

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.

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

NO OPEN IN STORE TASTINGS or CLASSES IN JULY.

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



ON TUESDAY, JULY 14TH, WE WILL BE CELEBRATING OUR 35TH YEAR.

As the oldest continuously operated wine store in Richmond, we, traditionally, have a special *open* tasting event on that day we call: **LA FÊTE NATIONALE (BASTILLE DAY) / FOUNDERS TASTING** that brings out long time customers and friends. We open older wines including wines from our founding year, 1985. This year we could not find a way to safely hold this event and it would not lend itself to zoom or other virtual platforms. At some point in the future we will return to in store tasting events and, no matter what month, this will be our first event.

Here is the line-up for our case of the month and, as always, there are 2 each of the first 4 wines () and 1 each of the last 4 wines.*

Emerson Wine Club SPECIALS [Prices valid through 7/31/20.]

	<u>July '20</u>	<u>USUAL</u>	<u>CASE</u>	<u>(cs.btl.cost)</u>
*2019 Chateau Haut Pasquet Entre Deux Mers, Bordeaux, France	\$10.99	\$14.99	\$120	(\$10.00)
*2018 Domaine des Herbauges Grolleau Gris, Loire Valley, France	\$10.99	\$12.99	\$120	(\$10.00)
*2019 Uva Non Grata Gamay, Vin de France	\$10.99	\$13.99	\$120	(\$10.00)
*2019 Abadia de Acon Ribera del Duero Joven, Castile Y Leon, Spain	\$10.99	\$13.99	\$120	(\$10.00)
2017 Dom. de Valensac Pays d'Oc Cabernet Sauvignon, Languedoc, Fr.	\$10.99	\$12.99	\$120	(\$10.00)
2019 Dom. de Valensac Pays d'Oc Chardonnay, Languedoc, France	\$10.99	\$12.99	\$120	(\$10.00)
NV Tenuta Sant' Anna Prosecco Brut, Veneto, Italy	\$11.99	\$16.99	\$132	(\$11.00)
2017 Jeanne Marie Pinot Noir, California	\$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 July case-of-the-month is **\$116.99**; the regular price would be \$170, a savings of over 30%!*

***2019 Chateau Haut Pasquet Entre Deux Mers, Bordeaux, France** - Classic aromas of freshly cut grass, grapefruit, and gooseberry. Light and refreshing, with notes of citrus and lemongrass on the palate. The finish is crisp and dry. Enjoy with seafood, roasted chicken or fresh cheeses

***2018 Domaine des Herbauges Grolleau Gris, Loire Valley, France** –“Produced from rare pink-skinned Grolleau Gris, this wine almost has the texture of a rosé, with a touch of tannin as well as fresh citrus and pink-grapefruit flavors. It is a great aperitif style that will also be good party starter. Drink now” (WE 1/1/20)

***2019 Uva Non Grata Gamay, Vin de France**- Uva Non Grata (Latin for ‘ungrateful grapes’) refers to the historical downgrading of Gamay in Burgundy in favor of Pinot Noir. But now Gamay has its revenge in this perfect summer red. Aromas of violets and crunchy red berries with great acid and gentle tannins; it’s a no fuss wine that you can serve with a slight chill.

***2019 Abadia de Acon Ribera del Duero Joven, Castile Y Leon, Spain** - 100% Tempranillo – this unoaked Joven (young wine) has aromas of cola, cocoa, soft dried fruit and a touch of spice. On the palate it is a smooth, easy drinking and fleshy red with ripe tannins. A good burger and beef wine.

2017 Domaine de Valensac Pays d'Oc Cabernet Sauvignon, Languedoc, France - A friendly Cabernet with muted aromas of ripe black fruits and a touch of Bing cherries. On the palate the wine is round and harmonious, with some spices and powdered velvety tannins. Pair with filet mignon or beef tenderloin.

2019 Domaine de Valensac Pays d'Oc Chardonnay, Languedoc, France – A great little Chardonnay from the Languedoc. Fresh and easy going with peach, melon and a creamy buttery edge, it refreshes and entertains with its breezy style. Great by itself or with fish and white meats.

NV Tenuta Sant' Anna Prosecco Brut, Veneto, Italy- 100% Glera, the grape of Prosecco, Fresh with notes of acacia flowers and white peach. Lively with a creamy texture and a crisp finish. A great aperitif and a perfect foil for fried chicken or fish, plus it's only 11%ABV.

2017 Jeanne Marie Pinot Noir, California – Jeanne Marie is the wife of David Gordon (wine director at Tribeca Grill) and this is his easy drinking Pinot with ripe aromas of raspberry and cherries with a touch of baking spice on the palate. It finishes super smooth with supple tannins.

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.

