ask? That's right - and this wine will definitely surprise you. It's perfectly ripened, with textbook Cab notes of cassis and black raspberry, alluring tannins, and a delicate texture. Everything you could ever ask for in a Cabernet.				

13023	Plavac, Plavac Mali, Ivo Skaramuca	2002	12.99	<b>9.99</b>
17265	Merlot, Vila Marija	2004	12.99	<b>9.99</b>

## ITALY

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
13804	Orvieto “Abbocato,” Barbi	2005	8.99	<b>6.99</b>
45484	Monte Antico Rosso	2003	9.99	<b>7.99</b>
13993	Grechetto, Milziade Antano	2005	9.99	<b>7.99</b>

13843	St. Magdalener / Maderener Classico, Südtirol	2005	11.99	<b>8.99</b>
A lighter-styled red wine with juicy blackberries and red cherries on the palate, refreshing acidity, and just the softest tannins. Made mostly from the Schiava grape with a dash of Lagrein in there too. Typically served with a light chill alongside Speck.				

15273	Teroldego, Cantina Rotaliana di Mezzolombardo	2005	11.99	<b>8.99</b>
17592	Pinot Bianco, Cantina Nalles Magrè	2005	11.99	<b>9.99</b>

15815	Nero d'Avola, Feudo Montoni	2002	13.99	<b>10.99</b>
A Sicilian Nero d'Avola that shows pure red-berried fruit, fresh acidity and a touch of mineral on the finish. This could easily be held for years, but needn't be; if you're drinking it today, it'll be perfectly lovely after a quick decanting.				

42336	Il Frappato, Valle dell'Acate	2005	14.99	<b>11.99</b>
A dry red from a very Sicilian variety: Frappato. Pretty from the start, this scrumptious wine is ruby red in color, with firm raspberry fruit and lively acidity. It's the perfect easy-drinking wine to enjoy with tomato-based dishes.				

## AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Item	Name	Vintage	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
52015	Banrock Station Sem/Chardonnay	2006	4.99	<b>3.99</b>
16542	Pinot Noir Nottage Hill, Hardy's	2006	6.99	<b>4.99</b>
53074	Jacobs Creek Chardonnay	2005	6.99	<b>4.99</b>
11511	Mad Fish Sauvignon Blanc, Western Australia	2005	11.99	<b>7.99</b>
75000	Te Awa Merlot	2002	13.99	<b>11.99</b>

14855	Whitehaven Sauvignon Blanc	2006	16.99	<b>12.99</b>
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 with 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 summer fare.				

12525	Sileni “The Circle” Semillon	2004	17.99	<b>14.99</b>
12956	Shottesbrook Shiraz, McLaren Vale	2003	19.99	<b>15.99</b>
This Shiraz has a touch of spicy earth to it that gives an extra edge to the ripe blackberry fruit. Just great with steak, especially if it's hot off the grill.				





# Spirits

ON SALE

## BEST BUYS MAY

<b>Cromwell Gin, 175</b> #04607 Retail Price: 13.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 11.99</b>	<b>Cromwell Vodka 80°, 175</b> #05937 Retail Price: 13.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 11.99</b>		<b>Dekuyper Peachtree Schnapps, 175</b> #08267 Retail Price: 19.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 17.99</b>	
<b>Arriba Dark, 175</b> #07607 Retail Price: 13.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 11.99</b>	<b>Arriba Light, 175</b> #07617 Retail Price: 13.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 11.99</b>		<b>Gordon's Gin, 175</b> #04277 Retail Price: 19.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 17.99</b>	
<b>Bacardi Gold Rum, 175</b> #07107 Retail Price: 23.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 20.99</b>	<b>Bacardi Silver Rum, 175</b> #07117 Retail Price: 23.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 20.99</b>		<b>Grant's Scotch, 175</b> #03307 Retail Price: 24.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 19.99</b>	
<b>Iceberg Vodka, 175</b> #05237 Retail Price: 24.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 21.99</b>	<b>Cutty Sark, 175</b> #03207 Retail Price: 27.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 22.99</b>		<b>Captain Morgan Spiced Rum, 175</b> #07257 Retail Price: 13.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 11.49</b>	
<b>Stolichnaya 80°, 175</b> #05507 Retail Price: 33.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 29.99</b>	<b>Absolut Citron, 175</b> #05477 Retail Price: 34.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 31.99</b>		<b>Tanqueray Gin, 175</b> #04457 Retail Price: 37.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 32.99</b>	
<b>Jose Cuervo Gold Tequila, 175</b> #07807 Retail Price: 39.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 34.99</b>	<b>Jack Daniels, 175</b> #01207 Retail Price: 41.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 37.99</b>		<b>Belvedere Vodka, 175</b> #05297 Retail Price: 54.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 48.99</b>	
<b>Johnnie Walker Black, 175</b> #03457 Retail Price: 64.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 57.99</b>	<b>Hennessey VS Cognac, 175</b> #06507 Retail Price: 64.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 57.99</b>		<b>Glenlivet 12 Yr., 175</b> #03747 Retail Price: 67.99 <b>SALE PRICE: 59.99</b>	

