

Entertain
with Cheese



FETA

No summer is complete without the addition of crumbled feta. Feta is one of the oldest Greek cheeses in history and is classified as a semi-soft cheese made with either sheep's or goat's milk. The cheese is stored in a salty brine, which means that it can last for a long time. Modern feta production may integrate cow's milk and pasteurization, but many authentic Greek cheese-makers stick to traditional dairy products, which in turn imparts a sharper flavor to the feta. Feta can be found sprinkled on salads as well as in Greek recipes like traditional spanakopita.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In order to better serve our members, we need to receive any new info and changes regarding your status (i.e., change of address, new credit card number, etc.) by the 20th of each month.

PLEASE NOTIFY US BY CALLING (888) 646-5446, Ext. 13.

Any information received after the 20th of each month will not take effect until the following month. Change of address updates, for the upcoming shipment, called in after the 20th, may be subject to a special handling fee.

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PRIVATE RESERVE CLUB	PRICES EXPIRE 11/30/2023	REGULAR PRICE*	12-BOTTLE DISCOUNT PRICE*	6-BOTTLE DISCOUNT PRICE*
Pianetta 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon		\$42.00	\$31.50	\$33.60
Joullian 2019 Family Reserve Merlot		\$42.00	\$31.50	\$33.60
Le Mistral 2021 White Witch (Rhône Blend)		\$45.00	\$33.75	\$36.00
SEPTEMBER SELECTIONS PRICES EXPIRE 11/30/2023				
Montoya 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon		\$19.00	\$14.25	\$15.20
Joullian 2021 Chardonnay		\$25.00	\$18.75	\$20.00
Joullian 2018 Zinfandel		\$35.00	\$26.25	\$28.00
Blue Canyon 2022 Sauvignon Blanc		\$16.00	\$12.00	\$12.85
AUGUST SELECTIONS PRICES EXPIRE 10/31/2023				
CRU 2021 Unoaked Crisp Cuvée Chardonnay		\$20.00	\$15.00	\$16.00
Odd Lot 2020 Red Blend		\$18.00	\$13.50	\$14.40
CRU 2021 SLH Pinot Noir		\$25.00	\$18.75	\$20.00
Reflection Ridge 2022 Sauvignon Blanc		\$15.00	\$11.25	\$12.00
JULY SELECTIONS PRICES EXPIRE 09/30/2023				
Ranch 32 2019 Reserve Meritage		\$32.00	\$24.00	\$25.60
Montoya 2022 Rosé		\$19.00	\$14.25	\$15.20
Muirwood 2021 Merlot		\$19.00	\$14.25	\$15.20
Ranch 32 2021 Chardonnay		\$28.00	\$21.00	\$22.40

TO ORDER, CALL TOLL-FREE: 888-646-5446
*PRICES LISTED REFLECT PRICE PER BOTTLE. NO OTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY.

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Viognier - Marsanne - Roussanne - Grenache Blanc THE RHÔNE'S WHITE RANGERS



These days you have probably noticed a lot more white wines with varietal names that you don't immediately recognize. Undoubtedly, Viognier, Marsanne, Roussanne, and Grenache Blanc are among the varietals you'll see out there, especially in California and more and more in Central Coast wines (including Monterey County). The three are all white varietals primarily associated with France's Rhône Valley (whose red varietals include Syrah, Grenache, and Mourvedre); however, there is a distinct difference in the wines they each produce. In what seems like a never-ending quest to find white wines other than Chardonnay to fill our wine racks, it's a good time to consider available options.



Viognier - The origins of the Viognier grape are bit a murky, but many believe the varietal was actually first planted in what is now the country of Croatia and was introduced to the Rhône by the Romans. Over the centuries, it became known as one of the Rhône's primary varietals. Yet, the varietal was very nearly lost to the world somewhat recently, with only eight acres planted in the Northern Rhône in the 1960s. And at this time the varietal was not being grown in New World places like California, Washington State, or Australia. Thankfully, Viognier survived, and it is now thriving even in places such as Virginia.