JULY SPECIAL OFFERS

ON SALE: 2016 Concha y Toro Don Melchor Cabernet Sauvignon, Puente Alto, Chile

Don Melchor is a legacy wine from Chile, first created in 1987 by the Guilisasti family of Concha y Toro, and named for their forefather in Chilean wine. A Cabernet Sauvignon of refinement and elegant character, Don Melchor represents a singular expression of the Puente Alto Vineyard in the upper Maipo Valley, overseen by winemaker Enrique Tirado. Here is a review from Robert Parkers' Wine Advocate: "Even though it's still very young and it's not going to be released for some months, the 2016 Don Melchor shows great elegance and poise. This might be a lighter year for Don Melchor, but it has more finesse, lower alcohol (the label says 14%, when it was traditionally 14.5%) and great balance. This has a velvety texture, with very fine and round tannins and very good freshness." (10/18)

Reg. price: \$99.99 - On Sale in JULY: \$74.99 (while supplies last/ no further discounts)

ON SALE: 2010 Chene Bleu "Abelard", IGP Vaucluse, France

Described as the "World's First super rhone" Chêne Bleu wines are named after the blue oak tree on the estate (SCEA Domaine de La Verrière.) La Verrière uses sustainable organic and biodynamic practices and began as isolated medieval priory in Crestet, at the southern border of Gigondas in the Vaucluse region of Provence. Here is a review from The Wine Advocate: "When tasting the 2010 Abelard alongside the Heloise, the derivation of the names becomes obvious. Abelard is the bigger, richer wine—the more "masculine," to deploy a somewhat dated/sexist stereotype. This full-bodied Grenache-dominated (85%) wine is packed with black cherries, star anise and other ground spices, and features a wonderfully long silky finish. Despite the size and concentration, the wine is complex and elegant, not an easy feat. It should drink well over the next 10-15 years." (#223)

Reg. price: \$79.99 - On Sale in JULY: \$54.99 (while supplies last/ no further discounts)

ON SALE: 2018 Jean Claude Rateau Beaune Clos des Mariages, Burgundy, France

Jean-Claude Rateau became the first vigneron in Burgundy and the fourth in the whole of France to adopt biodynamics. In Eric Asimov's article (NYT 9/12/19) "12 Top-Tier (but Undervalued) Burgundy Producers" he said "I hesitate to mention this estate because the wines are hard to find. But they are so fresh and seductive, both reds and whites from village and premier cru sites in Beaune that they are worth seeking out." Located toward the bottom of the slope beneath Beaune Grèves and adjacent to Les Cents Vignes, Clos des Mariages is a mix of young and very old vines planted in clay and brown limestone soils. "This fertile soil gives wines that are open and joyous, with delicate spice notes, giving great pleasure in their youth and capable of long-term aging." (J-C Rateau) Here is a review: "the 2018 Clos des Mariages is a gorgeous wine showing a bright mélange of black cherry, strawberry and raspberry with hints of spice, citrus, licorice and violet. The palate shows dense, chalky fruit, sappy and ripe but with firm acidity and mineral flavors that

continue in the very long, juicy finish. This is absolutely delicious now and should drink well continuously over the next ten to fifteen years.”

Reg. price: \$54.99 - On Sale in JULY: \$44.99 (while supplies last/ no further discounts)

NEW ARRIVALS: 2017 Romanee-Conti

Simply the greatest Pinot Noir in the world and practicing Biodynamic principles since 2008. We have other vintages as well. Here are reviews from The Wine Advocate.

2017 Domaine de la Romanee-Conti Echezeaux Grand Cru, Cote de Nuits, France – “The flamboyant 2017 Échézeaux Grand Cru is especially good this year, bursting from the glass with an extravagant bouquet of wild berries, rose petals, cinnamon, smoked duck and Asian spices. On the palate, it's full-bodied, supple and velvety, with an expansive attack and superb depth and amplitude, its fleshy core of fruit framed by fine, melting tannins. Reminiscent of a modern-day version of the Domaine's 1985 Échézeaux, this is another 2017 that has gained appreciably with its final months of élevage. Picked on the 18th, this was where the estate's harvest concluded.” \$1699.99

2017 Domaine de la Romanee-Conti Grands Echezeaux Grand Cru, Cote de Nuits, France – “More brooding and reserved than the Échézeaux that preceded it in the tasting, the 2017 Grands Échézeaux Grand Cru unwinds in the glass with an enticing bouquet of cassis, blackberries, blood orange, exotic spices and musk. On the palate, it's full-bodied, ample and fleshy, with a more introverted, structured profile than the Échézeaux, its considerable reserves of concentrated fruit framed by an abundance of powdery tannin and succulent acids. Long and penetrating, this will reward sustained bottle age. The Grands Échézeaux was picked on September 12.” \$1999.99

2017 Domaine de la Romanee-Conti Richebourg Grand Cru, Cote de Nuits, France- “The 2017 Richebourg Grand Cru offers up generous aromas of ripe strawberries, raspberries, cinnamon and coniferous forest floor, framed by a lavish application of creamy new oak that's less immediately integrated than in the Domaine's other wines at this early stage. On the palate, the Richebourg is full-bodied, rich and multidimensional, with a lavishly enveloping attack and supple structuring tannins that are almost entirely concealed by its deep core of fruit. Long and sapid, this is a spectacular wine in the making.” \$2999.99

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.