

## Easter 2020 Wine thoughts from The Grape Choice

'to go'



### The 2019 Rose - preorder; can have in store within 24 hours or less Mon - Fri

\*Scenic Valley Rose of Pinot Noir 2019, OR \$17.99

\*Cristom Rose of Pinot Noir 2019, OR \$24.99

\*Kiona Rose of Sangiovese 2019 \$15.99

\*Milbrandt 2019 Rose, WA 65% Syrah, 30% Tempranillo, 2% Grenache, 2% Pinot Grigio, <1% Sangiovese, Mourvedre, Counoise- \$15.99

\*Forgeron's Pink Rabbit Rose of Sangiovese, WA

### Wine Gem's on our shelves right now

**2019 Rose** \*L'Ecole No 41 Grenache Rose \$19.99

#### **2018 Rose's**

La Spinetta Il Rose of Sangiovese Di Casanova \$19.99 *90 Vinous*

Muga Rosado of Garnacha \$17.99 *92 James Suckling*

## Champagne & Bubbles

Billecart-Salmon Brut Reserve \$55.99 *95 Decanter, 91 both Wine Spectator and Wine & Spirits*

Billecart-Salmon Brut Rose NV \$89.99 *94 James Suckling, 93 Wine Spectator & 92 Decanter*

Billecart Cuvee Nicolas-Francois 2002 \$199.99 *98 James Suckling, 97 Robert Parker, 96 Wine & Spirits*

Llopart Cava Brut Reserva Rose 2016 \$25.99 *91 Wine Spectator & #51 Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2019*

Franck Besson Rose of Gamay Granit NV \$19.99 Delicious!!

Llopart Cava Brut Reserva Rose 2016 \$24.99 *91 Wine Spectator & #51 on Wine Spectators top 100 of 2019*

LaLuca Prosecco NV \$15.99 *92 International Wine Challenge*

La Spinetta Moscato d'asti Biancospino 2018 **375ml** \$13.99

Contratto Millesimato Extra Brut 2011 **375ml** \$14.99 *92 James Suckling*

## WA Wine Lovers;

### **\*Idilico 2018 Albariño \$15.99**

“Aromas of pear, green apple and shiso leaf, plus an almost pepperminty quality. Densely packed and dry with subtle salty minerality complicating the flavors of grapefruit, lime and green apple. Finishes with a hint of white nectarine and a note of youthful tartness. A serious and distinctive Washington white wine.”

*90 Vinous*

### **\*L'Ecole No 41 Semillon Columbia Valley 2017 \$13.99**

Blend: 85% Semillon, 15% Sauvignon Blanc

Refreshing with vibrant fruit and balanced acidity, this wine shows pretty orange blossom with layers of honeysuckle, honeydew melon, and lemongrass that persists through to a clean, succulent finish.

*90 both Wine Enthusiast & James Suckling #68 Wine Enthusiast Top 100 Best Buy of 2019*

**\*Kiona Chenin Blanc Columbia Valley 2018 \$15.99**

**\*L'Ecole No 41 Chenin Blanc Yakima Valley 2018 \$23.99**

This fresh and vibrant Chenin Blanc shows highly expressive aromatics of citrus blossom, passion fruit, *pink grapefruit*, and *peach with flavors of yellow apple and pear on a crisp dry finish*.

*JS – 93, W&S – 90 & WE - 90*

**\*L'Ecole No 41 Chardonnay Columbia Valley 2018 \$29.99**

Nutmeg infused sourdough bread and shades of ripe pear that round out the beautiful aromatics in the wine. The soft texture greets you as the wine shows a seamless quality that runs through the wine on the palate. Seriously good right now, this will age well for a decade, picking up tertiary notes as it develops.

