

Summer 2024

GRAPE PRESS

"In wine there is truth." — Roman Proverb

TOP 50 AND *the Wines of Summer*

With the latest edition of our Top 50 showcase event as popular as ever, and with brisk sales in the shop, The Wine Sellers is delighted to once again be at the heart of another wine-filled Michiana summer. There is still plenty of summer, and wine, for you to enjoy with us.

Summer got off to a hot start, weather-wise and wine-wise, with Top 50, The Wine Sellers' annual coming-out party for our summer inventory. As Midwesterners, our attendees are inured to the heat and humidity of the typical Michiana summer, but it was definitely a sauna! While the temperature was less than perfect, the wines were ideal. The curated selections from the U.S., Italy, Spain, France and elsewhere at Top 50 are representative of the superb wines you will find every day at The Wine Sellers.



Keeping cool with cool wines from The Wine Sellers at Top 50.

TOP 50 Favorites Included:



***Giacosa Fratelli
Gavi 2022***
\$26.00

A delicious wine, an attractive price. 100% cortese from Piemonte, Italy. Light aromas of fresh green pear, lilac and almond breeze pour out of the glass. Notes of apples, white flowers, accented with a bit of citrus and a subtle whiff of seashell mineral. Nice balance, and just enough acidity. A fresh, light and dry white with a full and harmonious body.



***Barco del Corneta 22
Verdejo 'Cucú'***
\$24.50

Gotta love a wine called 'Cucú! Not your typical Rueda, but rather an elevated expression of the varietal. The aromatics are lifted and vibrant, it has a texture, and it finishes with crisp acidity. With a complex range of flavors (green, herbal, citrus, melon) and compelling texture, this is a white wine that is made for the dinner table.

TOP 50 AND *the Wines of Summer* Continued

Attendees received the cherry on top with significant discounts on every purchase. (These discounts are even more client-friendly than the ten-percent discount received with all case purchases in the shop, whether the case is all one wine or twelve different wines.)

Our wonderful reps showing the wines didn't wilt in the heat. They are the representatives of the importers and distributors we work with. Their familiarity with and enthusiasm for the wines they represent shine through with every pour, and our attendees absorb their insights. In fact, when we have a new rep or visiting winemaker, they never fail to comment on how knowledgeable our clients are!

Our attendees responded to Top 50 with sales on all wines offered. That's a good sign for the season, because it means that we continue to be on the same wavelength with our clients' tastes as well as their openness to new wine adventures.

Top 50 IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

Since Top 50, there has been steady traffic in the shop, as our clients have been happily finding old favorites and new discoveries for their summer sipping. Our inventory is deep and spread through all price points.

The pride and joy of The Wine Sellers – our curated rosé wines – are selling briskly. We enjoy them so much, we have won over many a client to rosés with our enthusiasm!



A superb rosé, *La Valentina 2023 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo (\$18.95)*, is one of our Porch Wine selections.

Another excellent choice is *Cesarini Sforza Brut Rosé nv (\$31.00)*. 85% chardonnay and 15% pinot nero, it opens with a bouquet of red fruit and a hint of spice on the nose. On the palate, the combination of the chardonnay's freshness and vitality matched with the complexity of the pinot noir creates a simply elegant wine experience.



TOP 50 Favorites Included:

Continued



***Architect 2021
Cabernet Sauvignon***
\$27.00

80% cabernet sauvignon, 7% petite verdot, 5% cabernet franc, 5% merlot, 3% malbec. Cabernet-dominated Bordeaux red has lush dark berry fruits with smooth, beautifully integrated tannins. Heady aromas of black cherry, cassis, ripe plums are nicely balanced with hints of spice and a long silky finish. Great value.



***Domaine Louis Michel
& Fils Chablis***
\$47.50

100% chardonnay. A fine, precise Chablis showing good density, crystalline citrus notes on the palate, plus a lick of minerality to finish. The attack reveals white fruit notes such as peach, with a persistent mineral structure with a typical stony sensation.

Top 50 IS ONLY THE BEGINNING Continued

The classics are always popular and available all year at The Wine Sellers. What are classics? French and Italian whites come to mind for summer.



