

WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB OCTOBER 2024

WINE: Clos De 'Esperance Lussac Saint-Emillion

VARIETALS: 100% Merlot

Viticulture Area: Right Bank

Saint-Emilion France

Regular Bottle Price: \$19.99 | Presell Special \$15.99

Please call 440-498-9463 for quote on additional purchase.



INTRODUCTION

European Wine Imports invited Western Reserve Wines to a special Bordeaux pre-sell tasting last month.

Both of our Tier One Wine Club selections; Clos De L'Esperance Lussac Saint-Emilion 2022 and Chateau Haut Branda Sauvignon 2023 are from this pre-sell event at a special one-time-only price for Wine Club Members. High rating from James Suckling 91-92 Points!

We are thrilled to share these great value wines with you!

Clos de l'Esperance is the first investment of Jules Monroux at the age of 22. He is the 5th generation of winemaker in the Saint-Emilion area. His father, Antoine, owns and runs Chateau Franc Bigaroux in Saint-Emilion Grand Cru appellation. Clos de l'Esperance is a little 6 hectares vineyard of Merlot, planted on top of the Lussac Saint-Emilion appellation, on clay and limestone.

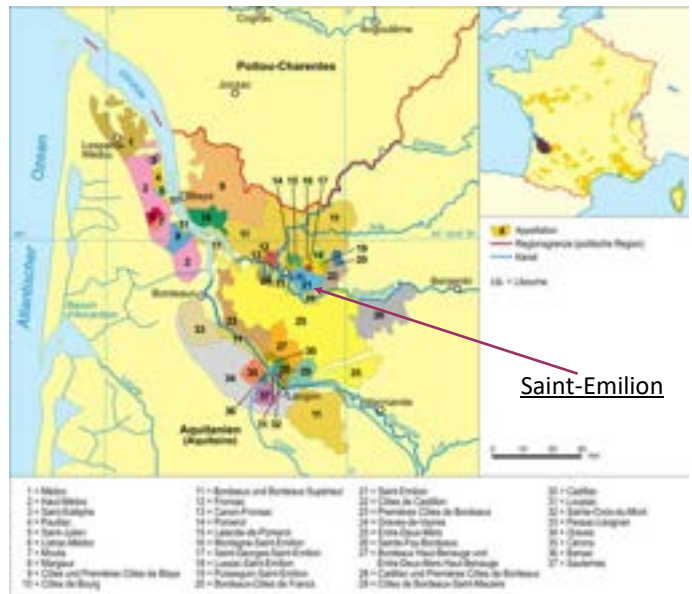
The wine is aged in different types of oak barrels (225L and 500L), as well as amphoras and wine globes, to get the complexity of the best wines of the appellation: structure, opulence and black fruit aromas.

REGION:

Bordeaux wine spans almost 2000 years to Roman times when the first vineyards were planted.

In the Middle Ages, the marriage of Henry Plantagnet and Eleanor of Aquitaine opened the Bordeaux region to the English market and eventually to the world's stage. The Gironde estuary and its tributaries, the Garonne and the Dordogne rivers play a pivotal role in the history and success of this region.

The Saint-Emilion are bordered to the west by Pomerol. Merlot is the dominant grape in this area, followed by Cab Franc. The climate and damper, cool soils of the area make it difficult for Cabernet Sauvignon grapes to fully ripen and as such it is less often used. In favorable vintages, the wines have good aging potential.



Saint-Emilion

PRODUCER

History

Saint-Emilion is a charming medieval village located in the heart of the famous Bordeaux wine area. It is a very unique site here world-famous wineries, fine wine, delicious cuisine, beautiful architecture and great monuments are a perfect match.

Clos de l'Esperance is the first investment of Jules Monroux at the age of 22. He is the 5th generation of winemaker in the Saint-Emilion area. His father, Antoine, owns and runs Chateau Franc Bigaroux in Saint-Emilion Grand Cru appellation.

Clos de l'Esperance is a little 6 hectares vineyard of Merlot, planted on top of the Lussac Saint-Emilion appellation, on clay and limestone.

The wine is aged in different types of oak barrels (225L and 500L), as well as amphoras and wine globes, to get the complexity of the best wines of the appellation: structure, opulence and black fruit aromas.

Vinification

Clos de l'Esperance is 100% Merlot grown on 40+ year old vines. After a manual harvest the wines go through a traditional vinification with 20 days of maceration to ensure good extraction of tannins and aromas. The wine is then aged in 225L and 500L barrels, amphoras and wine globes for a maximum of complexity and elegance in the final wine.



