

J. Emerson, Inc.

FINE WINES & CHEESE

5716 Grove Avenue • Richmond, VA. 23226 • (804) 285-8011 www.jemersonfinewine.com

STORE HOURS: Mon. 10:00 am to 8:00pm, Tues through Sat.: 9:00am to 8:00pm and:

NOW OPEN SUNDAY 12noon to 6pm.



DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Posted on our YouTube channel by 12/14 in 2 or 3 short segments

OUR 13th ANNUAL - often imitated, never equaled

Champagne and Sparkling Wine Tasting

We will present an eclectic selection and all wines will be discounted.

Buy ahead and taste with us at your leisure.



NO OPEN BOTTLE IN STORE TASTINGS or CLASSES IN DECEMBER

The Store will be open and maintain normal hours and we offer curbside and delivery service.

Emerson Wine Club SPECIALS [Prices valid through 12/31/20.]

	<i>Dec. '20</i>	<i>USUAL</i>	<i>CASE</i>	<i>(cs.btl.cost)</i>
*Sulin 2019 Bianco "Giabine," Piedmont, Italy	\$ 7.99	\$ 9.99	\$84	(\$7.00)
*Duvernay 2019 Costieres de Nimes Rouge, Rhone, France	\$ 9.99	\$11.99	\$108	(\$9.00)
*MDZ 2019 Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina	\$ 9.99	\$11.99	\$108	(\$9.00)
*Grace Town 2020 Chardonnay, Margaret River, Western Australia	\$10.99	\$12.99	\$120	(\$10.00)
Cattin 2018 Pinot Blanc, Alsace, France	\$12.99	\$14.99	\$144	(\$12.00)
Federico Bonfio 2012 Rosso "Le Portine," Tuscany, Italy	\$12.99	\$14.99	\$144	(\$12.00)
Chateau Haut Bourcier 2012 Blaye Cotes de Bordeaux, France	\$12.99	\$17.99	\$144	(\$12.00)
Adami N/V Prosecco Brut "Garbel," Veneto, Italy	\$13.99	\$15.99	\$156	(\$13.00)

A NOTE ABOUT OUR CASE OF THE MONTH: - *Our case of the month is an excellent way to get real value for your wine dollar and drink wines from around the world, carefully selected by J. Emerson staff. No need to join an internet wine club with their mystery wines and made up labels – Our case is infinitely more interesting and a better value!* The discounted price for the DECEMBER case-of-the-month is **\$114.99**; (average bottle price: \$9.58!!) the regular price would be \$158, a savings of over 27%!

Here is the line-up and as always, there are 2 each of the first four wines () and 1 each of the last four wines.*

***Sulin 2019 Bianco "Giabine," Piedmont, Italy** - (60% Chardonnay and 40% Sauvignon Blanc) This is an easy drinking, fuller-bodied white with aromas of white flowers, pears, and green apples. Citrus and mineral flavors continue on the palate finishing with crispy acidity. A great aperitif, or try with seafood and salads.

***Duvernay 2019 Costieres de Nimes Rouge, Rhone, France** - (85% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 5% Marselan) From Costières de Nîmes on the Languedoc side of the Rhone. Ripe Grenache cherry and black fruit aromas with liquorice, spice & hints of pepper. Dense, silky & balanced on the palate, it finishes with refined tannins.

***MDZ 2019 Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina** - 100% Malbec, raised without oak, and minimal intervention with aromas of mocha, and super ripe red fruits. Fuller bodied, with boysenberry, blackberry, cocoa and cola nut flavors on the palate. The wine displays good structure with a long finish that has hints of dried herbs and cedar wrapped in smooth tannins.

***Grace Town 2020 Chardonnay, Margaret River, Western Australia** - "The nose displays deep aromatic fruit concentration of melon and nectarine, with a touch of citrus, toasted almond and nougat. The palate is complex yet soft with excellent fruit intensity, gingerbread and spice from the French oak. Ripe white nectarine and melon characters are paired with a fresh grapefruit acidity." (Winery notes)

Cattin 2018 Pinot Blanc, Alsace, France - Pinot Blanc is the lightest of the Alsatian wines and offers great value. This uncomplicated, straightforward wine has muted aromas of pear, apple, white flowers and citrus. A touch of pepper on the palate gives lift to this easy drinking light, fresh, crispy wine.

Federico Bonfio 2012 Rosso "Le Portine," Tuscany, Italy - (100% Sangiovese) Earthy aromas of sour cherries, anise and spice with truffle notes. The palate is fresh, like a Chianti, finishing with mouthwatering acidity and refined tannins. This is an understated beauty with some nice bottle age and is perfect for tomato based pasta dishes and, of course, pizza!