*92 points, TOP 100 WINES OF 2019, Washington Wine Blog*

**\*Kiona Lemberger Red Mountain 2018 \$12.99**

Kiona was the 1<sup>st</sup> to plant Lemberger in the USA in 1976, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Winemakers

**\*Milbrandt Brothers Blend 2016 \$15.99**

Black cherries, raspberries, plums, and savory dried herbs greet the nose. A dense, broad entry with full chewy tannin in the midpalate evolves into a luscious symphony of dark fruit. A touch of vanilla and toast complete the finish. 32% Merlot, 27% Cabernet, 13% Grenache, 13% Syrah, 9% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec, 3% Petit Verdot

*97 points & Best of Class at this year's San Francisco International Wine Competition!*

**\*L'Ecole No 41 Frenchtown Red Columbia Valley 2017 \$23.99**

**\*Secret Squirrel Red Wine Columbia Valley 2015 \$25.99**

**\*Secret Squirrel GSM Columbia Valley 2016 \$25.99**

**\*L'Ecole No 41 Merlot Columbia Valley 2016 \$22.99**

“This merlot is fragrant and very lively, the herbal freshness, crisp tannins and bright acidity making it very food friendly. Good length, too. Drink or hold.”

*92 James Suckling*

**\*Hightower Merlot Red Mountain 2015 \$29.99**

Only winemakers in WA State to have worked under David Lake, the first Master of wine in the US

Merlot 91%, Cabernet Sauvignon 9%, Red MT AVA 100% (E&E Shaw Vineyard 55%, Hightower Estate Vineyard 45)

There are two main styles of Merlot made around the world. The first, the “International Style,” waits to harvest the grapes till they are fully ripe and produces inky, full-bodied wines with velvety tannins and intense fruit flavors. The second, the traditional “Bordeaux style,” harvests the grapes earlier. We tend towards the international style, but not so much that we lose structure and balance. As we say here at Hightower, if Cabernet Sauvignon is King, then Merlot is Queen and she rules! We love the balance and regal style of our 2015 Merlot.

*90 points James Suckling*

**\*Hightower Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mtn 2015 \$39.99 only 87 bottles left, then move to 2016 vintage**

Cabernet Sauvignon 85%, Malbec 8%, Cabernet Franc 7%, E&E Shaw Vineyard 54%, Hightower Estate Vineyard 46%

Opens with the opulent aromas of blue and black fruits, vanilla, and minerals. Satiny tannins back a round, smooth mouthfeel before a final burst of fruit comes through on the lingering finish.

*91 points James Suckling*

**\*Kiona Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 \$22.99**

**\*L'Ecole No 41 Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2016 \$26.99**

“L'Ecole No41 (founded 1983) was a Walla Walla pioneer, today run by the third generation from the Frenchtown School shown on the labels. This is L'Ecole's most modest Cabernet, with fruit from long-term contract growers as well as the estate Ferguson Vineyard. A robust

structure and oaky frame (22 months in small barrels, 25% new) plus generous cassis, mocha and inky mineral tones.” – Tina Gellie

*92 Decanter*

**\*Walla Walla Vintners Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Sagemoor 2015 \$45.99**

This wine commands attention with aromas of coffee, milk chocolate, toast, herb and black cherry. The palate has elegant, layered chocolate and cherry flavors, backed by a light squeeze of tannins. Just a baby now, it needs some time in the cellar to be fully appreciated

*92 Wine Enthusiast*

**\*Walla Walla Vintners Cab Franc Columbia Valley 2016 \$22.99**

**\*Lobo Hills Petit Verdot 2016 \$29.99**

**\*L'Ecole No 41 Apogee 2016 \$55.99**

“The 2016 Apogee Pepper Bridge Vineyard comes all from the Pepper Bridge Vineyard in Walla Walla and is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 11% Malbec, and 4% Cabernet Franc raised in 50% new French oak. Its saturated purple color is followed by a nuanced, layered bouquet of crème de cassis, spiced black raspberries, graphite, spring flowers, and classy oak. It's rich, medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and in need of 3-5 years of bottle age. It's a brilliant wine that will see its 20th birthday in fine form.”

*95 Jeb Dunnuck*

**\*L'Ecole No 41 Perigee 2016 \$55.99**

“The 2016 Estate Perigee Seven Hills Vineyard, from another top site in Walla Walla, checks in as 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot and Malbec, all of which spent 22 months in 40% new French oak. It too offers a saturated purple color as well as a more rounded, plum, full-bodied style in its blackcurrants, tobacco leaf, damp earth, and chocolate aromas and flavors. Ripe, rounded, and plush, yet with considerable mid-palate depth and building tannins, it's approachable today but will benefit from short-term cellaring and keep for over a decade.”

