

Your Wine Advocate

Newsletter of Ingersoll Wine & Spirits

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Good Bordeaux Wines Finally Arrive 2003-04 Vintages



Glasses come together in celebration of new arrival wines from France.

Since the Bordeaux Vintage of the Century in 2000, wines from the celebrated region in France have yet to arrive in the manner that *Silver Oak* or *Caymus* does in Iowa. Thankfully, that is about to change. Through a new importer in New York, Ingersoll Wine & Spirits has finally received the beginning of what we hope are a better selection of Bordeaux wine in our market. Recently, our 50th Street location in West Des Moines received the **2004 L'Hospitalet de Gazin Pomerol** (the second wine to Chateau Gazin) and the **2003 Chateau La Fleur-Petrus** also from Pomerol. While no rating has been found for the second wine of Gazin, the '04 L'Hospitalet represents an excellent value from the right bank.

Additionally, the '03 Chateau La Fleur-

Petrus has received a 92-rating from the *Wine Spectator*, describing the wine as being "round, velvety [with] tannins and a long flavorful finish." Other wines from the Bordeaux region include the arrival of the **'03 Chateau Grand-Duroc-Milon Pauillac**, a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. While not as pricey as the La Fleur-Petrus this wine from the Pauillac region of Bordeaux offers perhaps more structure and body than the more merlot-based Pomerol wines mentioned above. Other offerings by our New York importer include the '04 Chateau La Serre (St.-Emilion) Grand Cru Classe; rated 87RP and 85-88 WS, '04 Chateau Gazin (Pomerol) rated 90RP and 89WS.

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2007 Fall Wine Picks

Here's a fresh batch of 25 wines we've hand-selected for your enjoyment:

1. '04 '1975' Beckstoffer Amber Knolls Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Lake County, Reg. \$24.99; Sale \$21.99.

90 pts (WA); "An excellent value in Cabernet Sauvignon — this offering indicates a higher potential for Lake County Cabernet Sauvignon." A full-bodied red wine that can be enjoyed with or without food.

2. '06 Zaca Mesa Viognier Santa Ynez Valley, Reg. \$17.99; Sale \$15.99.

The flavors develop with air — *Wine & Spirits Magazine*, which scored the 2006 vintage a 91, suggests decanting the wine and serving it with seared scallops. Other menu options are Thai chicken, ahi tuna or Szechuan prawns.

3. '05 Root I -Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Valley Reg. \$11.99; Sale \$10.99.

The 2005 vintage scored a 90 from Wine Advocate, and has a deep, dark cherry color with an expressive bouquet of currants, vanilla, black-berry and red-berry fruits. Soft and supple in the mouth, the ripe fruit is balanced by smooth oak and its creamy texture is dominated by rich, ripe berries and a dark chocolate finish.

4. '05 Cambria Pinot Noir Bench Break Vineyard Santa Maria Valley, Reg. \$29.99; Sale \$27.99.

The wine has aromas of dark cherries, red raspberries, cola, sweet vanilla and nutmeg complement the ripe berry fruit flavors, toasty oak and balanced tannins in the mouth. This wine finishes with bright plum flavors and a balanced acidity. Previous vintages have been scored 89 by Robert Parker.

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2007 Fall Wine Picks - continued

5. '04 Bodegas Salentein Malbec Mendoza \$14.99

Well-structured, complex mouthfeel with aromas of ripe plums, blackberries and a soft touch of vanilla and tobacco — a great value and previous Wine Enthusiast 'Best Buy' Also try their Cabernet Sauvignon!

6. '03 Trentadue Alexander Valley Merlot \$17.99.

This Sonoma County Merlot surprised Robert Parker with its complex aromas and flavors. "the 2003 Merlot reveals wonderfully sweet caramel and black cherry fruit along with smoke and earth notes. Excellent texture [...] outclasses a bunch of more expensive Merlots." Parker scored the wine an 89.

7. '06 Seghesio Pinot Grigio Russian River Valley \$18.99

The cooler regions of Sonoma County of Seghesio's Russian River Valley vineyard are ideal for Pinot Grigio. The floral and spicy aromas give way to ripe apple and stone fruit flavors. Texture is amplified by the employment of partial barrel and malolactic fermentation. A compliment to cheese, shellfish and risotto.