Viognier has the potential to produce full-bodied wines that match up to Chardonnays. But Viognier has more natural aromatics such as hints of peach, pears, and violet. Also like Chardonnay, a winemaker's choice of aging in stainless steel or oak can have huge impacts on wines produced.

Viognier is also often used as a blending varietal for both white and red wines. It adds aromatics to white Rhône-style blends and is used as a small percentage in Syrah wines to soften tannins. This practice began originally in French Côte-Rôtie wines, but now these wines are made around the world.

Continued Inside

Reserve Wine Selections

PIANETTA - 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon



Winery: Pianetta Winery and Vineyard is located 15 miles north of Paso Robles, tucked into the hills of Indian Valley, where the vines enjoy daily sunshine and easy afternoon breezes. Planted in 1997 by John Pianetta, their estate was originally home to 65 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah vines. Now home to Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah and Petite Verdot.

Winemaking: Their estate fruit is hand-harvested from terraced slopes to ensure quality in the field and on the crush pad. All Pianetta wines are well-balanced with a solid fruit base, aged in dominant tight grained oak barrels, and focus on the best fruit the vineyards produce.

Tasting Notes: Bright fruits and raspberry on the nose. Bold and velvet mouthfeel on the palate.

Hints of anise, currant and slight spice character in this very dynamic Cabernet. Great tannin development and balanced acidity for such a lighter alcohol wine.

Pianetta
2020
Cabernet Sauvignon
Alcohol
13.2%
AVA
Monterey
Composition
100%
Cabernet Sauvignon
Aging Potential
8-10 years

JOULLIAN -2019 Family Reserve Merlot



Winery: Bordeaux grapes, the inspiration for Joullian Vineyards, led their founders to choose Carmel Valley for its warm, temperate climate and reputation of producing rich and flavorful wines. In order to add further complexity and elegance to the lush flavors of these hillside vineyard wines, they grow multiple clones of each grape variety at different elevations, exposures and soil types. With multiple varietal blocks, each in a slightly different set of growing circumstances, they have the ability to add extra dimension to their wines both in the field as well as in the winery. All Joullian wines receive extended bottle aging, ensuring that upon release the wines have begun to mature and develop their special Carmel Valley character, as well as extra smoothness, complexity and bouquet.

Winemaking: The 2019 featured a wet spring, a cool, moderate summer and a glorious, dry autumn that created great color, ripe flavors, and wonderfully balanced wines. They hand harvested and sorted both our Pomerol 181 and 3-Palm clones, crushed, then 50°F cold soaked for 4 days. Fermentation lasted 18 days at 85°F with both punch-downs and aerated pumpovers using Rhone Valley and Brunello yeast isolates, for roundness suppleness and black fruit/anise intensity, respectively.

Barreled for 20 months in 45% new Center of France 3-yr air dried oak, the wine was racked quarterly and bottled unfiltered for maximum depth and flavor. Made from the four best barrels in the cellar, the 2019 Family Reserve Merlot has lovely aromatics, concentrated black fruit, and the structure to age many years.

Tasting Notes: This is a wonderful wine showing what the mountain vineyards of Carmel Valley can produce. This wine is ruby in color, with a delicately layered nose of earthy mushroom, sandalwood and butter toffee pecans. Vanilla-spiked dark chocolate and dusty, black cherry build on the palate before the muscular structure sets in. Spicy, black pepper runs through the finish. This a Cab-drinkers Merlot!

Big Sur
2019
Family Reserve Merlot
Alcohol
13.9%
AVA
Carmel Valley
Composition
85% Merlot
15% Cabernet Franc
Aging Potential
8-10 years

LE MISTRAL - 2021 White Witch (Rhone Blend)

Wine: The White Witch is our award-winning white Rhône-style Blend. The name was coined by owner Greg Ahn for Monterey's daily barrage of coastal fog and wind that moves from the cool Pacific Ocean down the Salinas Valley every afternoon in the summer. These winds are so influential to this region's winemaking and grape growing and are what makes this place so special.

Rhône grape varieties grow extremely well here, and blend together with harmony. For the 2021 vintage, 4 Rhône white varieties from three vineyards in the Arroyo Seco AVA were harvested and blended once the fermentations were complete. To make a blend like this, great care is taken to ensure that each component is added to complement a blend, making the wine better than the sum of its parts. We think you'll agree – this wine Rocks.

