

# J. Emerson, Inc.

FINE WINES & CHEESE

5716 Grove Avenue • Richmond, VA. 23226 • (804) 285-8011 [www.jemersonfinewine.com](http://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 2022 NEWSLETTER



**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 -5:00pm**

**OUR 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL - often imitated, never equaled**

### *Champagne and Sparkling Wine Tasting*

will present an eclectic selection and all sparkling wines will be discounted  
You must be vaccinated to attend!



**WINE TASTING EVERY SATURDAY 2:00pm-6:00pm**

*"Whatever we feel like opening"*

#### **Emerson Wine Club SPECIALS** [Prices valid through 12/31/22.]

**Dec. '22 USUAL CASE (cs.btl.cost)**

*Encostas do Lima 2021 Branco "Schist," Vinho Verde, Portugal	\$7.99	\$9.99	\$84	(\$7.00)
* © De Angelis 2020 Rosso Piceno, Le Marche, Italy	\$9.99	\$11.99	\$114	(\$9.00)
*Casa de Santar 2020 Tinto, Dao, Portugal	\$11.99	\$13.99	\$132	(\$11.00)
* © Antonelli 2021 Grechetto, Montefalco, Umbria, Italy	\$13.99	\$17.99	\$156	(\$13.00)
Domaine Marc Portaz 2020 Blanc, Apremont, Savoie, France	\$12.99	\$16.99	\$144	(\$12.00)
Vizconde de Barrantes 2021 Albarino, Rias Baixas, Spain	\$15.99	\$17.99	\$180	(\$15.00)
La Domitienne 2020 Mourvedre Rouge, Pays d'Herault, France	\$13.99	\$16.99	\$156	(\$13.00)
Chateau Vieux Courriere 2016 Rouge, Bordeaux, France (wood case)	\$11.99	\$15.99	\$132	(\$11.00)

**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 **\$126.99**; (average btl. price: \$10.58!!) the regular price would be \$175.99, a savings of more than 28%! **THIS MONTH WE WILL OFFER AN ALL RED and an ALL WHITE CASE. The ALL RED case is 3 each of the 4 red wines for \$130.99 or the ALL WHITE case which is 3 each of the 4 white wines for: \$130.99**

*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.*

\*Encostas do Lima 2021 Branco "Schist," Vinho Verde, Portugal - This special project from the Adega Ponte de Lima highlights the diverse soils of the Vinho Verde region (Granite and Schist) Made from 100% Loureiro grapes, it is expressive with notes of passionfruit, tangerine, lemon curd and bright succulent citrus. Light bodied (only 11.5% ABV), it has just the barest hint of spritz and finishes with crispy, lingering acidity.

\* © De Angelis 2020 Rosso Piceno, Le Marche, Italy- (70% Montepulciano & 30% Sangiovese.) This very drinkable little pizza wine has aromas of ripe candied cherries and hints of almonds. Balanced and medium bodied with some acidity and just a hint of tannins.

\*Casa de Santar 2020 Tinto, Dao, Portugal- A traditional blend of Aragonez, Touriga Nacional and Alfrocheiro. Aromas of red fruit compote, baking spice and a hint of pipe tobacco. Full bodied and juicy with a touch of pepper on the palate finishing with refined tannins. Aged 6 months in French oak, this easy drinking red is a good choice for burgers and steak.

\* © Antonelli 2021 Grechetto, Montefalco, Umbria, Italy - 100% Grechetto, the main white varietal of Umbria. This elegant wine has muted aromas of delicate white flowers, citrus and straw with a touch of wet stone finishing with racy acidity.

**Domaine Marc Portaz 2020 Blanc, Apremont, Savoie, France** - On November 24, 1248, an enormous avalanche starting on Mount Granier buried entire small towns with limestone rubble and changed the face of Savoie forever. Centuries later, fields at the foot of the mountain were turned into vineyards planted with Jacquère vines, Savoie's native white grape variety. 'Apremont' translates from French as "rough mountain". We love this refreshing naturally low alcohol wine (usually 11.5%) with aromas of honeysuckle, crushed stones, white pepper; it is bone dry, tangy and palate-cleansing. It's like drinking bottled mountain air!

**Vizconde de Barrantes 2021 Albarino, Rias Baixas, Spain** - A Christmas Albarino with notes of herb, pine nuts and orange blossoms. Fresh on the palate and balanced, this medium bodied wine is a richer style with a great crispy finish.

**La Domitienne 2020 Mourvedre Rouge, Pays d'Herault, France** - Mourvedre, the powerful grape of Bandol, expresses its lush and silky side with aromas of ripe red fruits and a hint of chocolate and thyme. Softly textured on the palate with supple tannins on a long, ferrous finish.

**Chateau Vieux Courriere 2016 Rouge, Bordeaux, France (wood case)** – (40% Cabernet Sauvignon/ 60% Merlot) From one of the very best vintages in the last 20 years, we choose this wine, with a few years in the bottle, as our Christmas "Case in Wood" Bordeaux offering. Dark dried black and red fruits, earthy and herbaceous (in the best way), with bright acidity and moderate tannins. A classic Bordeaux.