*94 Jeb Dunnuck*

**\*Kiona Ice Wine 2018 375ml \$35.99**

"Aromas of honeyed peaches, apples in syrup & orange marmalade. Full-bodied palate is syrupy sweet with a refreshing lemon apple flavor that shows a good balance of acidity & sweetness, ending with a long, lingering finish"

*90 Robert Parker*

**Oregon**

**\* Cristom Mt Jeff Pinot Noir 2017 \$35.99**

A very spicy and fresh array of blueberries, ripe darker cherries and plums. Cassis aromas, too, as well as more savory notes of graphite and fragrant wood. The palate has very striking depth and presence with expansive, fleshy tannins carrying intense fruit flavors, in the darker spectrum of cherries and berries. Cocoa powder to close.

*94 James Suckling*

**\*Broadley 2017 Estate Pinot Noir \$27.99**

**\*SOLÉNA Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Grande Cuvée 2018 \$24.99**

Sleekly structured and savory, with expressive raspberry, violet and smoky tea accents that pick up speed toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2028. 4,497 cases made

*92 Wine Spectator*

**\* Cristom Marjorie Pinot Noir 2017 \$69.99**

An earthy thread here with more savory, herbal and gently spicy notes, as well as graphite. Latent red cherries, too. The palate has a very sleek and succulent feel with evenly cast, sturdy tannins that harness great length and depth. Powerful yet measured and all about the earth. Try from 2023.

*95 James Suckling*

**\* Cristom Eileen Pinot Noir 2017 \$65.99**

This has a very bright array of rich red cherries, together with a herbal accent and a thread of rose-like perfume, as well as autumnal leaves and sweet, woody spices. The palate has very assertive red cherries with elegant tannins that are paper-fine, but have combined length and strength. Great detail here. Drink or hold.

*94 James Suckling*

**\* Cristom Jessie Pinot Noir 2017 \$65.99**

A very distinctive nose with a wild array of red berries and cherries and a thread of blue fruit, too. There's a dried wild-rose perfume and a violet-like thread with subtle, herbal-based notes. It's a moving target in the glass with incredible complexity. This has a gift of revelation. The palate has a very assertive edge with a powerful core of intense tannins that carry a spicy thread of rich dark cherries and dark plums in a defined, savory and athletic stance. A star of the vintage. Drink over the next decade or more.

*97 James Suckling*

**\* Cristom Louise Pinot Noir 2017 \$65.99**

This cuvée has a very energetic and intense feel with a wealth of fresh and attractive red cherries and raspberries, plenty of florals and subtle herbal, forest-wood and light-chocolate notes. There's a very keenly articulated feel to the palate with a plush, very fleshy and assertively long, detailed finish. Deep fruit presence here. Drink across the next decade

*95 James Suckling*

**\*Eyrie Vineyards Pinot Meunier 2016 \$59.99 (special order)**

Most often found in sparkling wines, here the grape is given a chance to show its stuff as a full-blown still red. It's tart and chewy, with chunky fruit flavors of cranberry and cherry. More tannic and darker than its cousin Pinot Noir, this finishes with citrusy acidity.

*91 Wine Enthusiast*

**California**

**\* Chappellet Mountain Cuvee 2018**

44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 10% Malbec, 8% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc

## Argentina

### **\*Altos Colonia Las Liebres Bonarda 2019 \$10.99**

Fermented and aged in concrete tanks, this Medrano Bonarda, sourced from close to the Altos Las Hormigas winery, is always a source of impressive value, combining plum and red cherry fruit, a nip of tannins and fresh acidity.

*90 Tanzer*

### **\*Altos Las Hormigas Tinto 2017 \$10.99**

Winemaker Notes - This vintage of the Malbec Clásico is fully representative of Altos Las Hormigas' style -- joyful and fresh. Displaying a bright ruby red color, this wine has a fruity nose of plums and raspberries complemented with herbal notes. The attack shows supple tannins with a balanced acidity that is the secret of the wine's freshness. Notes of crisp red fruits fill the mouth, with a soft texture and a long finish. This is a pleasant wine, ideal to pair with various dishes, from red meats to pasta or grilled vegetables.