8. '05 Seghesio Rockpile Zinfandel \$33.99

The Rockpile American Viticultural Area, located in northwest Sonoma County. Seghesio's 2005 vintage does not disappoint with fruit-forward aromas of black raspberries and cherries with hints of mocha, black pepper and anise. The wine is smooth and juicy with concentrated flavors of blackberries and subtle spice with medium tannins.

9. '05 Cinnabar Mercury Rising Blanc, California \$15.99

This edgy Rhône White Blend from California combines Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier and Sémillon from Monterey County, Sonoma County and Clarksburg. Pair this wine -- rated an 87 by Wine Enthusiast -- with deep fried calamari, shrimp with spicy cocktail sauce or grilled salmon.

10. '05 Le Crema Sonoma Coast Chardonnay \$18.99

La Crema's Chardonnay demonstrates the quality of the cool climate vineyards in Sonoma County. Fresh aromas of citrus, butterscotch and lemon peel open to appealing hints of jasmine and nutmeg. On the palate, rich buttercream, pear and citrus meld to create a plush, rounded middle.

11. '04 Aia Vecchia Lagone Tuscany \$15.99

A perennial WS Best Buy, this wine has beautiful aromas of crushed raspberry and flowers follow through to a medium-bodied palate, with fine tannins and a medium finish. A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon.

12. '03 Chateau Grand-Duroc-Milon Pail-lac French Red Table Wine \$22.99

A blend of 60 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 25 percent Merlot and 15 percent Cabernet Franc barrel aged in French and American oak for 15 months. It has expressive aromas of toasted oak, intense dark fruit and black pepper spice. Be sure to open this wine an hour before serving to let the air enhance the flavors.

13. '06 Martin Codax Albarino Rias Baixas, Reg. \$16.99; Sale \$14.99

Albarino is considered to be the premier white grape of Spain. It was grown in Rias Baixas in northwest Spain where the climate is generally cool, windy and rainy. The appearance of this wine is straw in color with a greenish tint — the taste is exotic with aromas of mandarin lime and pear. Great pairing with shellfish.

14. '04 Domaine Chante Cigale Chateau-neuf de Pape \$30.99

Stephen Tanzer scored this red blend a 90. A blend of 60 percent Grenache, 20 percent Syrah, and the rest equal parts Mourvedre and Cinsault, it is deep violet, primal and a bit reduced with raw blackberry and cassis scents deepened by tobacco and espresso. Sweetens on the back, finishing with a persistent kirsch flavor.

15. '04 Allegrini Palazzo della Torre Verona Reg. \$21.99; Sale \$19.99

A consistent performer for those wanting an old-world style Italian rosso. A blend of Corvina, Rondinella and Sagiovese from Italy's Veneto region.

16. '06 Dr. Loosen Riesling Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, \$12.99

Dr. Loosen is a leading producer of Riesling from its estate in Bernkastel, Germany, overlooking the Mosel River. Previous vintages have been rated in the high 80s by both Robert Parker and Wine Spectator. A Wine Library reviewer said, "It's a steal!!! This German Riesling with a touch of sweetness will go well with a meal or as a cocktail. At this price, it's a can't miss."

17. '05 Rosenblum Zinfandel Appellation Series Paso Robles \$16.99

This 2005 vintage does not disappoint. To create complexity and increase the overall charm, the winemaker combined vineyards from both sides of the Salinas River. With flavors of rich cherry, black raspberry, a touch of chocolate truffles and aromas of anise.

18. '06 Cartlidge & Browne Lake County Sauvignon Blanc Dancing Crow Vineyard \$12.99

Produced from two vineyards in Lake County, CA; 74% of the grapes were farmed organic. The wine was then steel-fermented with no malolactic. The result is a smooth palate that is fresh and inviting — simply delicious!

