

# 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.**

## JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope to post tastings of our monthly specials and more on our

 **YouTube** channel: J. Emerson fine wine Richmond.

### **NO OPEN BOTTLE IN STORE TASTINGS or CLASSES IN JANUARY**

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

*We seek a safe retail sales environment and see no way to facilitate an in-store tasting event that maintains safety for retail shoppers.*

#### **Emerson Wine Club SPECIALS** [Prices valid through 1/31/21.]

	<i>Jan. '21</i>	<i>USUAL</i>	<i>CASE (cs.btl.cost)</i>	
*Riebeek 2020 Chenin Blanc "The Royal," Swartland, S. Africa	\$7.99	\$9.99	\$84	(\$7.00)
*Millegrand 2018 Minervois Rouge, Languedoc, France	\$9.99	\$11.99	\$108	(\$9.00)
*San Vito 2018 Chianti, Tuscany, Italy	\$10.99	\$12.99	\$120	(\$10.00)
*Torrent Bay 2020 Sauvignon Blanc, Nelson, New Zealand	\$11.99	\$14.99	\$132	(\$11.00)
Cotes d'Olt Estate 2016 Cahors "Cuvee Tradition," Southwest Fr.	\$9.99	\$11.99	\$108	(\$9.00)
Aia Vecchia 2019 Vermentino, Tuscany, Italy	\$12.99	\$14.99	\$144	(\$12.00)
Chateau Fage 2019 Graves de Vayres Blanc, Bordeaux, France	\$12.99	\$15.99	\$144	(\$12.00)
Lechthaler 2015 Teroldego Rotaliano, Trentino, Italy	\$12.99	\$16.99	\$144	(\$12.00)

**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 JANUARY case-of-the-month is **\$114.99**; (average bottle price: \$9.58!!) the regular price would be \$160, a savings of over 28%!

*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.*

**\*Riebeek Cellars 2020 Chenin Blanc "The Royal," Coastal Region Swartland, South Africa-** As the unofficial drink of the Riebeek Valley, the Riebeek Chenin Blanc is the perfect every day wine. It's packed with upfront tropical fruit, and aromas of guava and gooseberries. This fresh easy drinking wine has a roundness that is balanced by crisp acidity on the finish.

**\*Millegrand 2018 Minervois Rouge, Languedoc, France** - (45% Syrah, 25% Grenache, 25% Carignan and 10% Mourvedre ) Brambly aromatic notes of blueberries, blackberries and blackcurrants with hints of oak, mint and pepper on the palate. The finish is generous with subtle acidity and refined tannins. Great with lamb, duck breast or aged cheeses.

**\*San Vito 2018 Chianti, Tuscany, Italy** – “The 2018 Chianti is a fresh, fruity wine to drink now and over the next few years. Soft curves bring out the red berry fruit and floral character nicely. This is attractive for what it is.” ( Vinous, Antonio Galloni, 8/19)

**\*Torrent Bay 2020 Sauvignon Blanc, Nelson, New Zealand** – “In this spirit our Sauvignon Blanc captures the fresh and clean flavours of gooseberries, currants, capsicum and hints of lime. Refreshingly dry it is to be enjoyed with your favourite summer food.” (winery notes)

**Cotes d'Olt Estate 2016 Cahors "Cuvee Tradition," Southwest France** – “This classic Cahor is a rich deep purple in color. It is bursting spicy black fruit aromas and red jammed fruits. Rich, velvety and full bodied with a long ending palate. Excellent with lighter cuts of beef, cassoulet, mushrooms, roast duck, duck

confit, roast lamb, roast pork, mild blue cheese, shortribs, couscous and turkey. 80% Malbec, 20% Merlot” (Winery Notes)

**Aia Vecchia 2019 Vermentino, Tuscany, Italy** - “zesty aromas of freshly cut grass, grapefruit and hints of salt air. On the palate, the wine has a creamy and round mouthfeel with bright acidity accompanied by hints of limestone and a slight earthiness. The finish is lengthy, dry & refreshing. Serving suggestions: Recommended as an aperitif or an accompaniment to fresh seafood, summer salads and poultry.” (Winery Notes)

**Chateau Fage 2019 Graves de Vayres Blanc, Bordeaux, France** – *From the Wall Street Journal: "This delicious dry white Bordeaux, made mostly of Sauvignon Blanc with some Semillon, comes from a small property in the Entre Deux Mers, very close to St Emilion. It is comparable to White Bordeaux at two or even three times the cost. A good example of what lower-end white Bordeaux can be: earthy and quite real, with lively, informal tastes that make it great for food and fun times."* Here is a review from Wine Enthusiast: “The small Graves de Vayres appellation faces the hill of Fronsac across the Dordogne River. This wine, an attractive blend of Sémillon with Sauvignon Blanc, is spicy with a hint of nutmeg as well as perfumed floral and citrus flavors. Still young, the wine will be at its best from 2021.” (WE 10/20)

**Lechthaler 2015 Teroldego Rotaliano, Trentino, Italy**- “Violet and anise notes perfume the ripe and juicy blackberry, fig and herbes de Provence flavors in this lightly chewy, medium-bodied red...” (WS 2017)

