

Winter 2024

GRAPE PRESS

"In wine there is truth." — Roman Proverb

Every Wine HAS A STORY



The Wine Sellers' shop is chock full of cheer this season. Every wine has been tasted, every bottle has been selected with care. In the vetting process, we get to know each wine's background, which gives us pause to wonder. Does its history imbue a wine with character and personality, just as terroir or weather do? The wine poet in us hopes so. In any case, when you bring home a bottle from The Wine Sellers you might also come away with a story (or at least an anecdote) as to how that particular wine found its way to our shop.

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Cornell: View from the Top

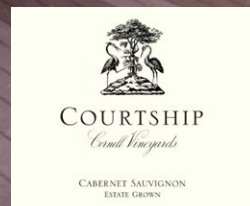
If you remarked to yourself when shopping for a cabernet at **The Wine Sellers** that there was an unusually deep selection of cabs, you are correct. We had accumulated cabernets in anticipation of holding a “Cabernets Around the World” tasting event ... and then were unable to schedule it! As a happy consequence, we have quite an enviable selection.

Let’s begin at the top. ***The Cornell Vineyards 2019 Courtship (\$99)*** is likely exclusive to The Wine Makers in Michigan, and it’s here because Jacqui was invited to an exclusive dinner and wine tasting at Cornell Winery. Cornell is on the tiptop of the Spring Mountain region in the Fountaingrove District of Sonoma County, California. The view is breathtaking. The wine might take your breath away, too.

The blend is 75% cabernet sauvignon, 2% petit verdot, 6.5% malbec, 3% cabernet franc, 13.5% merlot.

It features aromas of splashy red fruit and floral notes on the palate of plum, raspberry, spice and oak.

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Jacqui Schiewe at Cornell Vineyards.



100% Boss

Château des Landes' Le Big Boss Cabernet Sauvignon

2021 (\$33) is complex and extravagant, with red cherry, cedar and purple flowers, savory herbs and a suggestion of oak. What makes Le Big Boss unusual is that it is 100% cabernet sauvignon. It's a rarity, as Bordeaux blends are iconic. But Landes was right to go solo!

Aslina: Remember the Name

One cab we can't help but highlight is **Aslina Cabernet Sauvignon 2021 (\$31)**. The cab is dynamic and so is the winemaker. Ntsiki Biyela of the KwaZulu-Natal province, who went from domestic worker to one of the most celebrated winemakers in South Africa, named her brand "Aslina" in honor of her grandmother. This dry, full-bodied wine is 86% cabernet sauvignon, 14% petit Verdot. Notes of blackberry, bramble, pepper, cigar box, cocoa nib and citrus pith. Distinguished by minty high tones, savory undertones and balanced acidity, with an earthy, herbal finish.



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Dry Creek is Big News

We're excited to have an allocation of 3-liter bottles of the **2021 Dry Creek Vineyard 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$275)**. The 3-liter bottle, known as the double magnum, equals 4 regular bottles. We consider it an affordable splurge, considering that Dry Creek produces some of the finest cabernet sauvignon in California.



The blend is 80% cabernet sauvignon, 7% malbec, 5% petit verdot, 4% cabernet franc, 4% merlot. This elegant cabernet initially displays aromas of plum, blackberry and cranberry, followed by bay leaf, sage and white pepper. First taste reveals black currant and black cherry. Hints of herbes de Provence, mocha and fine leather bolster its richness, while firm tannins provide structure.

Double magnums are in limited production these days. We love the size because they make holiday celebrations all the more special. As Jacqui notes, "When you're bringing the wine, and bring a 3-liter bottle, guests will never forget you!"

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The Champagne Authority

Do you know what else is big at The Wine Sellers?

Our extraordinary champagne selection. It's the best in Harbor Country.

A new story behind all the bubbly is the recent interest of our clients in champagne composed primarily with the pinot meunier grape. It's one of the three grapes that champagne is made of, along with chardonnay and pinot noir.



For example, ***Champagne Lancelot Pienne Accord Majeur nv (\$81.50)*** is a grower Champagne of 70% pinot meunier, 15% chardonnay, 15% pinot noir. It's lean, light and crisp, with a nose of quince, apricot, white peach with a touch of roasted hazelnut. Gilles Lancelot is considered among the best growers in all of Champagne.

Champagne Jean Michel 2019 Blanc de Meunier Extra Brut (\$68)

is a well-priced grower Champagne of 100% pinot meunier. Nose of peaches, Mirabelle plums and other stone fruits has a delightful hint of spice. The rich palate is full and fresh with dry apricot, red fruits and a note of bergamot bitterness.



Notice that both of the above offerings are "grower Champagnes."

This term refers to wines from the Champagne region that are crafted by the same person who grew the grapes. An insider may refer to these Champagnes as "farmers fizz." Since the 1990s, many independent Champagne winemakers have been bottling and selling their own. Today there are many excellent grower Champagne options available to drinkers in the United States.