19. '05 Maculan Pino & Toi Italy, \$12.99

A combination of 60 percent Tocai, 25 percent

Pinot Blanc and 15 percent Piont Gris grown at the foot of the Alps in the Veneto region, this Italian white wine was rated 87 by Robert Parker. "The crisp, fresh, acidic 2005 Pinot & Toi reveals notes of grapefruits and lemon zest in its light-bodied personality."

20. '04 Chariot Gypsy California, \$13.99

One way to get a hold of this Sryah is to call Jim Neal personally. However, this busy, budding winemaker will need some time to ship your order. Your other option is to visit one of Ingersoll Wine & Spirits' locations or have us ship it to you. Jim Neal is a former chef, whose winemaking interest was piqued from working in a Sonoma County restaurant. His goal is to make quality wines at an affordable price.

21. '04 Encore White Medley Monterey \$14.99

Composed of Chardonnay, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Malvasia and Voignier, this white blend is a unique experience. Apple and citrus aromas lead to lean herbal and creamed corn flavors.

22. '05 Pahlmeyer Jayson Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast, \$63.99

Aromas of Bing cherries and rich earth, with blackberry and elegant tannins on the palate. The wine has a long complex finish with touches of plum and spice, with a long elegant finish. "The fruit and acid balance in this wine make it a quintessential Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir, lively in the mouth with lots of stuffing and complexity at the same time," winemaker Erin Green says.

23. NV Rosemount Old Benson Fine Old Tawny Port \$27.99

Rated 97 by Wine Spectator. "Dark, sweet and exotic—a sexy wine dripping with toffee, incense, Brazil nut, rose petal, caramel and coffee flavors that swirl around the cre of black cherry. A fully rounded wine that lingers long after each sip. Extraordinary dessert wine."

24. '05 Marquis Philips Sarah's Blend Australia \$17.99

Opulent, voluptuous, and full-bodied, with low acidity and sweet tannin. Scored a 91 from Wine Advocate. "One of my favorite Marquis Philips cuvees is the 2005 Sarah's Blend, a concoction of 60 percent Shiraz, 22 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 15 percent Merlot and 3 percent Cabernet Franc."

25. '05 Schild Estate Shiraz Barossa, \$27.99

The fruit for this wine was sourced from the Barossa's cool south. The Shiraz was harvested, crushed, de-stemmed and moved to open fermenters to extract full color and flavor. Extended maturation in selected new and aged American oak adds complexity and structure. It has tastes of rich plummy fruit, deep and rewarding, with tannins that are soft yet abundant, and showing a hint of vanillin oak.

Prices good through 10/31/07 or while quantities last!

(**Bordeaux Wines** continued from p.1)

Other Bordeaux wine from the '04 vintage include the '04 Ch. de Valandraud St. Emilion Grand Cru (\$249.99); Ch. La Mission Haut-Brion Pessac-Leognan; \$179.99; Ch. Petit Cheval St. Emilion; 109.99; Ch. Cos d'Estournel St. Estephe; \$137.99; and the '04 Pavillon Rouge de Chateau Margaux. Ratings for these wines range from 91RP and 90WS for the Valandraud, 90RP and 91WS for the La Mission Haut-Brion, 87-88RP for the Petit-

Cheval, 92RP and 94WS for the Cos d'Estournel; and 89RP for the Pavillon Rouge de Chateau Margaux. As a vintage, the 2004 is considered as a classic year in Bordeaux. For ordering information, please contact Ben at our 50th Street location in West Des Moines. As of 09/27/07 — only the '04 L'Hospitalet de Gazin and the '03 Chateau La Fleur-Petrus have arrived. The other wines immediately listed above are available on pre-arrival basis only which means that they must be ordered on the basis of quantity

before they can ship from New York. Orders placed on pre-sell must be in quantities of 6 or 12 bottles only! Ratings for the '04 L'Hospitalet de Gazin and the '03 La Fleur-Petrus may be found online at e-RobertParker.com or the Wine Spectator's website at wine-spectator.com. Both sites may require advance registration.