## The New Gin Frontier

And it's not even made in bathtubs. If you've spent any time in this city, you've probably walked past some ultra-hip velvet-rope clubs. Perhaps, one fine night recently, you even knew the secret handshake and got into one. If you did, you might have noticed what in-the-know types have started putting in their cocktails lately: gin. That's right, after about 80 years, gin has finally become cool again. It's going through the same resurgence in popularity and quality that vodka did about five years ago. Just as they did with vodka, the trendsetters are demanding something a little better from gin this time around, and the new breed is smoother than ever. Made with innovative new infusions, they often show complex floral notes, and even more often go down extremely easily. We're not sure exactly who decides what the next "hot" spirit will be, but we're always grateful when the results are as intriguing and delicious as these.



### MAY 2007 GIN SPECIAL



Item	Name	Size	Retail Price	SALE PRICE	Item	Name	Size	Retail Price	SALE PRICE
02424	Juniper Green Organic Gin	750	22.99	<b>18.99</b>	04373	Hendrick's Gin	750	29.99	<b>25.99</b>
14001	Boomsma Jonge Genever Gin	750	21.99	<b>18.99</b>	14074	Zuidam Dry Gin	750	29.99	<b>25.99</b>
14827	Bendistillery Desert Juniper Gin	750	24.99	<b>19.99</b>	17622	Tanqueray Rangpur Gin	LTR	29.99	<b>26.99</b>
17428	DH Krahn Gin	750	26.99	<b>22.99</b>	16394	G' Vine Small Batch Gin	750	33.99	<b>28.99</b>
16882	Bulldog London Dry Gin	750	29.99	<b>24.99</b>	14987	Distillery No. 209 Gin	750	34.99	<b>29.99</b>
17540	Aviation Gin	750	27.99	<b>24.99</b>	10210	Old Raj Gin	750	49.99	<b>42.99</b>

All prices subject to availability. Vintages subject to change without notice.

## ONGOING SPOTLIGHT ON: Sonoma

Family wineries and preservation of a species.



### Bucklin

Decades ago, intrepid and far-sighted California vintners planted their vineyards in a "field blend" style – in which two or more grape varieties are planted in a single vineyard – and today, in our humble opinion, they're some of California's greatest natural resources. By co-opting this bit of ancient wine wisdom, these winemakers protected themselves against the vagaries of the weather by planting an assortment of vines on their land: some were suited to warm growing seasons, others to cool ones. In Europe, this practice was traditionally meant to ensure a steady supply of drinkable wine from each vintage. Faced with remarkably consistent weather in California, however, the New World winemakers were free to refine the field blend concept even further, picking and choosing from among the different varieties whenever they wanted a bit more acidity, tannin, color, aroma, or flavor. The granddaddy of the field-blend vineyards goes by the name of Old Hill Ranch, and it has been owned by the Bucklin family since 1981.

Originally planted in the mid-1800s, this historic vineyard produces wine in minuscule amounts. It is planted primarily with Zinfandel, but the vineyard grows a full two dozen different vine varieties. This unusually diverse selection allows Will Bucklin, the family's winemaker, to craft a Zinfandel-based wine with incomparable depth and complexity that builds upon the creamy texture old-vine grapes can provide. The wine is barrel-aged in French cooperage for 19 months before being bottled by hand without filtration. The Old Hill Ranch bottling is truly an artisanal product, capturing the essence of the traditional California field blend.