*92 Decanter*

### **\*Colonia Las Liebres Malbec Reserve 2018 \$14.99**

*91 Wine Advocate*

### **\*Altos Hormigas Malbec Terroir Valle de Uco 2015 \$18.99 68 btls**

Winemaker Notes - Coming from a careful selection of grapes from the oldest geological part of Uco Valley, this Malbec shows a ruby red colour with violet hints, typical of high altitude. Delicate fruity notes appear first in the nose, gaining complexity as the wine opens up, to show more firm scents of violet and red cherries. It has a fresh entry in the palate, underpinned by its succulent natural acidity. Gentle mineral notes spread through the mouth as the wine unfolds, granting a round, balanced, long finish. It is ideal to pair with Mediterranean cuisine and red meats

*94 Luis Gutierrez - Robert Parker's Wine Advocate*

## France

### **\*Curot Sancerre Blanc 2018 \$32.99**

*90 Wine Enthusiast*

**\*Laporte Sancerre Le Rochoy 2018 \$33.99**

*93 Wine Enthusiast*

**\*Jeff Carrell Les Darons Languedoc 2017 \$16.99**

Ripe mulberries and black cherries abound in the 2017 Les Darons. It's medium to full-bodied, with touches of leather and smoke evident as well (despite being entirely unoaked), giving it an attractive savory complexity that's rare at this price point

*90 both Wine & Spirits and Robert Parker*

**Italy**

**\*La Spinetta Toscana Vermentino 2018 \$19.99**

"Bright citrus, herbs and meringue, medium-to full-bodied with good density to the center palate. Good acidity drive, finishes quite long."

*93 James Suckling*

**\*Viberti Chardonnay 2018 \$23.99**

"Sleek and upheld by a vibrant structure, this red exudes blackberry, plum, almond, tobacco and tar flavors. This has mellowed, leaving a mix of earth and spice notes on the long finish."

*90 points Wine Spectator*

**\*Ciacci Piccolomini Rosso di Montalcino 2016 \$59.99**

Aromas of red berry, camphor, rose and botanical herb lift out of the glass. The elegant, structured palate offers raspberry compote and licorice alongside polished tannins. This is one Rosso for moderate aging.

*92 Wine Enthusiast*

**\*Carpineto Chianti Classico 2017 \$19.99**

**\* Cesari Valpolicella Mara Ripasso 2017 \$19.99**

Here's a Valpolicella Ripasso that reveals such complexity on the nose — from oyster-shell to forest-floor notes and preserved lemons — before you even notice the bulwark of dried blackberries and blueberries. The medium-to full-bodied palate has Bordeaux-like polish and effortlessness, easily rolling through layered blue fruit and spice undertones. Excellent value. Drink now or hold.

*93 James Suckling*

**\*Viberti Barbera D'Alba La Gemella 2018 \$17.99**

"Plush with loads of elderberry compote & dark-cherry essence. Despite the initial suggestion of exuberance, some firm tannins and attractive acidity hold this together nicely on the palate.

*90 James Suckling*

**\*La Spinetta Barbera d'Asti Ca di Pian 2016 \$25.99**

Ruby red in color with purple reflections, this wine offers aromas of blueberry, wet earth and a hint of orange peel. On the palate, it is full-bodied with bright acidity and lots of intensity, but also balanced and silky -- an ultra-fine Barbera that combines richness with finesse

**\*Carpineto Vino Nobile Riserva 2015 \$34.99**

Blackberry, plum, coffee, smoke, iron and tar flavors mingle with the pointed tannins in this distinctive red. Complex and long, if not quite knit together today

*92 Wine Spectator*

**\*Carpineto Chianti Classico Riserva 2015 \$27.99**

Smells like a little Cabernet Sauvignon enhancing the Sangiovese in this black currant– and cherry-flavored red. Cedar, thyme, iron and sanguine notes round out the palate as this cruises to a lingering aftertaste. Shows excellent structure and balance.