Chateau Haut Bourcier 2012 Blaye Cotes de Bordeaux, France - Located directly across the Gironde river from Ch. Latour (Ok, I know it means nothing relative to quality but at least you get a sense of place.) A Decanter silver wine award winner in 2015 this 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot blend is "A charming wine with enveloping notes of vanilla, plums and red cherries. The palate is structured and full-bodied with a hefty but ripe dose of tannins & refreshing acidity. Stylish & long with a confident finish."

Adami N/V Prosecco Brut "Garbel," Veneto, Italy - White flowers, bright citrus and peach in this straight forward cheerful sparkling wine with a nicely focused bright finish. This has been our go-to Prosecco for some time now. Note the word garbèl in the local dialect refers to freshness and lightness, which describes this wine perfectly.

USE YOUR 6 BOTTLE WINE BAGS FROM OTHER STORES AND SAVE 10% (on six bottles).

We want to remind our customers to use wine bags that other stores continue to push on you. Remember, they are made from oil and you must use each of those bags 9 times before it equals one paper bag!

A NATURAL NEWSLETTER

ON SALE: 2017 Weingut Maria & Sepp Muster 'Erde' Sauvignon, Steiermark, Austria

Maria and Sepp Muster took over his parent's 10-hectare winery in Styria, not far from the Slovenian border, in 2000 and began to work the vines biodynamically. They had an easy transition, as no herbicides or pesticides had ever been used there before. Rocky clay and silt soils dominate the steep hills of their vineyards. This clay silt is known locally as "Opok" after which two of their wines are named. Erde, which means Earth, is a blend Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay (locally called Morillon). It spends 9 months on the skins which gives it an amber color with a twisted complexity of citrus fruits and savory herbs and it comes appropriately packaged in a clay bottle. **\$74.99 ON SALE IN DECEMBER: \$53.99** (while supplies last)

IT'S BACK!

Our favorite every day organic red wine!

2019 Domaine de la Patience 'La Patience' Rouge, Vin de France

This family estate located in the Costières de Nîmes takes its name from a wild, aromatic herb "La Patience" that can be found throughout the vineyard. The estate is farmed organically, using natural yeasts with light filtration and limited addition of Sulphur. A juicy blend of Carignan and Merlot it is your absolute all purpose, everyday red. Light in color and loaded with notes of blueberries, strawberries and cherries, finishing dry with herbal notes and smooth tannins. **\$14.99**

NEW ARRIVALS – NO ADDED Sulphur

Here are two delicious additions both focused on natural farming and both bottled with no added Sulphur.

2020 Chakana Sobrenatural Tinto Agrelo, Argentina - 80% Tannat and 20% Malbec from Chakana's Finca Nuna vineyard, fermented with indigenous yeasts, certified biodynamic and no Sulphur added.

Deep, dark fruit aromas. Firm tannins balanced by a juicy, soft texture, good acidity and length. **\$17.99**

2019 Brulesecaille Sans Soufre Ajoute, AOC Bordeaux, France - "Bottled with no added SO₂, the 2019 Brule Secaille is a charming, fleshy, fruit-forward effort offering plenty of character and richness. With ample jammy dark fruits and spice as well as a good finish, it's not meant for aging but is ideal for near-term drinking." (JD 8/20) **\$17.99**

NEW ARRIVALS – Escoda-Sanahuja

We have just received our allocation of wines from this wonderful natural winery in Conca de Barberà, Spain Ramon and Mari Carme launched Escoda-Sanahuja winery intending to create natural wines utilizing biodynamic agriculture. Since 2007 they use no Sulphur.

2019 Celler Escoda-Sanahuja 'Coll del Sabater' Catalonia, Spain - Natural red wine from Conca de Barberà which I am made to understand is all Cabernet Franc this vintage, aged for a few months in clay amphorae. **\$34.99**

2018 Celler Escoda-Sanahuja 'La Llopetera' Conca de Barbera, Spain – 100% Pinot Noir, biodynamic indigenous yeast, six month in French Oak, bottled without filtering, clarifying or stabilizing. **\$34.99**

2019 Celler Escoda-Sanahuja 'Nas del Gegant' Conca de Barbera, Spain - We think the cuvee this year is 70% Merlot 15% Grenache and 15% Sumoll Negre. They say the 2019 is drinking lovely right now and will only improve over time. Black pepper, plums, licorice, clove and blackberry with a tingly tannic structure. Biodynamic, indigenous yeast and bottled with no filtering, no fining and no Sulphur. **\$28.99**