Though they already had this historic wine under their belts, the limited quantity (600 cases a year) and the sheer age of the vines has prompted the Bucklin family to prepare for the future by planting a new vineyard on land adjacent to the Old Hill Ranch. Limiting this field blend (called "Mixed Blacks") to Zinfandel, Grenache, Petite Sirah, and Alicante Bouschet, they make no concessions in their effort to produce the finest wine possible, and the result is a smashing success.

There's no question that we love Bucklin for their Zinfandel, but it would be a sin to overlook their dry, old-vine Gewürztraminer. This is another field blend, with about 10% Riesling to add some much-needed acidity to the final product. Less overblown and effusive than many Gewürztraminers, this wine is subtle, layered, intriguing and somewhat mysterious – in short, it's a must-try.

And finally, just to round things out, there's the Bald Mountain Syrah. This wine is a departure for Bucklin, as it's neither a field blend nor made from old vines – but boy, is it good! Will Bucklin uses techniques similar to those used to produce the Old Hill Zin to craft this classic Syrah. It's full of cocoa, spice, rich blackberry fruit and oaky nuances, and it rivals some of the new world's finest Syrahs.

**17513 Bucklin Gewürztraminer, Compagni Portis Vineyard 2005 \$19.99**  
Bucklin has created a Gewürztraminer like no other. This is a field blend, with 10% Riesling: the vines are over 50 years old and dry-farmed, yielding a wine with intense concentration. Honeyed and floral on the nose, with hints of lemon drops. A delicate touch of sweetness greets the palate and leads to a soft, rich mid-palate with notes of tropical fruits and nectarines, finishing long with some contrasting minerality.

**17518 Bucklin "Mixed Blacks" Red Blend 2005 \$24.99**  
The nose of this wine offers up a complex and compelling array of aromatics, ranging from cocoa and dried beef to spicy brown herbs and licorice root, all on top of deep, dark blackberry fruit. Nice and bright up front, with blueberry notes leading to a spicy mid-palate. The excellent structure really frames the fruit well, while black pepper and a touch of mint on the finish add freshness.

**17519 Bucklin Syrah, Bald Mountain Ranch 2004 \$28.99**  
Bald Mountain Ranch is located within the Mayacamas Mountain Range, at an elevation of 1900 and 2100 feet. The vines are dry-farmed and grow at a cooler temperature at this elevation, giving this Syrah a nicely balanced acidity. The bouquet is floral, and the palate shows notes of vanilla, black fruit, and spice, with alluring tannins.

**17517 Bucklin Zinfandel, Old Hill Ranch 2004 \$36.99**  
As might be expected, the old vines give this Zinfandel a dark and brooding nose: brambly, tarry, and very spicy. The ripeness here creates an opulent entry, with lots of depth on the mid-palate and a delightful, creamy old-vine intensity. Overall, quite dark and dense, with beautiful integration and a long, spicy and earthy finish.

### Nalle

There's no question about it: Nalle is a family winery through and through. Doug Nalle runs the operation with the help of his wife Lee (whose family has owned the property since 1927) and their son Andrew. Nalle's iconic Zinfandel, steadfastly resisting the trends that have moved Zin from style to style over the years, is what made Doug's reputation. Over the last 20 years, his philosophy has remained the same, and his wine has remained true to one simple notion: that great Zinfandel need not be huge. In all his years of making Zin, only one vintage has produced a wine with more than 14% alcohol. Doug refers to his style of Zinfandel as "California Claret," harkening back to nomenclature used decades ago to describe elegant table wines made from Zinfandel and other workhorse grapes such as Syrah, Petite Sirah, Carignane, Alicante Bouschet and Gamay. In his quest for the perfectly balanced bottle, Doug still blends in a small proportion of these grapes each year.

It will likely surprise some people that we're using "elegant" and "Zinfandel" in the same sentence – but then Doug does produce some mighty surprising wines. His Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel undergoes traditional fermentation and barrel-aging techniques in an effort to preserve the classic Zin berry fruit profile. At the same time, this produces a wine that will not only go superbly with tonight's dinner, but will also reward patient cellaring with positive evolution over the next few years. This is one of the few Zinfandels on the market that will actually improve with age.