*94 Wine Specator*

**\*La Spinetta Langhe Nebbiolo 2016 \$34.99**

"Bright, red candied fruit, roses and rosemary. Full bodied, chewy and rich with dusty tannins and a juicy yet elegant finish"

## 90-Wine & Spirits

### **\*Montegrossi Chianti Classico San Marcellino 2014 \$49.99**

"Time in the glass brings out gorgeous scents of black cherry, plum, menthol, licorice and smoke. The 2014 is a striking, complete wine."

*94 Vinous*

### **\*La Spinetta Pin 2013 \$59.99**

65% Nebbiolo and 35% Barbera d'Asti Bionzo, a fruity and savory red with shaved chocolate, minerals and hints of leather the palate has a juicy and dark berry Barbera entrance that is perfectly completed by Nebbiolo length and elegance 25 year

*92-Vinous Antonio Galloni*

### **\*Ciacci Piccolomini Brunello di Montalcino 2013 \$79.99**

"Tobacco, ripe berry & balsamic aromas abound in this delicious red. Smooth, full-bodied and savory, the succulent palate doles out Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, licorice and white pepper"

*95 Wine Enthusiast*

### **\*Viberti Barolo DOCG Buon Padre 2015 \$91.99 (special order)**

"Aromas of crushed berries, orange peel & walnuts. Full body. Layered & flavorful. Chewy tannins."

*93 James Suckling*

### **\*Carpineto Chianti Classico Gran Selezione 2015 \$69.99**

This red offers depth and complexity, drawing you in with sensuous aromas of black cherry, black currant, violet, iron, leather and tar. Rich and smooth, backed by firm, refined tannins. Shows excellent balance and length. Best from 2021 through 2038.

*95 Wine Spectator*

### **\*Cesari Amarone 2014 \$54.99**

Aromas of violets and ripe fruit with hints of wet earth and sage. Medium body, delicious tannins and a fresh and fruity finish. Drink now

*90 both James Sucking & Wine Enthusiast*

## **Spain**

### **\*Txomin Etxaniz White 2018 \$22.99**

Aromas of citrus and fresh apple with mineral notes. The palate is fresh and fruity, characteristic and light acidity.

*90 Jeb Dunnock*

### **\*Honoro Vera 100% Verdejo Blanco Rueda 2018 \$8.99**

**The wine exudes intense aromas of white flowers and fresh fruit with exotic tropical notes infused with mouth-watering aromas of lemon curd. Beautifully focused and balanced on the palate with a lush mix of apple and pear.**

### **\*oFillo da Condesa Albarino 2018 \$12.99**

This white shows richness, with honeyed orange and ginger notes deepening the pear and guava flavors. Briny and mineral elements add interest, while firm acidity keeps this focused. Drink now through 2022. 5,000 cases made,

*90 Wine Spectator*

### **\*Shaya Verdejo 2017 \$14.99**

On the nose it displays toasty baking spices, nutmeg, spring flowers, marzipan, and pit fruits. A bit richer and more complex on the palate than the “regular” cuvee, this vibrant wine could evolve for 1-2 years but is drinking well now

*93 Guia Peñin*

### **\*Atteca Old Vines 2016 \$15.99**

The 2016 Bodegas Atteca Atteca Armas Old Vine Garnacha begins with a deep cherry red color and an intense and attractive nose of ripe fruit, and roasted and spicy notes from the barrel. On

the palate, this complex, powerful, and elegant wine is full bodied yet velvety at the same time, with a great presence of fruit and bold tannins

*92 Guia Peñin & 90 Wine Spectator*

**\*Honoro Vera Rioja 2018 \$8.99**

Exhibits greater aromatic complexity, richness with mineral and blueberry notes leading to a savory and spicy wine nicely balanced and very easy to drink. Pair with rice, pasta (noodles, spaghetti, macaroni), white and blue fish, goat cheese, cold meat, vegetables, lentil soup, peas, mushroom, beef, chicken, roast meat, red and white grill meat.

