

Postscript

Written and produced by Bill McDermott

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Wines of the Month

Rutherford Ranch (formerly Round Hill Winery) produced an award-winning wine in 2007 with its **Rutherford Ranch Chardonnay**. All of the grapes for this wine—90% Chardonnay and 10% other white varietals—come from the Napa Valley.

Rutherford Ranch Chardonnay has aromas of apricots, ripe pears and fresh green apples. The long, cool growing season in 2007 was perfect for Chardonnay, giving the grapes their best flavors in a decade. Our wine of the month is a full-bodied Napa Chardonnay with gobs of ripe peach, pear and vanilla fruit. The varietals add a nice structure and complexity. Dry and zesty on the finish. **\$11.98.**



Our customers have discovered Argentine Malbec in a big way, and why not. Malbec has big, bold, black fruit flavors without the overripe qualities that often plague Australian Shiraz. Yet like the Shiraz wines, the Malbecs often carry a modest price tag. Our featured wine, **Tilia Malbec (2007)**, was made at

Bodegas Esmeralda, A Catena family winery. In fact this particular wine was made by Alejandro Viggiani, winemaker and viticulturalist in charge of all the Catena family vineyards.

The Tilia Malbec has ripe blackberry cassis, black currant fruit with hints of toast, spice and minerals. The finish is smooth and round with sweet spice and a touch of oak.

A "recession buster" at \$9.98.

Our last Wine of the Month, **Joseph Carr Merlot (2006)**, is brought to us by one of the great American negociants. Joseph Carr



doesn't own vineyards or a winery. He just continues to find great lots of wines from some of the best vineyards in Napa Valley and bring them to the market at amazingly low prices.

Carr's new Napa Merlot

from the 2006 vintage is a case in point. The grapes come from Howell Mountain, Oakville and the Rutherford Bench. They are aged for 12 months in 100% French oak, close to half of which are new barrels. The wine is a lush, smooth mouthful of Merlot with aromas of black cherry and sage. The flavors are complex with ripe plum and hints of cocoa and spices. **\$15.98.**

25% Off! Winter Wine Sale, February 27 and 28

Our Biggest and Best Event of the Year...It's our biggest sale of the year and our biggest tasting of the year. It's our annual Winter Wine Sale! Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28. On these two days only, buy six or more bottles of any wine and get a giant 25% off the total price. (Red stickered "net-priced" items excluded. Sale applies to 750 ml. bottles only.)

The Winter Wine Sale is always our most exciting event of the year. And this year we've made it extra special. All three stores will feature great food and a big selection of wines to sample. On Saturday, February 28 between 1-4 P.M., while you taste some outstanding wines, enjoy an array of foods from Sue and John Zahner, owners of Tasting Caterers in Framingham and Marlboro. Tastings Caterers has a wonderful reputation for great food at reasonable prices.

Here's just a sample of what we'll be tasting:

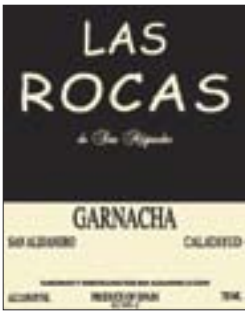
- Red Bordeaux
- Full-bodied Cabernets and Zinfandels
- Delicious Pinot Noirs from Oregon and California
- An array of exciting Italian Wines
- And lots more!

MARCH SPECIALS

Enjoy the Best from Spain at 20 Percent Off

The popularity of Spanish wines continues to soar...and with good reason. Wine writers, restaurants, and wine stores are all heralding a new "Golden Age" of Spanish wines. In fact, some of the best wine values in the world today are coming from Spain as you can see from our superb selection listed below. This month mix and match any six bottles of Spanish wine and receive a 20% discount.

Marques de Caceres Rioja White (2007): A delicious crisp and fruity dry white wine from Rioja Alta. Made from 100% Viura grapes. Fresh and clean, leaving the mouth feeling deliciously refreshed. \$9.99.



Las Rocas Garnacha (2006):

The grapes that make up the Las Rocas Garnacha come from vines that are 70 to 100 years old.

From Robert Parker in the Wine Advocate: "The 2006 Las Rocas Garnacha is dark crimson-colored with an alluring nose of spice box, mineral, black cherry, and black raspberry. Smooth-textured,

round, and with no hard edges, this tasty

effort is designed for immediate gratification. This is one worth buying by the case." Parker gives it 91 points. \$12.99.