### **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!

### **JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERS**

*The Les Voisins (The Neighbors) is selected from vineyard sites that reflect the deep end of Anderson Valley and express a sense of place in the tradition of the Village wines of Burgundy.*

**ON SALE: 2016 Copain Wines Les Voisins Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley, CA, USA**- “Pale to medium ruby, the 2016 Pinot Noir Les Voisins, aged 16 months in 10% new French oak, opens with aromas of stewed black tea leaves, crushed red cherries, fresh cranberries, orange peel, forest floor and damp earth. Light to medium-bodied, it's bright and fresh in the mouth with a great balance of fresh fruit and earth character, framed with soft, grainy tannins and finishing long. 3,000 cases produced.” (WA 12/19)

**\$37.99, ON SALE IN JANUARY: \$19.99 (while supplies last)**

**ON SALE: 2015 Beltrame Tazzelenghe delle Venezie IGT Italy** - And now for something completely different, Tazzelenghe (tongue cutting) an outlaw grape in Italy until 1978, was almost completely gone until changes in Italian regional law allowed it to once again be officially grown in Friuli's vineyard although it remains one of the rarest of Friuli's native grapes. The 2015 has moved to a great place and is drinking beautifully. Aromas of stewed black fruits, wild berries and dried cherries. It is medium bodied and racy with good acidity and tannins that have become quite supple and refined.

**\$25.99 ON SALE IN JANUARY: \$19.99 (while supplies last)**

### **NEW ARRIVALS**

**2017 Arterberry Maresh Pinot Noir Old Vines, Dundee Hills AVA Willamette Valley, Oregon, US** “Glistening scarlet. A highly complex bouquet evokes red berry and cherry preserves, along with building Asian spice, rose oil and smoky mineral flourishes. Shows fine delineation and seamless texture, offering concentrated, spice-tinged Chambord, cherry, cola and spicecake flavors that pick up a strong rose pastille nuance with air. Finishes extremely long and pure, with fine-grained tannins providing framework and gentle grip to lingering red fruit, five-spice powder and savory herb notes. 70% of this fruit comes from the estate Maresh vineyard and the other 30% is from the neighboring Weber vineyard; the vast majority of the vines were planted in the late 1970s.” (Vinous 8/20) **\$42.99**

*Chateau Prieur-Lichine was my “aha moment” wine in 1979. This second label is a good value.*

**2015 Chateau Prieur-Lichine Confidences de Prieur-Lichine Margaux, France** – “The 2015 Confidences de Prieur-Lichine is a very pretty second wine. Pliant, supple and inviting, the Confidences is an excellent choice for drinking now and over the next few years. All of the signatures of the Grand Vin come through nicely, but, of course, in miniature. This is a strong showing.” (Vinous Antonio Galloni 2/18) **\$42.99**

**2018 Benito Ferrara Greco di Tufo Vigna Cicogna-** Luminous straw-green. Inviting, lovely lemon-lime and white flower notes on the nose. Then very serious and almost austere in the mouth, displaying a stony personality to the orchard and tropical fruit flavors. Remarkably Fiano-like on the long, smooth, mineral finish – in fact, it “out-Fianos” Ferrara’s Fiano Sequenzha this year! A lovely wine that is still youthful and will likely develop well. **\$27.99**

**2017 Fleuriet Frères Renaissance La Côte de l'Épée Sancerre, France** - Brothers Mathieu and Benoit took over the control of Fleuriet from their father Bernard who is a well-regarded grower in the area. Renaissance is farmed organically and sourced from the lieu-dit Côte de l'Épée (hillside of the sword), located in the village of Amigny. This terroir is incredibly unique in Sancerre due to its 40-degree incline. This combined with south/southeast exposure and limestone soils makes for crisp, balanced Sancerre (100% Sauvignon Blanc) with a nutty character and good acidity. **\$36.99**

### **NEW ARRIVALS – Interesting, mindful WINES**

**2020 Donkey and Goat New Glou, red wine blend California, USA** - This is a sort of California Beaujolais Nouveau. Dry and only 11.2% ABV it is an easy drinking friendly wine. Grapes are sourced from sustainably farmed vineyards, fermented with wild yeast and bottled un-fined and unfiltered. From the winery: A mouthwatering pinkish wine made from very little maceration and mostly direct press juice from the Lightner and Fenaughty Vineyards in El Dorado. The backbone is a co-fermentation of Grenache, Syrah & Mourvèdre where only 1/3 was destemmed with skins and 2/3 was direct press and then joined the crushed fruit in concrete for less than a week. We pressed atop Vermentino Marc and later finessed our blend with additions of Marsanne and a red Grenache. **\$29.99**

**2019 Domaine Bobinet Saumur-Champigny Hanami Loire, France** – Named after a springtime Cherry blossom festival this is an unfiltered, un-fined wine with minimum Sulphur from plots farmed organically, though not certified. From the winery: Hanami is our “vin de soif,” a wine to drink in its youth, to enjoy its fruity and fragrant character. Made from several parcels of Cabernet Franc, we vinify this wine with the goal of preserving the aromas of fresh grape juice. The texture is rather light, the aromatics direct and frank. It’s our spring wine! Ideal as an aperitif with simple food. Can be consumed slightly chilled. **\$26.99**

### **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.