Tasting Notes:

Clos de l'Esperance has a rich and round bouquet of ripe red and black fruit (cherry, blackcurrant), as well as a touch of vanilla. The tannins are quite smooth. The freshness and spiciness of the nose come through in the palate. The wine is altogether beautifully balanced and elegant. Ideal with duck or lamb. 100% Merlot

92 James Suckling

This is dark-fruited with nut shell and cedar notes. Medium-bodied. Juicy but firm with some chewiness at the end.

Range: 91-92

Food Suggestions:

Ideal with duck breast, especially when barbecued. Also pairs well with lamb.

Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!

Sources:

<https://www.westernreservewines.com/clos-de-lesperance-lussac-saint-emillion-2022.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bordeaux_wine_regions

WESTERN RESERVE WINES
28300 MILES ROAD SUITE B
SOLON, OHIO 44139 (440) 498-9463 (WINE)
WesternReserveWines.com
Info@WesternReserveWines.com
Text (216) 220-9225



WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB OCTOBER 2024



WINE: *Chateau Haut Branda Sauvignon*

VARIETALS: *100% Sauvignon Blanc*

Viticulture Area: *Bordeaux White France*

Regular Bottle Price: \$18.99 | Presell Special \$15.99

Please call 440-498-9463 for quote on additional purchase.

INTRODUCTION

European Wine Imports invited Western Reserve Wines to a special Bordeaux pre-sell tasting last month. Both of our Tier One Wine Club selections; Clos De L'Esperance Lussac Saint-Emilion 2022 and Chateau Haut Branda Sauvignon 2023 are from this pre-sell event at a special one-time-only price for Wine Club Members.

The family estate launched in 1946 by Jean Claude-Ballet's grandfather, Cyprien Furt, with only 5 ha., has been taken over 16 years after by his grandson and now by Nathalie and Bruno.

Today, the estate produces two wines; Chateau Haut Branda and Chateau La Caussade. The vines of Chateau Haut Branda are on the west of the town of Vayres on a gravelly, sandy plateau ideally exposed overlooking the medieval castle of Vayres.

REGION:

Bordeaux wine spans almost 2000 years to Roman times when the first vineyards were planted. The soils for white Bordeaux are clay and gravel. The grapes used to make white Bordeaux, also known as Bordeaux Blanc, are usually a blend of Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Muscadelle.

In the Middle Ages, the marriage of Henry Plantagnet and Eleanor of Aquitaine opened the Bordeaux region to the English market and eventually to the world's stage.

The Gironde estuary and its tributaries, the Garonne and the Dordogne rivers play a pivotal role in the history and success of this region.

The **Château de Vayres** is a medieval castle, located on the banks of the Dordogne River, located in the commune of Vayres, in the Gironde Department of France, near the city of Bordeaux. The château de Vayres was rebuilt during the Renaissance, and again in 1700. It is classified as an official historical landmark of France, and the gardens are listed as among the Notable Gardens of France by the Committee of Parks and Gardens of the French Ministry of Culture¹



HISTORY

The Bordeaux region is known for its red wine, but it also produces white wine.

Before the 1950s, white wine made up nearly half of all Bordeaux wine, but a frost in 1956 led to a shift in production. The frost was so severe that many vineyards were replanted with red grapes, such as Cabernet Sauvignon, instead of white grapes. Today, white wine makes up about 10% of Bordeaux's total production.

The Graves-de-Vayres wine region is one of the oldest in Bordeaux, with winemaking dating back to the Gallo-Roman period. The name Graves-de-Vayres began appearing on labels in 1904. The Winemakers' Union of Graves-de-Vayres was formed in 1962 and established quality control for the region's wines.

Sauvignon blanc originated in the Loire Valley where its synonym "fiers" was mentioned as early as the 1500s. The name "sauvignon" is derived from two French words: *sauvage* ("wild") and *vigne* ("vine"). Sauvignon blanc is a vigorous (wild) growing plant, and the shape of its leaves are similar to those of wild grapevines.

One of sauvignon blanc's parents was the ancient grape savagnin (it's not clear who the other parent was). That makes sauvignon blanc a sibling of grüner veltliner, chenin blanc, silvaner, and verdelho, among several other grapes that originated in central France.



Tasting Notes:

This classic Sauvignon Blanc is bright and brilliant with lovely fruity nose of white peaches, citrus fruits, and beeswax. Elegant, charming palate with good fruit flavors and a clean and crisp finish.

Food Suggestions:

Serve chilled with seafood, pasta, chicken, veal, and pork.

Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!