Wine Tidbits & Premier Tasting Events

New Belgium Rides Its Way Finally to Central Iowa

I think I speak on everyone's behalf when asking, "What took so long?!" Good things come to those who wait and the Fat Tire Amber Ale has arrived at our store shelves. Both Ingersoll Wine & Sprits locations have available the Mothership Wit, 1554 Enlightened Black Ale and the Fat Tire Amber Ale. These beers come to us from Fort Collins, Colorado. New Belgium Brewery began long before its commercial launch in 1991. Founded by a diverse collection of exuberant brewers, microbiologists, artists, cowboys, musicians and everyday folks, the brewery offers in addition to the three-types aforementioned a Blue Paddel Pilsener, Sunshine Wheat, Abbey Belgian-style Ale, Trippel Belgian Style Ale and four great seasonal offerings. As of now New Belgium offers only the first three types in 22oz —bombers only. 12oz six-pks to arrive soon!

6th Anniversary Wine Dinner featuring Steve Gaucher of Wine Adventures — Wednesday 24th 6:30pm to 9pm at the Sheraton

You've heard of the Night of Adventure which was held at Steve Gaucher's home in Glen Oaks in August 2007. Approximately 30 guests joined us that evening for good food and some extraordinary wines! Here's a second opportunity for those who may have wanted to join us but couldn't make it!! Ingersoll Wine & Spirits and Steve Gaucher of Wine Adventures invites you to join us on Wednesday, October 24th at the 50th Street Sheraton in West Des Moines. A sparkling wine reception will begin at 6:30pm. We'll seat for a four-course dinner by 7 p.m. The dinner will feature a soup, salad, entrée and dessert. Cost for the dinner is set at \$59 per person. RSVP your place by calling 327-9191. Featured wines include the '05 Nuits St. George, '05 Volnay or Vosne-Romanee by Matthieu de Brully. Sparkling wine by Ringenbock Moser.

Reminder — Annual Holiday Wine Classic is Friday, November 16th from 5:30 to 8pm at the Sheraton Hotel 1800 50th Street, West Des Moines

The holiday season will soon be upon us and you want a little help to get you in the right spirit! Join us November 16th at the Sheraton Hotel. See Website for details including information on advance registration online.



Pictured here is winebuyer Ben Jung and Alexandre Favier of Domaine Chante Cigale at the Annual Winefest Gala held May 4th 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines



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When in 'Rhone,' Do As The Rhone Rangers Do (in California)

Robert Parker Jr., in *Issue 172* (August 2007) raves about the overall quality of California's growing Central Coast. Parker writes in the August issue, "It's remarkable how many world-class wines are already emerging [...] in 1990 there were fewer than twenty wineries in the Paso Robles region, but in 2007 there are over 170." (*Time to Rock and Rhone: California Central Coast Rhone Rangers*).

Rhone Rangers are not a reference to the Rhone producers of the Rhone Valley in France. Rather the *Rhone Rangers* as mentioned in Robert Parker's piece in the *Wine Advocate* are wine-growers from the southern tip of the Santa Ynez Valley to the northernmost part of the Arroyo Seco AVA in

Monterey County. The style of wine from the Central Coast can range from big and fruit-driven to more earthy and old-world in style. In 2004, the Acad-

"It is remarkable how many world-class wines are already emerging [...] in the Paso Robles region." Robert Parker Jr. The Wine Advocate Issue 172.

emy-Award winning movie *Sideways* helped cement Santa Barbara County's place as the home of Pinot Noir. Moreover, it put Pinot Noir in a limelight that no other wine has yet enjoyed in terms of praise and adornment...do I hear sequel? Earlier this year our

fearless winebuyer experienced his own escapade in the Central Coast with stops in Santa Barbara County and the Santa Maria Valley. One visit to Stolpman Vineyards made the drive from Los Angeles well worth the time. A sprawling 220-acre estate, these vineyards are home to some of the best varieties grown in the Santa Ynez Valley. Syrah grapes dominate Stolpman Vineyards with some Sangiovese and Rousanne grown as well. We had a chance to visit with winemaker Sashi Moorman as he expertly maneuvered his way through some pristine vines and steep slopes. Don't miss out the **'05 Estate Syrah rated 93 points by the Wine Advocate** — "luscious fruit —undeniably sexy wine.. ripe tannin, and a beautiful mouthfeel" (Aug. 2007).