*90 James Suckling*

**\*Honoro Vera Garnacha 2018 \$8.99**

It exhibits greater aromatic complexity, richness with mineral and blueberry notes leading to a savory and spicy wine nicely balanced and very easy to drink. Pair with rice, pasta (noodles, spaghetti, macaroni), white and blue fish, goat cheese, cold meat, vegetables, lentil soup, peas, mushroom, beef, chicken, roast meat, red and white grill meat

*90 Guia Peñin*

**\*Gota de Arena Tempranillo 2017 \$8.99**

“This has a swathe of very richly spicy oak and plenty of toasty notes, too. The depth of flavor is impressive, as is the crisp tannin. Drink or hold.”

*92 James Suckling*

**\*Juan Gil Silver 2017 Monastrell \$15.99**

Rich black cherry hue, and powerful nose of winter berries with smoky notes from aging in the French oak. It shows excellent structure and great depth in the mouth, continuing to provide a perfect balance of fruit and earth through the long finish.

*94 Guia Peñin*

**\*Juan Gil Blue Label 2017 \$12.60 \$18.99**

Monastrell 60%, Cabernet 30% and Syrah 10%.

Intense cherry red with garnet sparkles in the glass, and intense aromas including highlights of black fruit over roasted notes and a lightly balsamic and spicy base. Fine and aromatic on the palate. Light, unctuous and very flavorsome, sensation of black fruits that harmonize with fine roasted touches. Round tannins and good acidity. Structured and very elegant

*95 Guia Peñin*

**\*Laya 2018 \$8.99 (temporarily out of stock-due next week – taking special orders)**

Blueberry and blackberry aromas and flavors. Hints of black tea. Full body. Layered and very rich. Juicy and succulent. Some mahogany at the end. Drink now.

*92 James Suckling*

**\* Honoro Vera Monastrell 2018 \$8.99**

The brambly ripe cherries are super fresh here with a sleek, modern feel that offers a gently smoky, wet dark-stone edge. The palate has a rich, sweet core of tangy raspberry and red-plum flavor. Succulent. Drink or hold.

*91 James Suckling*

**\*Blau Red Blend 2018 \$12.99**

50% Cariñena, 25% Syrah, 25% Garnacha Bright purple. Spice-accented black and blue fruit aromas are complemented by violets and woodsmoke. Round and seamless on the palate, offering juicy blackberry and cassis flavors that are lifted and firmed by zesty acidity. The finish is framed by gentle, harmonious tannins, with very good breadth and persistence

*90 Guia Peñin*

**\*Can Blau 2017 \$15.99**

40% Cariñena, 40% Syrah, 20% Garnacha Wood smoke, spice box, incense, lavender, black cherry and plum aromas are followed by a mouthwatering round, dense wine with outstanding grip and length. It over delivers in a big way. Drink it over the next 6-8 years.

*90 Guia Peñin*

**Breca 2016 “Oldest Vine Garnacha” \$16.99**

A wine with a deep color and character, as well as lively acidity. It is characterized by aromas of ripe black fruit compote, overlaid with spices such as black pepper. There is an obvious minerality to the wine, proceeding from vineyards' diverse range of soil types. The soils range from iron rich red slate and clay to black slate

*90 pts James Suckling*

**El Coto Imaz Reserva 2014 \$21.99**

Lots of blueberry and blackberry aromas with hints of walnut-shell follow through to a medium-bodied palate with firm tannins and a light finish. Some chocolate and wood character.

*90 James Suckling*

**Bodegas Morca Godina Garnacha 2017 \$23.99**

This ruby/purple-colored wine offers finesse and elegance in addition to moderately intense aromas of spice box, licorice, plums and subtle oak. Rich with velvety tannins, exceptional purity, balance and length.

*93 Guia Peñin*

**\*Muga Reserva Seleccion Especial 2014 \$45.99**

"A modern style, with masses of colour, rich, textured tannins, good grip and structure, savoury, dark plum and blackberry fruit and refreshing, underlying acidity."

*96 Tanzer*

**\*Brega 2015 \$39.99**

100% Garnacha de Aragón, the oldest clone of Garnacha (Grenache) worldwide. Incredibly intense yet balanced with bright acidity due to the high altitudes.