Sources:

<https://www.westernreservewines.com/haut-branda-sauvignon-bordeaux-2023.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ch%C3%A2teau_de_Vayres

<https://www.mtouton.com/>

WESTERN RESERVE WINES
28300 MILES ROAD SUITE B
OLON, OHIO 44139 (440) 498-9463 (WINE)
WesternReserveWines.com
Info@WesternReserveWines.com
Text (216) 220-9225



WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB OCTOBER 2024

WINE: Ch Maison Noble St Martin Bordeaux Superieur



VARIETALS: 60% Merlot,

30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc

Regular Bottle Price: \$29.99 | Presell Special: \$24.99 plus tax

Please call 440-498-9463 for quote on additional purchase.

INTRODUCTION

European Wine Imports invited Western Reserve Wines to a special Bordeaux pre-sell tasting last month. Chateau Maison Noble St. Martin Bordeaux Superieur comes from this pre-sell event at a special one-time-only price for Wine Club Members. Château Maison Noble begins its history as a feudal castle, it was built in the 14th century. This place is full of history and centuries-old traditions, courage, good taste, sophistication and a love of work. Château Maison Noble honors traditions and is constantly developing, the fruits of this passion are to be enjoyed in every glass.



REGION



In most of France, wines are named by their place of origin and not by the type of grape (with the exception of Alsace). Just like a red Burgundy is by law, always made of Pinot noir, a red Bordeaux is a blended wine composed mainly of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Depending on the laws of the village from which the grapes come, the conditions of the vintage and decisions of the winemaker, the blend can be further supported by Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Petit Verdot and in rare cases, Carmenere. So popular and repeated has this mix of grape varieties become world-wide, that the term, Bordeaux Blend, refers to a wine blended in this style, regardless of origin.

WINE ENTHUSIAST

"With ripe tannins and dense blackberry flavors, this wine is packed with fruitiness. The tannins and freshness are still buoyant and young, so this structured wine should be aged further".

Drink from 2021. — [Roger Voss](#)



PRODUCER



The feudal era is long gone, but Château Maison Noble has managed to preserve the unique appearance and the magnificent cedars that are the pride of the estate and adorn the facade of the main building. We have kept the essentials, without which continuing Château Maison Noble would probably not have been possible. We have preserved our vineyards as well as the centuries-old tradition of harvesting and producing excellent Bordeaux wines. For Château Maison Noble, wine production is not only a tribute to tradition. We cultivate 115 hectares of vineyards that are located in 9 neighboring villages. We produce wines that have received many prestigious awards in France and around the world. Our team practices sustainable viticulture, to reduce the environmental impact, in order to create harmony between the terroir, man and the environment. We produce AOP wines (Protected Designation of Origin, AOC in French): Bordeaux Supérieur Rouge, Bordeaux Rouge, Entre-Deux-Mers, Bordeaux Rosé.

Tasting Notes:

Chateau Maison Noble Saint Martin Bordeaux Superieur is a light red color with purple hues. There is a complex nose, with notes of crushed strawberries, vanilla and slightly spicy notes. The palate is concentrated and smooth, with powerful and ripe tannins. This is the very fruity wine, with nice freshness at the finish. The wine promises a bright future. Ready to enjoy in 2024 or be cellared for several more years. Suggested Serving Temperature: 60° F

Food Suggestions:

Mushroom Tart, Chorizo Risotto, Quail with Grapes, Warm Camembert Roasted in the Oven

Sources:

<https://maisonnoblesaintmartin.com/>

<https://www.maisonnoblesaintmartin.com/wines/bordeaux-superieur-rouge>

Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to!

CHEERS!!!

WESTERN RESERVE WINES
28300 MILES ROAD SUITE B
OLON, OHIO 44139
(440) 498-9463 (WINE)
WesternReserveWines.com
Info@WesternReserveWines.com
Text 216-220-9225



94 Decanter

Deep and pure, with an abundance of creamy blackcurrant and blackberry, boosted by licks of vanilla, cacao and spice.

WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB OCTOBER 2024

WINE: Antonio Mazella Ischia Biancolella DOC 2023

VARIETALS: 100% Biancolella

Viticulture : Ischia island Campania Region

Soil: Volcanic – pumice – obsidian

Bottle Price: \$27.99 Case Price: \$302.29 plus tax



INTRODUCTION

Three generations and a past full of sacrifices and commitment, this is the story of the Antonio Mazzella winery. Founded by Nicola in 1940 and expanded and improved by Antonio, the founder's son. The production areas of this company are located on the southern side of the island of Ischia at about 150 meters above sea level, the roads and the conditions of the land are not the most comfortable for the cultivation of vineyards. The cultivation lands can only be reached on foot via ancient paths, which makes the care of the vines even more difficult and contributes to making these products unique.

