

Postscript

Written and produced by Bill McDermott

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Wines of the Month

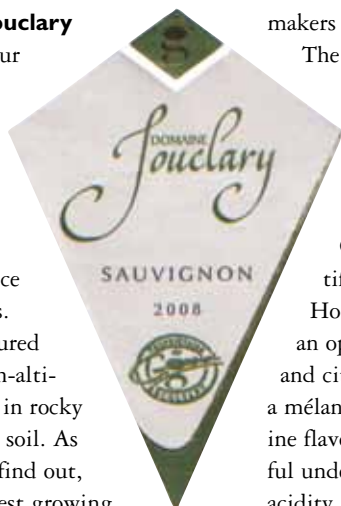
The 2007 Chateau Jouclary

Sauvignon Blanc is our first Wine of the Month for May.

Chateau Jouclary is ideally situated in a microclimate in Carbardes, a wine-growing region of France better known for its reds.

The grapes for our featured wine are grown on high-altitude vineyards planted in rocky terrain on well-drained soil. As the world has come to find out, these are some of the best growing conditions for producing deliciously crisp white wines. Our Wine of the Month has that taste and crispness you're looking for. Plus, it's probably one of the best values around for a white wine with this intensity and aromatic profile. **Only \$9.98.**

The days of overblown, oaky California Chardonnay are past. Consumers today demand balanced and refreshingly clean and brightly-fruited chardonnays, leading wine-



makers to alter their approach to this varietal.

The aim now is for oak to be a backdrop to the wonderfully ripe and expressive tropical fruit flavors that are inherent the California Chardonnay grape.

The 2006 Beringer 'Napa Valley' Chardonnay achieves that goal beautifully. Crafted by winemaker Laurie

Hook, this is classic Napa Chardonnay; an opulent white wine with floral and citrus scents. The palate displays a mélange of apple, pear and tangerine flavors held in check by a wonderful underlying minerality and brisk acidity. There is an oak influence in the wine's overall taste, but it's clearly not the dominant personality. **An excellent value \$12.98.**

Ten years ago The Cousino family acquired a modern new winery in Buin, Chile and made a leap into the future. The Buin site was chosen because of its shallow calcareous soil (ideal for Cabernet), its proximity to the Yeso river, and perfect microclimate—all key factors in the quality of the grapes grown here. The wines coming from this vineyard site have reached a whole new level of quality as the vines have matured.

The **Antiguas Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (2006)**, our final Wine of the Month for May, is a perfect example of what we're talking about. This powerful wine has great depth and concentration, juicy and ripe with sweet, mature tannins. You'll immediately notice the excellent balance of fruit and

French oak resulting from the wood aging. It's a little less Bordeaux in style, with a little more New World flash. **Offered at a recession-busting \$12.98!**

Over the years, we've enjoyed so many wines from Umberto Cesari. Whether it's the richly flavored Liano or the bold and hearty Sangiovese Riserva, we could always count on this meticulous producer to deliver. This

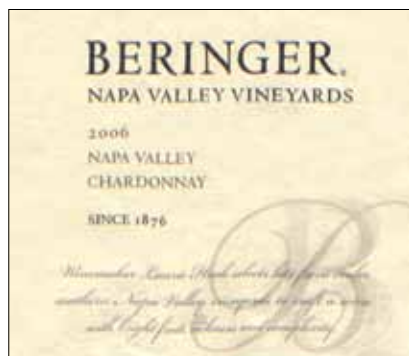
month, we turn to a new wine from this family-owned winery—the **Cesari 'Moma' Red, Romagna.**

Cultivated in Cesari's extensive vineyard holdings, it's a blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet and Merlot. The wine possesses an abundance of deep flavors with the telltale spiciness of the traditional Italian varietal joined by the lush, fruit-forward qualities of the Merlot and Cabernet grapes. Moma has an assertive aroma of wild raspberries and



forest floor scents. The flavors are mellow, but there are lush black-cherry notes and a trace of red licorice on the palate. The wine is fairly dense and layered for a Sangiovese-based red, owing to the inclusion of the non-indigenous grape types. Perfect for pasta recipes, roast chicken and lightly-seasoned stews.