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More Rieslings, Too

You may have also noticed that we have expanded our line of rieslings. As with the Champagnes of pinot meunier, our selections are driven by demand. More of our customers have been requesting rieslings, and we have been happy to oblige.



A riesling from Australia? Absolutely. Clare Valley produces real treasures such as **Rieslingfreak 2021 Riesling No. 33 Clare Valley (\$22.50)**. Excellent acid profile. Generously fruit driven with classic flavors of lemon, lime and tropical fruit notes. A velvety palate of exceptional length.



Dönnhoff 2023 Estate Riesling (\$32.50) is a great entry wine into the stunning riesling wines of genius winemaker Helmut Dönnhoff. Off-dry and racy with volcanic soils adding minerality. A playfully fruity wine of peaches and green apples with a touch of flint.



Meulenhof 2022 Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese (\$25) from Mosel, Germany, is complex with good acidity and integrated sweetness. It offers a real wow taste and aroma of pear, green apple, apricot and honey.

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Sunset Rising



We recently contacted winemaker Greg Morthole of Davis Bynum Winery to let him know that his incredible ***Davis Bynum 2021 Red Sunset Pinot Noir (\$95)*** is showing beautifully! We have only a few bottles remaining of this knockout that was featured at Top 50 in 2023, with Greg himself facilitating the table.

Jacqui made her best effort to obtain Red Sunset, acquiring it at the 2022 Sonoma County Barrel Auction. A brilliant blend of small lot fermented pinot noir from the incredible 2021 vintage, it's a collectable, special occasion wine.

Jacqui is planning to return to the Auction on May 1-2, 2025.

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Jumping Goat: LIKE NO OTHER CAB

For anyone who appreciates cabernet sauvignons, you'll want to stop and take notice of this one. ***The 2019 Melka Metisse Jumping Goat Vineyard (\$265)*** is exclusive to The Wine Sellers in this region. It's super delicious, and its distinctive taste profile stands above and beyond the others.

When searching for cabs, it's our primary goal to identify wines that don't taste like other wines. Because truth be told, even expensive Napa cabernet sauvignon bottlings, in all their excellence, often taste alike. The Goat is unique! We discovered its qualities when tasting through Melka wines with their sales rep and jumped at the opportunity to offer it in the shop.

Philippe and Cherie Melka, co-proprietors and winemakers for Melka Estates, are respected consultants to many wineries, but this is a top wine from their label. **The Goat is 91% cabernet sauvignon, 8% merlot and 1% petit verdot.** It's a classic cabernet, with black currants, chocolate and smoked tobacco on the nose, a palate loaded with black fruits, ripe tannins in support, and an exquisite, perfumed finish.

Top wine reviewers have described it as "potent, impeccably balanced" and "a beautiful, elegant wine."



Jumping Goat is "a beautiful, elegant wine."



Fontodi: The Best Ever!

We handle many special requests from our knowledgeable clients throughout the year, and we are proud to claim a darn good success rate. If you're looking for that special wine, please ask. We'll put our years of industry connections into the search.

One recent request led to an exclusive. Pinot neros (as pinot noirs are called in Italy) that attract our attention are few and far between. Then a client requested a wine that he declared to be the best pinot he ever had! It took some months, but we were able to get it directly from the winery in Panzano.



It's Fontodi Pinot Nero Case Via 2019 (\$100). Fontodi is beautifully perfumed and elegantly structured, framing its crunchy red berries with licorice, violet petals, sun-warmed earth, cherry cordial, fresh mint and baking spices. It's a refreshingly original Tuscan spin on pinot.

Found it! Fontodi Pinot Nero Case Via 2019

Gentil: Our Search Rewarded

We're always asking our distributors for the Alsatian wine gentil (the French pronounce it "jan-tee") because it has a rich texture that distinguishes it from other wines. Many winemakers from Alsace produce gentil, but they're hard to come by in the U.S. Finally, we found a new one we invite you to discover. **Meyer-Jonné Gentil 2023 (\$26.50)** is an assemblage of muscat, pinot blanc, riesling and gewurztraminer. It offers alluring aromatics, with honey, white flowers and lime/orange blossom notes. The riesling balances perfectly with the aromatics. It's a delicious, versatile wine.



Be careful not to overchill your Alsatian wine. You will miss the amazing aromatics and the wonderful texture.

There are always more stories, because there are always more wines to discover at The Wine Sellers. We look forward to sharing both with our clients in 2025.



WAIT FOR IT!

Wines from the Warehouse

When we know a wine is age-worthy, meaning it will be better in a year or two, we give it time in our climate-controlled warehouse to “come around.” Recently, we pulled out an unopened box, anticipating a Sancerre blanc in its prime. We discovered it was actually a Sancerre rouge!



