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CITY VINEYARD

FINE WINE • CRAFT BEER • GOURMET FOOD

Silver Club March 2024

2019 Plaimont Les Cépages Préservés Saint Mont AOC Blanc Gascogne, France

About the wine: This mouth-watering trio of rare grapes grows (60% Gros Manseng, 30% Petit Courbu, and 10% Arrufiac; none of which your friendly writer had heard of) in a small sub-alpine pocket some 50 miles from the Pyrénées Mountains and just over the border from Basque country. With lush, medium-full body, driven by flavors of ripe apricot, peach, and wild herbs; 25-year-old vines and 6 months on the lees contribute to the wine's depth of flavor and overall complexity.

About the Region: In the mid-1970s, winemaker Andre Dubosc set out to revive the "lost" appellations of Southwest France - lost in terms of quality and due to the eclipsing effect of nearby Bordeaux, lost to the commercial ages. With an eye on reviving historic grape varieties along with the region's sense of pride, he helped create the Plaimont Cooperative in 1979. Today, Plaimont has an impressive 600 growers and 5300 hectares under vine. This lush, hilly, and historic region is the least populated corner of France.

Tasting Notes: We love stone fruits, and this wine brings ripe apricot, white peach, lemongrass, lime leaf, and wild herbs to the nose, and it does not disappoint on the palate, bringing the same ripe light stone fruits, with plenty of acidity.

Food Pairing: So many nummy choices.... pulled pork sandwich with potato chips, stuffed baked potato with bacon and white cheese, CV Brillat with onion jam! Hot tip... Stone Crab claws slathered in butter!!

2021 Vina Zorzal Vino de Sed Navarra Navarra, Rioja, Spain

About the wine: A blend of Grenache and Graciano (secondary grapes to the predominant Tempranillo in Rioja), this wine's name translates loosely to Thirst Wine. Very light in color and only 12% ABV, it will surprise you with its bold, ripe red fruit flavors and rich tannins. Viña Zorzal was born with the focus firmly on terroir, a project to create wines from parcels that show the typical characteristics of such an exceptional area.

About the Region: Highly regarded for distinctive and age-worthy red wines, Rioja is Spain's most celebrated wine region. Tempranillo provides the backbone of Rioja red

wines, adding complex notes of red and black fruit, leather, toast and tobacco, while Garnacha supplies body. In smaller percentages, Graciano and Mazuelo (Carignan) often serve as “seasoning” with additional flavors and aromas. These same varieties are responsible for flavorful dry rosés.

Tasting Notes: Translucent to look at, but bolder than you think. It has some strawberry/raspberry notes but also a spicy/savory quality. The palate is medium bodied. Rich and fruity (juicy) with great acidity, it’s easy drinking, and the low alcohol level is apparent... have another glass!!

Food Pairing: Think anything with sauteed mushrooms. This wine loves meats that are rich and spicy... add chorizo to your pasta. OMG... roasted winter vegetables with pungent herbs. Or maybe just a hunk of Manchego!

2021 d'Arenberg The Stump Jump Cabernet Sauvignon McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia

About the wine: While the birthplace of Cabernet Sauvignon is in Bordeaux, Australia has found remarkable success growing it, especially in the regions of Coonawarra and Margaret River, and some of the oldest Cabernet Sauvignon vines in the world can be found in Australia. Here, the classic Cabernet taste of dark, rich fruit, cedar, and mint is accompanied by flavors of eucalyptus. d'Arenberg is one of the undisputed kings of Australian Shiraz and other Rhone varieties that have historically defined the region.

About the region: Known for opulent red wines with intense power and concentration, McLaren Vale is home to perhaps the most “classic” style of Australian Shiraz. Vinified on its own or in Rhône Blends, these hot-climate wines are deeply colored and high in extract with signature hints of dark chocolate and licorice. Cabernet Sauvignon is also produced in a similar style. Whites, often made from Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc tend to be opulent and full of tropical, stone, and citrus fruit.

Tasting notes: Full of personality, this dense, big red is concentrated, with blackberry, cassis and spiced plum notes at the core, plus accents of sage, tobacco, cedar, and spices, along with mineral elements and chewy tannins. We recommend you decant for 45 minutes to an hour to best appreciate this wine.

Food pairing: Well, it is Cabernet Sauvignon... Think big, red meats... steak, beef stews, slow cooked pasta with deep ragu! Rich cheeses are also a beautiful pair... or how about some dark chocolate??? That’s a yes for us.