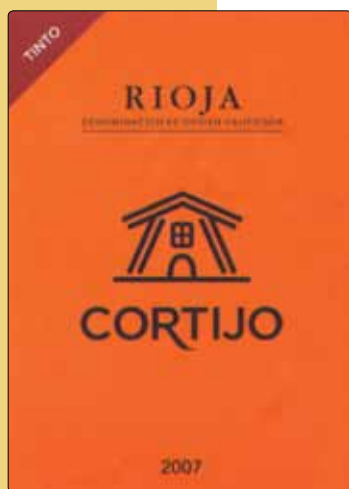
An outstanding bargain at \$12.98.



SPANISH WINE
OF THE MONTH
RIOJA (2007)

Wines from the Rioja region of Spain are diverse and plentiful. Traditionally, most of these wines have reached the U.S. market after being barrel aged in the Bodegas for several years. However, there's a new and exciting trend in Spanish winemaking circles to produce a more youthful and exuberant style of Rioja wine—one that emphasizes the forward fruit and unique personality of the region's grape types.

To introduce you to this more modern style of Rioja, we have selected Cortijo III from the Londono winery. Comprised of 80% Tempranillo and 20% Garnacha, this wine displays a fairly deep color and offers a penetrating aroma of red berries. Focused on spicy cherry flavors and possessing a medium weight on the palate, this Spanish red is a tremendous value. **Cortijo III is priced at an unbelievable \$8.98!**



MAY SPECIALS

Bordeaux for Everyday Drinking; Even Better at 20% Off

As I have written before, with a great vintage like 2005, the rule of thumb is to buy the lesser appellations because that's where you'll find the best the quality/value ratio. We have an excellent inventory of everyday-drinking Bordeaux from this vintage. We've highlighted five of these great values below. As part of our French-Southern Hemisphere Sale, buy six or more bottles of these or any other Bordeaux and receive a 20% discount.

Chateau Cote Monpezat Cote de Castillon (2005): Some of the most interesting wines in Bordeaux are coming from the Cote de Castillon, where you will find selections with both the Bordeaux and Bordeaux Superior appellations. Chateau Cote Monpezat is made from Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. This blend leads to aromas of strawberry, vanilla, and plums. Light, juicy and ready to drink. **\$16.99.**

Le Haut-Medoc de Giscours (2005): Le Haut-Medoc de Giscours is the 2nd wine of the famous Margaux Chateau Giscours. The vineyards that comprise Le Haut-Medoc de Giscours stretch from Margaux to Haut Medoc, where this wine is made. This wine is produced from Merlot, Petite Verdot and Cabernet Franc grapes, which leads to aromas of raspberries and black fruits. Wonderful flavor of black raspberry fruit with a touch of oak. **\$39.99.**

Chateau Croix Mouton Bordeaux Superior (2005): A superb wine made from a blend of five grape varieties of which Merlot and Cabernet predominate (over 90%). A wonderful bouquet of sweet raspberries and spice that lead to deep flavors of dark fruits and a lengthy finish. **\$29.99.**

Chateau Jean Gassie, Bordeaux (2005): Chateau Jean Gassie is owned by Jeremic and Thomas Lurton. The vineyard is located on the Southern slopes of the Dordogne, in the heart of Entre-deux-Mers. Made from 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon grapes grown on vines averaging 20 years old. Chateau Jean Gassie has an elegant nose of intense red fruits. Complex and concentrated on the palate with a long aftertaste of black cherry and blackberry fruit. **A steal at \$12.99.**



Chateau Chabiran, Bordeaux Superior (2005): Well-known French oenologist, Michel Rolland has called the plateau outside of Fronsac on which Chateau Chabiran lies, one of the greatest Bordeaux Superior sites in all of Bordeaux. High-density planting of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon has resulted in attractively low yields, good concentration and powerful flavors of black fruits. The grapes are hand picked at the peak of their maturity. The

full expression of their character is maintained with a combination of barrel and tank fermentation. **\$16.99.**

New Wines and Old Favorites from France and Southern Hemisphere

As part of our storewide 20% off sale on wines from France and the Southern Hemisphere, you can choose from a huge selection. Here's just a small sample: (Sale applies to purchases of six bottles or more, red-stickered "net" priced items not included.)