Biancolella is an indigenous grape grown mainly on the hard and stark slopes of Ischia Island out of the coast of Naples in Campania Region. Strong wind, poor volcanic soil made of pumice-stone and obsidian are the extreme conditions loved by Biancolella, that reciprocate with incredible generosity.

REGION

Ischia is a volcanic island in the Gulf of Naples, Italy. It's known for its mineral-rich thermal waters. Hot springs bubble up at Maronti Beach, in the south. East, Roman remains lie beneath the sea floor at Cartaromana Beach. The beach has views of medieval Aragonese Castle, linked to Ischia by a stone bridge. Nearby, 18th-century Palazzo dell'Orologio houses the Sea Museum, devoted to Ischia's fishing tradition.

The island of Ischia is home to the eponymous Denominazione di origine controllata (DOC) that produces both red and white wines though white wines account for nearly 80% of the island's wine production. Vineyards planted within the 179 hectares (440 acres) boundaries of the DOC tend to be on volcanic soils with high pumice, phosphorus and potassium content.

The white wines of the island are composed primarily of Forastera (at least 65% according to DOC regulation) and Biancolella (up to 20%) with up to 15% of other local grape varieties such as Arilla and San Lunardo. Grapes are limited to a harvest yield of no more than 10 tonnes/ha with a finished minimum alcohol level of at least 11%.

CANTINE ANTONIO MAZZELLA
Ischia DOC Biancolella

Elevation: 789 m (2,589 ft)

ISCHIA ISLAND
(CAMPANIA)

Coordinates: 40°43'52"N
13°53'45"E / 40.731204°N 13.895721°E



PRODUCER



With time and the constant commitment of the Mazzella family these areas from arid and abandoned have become flourishing and productive. The harvesting, crushing and pressing of the grapes are done by hand, after which the must is left to mature in ancient cellars dug into the soft tuff rock where it will remain until bottling.

The final product is transported by sea with special containers placed on wooden boats that move from the bay of San Pancrazio to the ancient Borgo di Ischia Ponte, where it is transferred to Campagnano, a small village in the municipality of Ischia, gently nestled at the foot of Mount Veszi. And it is in Campagnano that the Cantina Antonio Mazzella was born and raised, a famous area for the production of the renowned Biancolella and Forastera wines. The future projects that this company will adopt will be to continue with the same commitment and seriousness the production of fine local wines, thus highlighting the natural values of this land.

Production area: Municipality of Ischia, south-east side of the island, Cava delle Erbe, Pignatiello and Torri; altitude between 200 and 400 meters above sea level.

Production technique: white vinification of Biancolella grapes with controlled fermentation temperature 16°-18° C.

Tasting Notes:

Straw yellow color. Floral aroma with hints of banana. Fresh, delicate, slightly savoury taste, with the right body - The Winemaker **COLOR:** Sunlight yellow with golden reflections **NOSE:** Fresh tropical fruit, banana and passion fruit **TASTE:** Medium bodied, good minerality and long elegant finish. Best served at 50°-53° F

Food Suggestions:

Perfect companion for seafood either grilled or raw like seared tuna and swordfish carpaccio. .

Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ischia>

<https://www.ischiavini.it/>

WESTERN RESERVE WINES
28300 MILES ROAD SUITE B
OLON, OHIO 44139 (440) 498-9463 (WINE)
WesternReserveWines.com
Info@WesternReserveWines.com
Text (216) 220-9225



WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB OCTOBER 2024

WINE: Alexis Soyer Sauvignon 2017



VARIETALS: 95% Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon ·
3% Napa Valley Malbec · 2% Napa Valley Cabernet Franc