Daniel Chotard 2021 Sancerre Rouge (\$46) from the Loire Valley is 100% pinot noir. With a nose of bright fruit and peppery spice, well-defined structure and gentle tannins that frame the fresh flavors, our warehouse find is a versatile bistro wine par excellence, and it's ready to drink right now!

MIX OF SIX RATES A TEN

The Mix of Six is back (\$117). One of The Wine Sellers' favorite distributors personally assembled this **award-winning assortment of six Gold Medal winning Bordeaux wines from the 2022 vintage.** And what a vintage! It's potentially the best in a decade or more. All the major grapes – cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc and petit verdot – performed well. Berries were small, skins were healthy and the juice was concentrated. Aromatics are scintillating and textures are sleek. The wines show remarkable freshness and purity.

Our first shipment sold out. The set is accompanied by a description of each wine and map of its Bordeaux location. The Mix of Six makes an impressive gift for any household where Bordeaux is appreciated.



The Mix of Six is from the extraordinary 2022 vintage.

FIRESIDE WINES

Kindling Excitement

When winter brings the chill, let The Wine Sellers' Fireside Wines revive the spirit. Our selections are chosen for weightiness that delivers warmth and flavor that adds merriment to even the grayest days. These wines were practically made for Michiana winters.



Slam Dunk Red Wine 2021 (\$17.95)

We're serious about wine, but we love Slam Dunk because it's fun! **58% petite sirah and 42% zinfandel**, with a nose of berries, black plum and leather. Strawberry, cherry, sandalwood, with a bit of ripe olive toward the finish. Slam Dunk will add pizzazz to your winter.



Oak Farm Vineyards 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (\$23)

Beauty from Lodi, California was held cold until December bottling to maintain liveliness. **Aromas of stone fruit such as peach and apricot with tropical notes of pineapple and passion fruit.** Juicy and bright in the mouth with notes of citrus/lime zest and a minerally dry finish that lingers.



Enjoy Les Vieilles Vignes
at your fireside!

Domaine Santa Duc Famille Gras 'Les Vieilles Vignes' Côtes du Rhône (\$24)

Grenache, syrah, mourvèdre, cinsault, counoise and carignan. Medium-bodied wine offers **aromatic freshness with notes of black fruits and kirsch, pepper and garrigue, embellished with notes of tobacco leaf.** Combines the Gras family's characteristic finesse with the power we expect from southern Rhône.

OPENING ACT



We've had clients who love champagne but are reluctant to purchase them because they find it difficult, if not hazardous, to pull the cork. That concern is a thing of the past with this **safe and easy champagne, prosecco and asti opener (\$15)**. Simply place the dual handle with non-slip grip over the cork, squeeze, turn and pull. **The cork is captured in the holder.** **À votre santé!**

Enjoy champagne again with this safe and easy opener.

January Sale: FROM BRRR TO BARGAINS

The Wine Sellers' summer and autumn tastings garner the most attention, but our January Sale is the event of the winter. Jacqui started offering the January Sale as a salute to our loyal customers who "stay behind" and brave the Michiana winter. Every weekend in January, the shop is open with discounts that start at 10 percent and work their way up. The sale is fluid: new wines go on sale, discounts change, and almost every wine is on sale at one time or another. If you're in this frigid neck of the woods in January 2025, you deserve the January Sale!

WINES TO WATCH



Albert Bichot Cremant de Bourgogne Brut Réserve Cote d'Or (\$29)

You don't need a special occasion to enjoy this value-priced bubbly masquerading as fine champagne. Sourced with grapes from selected Burgundy parcels in the department of Côte-d'Or. Fine, even bubbles, beautiful gold color. The nose boasts notes of lime, pink grapefruit and white blossoms which pave the way for vivacity and freshness on the palate. A total deal at the price!



Tua Rita Rosso dei Notri 2019 (\$28)

50% sangiovese and 50% blend of merlot, cabernet sauvignon, and syrah, in the exceptional 2019 vintage. Aromas are lightly leafy, with blackberries, plums and black cherries over notes of cocoa, licorice and sweet spice. Palate displays creamy red fruits, raspberry coulis and vanilla cream. Silky tannins and bracing acidity, showing structural balance long into the finish.



Ramey 2018 Claret, Napa Valley (\$52)

David Ramey is making some of the finest cabernet blends in California today. Ramey uses "claret" to signify a blend of the Bordeaux varieties of 55% cabernet sauvignon, 24% merlot, 10% cabernet franc, 9% syrah and 2% petit verdot. Features blackcurrant aromas with accents of peppercorn, bacon, cedar, thyme and lavender. Powerful, concentrated fruits supported by finely grained tannins, with a long finish.

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



www.thewinesellersmichigan.com



Every day is
10-percent day!
Buy one case
(even mix
or match),
10-percent off!

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Winter hours you'll find us in the shop most weekends. Just to make sure, phone first at (269) 469-7566.

We will be on hiatus February, March and April.

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

The Wine Sellers is wheelchair accessible.