Our recommendations include **Domaine de Castelnau L'Etang Picpoul 2022 (\$18.95)**, a favorite at Top 50, a Porch Wine selection and a popular seller in the shop.

Jacques **Dumont 2022 Sauvignon Blanc Val du Loire (\$16.95)** displays a classic profile – round and lush, with bracing citrus and exotic fruit flavors and the signature minerality of Loire Valley Sauvignon Blanc. It's like a Sancerre wannabe but without the higher price!



Jacqui's status in the industry enables her to acquire specially allocated wines, such as rare cabs and pinot noirs from California and Oregon that our clients swoon over. The three below are prime examples. You won't find these beauties just anywhere, but you will at the shop!



2021 Chappellet 'Mountain Cuvee' Proprietary Red (\$62.00) from Napa is 54% cabernet sauvignon, 15% petit verdot, 14% merlot, 12% malbec and 5% cabernet franc. This aromatic wine practically leaps out of the glass with notes of red currant,

boysenberry, cassis, roasted coffee and dark chocolate, along with savory undertones and notions of sweet oak. The palate is mouthcoating, with a seamless texture and supple tannins framing luxurious layers of dark berry fruit, barrel spice and fresh herbs.



Rex Hill 2021 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir (\$44.00) offers a delightfully complex flavor profile. On the nose, ripe red cherry and juicy raspberry dominate, with a subtle hint of

pine tips adding freshness to the aroma. The scent of wet ferrous soil, brambly black berries, black tea leaves and sweet tobacco layer in depth and complexity. The palate adds dimension with fine, round tannins. Subtle notes of vanilla bean grace the finish.



Brewer-Clifton 2022 Pinot Noir (\$61.00) is 100% pinot noir. Rose petals, violets, pomegranate, earth, concentrated berries and fresh mint mingle on the aromatics. The palate offers concentrated, vibrant red berries, smashed raspberries, strawberries and tayberries with notes of clove, white pepper and a lingering savory element.



Finally, for our clients who prefer a bit of maturity to their wines, we have taken out a few choice vintages from our temperature-controlled warehouse, where they have been aging and becoming more accessible.

For example, we had the opportunity while in Piemonte about a year ago to purchase the **Ricossa Barbaresco Riserva 2011 (a bargain at \$50.00!)**. It's produced from the Nebbiolo grape, which can "come around" with some aging. We brought it out of the vault and tasted it recently. The first day it was a bit "savory." The next day it was better; the fruit was more forward and accessible. The third day it was singing! It reminded us of an experience early at TWS, when a customer said he opens a Barolo two days before he drinks it. Now we get it!

Porch Wines

The Wine Sellers' Porch Wines are some of the summer-iest of our summer wines. Light, flavorful and refreshing, they are the perfect accompaniment to the abundance of delights that summer holds. Enjoy them on your porch, favorite hangout or wherever you and your gang are celebrating the season.



Domaine de Castelnau Picpoul De Pinet L'Etang **\$18.95**

Picpoul (whose name means "lip-stinger") is high in acid and imbued with seafood-friendly salinity. Refreshing, made to be drunk young, with a fresh floral, citrus and herbal character, it will go down equally well by itself or in the company of brandade, octopus or ceviche!



Zonin Coastal Lemon Spritz **\$17.95**

Something new and perfect for the porch, we can barely keep this yeasty, citrusy spritz in stock. Made with sparkling wine and natural vegetable and fruit flavors, with a slightly sweet palate like a dry lemonade. Best served over ice.



Les Chancelieres 2020 Vouvray **\$21.00**

100% chenin blanc from the Loire Valley. The bouquet is ripe and fruity, with quince and apricot at the forefront, with a slight overtone of almond and acacia flower. Well balanced and charming on the palate, with a soft, slightly crisp finish. Pairs well with fish and chicken dishes.



La Valentina 2023 *Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo* **\$18.95**

Abruzzo is recognized as one of Italy's best sources for rosato wine, or cerasuolo as it is known in this region. Nose opens with floral notes, rose and fruit, cherry/berry, pomegranate, with a medium body and nice persistence. More body than the usual rosé, allowing it to pair well with a wide range of foods.