Viticulture Area: Napa California

Bottle Price: \$24.99 Case Price: \$269.89 plus tax

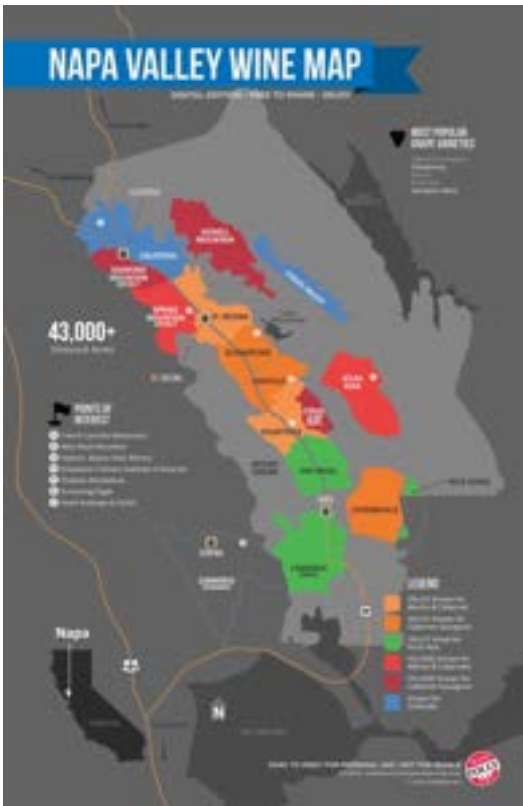
INTRODUCTION

These wines are dedicated to Alexis Soyer who was arguably the 19th century's most famous chef. He was a man full of ideas, inventions and convictions which led him to be a great champion for the common man. When hearing of the plight of the Irish people during the "Great Famine", he asked his employers for a leave of absence and went to work in Dublin constructing a soup kitchen that could feed 5000 people a day. Though he often cooked for the aristocracy, he wrote cookbooks for those less fortunate teaching them how to make nutritious food for small amounts of money.

"I made this wine as a tribute to Alexis Soyer who I admire as a Chef, Humanitarian and Inventor but more importantly a man who always seemed to help those less fortunate than himself"

Sincerely, Tim English

REGION



Napa Valley: Idyllic vineyard-dotted paradise, renowned for world-class wines. Rolling hills embrace elegant wineries, offering picturesque landscapes and exquisite tastings. Rich history, culinary delights, and luxurious retreats make it a premier destination for wine enthusiasts and travelers seeking relaxation in California's wine country.

Napa Valley is an American Viticultural Area (AVA) located in Napa County, California. It was established by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) on January 27, 1981. Napa Valley is considered one of the premier wine regions in the world. Records of commercial wine production in the region date back to the nineteenth century, but premium wine production dates back only to the 1960s.

The combination of Mediterranean climate, geography and geology of the region are conducive to growing quality wine grapes. John Patchett established the Napa Valley's first commercial vineyard in 1858. In 1861 Charles Krug established another of Napa Valley's first commercial wineries in St. Helena. Viticulture in Napa suffered several setbacks in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including an outbreak of the vine disease phylloxera, the institution of Prohibition, and the Great Depression. The wine industry in Napa Valley recovered, and helped by the results of the Paris Wine Tasting of 1976, came to be seen as capable of producing the best quality wine – equal to that of Old World wine regions. Napa Valley is now a major enotourism destination.

PRODUCER

2017 Napa Cabernet Sauvignon

This fruit is sourced from three vineyards in Napa Valley; one in Oakville, owned by the Pelissa family that is grown organically, one interesting new property in Chiles valley and the other from a valley floor vineyard in the Yountville AVA. They were hand-picked between September 17 and October 20, 2017. We inoculated the must immediately after crushing and open top fermented the juice in small tanks. The wine was pumped over four times a day and then racked into center of France oak barrels, of which 25% were new and the balance were second and third use, for the malolactic fermentation. The wine was made with zero micro-oxygenation. The wine was aged in the barrels for 12-16 months depending on the lot. It was bottled without fining or filtration. 1232 cases produced.



Alexis Soyer, painted by his wife

4 February 1810 – 5 August 1858) was a French chef, philanthropist, writer and inventor who made his reputation in Victorian England.

Born in north-east France, Soyer trained as a chef in Paris, and quickly built a career that was brought to a halt by the July Revolution of 1830. Moving to England he worked in the kitchens of royalty, the aristocracy and the landed gentry until 1837. In the 1840s he went to Dublin when the Irish potato famine struck. He setup a soup kitchen that could feed 1,000 people in an hour.

During the Crimean War, reports reached London of the privations endured by British soldiers, with disease rife and food inadequate. At the request of the British government Soyer travelled to the Crimea in 1855 and worked with the nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale to improve conditions for the troops. He ensured that in all parts of the army there were nominated cooks, useful recipes, and the means to cook food properly.

In particular, the portable Soyer stove which he invented and which remained in army use, with modifications, for more than a century. In the Crimea, Soyer became seriously ill; he never fully recovered his health. A little over a year after his return to London in 1857, he died of a stroke.

Tasting Notes:

The wine has a deep color with plum, cassis, rubbed herbs, cigar box, and a soft lingering finish that keeps revealing subtle layers. It is a Cabernet Sauvignon with classic flavors but still has the balance to complement the well stocked table.

Food Suggestions:

Try Alexis Soyer's best-known dish, lamb cutlets Reform, which has remained on London's Reform Club's menu since the 1840s and has been taken up by later chefs from Auguste Escoffier to Prue Leith.

Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!

Sources:

<https://www.westernreservewines.com/alexis-soyer-chef-humanitarian-cabernet-sauvignon.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexis_Soyer

WESTERN RESERVE WINES
28300 MILES ROAD SUITE B
OLON, OHIO 44139 (440) 498-9463 (WINE)
WesternReserveWines.com
Info@WesternReserveWines.com
Text (216) 220-9225



WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB OCTOBER 2024

WINE: *Domaine Vico Forca di Pero Centru di Corsica*



VARIETALS: 100% Vermentino

VITICULTURE AREA: Corsica Island

Bottle Price: \$28.99 Case Price: \$313.09 plus tax

CENTRU DI CORSICA
(Forca di Pero)

DOMAINE VICO

INTRODUCTION

Domaine Vico was founded in 1901 in the village of Ponte-Leccia, in the northern sector of the Mediterranean island of Corsica. Surrounded by imposing mountains, it is an historic estate with vineyards in the center of the island (Centru di Corsica), in the foothills of those dramatic peaks. This is a remarkably rugged and beautiful place, with arguably the most complex terroirs found anywhere in the wine world (schist, basalt, galets roulés, gravel, clay). It is here that owner and winemaker Manu Venturi has taken his mix of native Corse varieties, grown at an altitude of 300+ meters, and turned this unique domaine into one of France's shining beacons for biodynamic farming and transparently pure Corsican wines.

The history of the Venturi family's connection to Domaine Vico began when Manu Venturi's father Jean-Marc graduated from oenology school and, in his early thirties, took over the management of a cooperative on the east coast of Corsica. During the 1980's, the Vico family had fallen into financial difficulties, eventually selling their magnificent estate to Jean-Marc in 1987. He was of few means at the time and had to borrow and work elsewhere to slowly rebuild the estate, which had an exceptional terroir, but no practical tools needed to run a successful winery. As a child, Manu was alongside his father during this journey, watching him work at the co-op during the week and working tirelessly at Vico on the weekends. As an adult Manu studied law, business, and sustainable tourism before finally coming back to take over the family estate.

REGION

Corsica Island



A mountainous, Mediterranean island covered in vineyards, Corsica, while closer to Italy in proximity and history, is today under France's political jurisdiction. The island is home to a mix of Italian and French grapes, typically planted at high elevations. Niellucciu (Sangiovese), Sciacarellu (Mammolo), and Vermentino (Rolle) are the main grape varieties of Corsica, and account for about two thirds of all Corsican wines produced.

Vermentino Varietal: A fantastic, aromatic white grape that grows with great success in Sardinia, Tuscany and in lesser proportions on the island of Corsica.

PRODUCER

After 20 years investing every penny he had, Manu's father had built an amazing domaine that could finally be passed down to Manu.

Under Manu's leadership, the domaine has cemented itself as one of the top estates on the island.

Manu sees himself as a guardian of this land and heritage, stating "My philosophy is the same everywhere; High environmental value, organic agriculture, biodynamic agriculture, permaculture, breeding, bee-keeping ... I made these choices for the preservation of my island, my land, the men

and women who live there and, more globally, the planet. I am not a utopian, nor an esoteric dogmatic, I am simply a farmer in love with the nature and every day I work on this alchemy, I try to observe it, understand it and accompany it simply to pay homage to it. This makes me and my wines better. If not better, then at least consistent with what we are and what our land expresses."

Certified biodynamic

100% Vermentinu

Forca di Pero is Corsican for

"the fork of the pear tree",

referencing the various plots of the domaine that go into the wine

Blue schist terroir

South and southeast facing sites

30+ year old vines

Indigenous yeast

Fermented and aged in concrete eggs for 6 months

Tasting Notes:

"This deliciously crisp wine is full of lemon and grapefruit flavors. It's light, poised and tangy, with a fine burst of acidity that goes right through it. Drink now. Roger Voss"

Food Suggestions:

Seafood, shellfish, lean fish, pasta, mild & soft cheese and appetizers.



Shellfish



Lean fish



Mild and soft cheese

Sources:

<https://www.skurnik.com/sku/vin-de-corse-blanc-forca-di-pero-domaine-vico/>

Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!