The Zinfandel isn't the only unusual wine Doug produces: his Sauvignon Blanc is also built with the cellar in mind. (Really – where do we find these guys?) Clean and crisp, with bright acidity and nuanced French oak, Nalle Sauvignon Blanc stands out from the California pack with this subtle expression of a very assertive grape. Again, the idea wasn't to produce something that would wow the cocktail crowd, but rather to produce a wine that works on the dinner table, harmonizing with your meal and enhancing your experience. Doug's wines are the height of understated elegance. They won't scream for your attention, but they definitely deserve it.



**61284 Nalle Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley 2004 \$28.99**  
Lovely raspberry aromas and dry, earthy aromatics greet the nose, along with a moderate dose of oak. This is a medium-bodied Zin with good acidity and tannins that are supportive yet unobtrusive. Intense, succulent strawberry fruit on the palate, and a finish that is a touch compressed at the moment, with lingering earth and light toast notes framing the brambly fruit. An exceptionally civilized California Zinfandel.

**17213 Nalle Sauvignon Blanc, Hopkins Ranch 2005 \$24.99**  
Nalle has produced this creamy white wine by blending a touch of Sémillon and Chardonnay with mostly Sauvignon Blanc. The wine was aged sur lie for six months, adding to its richness. Light grassy and mineral notes on the nose, with a hint of underripe peaches; zesty acidity in the mouth stays clean through the mid-palate, and you'll find lovely ripe Meyer lemon on the long finish. This picks up significant weight after 24 hours. Delicious.

All prices subject to availability. Vintages subject to change without notice.





Get 15% off  
all Wine Poured

# TASTINGS & EVENTS

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

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>2</b> ZWACK LIQUEUR: THE NATIONAL "SHOT" OF HUNGARY	<b>3</b> WINES OF THE COSTA BRAVA DISCOVER THE WHITEHAVEN WINERY TRY A CHARBAY GREEN TEA LEMONADE	<b>4</b> GERMAN & AUSTRIAN SELECTIONS PLAY DIRTY - DRINK CLEAN DISCOVER PROSECCO	<b>5</b> CELEBRATE PORTUGAL MINT JULEPS WITH KNOB CREEK	<b>6</b> BUYING BY THE BARREL
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> PIEDMONT ESTATES	<b>11</b> AFFORDABLE WINES FROM PIEDMONT SPANISH CLASSICS ST.-GERMAIN ELDERFLOWER LIQUEUR	<b>12</b> WINES FROM FAR NIENTE RICH ITALIAN WINES FARETTI BISCOTTI LIQUEUR	<b>13</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> DISCOVER SICILY PRODUTTORI DEL BARBARESCO CITADELLE GIN	<b>18</b> DISCOVER SOUTHWEST FRANCE GREEK WINES FOR SUMMER PINK ENERGY VODKA	<b>19</b> PORTUGUESE WINE EVENT WINNING COCKTAILS WITH STARR AFRICAN RUM	<b>20</b> CAIPIRNHAS
<b>23</b> LIGHT ITALIAN REDS FOR SUMMER BULLDOG GIN	<b>24</b> SPANISH SUMMER SIPPERS LEBLON CACHAÇA	<b>25</b> DH KRAHN GIN COCKTAILS	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>30</b> DELICIOUS ITALIAN FAVORITES PRAVDA VODKA	<b>31</b>			

## 15% OFF TUESDAYS

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

May 1 California Zinfandel	May 8 South Africa	May 15 Northern Italy	May 22 Central Europe	May 29 Australia
----------------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------

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](http://astorwines.com) to sign-up!  
(Discount excludes sale, allocated and Store Card items)

## Tired of Coming to Astor Wines & Spirits?

If you're sick of our bright new sales floor, can't stand the sight of our friendly, knowledgeable staff, and simply cringe at the thought of being offered yet more free samples of wines, spirits, and sakés, there's hope for you yet at [www.astorwines.com](http://www.astorwines.com). Our shiny new website is finally up and running! Now it's even easier for you to browse our selection (which can be obtrusively large in person, we'll admit), to learn about those new artisanal cachaças everyone's been talking about, or to find out what's pouring (at the events you won't be attending, of course). It's a big improvement from the old site, but we're still working out the kinks. So please: take the site for a spin, kick the tires a bit, and if you think we can improve it in any way, send us your thoughts at [suggestions@astorwines.com](mailto:suggestions@astorwines.com)