Grupo Galiciano 'Alaia', Castilla y Leon (2005): Here is a Spanish wine with wonderfully deep and expressive dark fruit flavors. The

'Alaia' is comprised of Prieto Picudo, Tempranillo and Merlot. Each of these grape varieties adds to the wine's flavor and complexity. The indigenous Prieto Picudo brings the bright red fruits to the palate, while Merlot softens the bold impact of the Tempranillo, which provides body and structure. \$11.99.



Marques De Caceres Red

2005: Only 12 vintages of the past 80 have been rated "5-Stars-Excellent" by the Consejo Regulador Doc Rioja. 2005 is one of these vintages.

One of the very best producers of Spanish wines Marques de Caceres were the first to bring cool fermentation and French oak to Spain. Working hand in hand with the growers to ensure high fruit quality,

The Fourniers have created a world-class property and track

record in a remarkably short time.

The 2005 Marques de Caceres Red possesses a gorgeous nose of dark fruit spices followed by supple, spicy, generous flavors on the palate. Plenty of fruit to support the oak. Easygoing but concentrated. \$15.99.

Italian Wines on Sale, Big Selection Available

Listed below is a sampling of the outstanding selection of Italian wines in our stores. Mix and match any six bottles and receive a 20% discount as part of our month-long Spanish and Italian Wine Sale. (Net-priced red-stickered items not included in the sale.)

San Leonino Chianti Classico (2004): San Leonino is a completely renovated operation that is part of Tenimenti Angelini's family-owned Triad of Tuscan estates. The winemaker has replaced the old concrete vats with new stainless steel fermenters and oak barrels, and has introduced an innovative barrel program using French oak for the top wines. The 2004 Chianti Classico is produced from 95% Sangiovese and 5% Canaiolo. A ruby red color. Initial nose displays violet aromas, followed by intense red fruits. The wine is well-balanced with good acidity, generous, yet soft tannins and a long finish. A wine of elegance and grace. \$15.99.

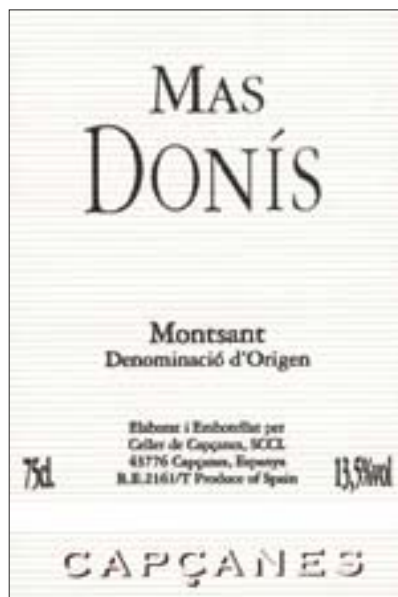


Elio Grasso Barbera d'Alba (2005): Elio Grasso Barbera displays a gorgeous nose of milk chocolate, vanilla and core fruit, with ripe undertones. Full-bodied, with loads of flavor and a toasty oak aftertaste. An opulent red that will pair beautifully with your richer winter meals. \$24.99.

Revello Barbera d'Alba (2007):

From Robert Parker in the Wine Advocate: "Barbera d'Alba is a joyous, mouthfilling red. It offers tons of purity and harmony in its juicy, red fruit, with excellent length and plenty of style. Fresh and aromatic on the nose, it offers generous amounts of spices, flowers, plums and berries on a soft-textured

frame. It provides highly enjoyable drinking experience that will pair with an enormous variety of cuisine." \$19.99.



Celler de Capcanes Mas

Donis (2005): This super value from the village of Capcanes has become a customer favorite. Mas Donis is made from 80% Grenache grapes grown on 60-year-old vines and 20% Syrah. The varietals are individually stirred on the lees twice daily and aged in American oak. Layers of cherry and blueberry meld with spice and minerals to produce a long and complex finish. Rated 91 points. \$14.99.

Las Rocas Vinyas Viejas

(2006): Again, from Parker of the Wine Advocate: "More structured than the 'regular' bottling, it has layered fruit, savory fla-

vors, excellent depth, and a pure close." 91 points. \$19.99.

Bodegas Ortiz 'Dacu', Ribera del Guadiana (2007): The 2007 'Dacu' is made entirely from Tempranillo grapes harvested at optimum ripeness. This warm and inviting red wine has tons of fruit and ripe flavors that dominate the palate, thanks to the absence of oak barrel- ing. Black currant, the main fruit flavor, takes on a whole new role in this appealing medium-bodied red wine. \$9.99.