WESTERN RESERVE WINES
28300 MILES ROAD SUITE B
SOLON, OHIO 44139 (440) 498-9463 (WINE)
WesternReserveWines.com
Info@WesternReserveWines.com
Text (216) 220-9225



WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB OCTOBER 2024

Gianfranco Alessandria Barolo 2020



VARIETALS: *Nebbiolo*

Viticulture Area: Piedmont Italy



Bottle: \$49.99 | 6-Pk Case: \$269.95 plus tax

INTRODUCTION

On tiny plots in San Giovanni, nestled among some of Monforte d'Alba's best-known Crus, Gianfranco Alessandria and his family craft classic Barolo, Barbera, and Dolcetto. Their boutique winery is family-run through and through, as it has been since Gianfranco's father started growing grapes in the 1940s. After his passing in 1986, Gianfranco took over the family's four hectares in Monforte d'Alba and worked to reducing his yields, encouraging better ripening and healthier, higher-quality grapes. He didn't sell any wine in his first few years, but at the urging of his cousin Mauro Veglio, he began bottling some in the late 80s. He eventually released his first Barolo in 1993, and it immediately earned critical acclaim. Barolo is often described as having the aromas of tar and roses, and the wines are noted for their ability to age and usually take on a rust red tinge as they mature. Barolo needs to be aged for at least 36 months after the harvest before release, of which at least 18 months must be in wood.

REGION

Piedmont wine is the range of Italian wines made in the region of Piedmont, in the northwestern corner of Italy. The best-known wines from the region include Barolo and Barbaresco. They are made from the Nebbiolo grape. These wines are ideal for storage and a well-aged Barolo for instance may leave a feeling of drinking velvet because the tannins are polished and integrated more and more into the wine. As the wine matures the color becomes more brownish and rust-red.

Located among the Langhe hills, the Barolo zone is a collection of different mesoclimate, soil types, altitudes and expositions that can have a pronounced effect on the development of the nebbiolo grape and the resulting Barolo wine. Within the Barolo zone there are two major soil types separated by the Alba-Barolo road. Within the communes of Serralunga d'Alba and Monforte d'Alba is a compact, sandstone-based soil dating from the Helvetian epoch. In the Barolo and La Morra zone, the soils are similar to those found in the Barbaresco zone, dating from the Tortonian period, being composed of calcareous marl that is more compact and fertile. Throughout the Barolo zone there are clay deposits and soil with enough alkalinity to tame nebbiolo's naturally high acidity. In Jan 2007 Filippo Bartolotta indicated how a vertical tasting of Barolo, from 1985 to the present "showcased Barolo's longevity, intense aromatics, freshness, silk-and-cashmere tannins and also highlighted the considerable contrast between production zones".



PRODUCER

After building a modern winery in 1996 and slowly amassing a couple more hectares in the region, the Alessandria family still does nearly all the work. The quartet of Gianfranco, his wife Bruna, and his enterprising daughters Marta and Vittoria handle everything from vinification to bottling. They currently own six hectare and rent 1.3 more, which they farm as organically as possible, using minimal amounts of sulfur and copper out of respect for the environment. In the cellar, they employ short macerations in temperature-controlled tanks and age their wines primarily in neutral oak. With an infusion of fresh ideas from Vittoria and Marta, the estate remains decidedly family-run, and continues to craft wines of elegance, complexity, and age-worthiness.



"The 2020 Barolo is a gorgeous, classy wine. Crushed rose petal, red berry fruit, spice, mint and orange peel are all beautifully lifted in this gracious, mid-weight Barolo. Bright Monforte acids lend notable energy and freshness. This elegant, delicate Barolo is superb. The 2020 spent two years in wood, mostly barrique and about 10% in cask. What a joy." Antonio Galloni Vinous Media 93 points Drink 2025-40

Tasting Notes:

Rich and warmed aromas of ripe red fruits abundant in spice, featuring a pronounced licorice presence that melds with the warm, inviting notes of oak. On the palate, the wine is firm, with chewy tannins, contributing to its structured and robust character that keeps the rounded and plush fruit at bay as more savory elements develop as the wine evolves.

— Jeff Porter

Food Suggestions:

Barolo's structure and tannins complement rich, hearty dishes like prime rib, venison stew, and game meats.

Perfectly balances out rich, fatty foods, making it a good pairing for egg pasta dishes like carbonara.

Pairs well with strong cheeses like Castelmagno, Gorgonzola, Parmigiano Reggiano, Pecorino vecchio, and old Gouda.

Complements truffle dishes like tajarin pasta with mountain butter, fonduta, or fried egg with Alba white truffle.

Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piedmont_wine

WESTERN RESERVE WINES

28300 MILES ROAD SUITE B

OLON, OHIO 44139 (440) 498-9463 (WINE)

WesternReserveWines.com

Info@WesternReserveWines.com

Text (216) 220-9225



WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB OCTOBER 2024



Merry Edwards Sauvignon Blanc 2022

VARIETALS: Sauvignon Blanc

MERRY EDWARDS
WINERY AND VINEYARDS

Viticulture Area: Russian River Valley Sonoma County

Bottle Price: \$57.99 Case Price: \$626.29 + tax

INTRODUCTION

Exceptional Craftsmanship and Reputation: Merry Edwards was a renowned winemaker, particularly celebrated for her Sauvignon Blancs. The 2022 vintage continues her legacy of producing high-quality, balanced wines that wine club members can trust to deliver an excellent tasting experience. Her passing in 2022, at the age of 72, marked a significant loss to the wine community.

Unique Flavor Profile: This vintage offers vibrant notes of tropical fruits like guava and passionfruit, along with hints of citrus and herbs. It has a rich, textured palate, making it versatile and appealing to a wide range of palates, from casual wine drinkers to connoisseurs.

Versatility in Pairing: Merry Edwards Sauvignon Blanc 2022 pairs beautifully with a variety of dishes, including seafood, salads, and light pastas. Its acidity and freshness make it perfect for members looking to experiment with different food pairings.

Cellar Worthy: Drink now through 2029.



REGION



The prominence of the California wine industry and Sonoma County in particular has established worldwide recognition of their wine regions. The Russian River Valley AVA lies adjacent to and west of the city of Santa Rosa and incorporates the southern reach of the Russian River, where the river bends westward and cuts through the Coast Range to the Pacific Ocean. The AVA is characterized by the regular intrusion of cooling fog from the coast. The fog flows through the Petaluma Wind Gap and the channel cut by the river. The fog generally arrives in the evening or early morning and retreats before noon in the day. The appellation was granted AVA status in 1983 and accounts for about one-sixth of the total planted vineyard acreage in Sonoma County. In 2005 the AVA was expanded by 30,200 acres (122 km²) to 126,600 by recognizing previously overlooked portions of the fog regions. Presently the Russian River AVA includes more than 15,000 acres (61 km²) planted to wine grapes. At last count, 79 wineries were listed in the Russian River Valley Winegrowers website. The area is known for its success with cool climate varieties, notably Pinot noir and Chardonnay.



Sonoma County, California

PRODUCER

Our FOUNDATION: A Bold Legacy, A Bright Future

We consider ourselves winegrowers with profound respect for the land. We produce single-vineyard wines of immense depth, elegant structure, and exceptional longevity. But we are more than a collection of stellar vineyard sites and outstanding wines. We are groundbreakers, who believe not only in paving the way for the next generation, but also in making that path easier to navigate.

Since 1970, Merry Edwards has been considered a trailblazer whose contributions have helped shape the American wine industry. Today her legacy carries on—Winemaker Heidi von der Mehden and Winery President Nicole Carter honor her accomplishments every day, sharing Merry's fierce determination and uncompromising commitment to quality. This is a workplace where everyone is encouraged to succeed.



HEIDI VON DER MEHDEN
WINEMAKER



NICOLE CARTER
PRESIDENT

We began making our Russian River Valley Sauvignon Blanc in 2001, and we have lovingly reproduced this delicious wine each vintage since. Winemaker Heidi von der Mehden follows specific protocols, including fermentation in French oak barrels and twice-weekly lees stirring, to craft this aromatic, lush bottling. The nose of the 2022 vintage features fragrant tropical aromas of white pineapple, passionfruit, mango and guava, with subtle hints of plumeria, lemon curd and lime zest. The palate is clean and bright, with accents of ruby red grapefruit, honeysuckle and ripe melon followed by a burst of crisp, refreshing acidity.

Tasting Notes:

Wine Spectator WS 95

A stunning white, this leaps out of the glass with aromatic mango, orange blossom and salted ripe melon flavors. Gains complexity from grilled peach, lemon oil, savory litsea oil and toasted herb elements, with a fleshy, creamy texture and fresh acidity. Drink now through 2029. 15,000 cases made.—M.W.

Food Suggestions:

Citrus Salad, Baby Spinach Salad with Warm Sonoma Goat Cheese, Crabmeat Mango Salad

Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!

Sources: <https://merryedwards.com/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonoma_County_wine

WESTERN RESERVE WINES
28300 MILES ROAD SUITE B
SOLON, OHIO 44139 (440) 498-9463 (WINE)
WesternReserveWines.com
Info@WesternReserveWines.com
Text (216) 220-9225

WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT LEGACY TO
UPHOLD, AND WE EXPECT MORE
FROM OURSELVES BECAUSE OF IT.

— HEIDI VON DER MEHDEN, WINEMAKER