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

visit [www.astorwines.com](http://www.astorwines.com)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 7131  
NEW YORK, NY



By subway, take the **6** to Astor Place  
or the **R** **W** to 8th Street



399 Lafayette at 4th Street • New York, NY 10003  
212-674-7500 • [astorwines.com](http://astorwines.com)

# What's Next in Wine

MAY 2007

STORE HOURS: Monday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Sunday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM

## Pinot Noir: Still Going Strong

The movie *Sideways* was a breakout hit with the wine crowd (and everyone else), and it catapulted Pinot Noir overnight to near-obscene levels of popularity. Many said that this was just a fad, and that consumers would soon grow tired of the grape and move on to bigger, flashier wines. America's love affair with Pinot Noir looks to be an enduring one, however, and if you've ever tried one, it's not hard to understand why. The wine's gentle nature, clean berry fruit, and adaptability across regions, styles, and cuisines have earned Pinot Noir a lasting place in our hearts and on our dinner tables.

With an ever-increasing selection of styles, bottlings, and countries of origin, and with 2005 shaping up to be one of the most globally exceptional vintages in living memory, there's never been a better time to bone up on Pinot Noir.

### From Burgundy...

The Burgundy region of northeastern France is the historic home of the grape, and is the source of the world's greatest examples. Here one finds renditions of Pinot Noir that deliver power with finesse and grace, wines that have unimaginable depth of flavor, yet are perfectly balanced and ephemeral in the mouth – in short, wines that deliver all that Pinot Noir has to offer.

The prime vineyards are located within the famed Côte d'Or ("golden slope") banking the Saône River. These fabled hillsides are further divided into two regions: the Côte de Nuits in the north, famous for its red wines, and the Côte de Beaune in the south, equally well-known for its whites.

Terroir, the concept that wines from a specific region have unique and identifiable traits, is intricately woven into the breakdown of vineyards in Burgundy. It can also provide a basis for understanding the differences between the two sections of the Côte d'Or. In the north, the soils tend to be sandy and limestone-based, with a bit of chalk and clay mixed in, which provides excellent drainage. The northern Côte d'Or thus produces wines that tend to be more elegant and lighter-bodied. As we move south from the Côte de Nuits to the Côte de Beaune, the soil begins to be dominated by limestone outcroppings that are exceptionally well-suited to the production of white wines, imbuing the finest white Burgundies with a minerality that adds exceptional dimension and lift.

We'll be the first to admit that these are gross generalizations, and indeed a poor substitute for sampling the wines of Burgundy and learning firsthand why many consider them to be the finest on earth.



**17715** Bourgogne Rouge, Dom. d'Arduy, Côte de Beaune 2005 \$19.99

Sometimes you find a wine that's so fresh on the palate and easy to drink that you find you've nearly finished the bottle – and your friends haven't even arrived yet! That'll very likely be the case when you try this Pinot Noir. It comes from the phenomenal Burgundy vintage that Pinot-philes have been waiting for, and that has finally arrived on our shores. We consider this a must-try: it's an excellent everyday red Burgundy.

**15803** Gevrey-Chambertin, P. Pacalet Côte de Nuits 2002 \$58.99

A fresh Pinot Noir from the ingenious and youthful Philippe Pacalet. He espouses organic viticultural techniques, yet refuses to be tied down by any ideology that might restrict his opportunities for experimentation. In France, it is rare to find such an open-minded winemaker who is still bound to the tradition of expressing terroir.

**22402** Chassagne-Montrachet Rouge "Baudriotte", Ramonet, Côte de Beaune 2002 \$64.99

Ramonet is best known for their brilliant Chardonnays, but sometimes this means that their equally brilliant Pinot Noirs are overlooked. The Boudriotte is full of crunchy, terroir-driven spice and strawberry fruit.

continued on page 2