Vineyard: They are committed to sustainable farming practices for all their wines. The five acre vineyard at the winery is 100% organically farmed meticulously by hand. They installed owl boxes and raptor perches around the property to naturally manage populations of pests, like ground squirrels and gophers. Their estate vineyards include over 300 acres in the Arroyo Seco AVA of

Monterey County, just over the Santa Lucia Mountains to the east.

Tasting Notes: Banana runts, coconut, white peach, jasmine, lemon balm, crème pie, fresh grass, and honey. The wine has a soft sourdough, salty air, and popcorn layer that works very well with the brightness that the floral quality brings. The palate is light, fresh and pops with brightness from the natural acidity.

Le Mistral
2021
White Witch
Alcohol
12.5%
AVA
Monterey
Composition
Viognier
Marsanne
Roussanne
Grenache Blanc
Aging Potential
4-6 years

Cover Article Continued



Marsanne - Marsanne is another northern Rhône varietal, but unlike Viognier, it is more often blended than produced as a varietal wine. With Roussanne, it is a principal component of wines from French growing regions such as Hermitage and Crozes-Hermitage. Like Viognier, Marsanne is now growing in popularity in Californian, Washington State, and Australian vineyards.

It's hard to find varietal Marsanne wines, but when you do, they are highly worth investigating. Marsanne wines are deeply colored with rich flavors of nuts combined with spice, honey, pear, melon, and honeysuckle. Marsanne wines in Monterey County remain rare and most of the time you'll see the varietal in blended wines here.

Roussanne - Roussanne is grown around the world in the same places as Viognier and Marsanne, but a big difference with Roussanne is that the varietal has significant plantings in Italy and is a major component of Italian Montecarlo Bianco white blends. Roussanne wines are intensely aromatic with floral, herbal, fruit and nutty notes. This may sound like the description for Marsanne, and, while it is indeed similar, with Roussanne the nuttiness characteristic is more profound...much more profound. After a glass of Roussanne you may feel like you've eaten a few handful of nuts. This may sound odd, but it's a wine tasting experience which should not be missed.



Grenache Blanc - "Green richness" is the theme that carries through all Grenache Blanc wines. Intensely aromatic that will burst with green fruit and citrus notes including Asian pear, green apple, unripe mango, lime zest, and white peach. Other flavors include subtle sweet floral notes of honeysuckle and fenugreek (or almost cumin seed) along with baked apple, brioche and lemon curd if the wine was aged in oak. On the palate it will be plump and rich with juicy pear flavors that lead into lean herbal notes of green almond or dried green herbs and salty minerals. Alcohol levels will range in the 13-15% range, giving the wine a spice-driven finish.

You've seen the term "aromatic" now used for all four of these Rhône varietals, and they share other characteristics as well, such as the fact that these varietals are not on any beginning grower or winemaker's list. All four are notoriously difficult to grow, susceptible to winds, prone to disease, and low-yielding. In the winemaking department, all four are known to present steep difficulties for winemakers as they try and balance acidity and alcohol levels, both of which can sabotage a wine if not properly controlled. Additionally, while there are some late-harvest wines produced from these varietals which can age well, most of the time when you see these varietals on their own or in blends, the wines are meant to be opened within a few years.

Now you're prepared to try these delicate and interesting Rhône white rangers!

Bryce Ternet - contributing editor and is the author of three books. See <http://www.mbryceternet.com/> for more.

Let's
Wine
About it



CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Pronunciation:
"Kab-er-nay Saw-vin-yawn"

Taste: Black Cherry, Black Currant, Baking Spices, and Cedar (from oak)

Style: Full-Bodied Red Wine

Description: Cabernet Sauvignon is a full-bodied red grape first heavily planted in the Bordeaux region. Today, it's the most popular wine variety in the world! Wines are full-bodied with bold tannins and a long persistent finish driven mostly by the higher levels of alcohol and tannin that often accompany these wines.

Food Pairing: lamb, beef, smoked meats, French, American, firm cheeses like aged cheddar and hard cheeses like Pecorino