**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!

### **DECEMBER Champagne & Sparkling Wine SPECIAL OFFERS**

**(Note: Holiday "From the cellar" offers are in a separate Holiday Gift newsletter!)**

*A great wine that we stopped carrying as it is everywhere. But we were offered a deal we could not refuse!*

**2018 Argyle Brut Willamette Valley, USA** – (52% Chardonnay, 43% Pinot Noir, 5% Pinot Meunier.) A warm and dry summer yielded a concentrated, yet vibrant 2018 sparkling wine vintage in the Willamette Valley. Knudsen Vineyard, protected in the deep volcanic soils of the Dundee Hills, brings supple depth and elegance, while Spirit Hill Vineyard, in the windy and rocky volcanic soils of the Eola-Amity Hills, brings energy and minerality. Orchard fruits, citrus peel, and toasted brioche are framed around a creamy center and long, graceful finish. **Reg. price: \$26.99/ ON SALE IN DEC.: \$19.99** (no further discounts)

*This is our delightful "everyday" Champagne that never disappoints!*

**NV Thierry Triolet Cuvee Grande Reserve Blanc de Blancs Champagne, France** -The Grande Reserve is typically made exclusively from Chardonnay but occasionally includes up to 5% of Pinot Noir. It is a blend of vintages which includes at least 30% of reserve wines. The champagne stays an average of 3 years "sur lie" before disgorgement. Crisp lemon tart, dried apricot and yeast/bread notes. Great bubbles and persistent but not too intense acidity. **Reg. price: \$39.99/ ON SALE IN DEC.: \$31.99** (no further discounts)

*Complex Grand Cru with no added sugar!*

**Roland Champion, Eclat de Craie, Grand Cru, Blanc de Blancs, Zero Dosage NV**- This small grower and member of Champagne's elite Special Club is located in the Grand Cru Village of Chouilly. The house was founded in 1929 by André Champion. Fresh and delicate with vanilla, toast and hazelnut notes and fine bubbles on a crisp finish. Perfect as an aperitif and a classic Blanc de Blancs Champagne.

**Reg. price: \$59.99/ ON SALE IN DEC.: \$44.99** (no further discounts)

### **DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFER – California Dreaming**

*A founding father of Paso Robles in 1981 this is an iconic mostly (83%) Cabernet Sauvignon.*

**2018 Justin Vineyards & Winery Isosceles Paso Robles, USA** – "Roasted meat, preserved plum and smoke aromas make for a pleasantly rugged nose on this bottling, which includes 9% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. The palate is rugged and rich as well, with teriyaki, baked black plum and smoked meat flavors, with acid washing into the finish." (WE 10/22) **Reg. price: \$69.99/ ON SALE IN DEC.: \$49.99** (no further discounts)

*Founded in 1978, this is their "basic" Cabernet Sauvignon made with fruit sourced from sites throughout the Napa Valley including their estates in Stags Leap, Oakville and Rutherford.*

**2019 Pine Ridge Vineyards Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon California, USA** –“A nice style, ripe and sleek, with a gorgeous beam of unadulterated cassis, plum puree and blackberry coulis lined with subtle toast, violet and apple wood accents. Reveals a late flash of iron amid the fruit. A lovely, poised wine. Drink now through 2034.” (WS 11/22) **Reg. price: \$72.99/ ON SALE IN DEC.: \$51.99** (no further discounts)

### **DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFER – White Burgundy**

**2019 Bavencoff Meursault, Cote de Beaune, France** – (100 % Chardonnay) Founded in 2003 Bavencoff Yvan Sarl and his team are old school Burgundy négociants. They buy grapes or make arrangements with wineries to produce wines in their style. This 2019 village Meursault is quite drinkable now and exhibits, for us, all of those attributes we want in wine from this part of the Côte d'Or. It is fuller bodied and rich with hazelnut and ripe fruit notes. Extremely balanced for its young age with a slight touch of butter it has good minerality and acidity on the finish. This, for us, is a good example of basic Meursault.

**Reg. price: \$74.99/ ON SALE IN DEC.: \$61.99** (no further discounts)

### **DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERS – Barolo**

*We loved this wine and bought all that was available and note that Galloni does not heap praise lightly.*

**2017 Fratelli Serio & Battista Borgogno Barolo DOCG Piedmont, Italy** - “The 2017 Barolo is exquisitely beautiful. Soaring, floral aromatic are immediately enticing. Bright red berry fruit, spice, cedar, sweet pipe tobacco and earthy notes flesh out as this gracious, mid weight Barolo shows off its considerable charms. There is a good bit of young Barolo tannin but the 2017 should be ready to do with minimal cellaring. It is a joyous wine.” (Vinous, Antonio Galloni 1/21) **Reg. price: \$39.99/ On Sale in DEC.: \$31.99** (no further discounts)

### **Interesting NEW ARRIVALS – Perfect Christmas Gifts (maybe for yourself!)**

© **2020 Domaine Philippe Tessier Cour-Cheverny Les Sables Loire, France** - Cour-Cheverny is a subset of the Cheverny appellation located in the central Loire Valley The grape used is Romorantin, once widely planted in the Loire, but now grown mostly in Cour-Cheverny. The grape produces intense, minerally driven wines. Tessiers biodynamic “Sables” is medium bodied, peppery and tart in a refreshing way. **\$32.99**

*Amanda's Staff Pick:*

© **2021 Kamara Pure 'Stalisma' Dry White, Macedonia, Greece** - (Malagousia-Xinomavro blanc de noir, 80-20% blend) Medium body with a pleasant tannic texture that comes from the 3 day skin contact that they require for all of their wines. Fresh lime zest and musky jasmine florals on the nose. The palate shows herbal notes with a green apple freshness with a slight minerality that Sancerre fans will appreciate. Great for an aperitif or for serving with fresh seafood. **\$32.99**

### **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.