NEW EVENT POSSIBILITIES THIS FALL

The continued popularity of The Wine Sellers' Top 50 and Bacchus events has inspired us to consider exciting new events to showcase wonderful wines. We are working with our importers and distributors to create some events that would be held in autumn, removed from the bustle of summer activities.

Concepts under consideration would have a smaller scale than Top 50 and Bacchus to highlight wines that are more limited in production and availability. Watch your inbox for more information.

A VOYAGE WITH *Jacqui*

Recently, Jacqui Schiewe has been showcased as a voice of Michiana, advocating for small business in the area, and of course promoting the wine culture.

Jacqui is featured in the July 3 edition of Voyage Michigan. Voyage Michigan promotes creatives, makers and small businesses by providing a platform for these hidden gems to tell their stories in their own words.

Also, a January 2024 interview with Jacqui by Shoutout Michigan is linked to The Wine Sellers' website.

SOUTH AFRICA, SERIOUSLY

Tastings are essential to curating our inventory, and Jacqui has been busy tasting in 2024. From the Masterclass Wines of Sicily in Chicago to the Mondovino Trade Tasting 2024 in Winchester, Virginia, where there were more than 600 wines to sample! But it's always especially gratifying to attend a local tasting of note.



One of our favorite South African wines that we have selling for years is ***Seriously Old Dirt by Vilafonté (\$42.50)*** and winemaker Arlene Mains. (It is believed that some of the oldest soil in the world is found in South Africa.) Earlier this year, Arlene and Jacqui connected during a luncheon and tasting at The Mason Jar in Benton Harbor. Arlene was joined by Sebastian Beaumont (Beaumont Family Wines) and Johann de Wet (De Wetshof).



Jacqui at Mondovino.



Arlene Mains with Johann de Wet (De Wetshof), left, and Sebastian Beaumont (Beaumont Family Wines) at The Mason Jar in Benton Harbor.

At the tasting, we enthusiastically reserved some of ***Vilafonté's 2013 Series M (\$94.00)***, of which only sixty-eight barrels were produced. It's a blend of 45% Merlot, 41% Malbec, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Cabernet Franc. You will delight in the nose of blackberries, black cherries, raspberry and beef bouillon that is followed by balsamic, dried flowers and chocolate with a beautiful, perfumed undertone. The palate is soft and inviting, with good weight and composure.



WINES TO WATCH



2020 Aia Vecchia 'Sor Ugo' Bolgheri Superiore **\$48.50**

Bold, intense Tuscan blend of 57% cabernet sauvignon, 23% merlot, 12% cabernet franc and 8% petit verdot. Nose of violets, blackberry, blueberry, bramble, earth, smoke, cassis, vanilla, toast and gravel. Palate has black cherries, black currants, boysenberry, black plum, butter, dried cranberry, cooked blackberry, burnt brown sugar, crème brûlée and leather. Dry with medium acidity, a medium plus finish.



Chateau de Chamirey En Pierrelet Mercurey 2019 **\$55**

Terrific burgundy just in from The Wine Sellers' warehouse! Nose is chiseled, floral, supported by citrus aromas, developing into scents of peaches and pears. Palate is rich and well-balanced. Ends on a dry, persistent sensation of freshness. Very reasonable price for burgundy nowadays.



Zonin® Orange-Cran Riviera Spritz **\$17.95**

Good now but will be great in the fall for the holidays (especially Thanksgiving). Sparkling Italian prosecco with notes of orange combining with American cranberry and subtle hints of orange zest and yuzu.

For more immediate, time-sensitive news, follow The Wine Sellers on [Facebook](#).



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The Wine Sellers is open Wednesday through Saturday from noon until 6:00 p.m., Sundays from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. through Labor Day, fewer days afterwards by chance or appointment. Just to make sure, phone first at (269) 469-7566.

We accept American Express, VISA, Mastercard, Discover and Diners Club.

The Wine Sellers is wheelchair accessible.