2019 Celler Escoda-Sanahuja 'Els Bassotets' Conca de Barbera, Spain - Macabeu (70%), Chenin Blanc (30%) fermented in concrete tanks, aged 10 months in stainless steel and bottled without filtering, or clarifying. **\$28.99**

2019 Celler Escoda-Sanahuja 'Els Bassots' Conca de Barbera, Spain- 100% Chenin Blanc with skin contact, biodynamic with natural yeast. Els Bassots follows old school production processes that were used when the so-called white 'brisats' wines were made. That means the fermentations are carried out with the skins leading to more intense flavors with a more intense color. Ultimately, Els Bassots is aged for 15 months in French oak barrels before the final bottling. **\$34.99**

NEW ARRIVALS

Laherte Freres Blanc de Blancs Brut Nature Champagne, France - Frères Blanc de Blancs Brut Nature is made from parcels of Chardonnay located on the south slopes of Épernay and Chavot. The winery is practicing biodynamic and grapes are picked by hand and disgorged by hand. No dosage is added. The vines are over 30 years old, and the vineyards are comprised mostly of limestone with some fine silts and chalk on the surface. A wine of great finesse, taut and minerally driven with slate, white flowers & flinty notes. **\$54.99**

2019 Il Farneto Giandon Emilia-Romagna, Italy – One of Peter's favorites, the Il Farneto Giando Rosso is a red natural wine made from Malbo Gentile, Lambrusco, and Marzemino organic and biodynamic grapes grown in Emilia-Romagna, Italy. It's earthy and juicy with red fruits and refined tannins. No filtration or fining and only a tiny amount of Sulphur is added. **\$16.99**

The GREEN Spot

As you shop in the store you may see some wines displaying a green price sticker. This is our way of letting you know that the wine is organic, biodynamic, sustainable or natural. This is an ongoing process as we research each and every wine in the shop. Verbiage on the bottle may tell you more or you may ask us for further clarification. We are organized by place, not attribute, but as the wine world has made a healthy move toward better farming practices we needed to find a quick way to identify organic, biodynamic, sustainable and natural wines.

EMERSON'S DELIVERS!

Consult with us on wines for your party or event and we will deliver directly to your home or office. Our regular deliveries will be made on Friday afternoons. There is no minimum order but there will be a delivery charge of \$10. Our regular service areas are zip codes 23226, 23229 and 23221

RETURN POLICY

J. Emerson, Inc. guarantees that each bottle of wine we sell is in good condition. If you purchase a bad bottle of wine from us, please bring the bottle (with wine) back promptly. We will taste the wine with you to try and ascertain what has gone wrong and we will replace the bad bottle with a good bottle of the same wine. We are not responsible for any damage that occurs after the wine has left the store. This is especially true in the summer. PLEASE do not leave your wine in your car or trunk. It takes less than two hours in 80-90 degree sun to "pop" a cork. We will NOT accept any returns of warm or hot bottles. Returns should come back to us at about the same temperature as our store.

OUR PROTOCOL FOR USING WINE REVIEWS

Throughout our newsletter you will find profiles of wine tastes and flavors written by professional wine reviewers. We use these reviews, when they align with our own tasting notes, because, frankly, these reviewers use descriptors and adjectives that are more interesting and often more on point than what we would write. When we use a reviewer's notes we will always use quotes and we will always show attribution, i.e.: WA – Wine Advocate, WS- Wine Spectator, BH – Burghound and Vinous for...Vinous. Three of these review sources are reader subscription only and carry no advertising and they are: WA, Vinous and BH, and thus those are primary review sources. We will also occasionally use reviews from Decanter (the premier UK wine journal). Each review source also has reviewers that are better in some specialty than others. For example, Antonio Galoni has a wonderful sense of Italian wines and Allen Meadows of Burghound is a definitive source for the wines of Burgundy. The other key is that these reviews need to align with our tasting notes and if there is a huge discrepancy we will defer to our notes, which may be less interesting in terms of descriptors, but more in harmony with the wine profile. Our tasting notes would be any review without quotation marks.

OUR WINE ENVIRONMENT

If you shop here you already know that we take the condition of the wine environment in the store very seriously. Wines are on their side, we monitor humidity and the temperature on the main floor never rises about 63 degrees. (In the winter we strive for 60.) We use no fluorescent lighting in the wine areas – **THE WORST POSSIBLE LIGHTING CONDITION** due to the high UV content. Instead we have been using indirect incandescent lighting. Now we are in the process of converting our lighting to LED, a source that produces **NO UV** light rays! Does your wine retailer care enough to take these quality control steps? Ask questions next time you are in a big box retailer.