Davis Family Vineyards Gusto Sauvignon (2007), New Zealand:

Guy Davis is an enthusiastic winemaker and farmer—so much so, that he traveled from California to New Zealand to make this remarkable Sauvignon Blanc. An avid student of *terroir*, Guy has taken grapes from two distinct microclimates in Marlborough, New Zealand, and blended them to create a wine of superb character. Crisp acidity and tropical fruit notes linger on the palate with fresh herbal undertones. **\$19.99.**

Crios de Susana Balbo Rose of Malbec (2008)

Argentina: Though her Crios wines, Susana Balbo has established her reputation as one of Argentina's best winemakers and most consistent producers of outstanding value. This is a Rose of good substance. You know you're drinking a wine made from a red grape. And yet you can easily picture yourself enjoying this wine with some fruit and cheese in those hot summer days ahead. The unmistakable cherry and strawberry fragrance and flavors are very pleasing, wrapping up with a crisp, dry finish. **\$10.99.**

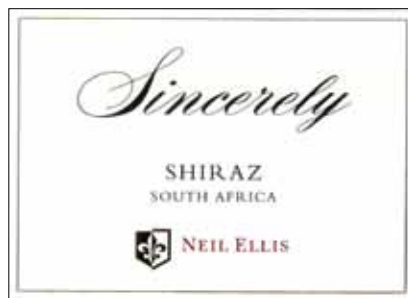
Crios de Susana Balbo Chardonnay, Argentina (2008): Susana Balbo's Crios wines also are notable for their vibrancy and ripe fruit flavors. We are happy to introduce her new Chardonnay grown in high-altitude vineyards on mature vines. The result is a concentration and complexity usually found only in pricier wines. Crios de Susana Balbo Chardonnay is aged in French oak and is unfiltered and unfined. Bright and lush, this is a perfect

Spring Sipper. **\$12.98.**

Catena Chardonnay (2007), Argentina: The remarkable Catena wines come from high-quality, high-altitude (3,000 to 5,000 feet) vineyards in the Andes. The 2007 Chardonnay is rich, concentrated tropical fruit intermixed with hints of citrus, pear and a noticeable mineral character. A wonderful texture, harmonious oak integration, excellent balance and bright, crisp acidity. **A world class value at \$19.99.**

Domaine des Cassagnoles, Cotes de Gascogne (2008):

The latest vintage of our perennial "go to" white wine for the warm weather has just been released. This wine takes the mineral qualities of a Muscadet from the Loire and kicks up the fruit and acidity just a touch. Perfect with shellfish, this versatile white will easily accompany any summer setting. **\$9.99.**



Neil Ellis 'Sincerely' Shiraz, South

Africa: "Sincerely" Shiraz has all the varietal hallmarks...a floral, violet lift on the nose along with a subtle herbal, smoky character. A vibrant tone to the red berry fruit that is carried through the palate on a lively wave of acidity. A touch of smokiness on the finish. Designed for near-term drinking, this medium-bodied wine has enough structure to work with many differ-