*93 Jeb Dunnock*

**Muga Prado Enea Gran Res 2011 \$85.99**

The wine exhibits an attractive, deep, cherry color. The nose is fresh and complex expressing aromas of blackberry forest fruit and prunes, while notes of cocoa, vanilla and subtle toast also

come through denoting an ageing in top quality oak. Fresh on the palate with very well-integrated acidity. A lovely, pleasant mouth-feel with a good lingering finish. Clean and fresh with great ageing potential.

This wine pairs well with casseroles, meat dishes, fish and cheese; and it can even be enjoyed on its own, without any accompaniment.

Blend: 80% Tempranillo, 20% Grenache, Mazuelo (Carignan) and Graciano

*JS-99, TA-97, RP-96, JD-95, WS-94*

**\*Clio 2017 \$45.99**

Not rated yet, 70% Monastrell (Mourvedre), 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. Clio has been rated 91-97 points for the past 13 consecutive years by acclaimed wine critics. Made by winemaker Chris Ringland. This wine exhibits a glass-coating opaque purple color. It has an expressive nose of pain grille, brier, minerality and blueberry and blackberry overtones. This plush, opulent wine has great density, savory flavors and a very lengthy finish that gets better with age.

**\* El Nido 2015 \$139.99 - special order**

Following the style of the Clio from the same vintage, the 2015 El Nido is a powerful, ripe and concentrated blend of Cabernet Sauvignon with 30% Monastrell aged in a combination of French and American oak barrels for 23 months. It's bottled with 16% alcohol, not a shy wine but not one that shows heat, as it keeps the balance in an XL way. It feels concentrated, powerful and young, but the oak is surprisingly more integrated than in the 2014. As it happens with many wines, this is not for everybody, as it has a marked style, but for those who like this profile, this could very well be the finest vintage of El Nido to date. It can be had with powerful food, but it should be better with a few years in bottle

*95 Robert Parker*

**\* El Nido 2016 \$139.99 – special order**

Deep, bright-hued violet color. Intensely perfumed, spice- and mineral-accented cherry and dark berry preserve, candied violet and fruitcake aromas, along with a sexy floral topnote and a subtle touch of smoky minerality. Broad, seamless and alluringly sweet, offering palate-staining black/blue fruit, floral pastille, star anise and cola flavors that convey a compelling mix of depth and energy. Puts on weight with air while maintaining vivacity and finishes extremely long and sappy, showing youthful tannic grip and an emphatic echo of juicy blue fruit.”

*96 both Vinous & PEÑÍN*

**\* El Nido 2017 \$139.99 – special order**

"The 2016 El Nido is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon with 30% Monastrell, the reverse percentages of Clio. The vinification and élevage are the same: it starts in stainless steel with neutral yeasts and finishes in French and American oak barriques, where the wine matured for some 23 months. I was quite pleasantly surprised by this 2016, as I expected a weaker wine that would show the élevage more, but I found a juicy palate and the oak was quite integrated. The tannins are fine-grained, and the palate reveals flavors of sweet spices and dark chocolate."

*95 Wine Advocate*

**\*Alvear Vermouth Rojo \$21.99**

Sweet but balanced with acidity and bitterness own herbs, notes of spice, licorice and caramel.

*91 points Puntuación Carta de Vinos*

**\*Alvear Fino En Rama 2012 \$21.99**

Bone dry on the palate and quite savory, this wine presents an elegant style with typical Montilla grapey character.

*91 - Robert Parker's Wine Advocate*

**\*Alvear Fino Capataz Solera de la Casa \$29.99**

Reveals an unusual complexity and depth showing old age and at the same incredible balance and elegance

*94 points Luis Gutierrez, RobertParker*

**\*Alvear Cream \$15.99**

" sweeter style of Oloroso. Its dark amber color is accompanied by sweet, nutty, milkshake-like aromas, tremendous precision as well as intensity, and a marvelous finish."

*91 Robert Parker*

**\*Alvear PX Solera 1927 \$29.99**

Dark brown/amber with notes of figs, toffee, caramel syrup, molasses and coffee. It is dense, super sweet, intense, rich and an amazingly, unctuously textured

*98 Robert Parker*

**Port's, dessert wines, after dinner/or before.....**

Smith Woodhouse Lodge Reserve Port \$23.99

Smith Woodhouse 2016 \$79.99