Casa Alle Vacche Chianti Colli

Senesi (2007): Colli Senesi refers to the hills around Siena in Tuscany, home to a small producer called "Casa Alle Vacche." Made from 85% Sangiovese and 15% Caniolo grapes, this wine possesses a deep red color and features an abundance of bright cherry scents. The initial taste is ripe with juicy berry flavors. The finish is firm and dry with blackcherry fruit joined by spiciness. The perfect wine with hearty meals. \$15.99.



Villa Cafaggio Chianti Classico (2006): From the superb 2006 vintage in Tuscany, comes a stunning example of great Chianti Classico. Cafaggio is located in the dead center of Chianti Classico. Here we have precise flavors of fresh raspber- ries, countryside herbs and textured earthly flavors. This is what great Chianti can do—almost literally transport you to the rolling hills of Tuscany! \$24.99.

POSTSCRIPT SPOTLIGHT

STAFF SELECTIONS: NEW WINES AND NEW VINTAGES

Our staff recently tasted a number of new wines or wines with new vintages. Here's a listing of ones that left a very strong impression on our palates.

Seghesio Old Vine Zinfandel (2006): This is one of the best Zinfandels that we've tried from the 2006 vintage. On the palate there is considerable fruit with flavors of blueberry, jam and sweet oak. This is a big Zin, rich with lots of weight on the palate. \$31.98.



RedTree Petite Sirah California (2005): Here is a value- priced wine with above average quality. RedTree, owned by Don Sebastiani, has produced an easy-drinking wine with aro- mas of dark fruits, spice and herbs. On the palate you get a rush of pure blackberry and cherry fruit, along with a touch of spice. This medium-bodied wine with soft tannins tastes more like a wine costing twice its price. A very good value at \$8.98 per bottle. Special case price of \$80.

Elyse Petite Sirah, Rutherford (2006), Napa Valley: The 2006 Elyse Petite Sirah shows great blackish and purple color followed by aromas of deep black fruits, black pepper and spice. This wine has deep flavors of plums, blue- berries and blackberries—a definite fruit bomb on the palate. The finish is long and lively with pleasant tan- nins and robust flavors. \$29.98.

Franz Hill Zinfandel (2005): From Robert Parker in the December 2008 Wine Advocate: "In a very dif- ficult vintage for Zinfandel, proprietor Jack Bittner has fashioned a brilliant effort that reminded me of a French Rhone with its meaty, peppery, berry character. Full-bodied, spicy and impeccably well-made, this is a stunning effort." (Note that Jack Bittner, who is also the vineyard manager at Cliff Lede, is originally from Stow, Mass.) \$25.98.

Stags' Leap Winery "Petite Sirah, Napa (2005): Here is the benchmark for Petite Sirah in California. This famous and historic winery has some of the oldest vines in Napa. We are very fortunate to be able to offer this dense, deep, spicy and polished red at a great sale price of \$27.98. (Regularly \$42.99.)

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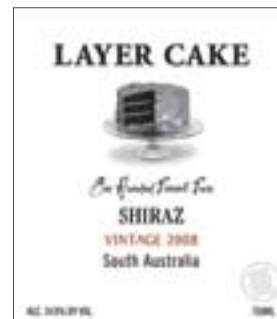
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P.S. Our "P.S. Special" this month is the 2008 Layer Cake Shiraz—it's back and better than ever! Layer Cake's winemaker Jason Woodbridge did not produce a 2007 edition of this wine because of the effects of the extreme heat and desert-like conditions in the Barossa region of Australia that year. For the 2008 Shiraz, Jason (who's also winemaker for the cult wine Hundred Acre Cabernet) sourced grapes from South Australia where the drought and heat were not as severe as in Barossa.

Layer Cake Shiraz has a dark, inky color with aromas of spice and mocha. On the palate there is an explosion of dark fruit, exotic spices and nicely integrated supple tannins. Well structured with good acidity, creamy in texture, this wine does have the overpowering finish that is common to many Australian wines with an alcohol content of over 15%. \$12.98.



20% Off All Spanish and Italian Wines

All during March we have a great sale on Italian and Spanish Wines. Mix and match any six bottles of Spanish and Italian wine and receive a 20% discount off the total price. We've got a huge selection of Spanish and Italian wines to choose from. Sale applies to 750 ml. bottles. Net-priced discounted items not included.

March Sale!