ent food pairings. **\$12.98.**

Dashwood Sauvignon Blanc (2007), New Zealand

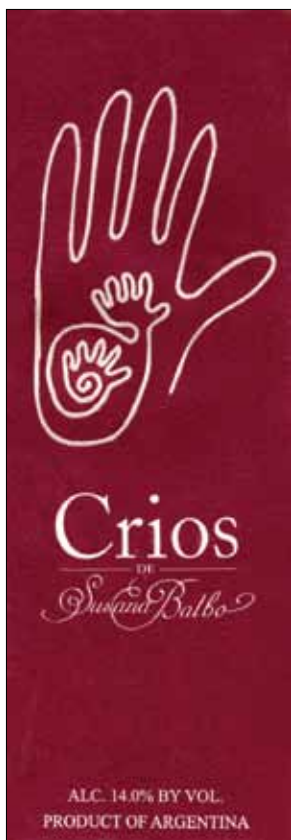
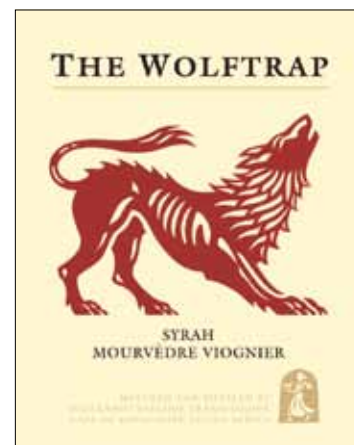
The 2007 Dashwood Sauvignon Blanc is not only a superb wine, but also priced to move out fast. This is a delightfully refreshing wine with its citrus on the front palate and grapefruit on the back. From *Wine & Spirits*: "This fruity (New Zealand) sauvignon bears an intriguing range of green scents, from kiwi to fennel and shiso. Both lush and fresh, it's a generously textured white for yellowtail sashimi." Rated 91 points. Don't miss out on this gem of a wine from New Zealand! **\$11.99.**

Wildeckrans Pinotage, Walker Bay (2007), South Africa :

The clean, bright flavor of Wildeckrans wines reflects the cool climate growing zone of Walker Bay. The signature element of this Pinotage is its bold, ripe fruit. There's a hint of jammy ripeness that is almost liqueur-like in its concentration. Fans of bold red wine will like this Pinotage for its cleaner, super more lush flavors. A nice attack of ripe fruit! **\$17.99.**

Wolftrap Red Blend (2008),

South Africa: Marc Kent, Wolftrap's charismatic winemaker, hit his stride with this wine. A blend of Syrah, Mourvedre and 2% Viognier, it has the structured nose and mouth (but not the price tag) of a Chateaufeuf-du-Pape. On the palate scintillating fresh raspberries along with spicy black fruits and a welcoming long finish result in a great bottle priced under \$10. No wonder why this wine appeared on a recent cover of the *Wine Spectator*. **\$9.99.**



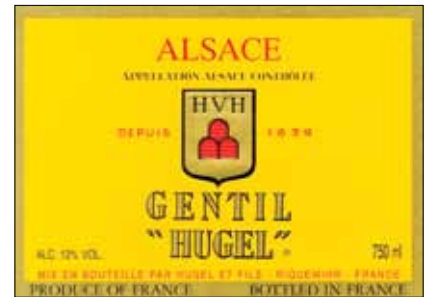
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Post script

P.S. Our "P.S. Special" this month is a great spring/summer wine from Hugel & Fils called "Gentil." This is a soft and flavorful blended white that combines the refreshing quality of a Sylvaner, the body of Pinot Gris, the raciness of Riesling, the grape-ness of Muscat and the spicy personality of Gewurztraminer. It features a fresh, floral aroma and a soft impression on the palate, with lush fruit flavors accented by a spicy note on the finish. When customers ask us about alternatives to Chardonnay, one of our



top recommendations is always Hugel Gentil. The Hugel family has been making wine in the Alsace for more than 350 years. Their commitment to excellence is known worldwide. A wonderful value on this superb warm weather sipper. **\$10.98.**

20% off All Wines from France and the Southern Hemisphere

All during May, mix and match six or more bottles of wine from France or from the Southern Hemisphere and receive 20% off the total price. Most of you are familiar with our giant French wine selection. But you may not be as familiar with our wines from the Southern Hemisphere countries—Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina, and South Africa. We have literally hundreds of wines from these great wine-growing regions, some of which are featured in this issue of the *Post Script*. Stock up now! (Sale applies to 750ml. bottles, red-stickered "net" priced items not included.)

May Sale!